



E Ola Pono Campaign & 'Ohana Pono Challenge

May 2020

The [E Ola Pono Campaign](#), an annual statewide, school-based initiative, has for 13 years encouraged student-led programs to promote peace & pono in schools and communities. This year's **2019-2020 school awards go to 5 O'ahu schools**: 4 high schools ('Aiea, Kailua, Farrington, and Mililani) and Blanche Pope Elementary. See the following pages for brief descriptions of how students in these 5 schools exemplified pono this school year. The awards are supported by [Literacy Through Digital Media](#) - a federal Native Hawaiian Education Program grant housed in the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

'Ohana Pono Challenge



Pono starts at home. Honoring 'ohana as the first teachers of our keiki, and with an interest in supporting positive family bonding and enrichment during COVID-19, last month we expanded the E Ola Pono Campaign into the home environment by starting the statewide, family-based ['Ohana Pono Challenge](#). Families with children K-12 across the state of Hawai'i are encouraged to participate!

The *'Ohana Pono Challenge* encourages sharing of family activities that show kindness, share aloha, and live Pono the Hawaiian Island way. Families submit reflections, pictures, video or stories through the [Growing Pono Schools website](#) to show how their family is not just surviving but thriving during this health and economic crisis. Submission snapshots are posted to the Growing Pono Schools website to uplift families, encourage participation in the Challenge, and demonstrate how 'ohana statewide are [Kū Kanaka](#) – standing tall as they face the most challenging crisis any of us have ever experienced.

Our ['Ohana Activities](#) page provides culture-based activities for consideration. Cash prizes are awarded weekly. A total of 20 family awards were made in April and the first half of May, with awards continuing through July. Support for the 'Ohana Pono Challenge has been provided by the Johnson 'Ohana Foundation, founded by Kim and Jack Johnson to support environmental, art, and music education; Wahine Builders and Electric; and individual donors.



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2019-2020 school year - E Ola Pono Campaign winners

Elementary School – 1st place - \$1,000 - **Blanche Pope Elementary School - Aloha 'Āina.**



Sixth graders in kumu Lily Utai's class focused on impacting the greatness of their DNA by being and doing ALOHA 'ĀINA. In addition to participating in 'ohana service hours cleaning Muliwai'olena and Waimānalo Beach, Pope students led a March 13, 2020 Aloha 'Āina Day of exchanging 'ike (knowledge) and

sharing their works and efforts to restore and care for our Waimānalo Streams with students from Mālama Honua Charter School.

High School – 1st place - \$1,000 - **'Aiea High School – Think Pono, Be Pono, Live Pono the 'Aiea Way.**

Living Pono Is The Easy Thing To Do

PEP members created this PSA to teach students about the meaning of being Pono. Over 1000 students watched the video during the morning announcements. The message was that being Pono is easy and anyone can do it.

In this schoolwide campaign, Peer Education Program, Student Council, and Hawaiian Language Classes demonstrated being Pono by working with parents, community members, teachers, high school, and elementary students. From the start of the 2019-2020 school year, monthly activities exemplified pono. Through acts of kindness, the students helped teachers set up their

classrooms to ensure comfortable learning environments. At the school's Open house, brochures were distributed to parents reminding everyone that being pono starts at home. During the homecoming football game students had the fans (parents, students, and community members) sign pono pledges at the game.



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High School – tie for 2nd place - \$500 each - [Farrington High School](#) & [Kailua High School](#)



[Farrington High's Friends Program](#)

is a life skills program that has four advisors who passionately believe in making Farrington High the exemplar model for being a welcoming and inclusive school. "We have seen the students at Farrington develop a better understanding of what it means to be in an inclusive high school. The teasing has gone down and it's

amazing to see how much our friends are included in our pep rallies and different school events," reflects Advisor and Educational Assistant Evelyn Utai.



[Kailua High - Your Assertiveness Rights from ROX](#)

After learning about Assertiveness rights with a curriculum called [ROX](#), Kailua High's Girl's Group, guided by school counselor Shelly Andrews, produced a short video to share that learning and practicing assertiveness is a pono thing to do. The video had a big showing at

Kailua High's Movie and Message Night on the Football field a week before Spring break, impacting 600 students in a positive way.

High School – 3rd place - \$300 - [Mililani High School](#)



volleyball girls were inspired into action because of the global COVID-19 virus that put a halt to their lives as they knew it. The team reflects, "we wanted to influence the community to be vigilant and kokua others during these times by wearing masks.

Also to influence other clubs and programs to honor their senior classes because they deserve to know that although their graduation was taken from them by this pandemic, their accomplishments are congratulated and celebrated."

Kristen Miguel, Volleyball coach and Pono Campaign advisor further comments, "the participation influenced the idea of spreading love, compassion, awareness and a DESIRE to help

one another. This was the main objective as we want all of these young women to grow up while positively impacting the world in any way they can... big or small."

Contact our E Ola Pono Campaign Coordinator for more information:

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