

Youth Deepen Appreciation for Lānaʻi Through Summer Enrichment Programs

Thirty-five Lānaʻi students from sixth through 12th grades hiked, surveyed and spoke the Hawaiian language as they developed a deep understanding of the island's natural and cultural history in the month of June. The summer enrichment program, titled "E 'Ike Hou Iā Lānaʻi — Embracing Lānaʻi's History Through Language and Literacy," was developed by the Lānaʻi Culture & Heritage Center (Lānaʻi CHC), Lānaʻi High & Elementary School (LHES), Pūlama Lānaʻi, and the U.S. Department of Education-Native Hawaiian Education Act place-based education program.

The program is part of a three-year, place-based initiative that began in 2013, with year-round programs that are offered free of charge to Lānaʻi residents and those interested in Lānaʻi history.



Students in LHES Science Lab reviewing environmental zones and storied places of Lānaʻi.

"It has taught me to remember how our kūpuna once lived — to cherish the ways of the past, to preserve ancient sites, to mālama ʻāina and to make a difference for the island," said an LHES 11th grade student. "I realized that Lānaʻi is more unique than I thought it was. Some islands don't have access to historical sites like we do. Some don't have the bond with their community like we do."

Students completed a series of cultural landscape and literacy workshops in which they studied Hawaiian language as well as historic literature documenting the practices, beliefs and changes that occurred on Lānaʻi over the past 180 years.

The program also included a three-week field school in Hawaiian lifestyles, archaeology, marine biology, watershed systems, stewardship and literature.

Field work activities included surveying a traditional Hawaiian fishpond at Waiaʻōpae along the windward shore of Pālāwai Ahupuaʻa, mapping ancient loʻi kalo and other cultural-archaeological resources in Maunalei Valley, exploring the marine environment with Hawaiʻi Pacific University marine biologists, and visiting the Sea Education Association's 135-foot research sailing vessel. At the end



Students at Hulopoʻe beach working on survey and beach profile.

of the three-week program, students also partnered in the development of resource management plans, sharing their ideas on how to care for the honua ola (living environment).

"It was an inspiration to see, through a revival of traditional knowledge, history, and sense of place, E 'Ike Hou Iā Lānaʻi inspired our students to embrace the wise use of resources, stewardship and cultural sustainability," said Kepā Maly, director of the program and vice president of culture and historic preservation for Pūlama Lānaʻi. "We are grateful to all our partners for helping us create this learning experience in our community."

Partners in the Lānaʻi CHC program include LHES, Pūlama Lānaʻi, Honua Consulting, UH-Maui College, Hawaiʻi Pacific University/S.E.A., and Queen Liliʻuokalani Children's Center. Instructors included specialists in a wide range of fields including archaeologists, marine biologists, musicians, anthropologists, environmentalists, university professors, and longtime Lānaʻi resident fishermen and cultural practitioners.



Students aboard the Robert C. Seamans marine research vessel (a 135-foot twin masted sailing ship) preparing to do sedimentation and aquatic life sampling at sea.