

## Bilingual Education At KANAKA

Kula Aupuni A Kahelelani Aloha (KANAKA) Public Charter School (PCS) aka Niihau School of Kekaha (NSK) has existed in its current form since May 1999. The genesis of the School, however, occurred in 1993 when parents of the Niihau community residing on Kauai initiated a home school program for students whose primary language is the Niihau dialect of Hawaiian.

The program implements a bilingual education program to improve the performance of these students by instructing them in the language they are most adept in, Hawaiian, and also to increase the students' English language skills.

The current program known as Kula Aupuni Niihau A Kahelelani Aloha, PCS uses place based and projects based learning to reinforce Hawaiian cultural values. Technology is blended with traditional learning techniques to increase English, language arts, mathematics, science and social studies skills.

The school provides focus on learning through community-based multidisciplinary education with an emphasis on the acquisition of English (reading and writing skills) while sustaining the Hawaiian language and culture..



**Kula Aupuni Niihau A Kahelelani Aloha  
(KANAKA) PCS**

**Kula Aupuni Niihau A Kahelelani Aloha  
PCS**

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Knowledge  
unlocks  
potential.

Bi-lingual  
Education  
**Olelo Niihau /  
English**



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## Bilingual Education at KANAKA



**KANAKA at Kekaha Facility**

The bilingual education program at KANAKA started as home schooling from the Kekaha Pavilion. May 1999 marks the start of our school. During our first eight years we accomplished many new and exciting things. We continually evaluate all of our students to assess their level of performance for Math and English skills of reading/spelling/writing. We set a course of action based upon the results.

### Highlights of Our First Eight Years

- Evaluation of students

#### Hawaiian Performance

Above Average (1999) to Superior (2007)

#### English Performance

Far Below Average (1999) to AYP status SY 05-06 and AYP status SY 06-07

#### Mathematics Performance

Far Below Average (1999) to AYP status SY 05-06 and AYP status SY 06-07

#### .Staging Levels

K-3 (2000) now K-1 (2007)

Title I reading, writing, math and phonics programs  
Place based science, Projects based Hawaiian studies

4-7 (2000) now 2-4 (2007)

Title I reading, writing, math and typing programs  
Place based science, Projects based Hawaiian studies

8-12 (2000) now 5-7 (2007)

Title I extensions, HCPS III standards emphasis  
Place based science, Projects based Hawaiian studies

Now 8-10 (2007)

HCPS III standards emphasis, College Prep

Place based science, Independent Hawaiian studies

Now 11-12 (2007)

HCPS III standards emphasis, College Prep



**KANAKA Kaa Ohua at Kekaha Facility**

Our mission is to educate our youth so through self-determination they can determine their own future and that of the Niihau community. For many years leadership of the Niihau people has rested in the hands of other English speakers who in many cases have misguided the native population. It is our mission to raise the level of literacy, education, and awareness of this native community by educating its youth and preparing them to function independently in a western dominated society. It is our goal to raise the level of student involvement in community based activities and issues, including economics and governmental affairs. Through these experiences they will be prepared to present their indigenous population in matters that affect their lives and the lives of generations to come.

We believe that our students can only survive and thrive by becoming highly skilled bilinguals; proficient in their native language and culture, and skilled in English the language of commerce and politics. With these skills our students will have a mature voice in society, clearly articulating the needs of this very unique population. This will allow our philosophies and values to be expressed in ways that are truly representative of the indigenous people of *Hawaii nei*.

## A Bright Future for KANAKA

Many new things are projected for KANAKA's. The following are just a few of the many things KANAKA is currently working on that we hope will bring our approach to Bi-lingual education to the world.

- Title I program instruction from certified teaching staff, science and math teacher.
- Public Charter School facilities in the planning stages. Supported by Kanaka Aupuni A Niihau Aloha (KAANA) and KANAKA.
- Status as a nonprofit organization since 2001 for under IRS regulations and determination as a 501(c)3.
- Additional teaching staff made possible by the grants from OHA and other Hawaiian cultural organizations.
- Physical health, cultural education and physical education.

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