Hawai‘i is the only state that recognizes an indigenous language as one of its official languages. Despite this, the population of proficient Hawaiian speakers remains small and the use of Hawaiian language and practices remain marginalized.

In 1987, the Department of Education established the Hawaiian language immersion program (HLIP) at two public schools, Waiau being one of the first sites. The program has since grown to 15 DOE sites offering students in grades kindergarten to 12 a variety of kaiapuni educational models. The success of HLIP Ka Papahana Kaiapuni (KPK) is now recognized globally as a leader in indigenous language revitalization.

KPK at Waiau Elementary provides the instruction and experiences that lead to the achievement of the DOE’s Standards through the medium of the Hawaiian language. The program offers academic rigor through unique content and perspectives with Hawaiian as the language and culture of instruction. The students also develop self-esteem as perpetuators of the native language of this ‘āina and of the cultural heritage of the indigenous Hawaiian people through their native language.

“He oia mau nō ka pono o ka lāhui kanaka i ka naʻauao Hawaiʻi.”

• Research shows that bilingual students have higher metacognition (thinking skills) and cognitive flexibility than those that speak only 1 language
• Immersion is open to all students
• Waiau is a K-6 elementary school site
• Formal English instruction in 5th grade
• Parent participation/support expected
• Homework is expected and will be in Hawaiian. Completing homework in English or translating hinders language development and fluency
• How to register:
  - Geographic Exceptions (GE) are no longer required even if you live outside of the school’s district.
  - Kindergarten registration is in February for the following school year. Documents needed: proof of address and original birth certificate
  - Enrollment is accepted on a first come first served basis.
  - All incoming kindergarten families are expected to attend an orientation session.
  - Families interested in enrolling after the kindergarten year must schedule a family interview.
• Students need an up to date immunization record including TB clearance before school begins.

For more information visit the DOE web site: [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org) and search “kaiapuni”
Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Waiau provides a quality education. We strive to offer culturally appropriate curriculum and instruction that is aligned with current education and language acquisition research. Waiau students are successful and demonstrate proficiency on classroom assignments and projects, state assessments, and various programs and competitions. Key components to our program include:

• Kindergarten through grade 4 classrooms are Hawaiian language only environments
• Assignments and homework in Hawaiian
• Formal English instruction begins in grade 5
• Full access and participation in all Waiau programs in either Hawaiian or English: Music, P.E., Library, Technology, Guidance, field trips, assemblies, camps, chorus, violin, track team, basketball teams, robotics, media club, ‘ukulele, aquaponics…

Student success depends heavily on family involvement. Parents must believe in and commit to the Kaiapuni philosophy and support students in the following ways:

• Have students in school on time daily prepared and ready to learn
• Support your child with homework but do not translate or do the homework for your child
• Read and sign your child’s planner daily and return paperwork on time
• Communicate with the kumu and school
• Use your child’s Hawaiian name
• Surround yourself with Hawaiian: speak Hawaiian at home, listen to Hawaiian music, label household items to learn vocabulary, attend community events…
• Have Hawaiian books and resources at home
• Participate in field trips, meetings, activities and fundraisers
• Take Hawaiian language classes and learn along with your keiki.