

## *Mele Kalikimaka 2023*

*Mele Kalikimaka! Mahalo nui loa for your continuous support of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo. As we continue to recognize our 40th year of renormalizing 'ōlelo Hawai'i, we want to reflect on the strength of our community and how we will continue to build and grow towards the next 40. Our 40th year has been significant in so many ways.*

*We were honored to receive declarations from the Governor's office and the state legislature in honor of Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and the 'Aha Pūnana Leo for celebrating 4 decades of language revitalization and educating through 'ōlelo Hawai'i.*

*Together, we released our first iPad app to support our kamali'i in reaching early literacy, reconnected with our indigenous language partners in Aotearoa, presented about the progress of the Hawaiian language movement at local, national, and international conferences and welcomed nearly 250 visitors from around the world eager to learn about our language revitalization strategies.*

*In addition to establishing our Ēwe Hānau o ka 'Āina family engagement program, we leveraged a significant amount of funding to provide immediate and long-term support through grants, donations, and partnerships to help our Lahaina keiki and 'ohana. We will continue to raise funds and support them each step along the way. The amount of aloha and gratitude we have for every collaboration and donor and the unity to quickly and effectively respond to the Lahaina disaster is endless. Mahalo!*

*We are looking forward to all that 2024 has to offer and wish you and your 'ohana all the best this holiday season.*

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## *Aha Nu'ukia 2023*

*Ka'au Hua, Ka'au Ola! Forty years of progress—a vision for life was the theme or motto for this year's annual 'Aha Nu'ukia held in-person for the first time in three years at Hale'ōlelo, the home of Ka Haka 'Ula 'O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian language, in Hilo, Hawai'i. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo has reached a milestone of 40 years, a ka'au makahiki, in Hawaiian language revitalization to reestablish the position of the Hawaiian language as the original/source language of Hawai'i. We celebrate the tremendous progress that has been made over the past 40 years as a result of hard work and acknowledge the hard work that lies ahead in the next 40 years to come. We have reached a new point in our growth as an organization and have the opportunity to look back and reflect upon our vision and mission, the work that has been accomplished over the past 40 years and the guiding principles that make Pūnana Leo unique. What continues to be of utmost importance is our language, it's soul/spirit and the physical behaviors that are embedded within it that guides the work that we do.*

### *Hakalama App Now Available!*

*Now available! The very first app of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo consists of series of 42 interactive games to assist in memorizing the hakalama syllabary by strengthening the various skills needed to both visually and auditorily distinguish between the 90 hakalama syllables to help support early literacy. Help Pāka'a build his canoe so that he can catch mālolo for his family.*

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### *Aotearoa Trip 2023*

*On November 19, a group of 18 representatives from the 'Aha Pūnana Leo embarked on a journey to Aotearoa to reaffirm the work that is being done in Hawai'i. Among the group were board members, executive leadership, administrators, and Pūnana Leo teachers, some of whom are graduates of the program. The intent of the trip was to seek knowledge, compare systems of funding and their respective relationships to government, to rekindle relationships from the past as well as establish new ones between leaders of the Kōhanga Reo and 'Aha Pūnana Leo.*

*Traveling over 400 miles over seven days from Auckland to Wellington, making key stops along the way, the group was welcomed with pōwhiri or welcoming ceremonies consisting of speeches, song, food, presentations and discussions of programming, outcomes and strategies. The group was able to learn about the success of the Te Reo Māori movement over the past 41 years and also gain a deep understanding of the current challenges the Māori community is facing with the recent shift in government officials. It was a life-changing experience for many of those who went.*