Education: Culture Matters

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YAPRsDEOsU
Support Native American Language Instruction

Native American and Alaska Native Children in School Program

Nāmaka Rawlins
ʻAha Pūnana Leo, Inc.
Hilo, Hawaiʻi
8 November 2017
namaka@ahapunanaleo.org
NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE ISSUES

- Continuity of identity, spirituality and culture of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.
- Native American languages are endangered.
- Individual Native Americans have a right to their language.
- Native American tribal governments have a right to their languages.
- Native American tribal governments benefit with highly educated multilingual citizens.
Our Place:
Hawai‘i State Two Official Languages
What is Pūnana Leo?

http://oiwi.tv/apl/what-is-punana-leo/
‘O ka ʻōlelo ke kaʻī o ka mauli

Language is the fiber that ties us to our cultural identity

E ʻōlelo Hawaiʻi

The Hawaiian language shall live

www.olelo.hawaii.edu/olelo/khmo.php
Pūnana Leo: Language Nests Infant & Preschoolers

- Exclusive use of Hawaiian
- Early language acquisition advantage
- Integrated curriculum; infant, toddler & preschooler
- Base for P-20 language pathway system
- Teacher development – high language fluency & proficiency
- Hawaiian language & culture-based early childhood education courses
- Family resources development
- International indigenous accreditation
Align Curriculum to Kumu Honua Mauli Ola Philosophy
Hui Kīpaepae-Family Engagement

Academic Outreach
Community Support Base
K-12 Language Survival School Principles

- Hawaiian survives as “PRIMARY” language - English is “additional”
- Hawaiian speakers must have high academic outcomes
- Hawaiian speakers must have high English outcomes
- Hawaiian speakers must have high foreign language outcomes
P-12 Model Site Profile:
Kea‘au, Hawai‘i

- 460 students (infants through 18 year olds) 2017-2018
- 96% Native Hawaiian student population
- 70% Qualify Free and Reduced lunch program
- 95% Attendance rate
- 100% high school graduation
- 85% college entrance
- Partnership between non profit ‘Aha Pūnana Leo, Hawaiian language college, a public charter school and a public high school program
System: Bridge Hawaiian Medium Pathway

- Pūnana Leo preschoolers to Nāwahīokalaniʻōpuʻu kindergarten
- Nāwahīokalaniʻōpuʻu high school seniors to State Hawaiian Language college
International Recognition And Best Practice

- 2010 WINHEC (World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium) awards first P-20 accreditation to Hawaiian Language College and ‘Aha Pūnana Leo
Start: Positive Attitude

- Support Native American linguistic/cultural continuity
- Nurture Native American values for social stability
- Seek to produce academic excellence
- Connect integrated infants and toddlers with preschoolers; avoid segregating 4 year olds from 3 year olds
- Connect to K-12 education
Build Capacity In Community

- Develop interest to save language at Middle & High School
  - Readings on language extinction
  - Interview elders about loss of their languages for English class
  - Record elders speaking in the tribal language
  - Learn how own traditional languages may be different from English in some field of vocabulary such as kin terms
  - View a video on the development of language nests and write a plan to develop one for their community
- Establish simple protocols using language at the Elementary level
  - Learn to greet others and introduce oneself in the traditional language
  - Connect language to cultural practices
  - Learn traditional songs and dance
- Familiarity with what is working and build on that
  - Elders in school program teaching art, food preparation, songs
  - Enjoy using your language
E Ola Ka ‘Ōlelo ‘Ōiwi!!
Our native languages shall live!!
For more information:

Nāmaka Rawlins
Email: namaka@ahapunanaleo.org