

WĀHINE

Research Hui

A L O H A Circle

**Your
name**

**Where
are you
from?**

**What do
you
hope to
gain
from
this
session?**



Wāhine

in

Research

Wāhine Research Summit

**A Pilina-Driven Approach to Strengthening Community Research
Across the Pae 'Āina**





- 15 Native Hawaiian female leaders from six inhabited Hawaiian islands ranging in age from 24 to 75 years
- Begin the conversation about Community-centered, decolonizing, and culturally-grounded processes to achieve meaningful participation and engagement in research





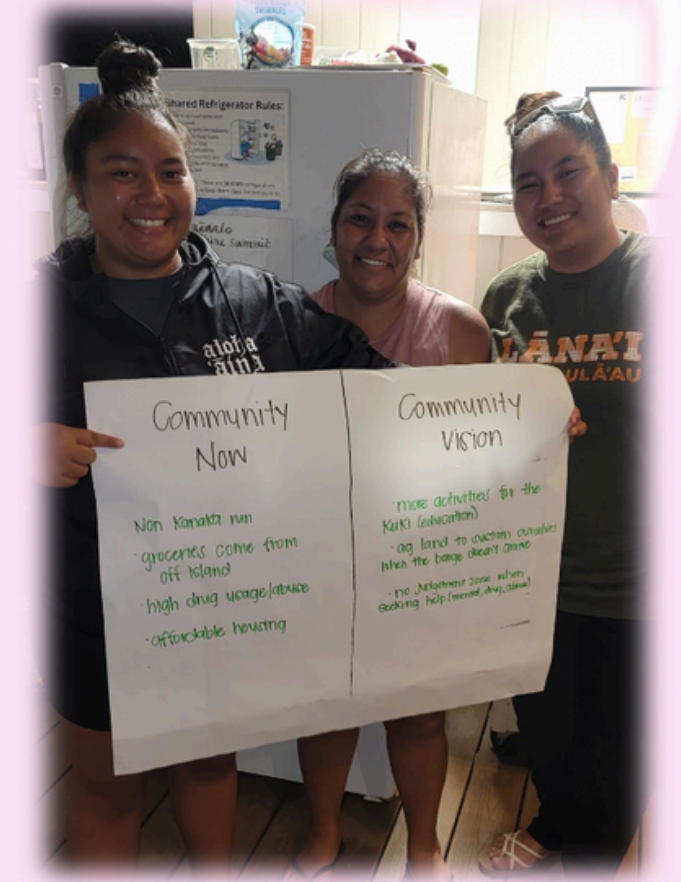
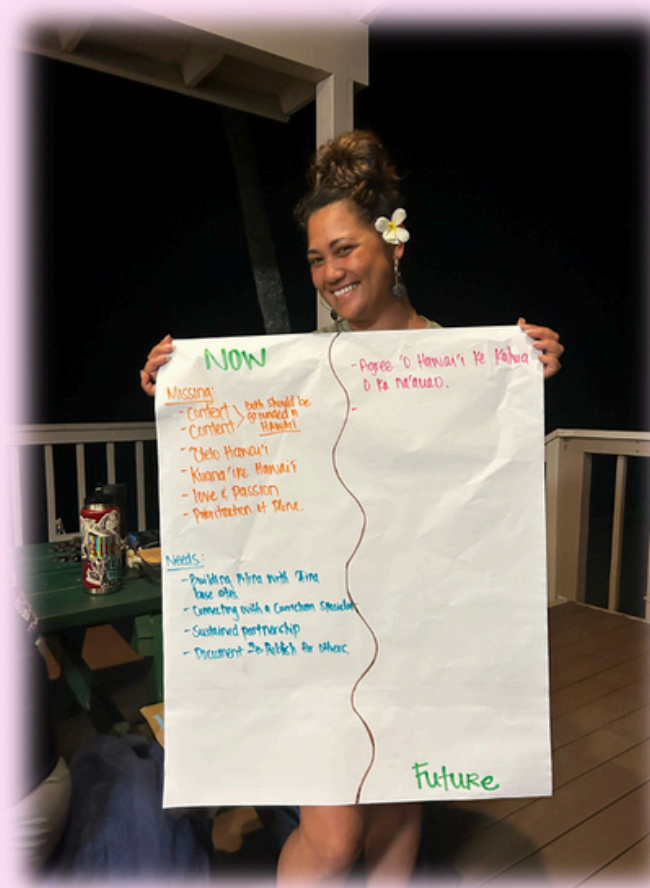
The summit aimed to:

- Build pilina (relationships) through hana no'eau (hands-on activities)
- Increase capacity by encouraging participants to share their mana'o (thoughts) on new approaches for community research centered around Indigenous innovations, facilitated through a series of talk story sessions.



Cultural Components of the Summit

- Grounded in hands-on cultural activities to **build pilina**
- Created space for collective reflection on **new research pathways** centered on Indigenous innovation through **talk story sessions**





The summit didn't just meet expectations — it inspired and redefined each wāhine, offering a powerful space for 'ike sharing, pilina, and Indigenous research practice.



What We Heard – Evaluation Themes

"The pilina is WILD. Outta this world."

"I feel like the Wāhine Summit is what every community needs, or at least... all the leaders of our community."

**Strengthened
Pilina**

Empowerment

**Shift in Attitudes
of Research**

**Commitment
to Action**

**Increase in
Knowledge**

"...it lit a fire in me personally, to make sure that that [research] happens with the community I work closely with."

"...having space where we can exchange, come together [and] be that conduit of community."



Wāhine Researchers

‘EKOLU MEA NUI & NĀ ‘ŌPIO WAIWAI



Co-Executive Directors

Dr. Jamee Mahealani Miller
Kalei K-aloha



‘Ōpio

Aubree Kau'ilani K-aloha
Hailee Kamea K-aloha
Zoe Martinez
‘Ōhawai Manuel

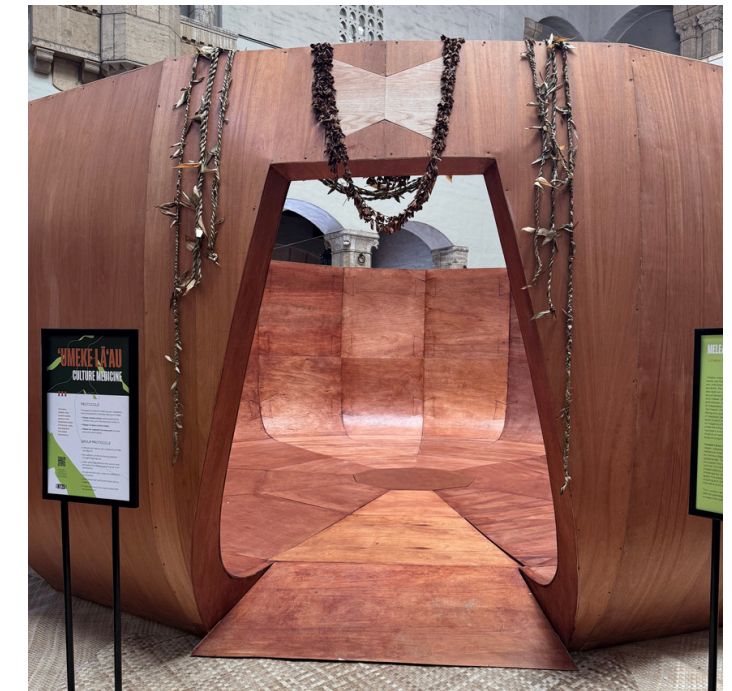
Hale'aha

Mission: To transform Hawai'i's justice system through Native Hawaiian cultural practices and values.

Vision: A pono justice system in Hawai'i that heals and empowers individuals, 'ohana, and communities.

Goal: To innovate alternatives to incarceration, restore the human spirit, build resilient 'ohana, and change laws and policies.

We honor lived experience as a legitimate source of knowledge and strategy.



www.ekolumeanui.org



NOW

Mission: Transforming Hawai'i through the eyes of 'Ōpio for the future generation.

Vision: Releasing the potential of Hawai'i's youth changemakers bringing generational inspiration using their leo(voice), 'ike (knowledge), and mana (power) to build a better tomorrow, today.

Goal:

- End Intergenerational Incarceration
- End all Youth Prisons

'ŌIWI INTELLIGENCE IN ACTION



HO'IWAI FRAMEWORK



Ho'iwai is a kānaka rooted framework that defines well-being through spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical dimensions.

It honors lived experience, cultural values, and collective healing as essential to thriving individuals, 'ohana, and communities

HO'IWAI IN ACTION



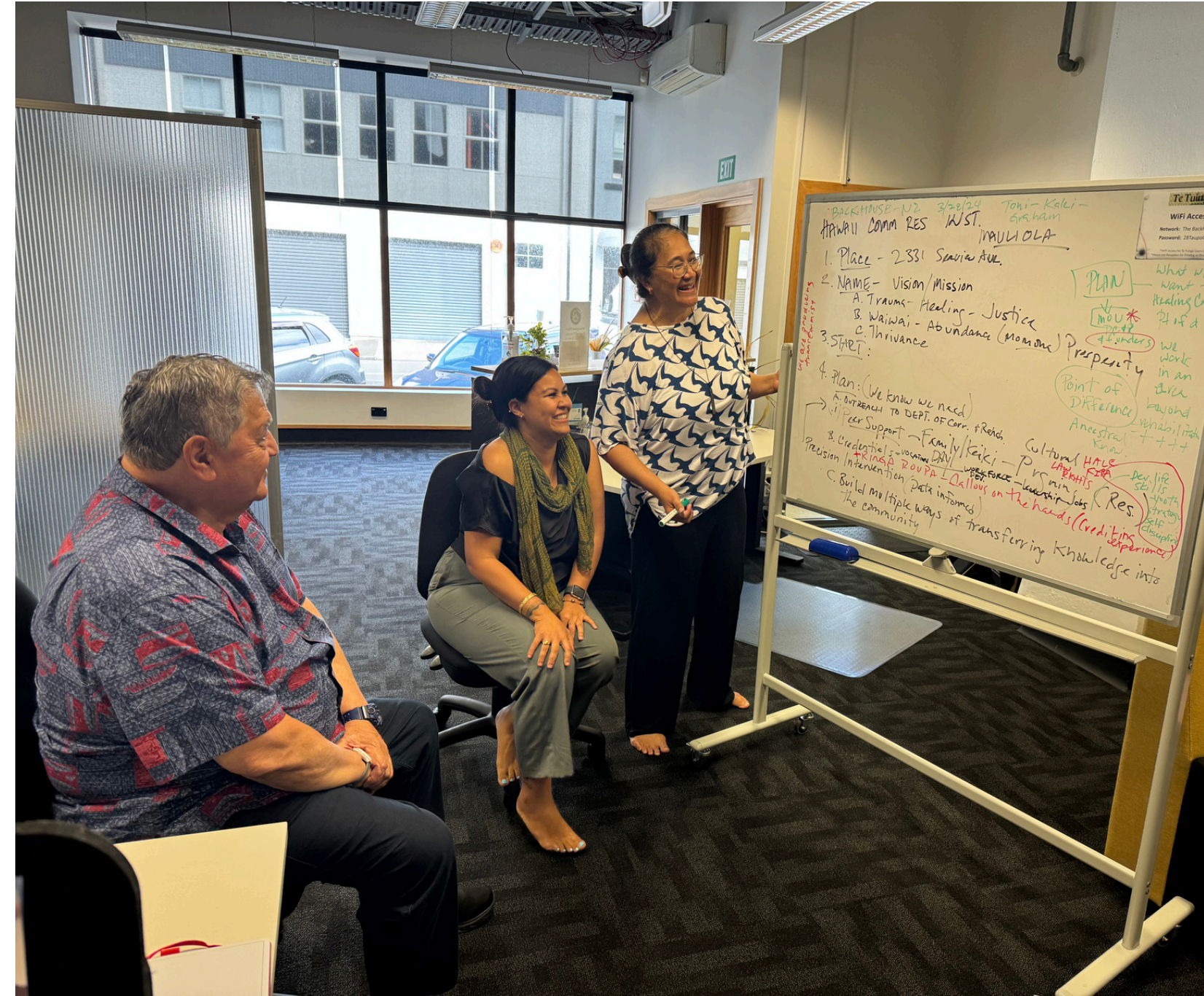
At 'Ekolu Mea Nui and Nā 'Ōpio Waiwai, the Ho'iwai Framework is not just theoretical it's a living, breathing guide for how we build relationships, design programs, and conduct research.

Ho'iwai Research Institute

Ho'iwai Research Institute exists to reclaim research
as a tool for healing, truth telling, and
community defined knowledge.

We research with and for our communities:
by us, about us, and in service to us.

We teach the next generation to value 'ike,
question systems, and carry forward
the kuleana of 'Ōiwi research.



Research for Wāhine By Wāhine



Wahine Waimānalo

KŪ'ONO'ONO

— “To be comfortably settled; to be above want,
also “fertile, abundant, and thriving”



Program Overview:

Kū'ono'ono is a culturally grounded, community-led program created to empower Native Hawaiian women of Waimānalo Homestead

~ weaving together holistic wellness, cultural identity, leadership, and connection across generations & community.

ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

Target Audience:

Native Hawaiian wāhine (18+) of Waimānalo Homestead, with an emphasis on multigenerational participation and cultural transmission.



2025 ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- Monthly hui with Aloha circle & Hana noeau
- Educational sessions & cultural workshops
- Summer retreat in conjunction with POL Conference
- Holokū Ball – a final celebration of wellness, growth, and wāhine leadership

PROGRAM IMPACT GOALS

- Improved holistic health and wellbeing
- Promote physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial well-being
- Revitalize cultural identity and 'Ōiwi pride
- Strengthen pilina, leadership, and intergenerational connection
- Uplift wāhine as pillars of a thriving lāhui

WAHINE INPUT





He Maui Niau

The image features two elegant, light pink decorative swirls. One swirl starts at the top center, loops upwards and to the right, and then curves back down towards the center. The other swirl starts lower, loops downwards and to the left, and then curves back up towards the center. These swirls frame the central text.

MAHHAALO