



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, August 30, 2007

#### **CONTACT:**

Kau'i Sang, 20<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee Member

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**HAWAII – E LEI I KE ALOHA O KA 'ŌLELO-** Ka Piha Makahiki he 20 o ka Papahana Kaiapuni Hawai'i, Celebrating 20 years of Hawaiian Language Immersion Education.

**WHO:** Hawaiian Language Immersion Supporters, Kama'āina, and Visitors - ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

**WHAT:** Ka Wehena - E Lei i ke Aloha o ka 'Ōlelo is a monumental event marking the opening of a year long celebration to honor the Papahana Kaiapuni Hawai'i (Hawaiian Language Immersion Program) in the public education. Each island will be celebrating their opening event on September 4, 2007.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> (See attached island schedule.)

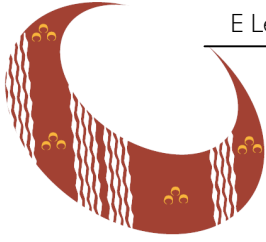
**WHERE:** (See attached island schedule.)

**INFO:** For more information visit [www.eolamau.org](http://www.eolamau.org)

The 20<sup>th</sup> year of Hawaiian Language Immersion education has arrived. In 1987, the first immersion classrooms were opened at Waiiau Elementary School and Keaukaha Elementary School. This was the first time in 100 years that instruction in government schools was conducted completely in the native language of Hawai'i.

Hawaiian language immersion schools were started as a result of the hard work and persistence of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo and a group of dedicated parents. Pūnana Leo opened first in Kekaha, Kaua'i in 1984 and then in Honolulu and Hilo in 1985. The parents wanted their children to continue their education in Hawaiian and for this reason the Department of Education was asked to open the very first Hawaiian language immersion program in government schools.

E Lei i ke Aloha o ka 'Ōlelo is a yearlong celebration of events statewide beginning with the Wehena (opening celebration) on September 4, 2007, monthly events on each island, and culminating with an 'Aha Nui (closing celebration) in June 2008.



### **Island Schedule and Contact People**

#### Kaua'i

Kula Kaiapuni `o Kapa`a

9am

Contact: Koki Williams  
email- Paul\_Williams@notes.k12.hi.us  
phone- (808) 651-7952

#### O`ahu

Kula Kaiapuni `o Ānuenue

9:30am

Contact: Kau`i Sang  
email- Dawn\_Kau\_Sang@notes.k12.hi.us  
phone- (808) 398-3726

#### Maui

Kula Ha`aha`a `o Pā`ia

12noon

Contact: Kahele Dukelow  
email- kaheleon@hawaii.edu  
phone- (808) 281-6353

#### Molokai

Kula Kaiapuni `o Kualapu`u

12noon

Contact: Kamalu Poepoe  
email- Karen\_Poepoe@notes.k12.hi.us  
phone- 808-567-6900

#### Hawai`i

Ka Hale Ha`uki `o Kawananakoa

12noon

Contact: Leinani Makekau-Whittaker  
email- leinani@kaumeke.org  
phone- (808) 933-0971