Inspiring Generational Change: Reconnecting Relationship to Community, Land and Education

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#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GUIDING FOUNDATIONS

Ileana Ruelas, Community Outreach Coordinator, University of Hawaii at Manoa

## Voices

I ka wā ma mua, ka wā ma hope the time in front, is the time that is behind

- Carve spaces for stories to surface (individual & collective)
- Listen & create room for each voice to be heard
- Honor stories of struggles/processes that emerge
- Build upon collective wisdom
- Identify core building blocks of strategic planning, goal setting, milestone markers

#### Connection

"...this relationship between the people and the land was and is expressed as 'aloha "āina' (love for the land). The land is deity and the land is beloved family; people feed the land and the land feeds the people; the landscape itself, even rocks (or especially rocks) are part of the living world and are beloved." - Noenoe Silva

- Strengthen relationship through stories, sharing different types of work, and planning processes
- Integrate knowledge gained through traditional practice and academic praxis
- Allow time for connections to be strengthened via questions, conflict, building clarity from confusion, communication differences, and reaffirmed commitment to common purpose

## **Application**

- Base program specifics around content knowledge of organizations and resources that are available in the community
- Intentionally ground actions in community history, voice, choice, and power
- Continue rhythm of creating space for stories to be heard and relationships to be built
- Connect core building blocks to long term strategic goals
- Debrief, Evaluate, & Communicate



#### **Makua Series**

- Increase family identity through cultural, historical and political knowledge.
- Family Engagement
- Generational learning
- Concrete learning through cultural practice.
- Increase parent knowledge about post-secondary options for their children.
- Learn to document their stories and share their voice.

Theme	KS (Movie Format)	INPEACE Keiki Steps (Early education)	UHM (Video/Lectures/group discussion)
Moʻokūʻauhau Genealogy	Ola Ka Inoa Naming Practices Earl Kawa'a September 20	Ha'awina pilihonua October 18 Computers	Leina'ala Heine - Papa, Wakea, Haumea, Creation August 16
'Āinɑ Land	Lawai'a-Fishing Abe Nahulu Dec. 13 Computers	Kupu Ola Outdoor Classroom Nov. 15	Hui Aloha 'Āina play Jan. 17 Computers
Haʻi moʻolelo Story	Lū'au/Hō'ike-Party Food Preparation May 2	Story Telling February 21 Computers	Education for the Nation March 28 Computers





20 families • 100 participants Ocommitment • 9 workshops, 3 hours, monthly Food Ochildcare Incentive Social media and technology



## Makua Series





#### Community Engagement and Outreach Scholarship Grant Awards

Konia Freitas, Assistant Specialist, University of Hawaii at Manoa

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#### University of Hawaii at Manoa

- Only public institution of higher education in Hawaii.
- Unique responsibility to the indigenous peoples of Hawaii (UHM Strategic Plan, 2011 – 2015) to:
  - Promote scholarly work that informs policies and practices that benefit communities.
  - Expand internships, practica, mentoring, and service learning.
  - Increase partnerships and sharing of expertise with community organizations.

HSHK Community Engagement Framework (February 2012).

- Education, research and practice are linked to community needs, visions and aspirations.
- Engagement structure: types and scale of activities.
- Historical (and current) challenges of research exploitation -- CE covenant.
  - 1. Community perspective matters.
  - 2. Relationships are enduring, mutually beneficial and two way engagements.
  - 3. Resources align with community based visions.
  - 4. Students apply course work to real world experiences.

#### Scope of Projects Funded

- High school literary curriculum development project.
- Defining Hawaiian place based education.
- Field course in Malama Aina (Haena).
- Wehe I ka Papale Engaged research.
- > Filmmaking workshop.

#### "Piko" Film Making Workshop

- Value of collaboration.
- Intergenerational learning.
- Integration of sacred site in telling stories about our contemporary lives.

 Integration of applied learning, technology and traditional knowledge.

### Action

- Reflect upon applying these concepts to your context
- Explore stories & strengthen connections
  - with departments on campus that share common goals
  - with organizations embedded in your communities
- Be mindful of intentionally weaving intergenerational/cultural knowledge into core aspects of program building

# Mahalo Nui!







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