Annual Report 2021
Me ke aloha pumehana,

As I sat wrapping laulau with my mother and Aunt this past New Year’s Eve, I watched my husband, my four adult children, and my mo’opuna (grandchild) work alongside my father preparing an imu for a small pig. It was the first time my entire family has been together to share this time, working side by side preparing our holiday meal. My parents, who turned 80 years old in 2021, will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary this coming May. As I reflect on the past year, I realize the great gift that was provided to me amongst all the uncertainties and strife. Life has forced me to slow down and attend to the needs of our family. We had to focus on the health and well-being of our loved ones; and for me, it was a time to cherish the moments I’ve had with my ‘ohana, particularly my parents. Sitting around the dining room table at the end of a long day and listening to my parents sharing with my children their moʻoʻolelo (memories) of growing up is a memory I will treasure deep in my heart.

This past year, INPEACE staff members have gone above and beyond to ensure continued service and quality experiences for the individuals and families that we serve. They have stepped into the gaps of sporadic enrollment and staffing shortages to ensure continuity and seamless delivery of educational opportunities. Although 2021 brought numerous soul-searching challenges, I am thankful for our INPEACE ‘ohana, thankful to be part of this community, and thankful for the families who have trusted and leaned on us for support. INPEACE remains steadfast in prioritizing family first. We continue to innovate programming that genuinely speaks to the indigenous heart of community and are committed to lifting up individuals to become their best selves. I encourage all of you to reflect on 2021 – look beyond the hardships and cherish even the smallest moments that you shared with family, friends, and community. These are the times we will look back on and remember forever.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Maile Keliʻipio-Acoba
Chief Executive Officer
By the Numbers

6 employees
96 employees
16.80% on Kaua‘i
71.34% on O‘ahu
5,522 children, parents and community members served statewide and 210 on the continental U.S.
3.01% on Moloka‘i
0.37% in North America
0.30% on Ma‘ui
8.18% on Hawai‘i Island
90% of our staff come from the communities they serve
78% of our staff are Native Hawaiian
51% of our staff were once parents or participants in an INPEACE program
87% are Native Hawaiian or another ethnic minority

2021 Funders
Atherton Family Foundation
City and County of Honolulu
Grant in Aid Fund
Department of Community Services
Hawaii Community Foundation
Children’s Behavioral Health
G70 Foundation
Hawaii Resilience Fund
Hawaii I-P20 Partnerships for Education, Comprehensive Literacy
State Development Program
Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH), Maternal and Child Health Branch
Heartland Foundation
Institute of Museum and Library Services
James & Abigail Campbell Foundation
Kamehameha Schools
National Science Foundation
Office of Hawai‘i Affairs
Partners In Development
Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation
State of Hawai‘i, Department of Human Services, Office of Youth Services
State of Hawai‘i, Department of Education
Shaquin Foundation
Sue K. Hanson and Delores M. Curtis Scholarship Fund
U.S. Department of Education, Native Hawaiian Education Program
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program
University of Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i Family Engagement Center

2021 Individual Donors
Alden, Haley
Alicea, Princessa
Anana, Manu
Andre Katherine
Asia, David
Au, Kathryn
Au, Randall
Chin, Wallace
Chun, Robyn
Curtis, Delores M.
Frank, Kiana
Fretias, Kiona
Fujii, Citadene N.
Garner, Chad
Goo, Garrett & Sheryn
Haliman, Kelyn
Heyes, Sam
Huston, Aisha
Ka’aloa, Pilani
Kakesako, Brent
Kendall, Kevin
Kawakami, Alice
K else-Acosta, Malei
Kim, Urvin
Kurisu, Derek
Lee, Charlotte
Louie, Jason
Lum, Wing Tey
Magno, Roy & Alileen
Magno, Sheri
Matsubuko, Jon
Menkes, David
Nagano, Brad
O’Neil, Michael
Pico, Loma
Pico, Merissa
Poja, Saydee

2021 Corporate Donors
and Other Income
Alexander Foundation
Aloha United Way
AmazonSmile Foundation
Indigenous Early Learning Collaborative
Dovel Consulting LLC
Gentry Homes
Hana Industries, Inc.
Hawai‘i Native Corporation
Hui Hula‘i
Ironworkers Union
Island Empire Community Development
KTA Super Stores
Kotip.fi Services
Kekoa Foundation
LetterPress Chocolate, LLC
Moloka‘i Child Abuse Prevention Pathways
Nakupuna Foundation, LLC
Native Hawaiian Community Development Corporation
Native Hawaiian Organization Association
Nohopapa Hawai‘i LLC
Pelotrim Center for Economic Development
Pohaku Pacific
Target
The Ali‘i Group
The Hawai‘i-Pacific Foundation for Soft Power Solutions
The Rotary Club of Kapolei Sunset
Ulupono Tech, Inc
Wai‘anae Community Re-development Corp,
MA’O Organic Farms

Financials

Interest Income (0.09%)
Corporate Donors (0.94%)
Foundations (27.14%)
Individual Donors (0.55%)
Earned Income (1.72%)
Total Volunteer Hours (4.74%)

City & County of Honolulu (0.40%)
State (17.93%)
Federal (51.23%)

Total Funds Received: $6,017,231
The past year presented new opportunities to be creative, explore, and experiment with new approaches. Despite the continued concern of COVID-19 and the significant challenges of engaging families and children in academic settings, we modified methods to creatively deliver quality early learning services and expanded our reach to families within and beyond our service areas. The utilization of virtual tools, program-specific learning kits, and modified outreach techniques upheld the commitment to continue our multigenerational approach that maximizes children’s learning potential through a strategic focus on the development and support of parental knowledge, skills, and techniques in order to produce positive impacts for keiki across the State and on the continent.

In 2021, we reached more than 3,900 individuals and provided quality individualized service and educational opportunities to 2,130 participants (71% Native Hawaiian). Lessons were delivered through virtual classrooms and home visiting services, supplemented with over 2,146 specialized learning kits distributed directly to families. Additionally, our staff developed, recorded, and published a total of 38 pre-recorded videos that enabled families to engage in parent-child activities on their own time, furthering their experience and knowledge in early learning.

Over 26,000 hours of Family Child Interactive Learning (FCIL) were provided via virtual classrooms, and over 2,600 home visits were completed over the year. This gave families the support they needed to continue building upon their parenting skills and create supportive learning environments for their keiki.

Through our programs, we continue to see impact and growth in our parents’ abilities to nurture their keiki’s growth and development.

- 96% of keiki demonstrated on-time development.
- 97% of parents reported an increase in their knowledge of the importance of Early Childhood Education (ECE) for their keiki’s growth and development.
- 68% of parents gained confidence in their skills and abilities as parents.
- 90% of parents indicated a positive difference in the way they parent and support their child’s learning.
- 97% of parents reported an increase in their knowledge of the importance of Early Childhood Education (ECE) for their keiki’s growth and development.
- 85% indicated a positive difference in interacting and bonding with their child as well as supporting their child’s learning.

These are promising results for the long-term capacity of parents to support their child through their entire academic journey. This is further indicated with results stemming from the first seven years of Keiki Steps Preschool alumni, where 100% of those we have been able to contact (80%) have graduated from high school on-time, and 75% were college bound.

Acknowledging the variety of early learning organizations and services that exist within each community, INPEACE actively promotes all programs across the community, ensuring equity and choice for individual families. Offered in West O‘ahu and Kaa‘i, coordinated outreach, workshops, and referrals are made through partnerships and collaborations that provide families the information they need about various Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs in order to best match the needs of the family with the appropriate program services. These efforts contributed to (1) the placement of an additional 245 (82% Native Hawaiian) keiki enrolled in partnering ECE programs, and (2) attaining an average preschool seat utilization of 111% over the past 5 years on the Wai‘anae Coast. INPEACE also assisted 128 keiki ages 0-5 with securing $604,523 in preschool subsidies and an additional $10,552 in subsidies for their keiki age 6-12 years old.

Despite the hurdles we faced in an ever-changing pandemic environment, INPEACE’s strong community roots and commitment to the needs of families we serve guides our ability to innovate and implement new strategies that provide quality early learning and school readiness services for our participants and communities alike.

Intentionally focusing on parent skill-building to effectively support creative learning environments where keiki can thrive.

The Indigenous Early Learning Collaborative (IELC) is a community-based inquiry project created by Dr. Tarajean Yazzie-Mintz, Founder and Principal Consultant of the First Light Education Project, in collaboration with the Brazelton Touchpoints Center (BTC). The W.K. Kellogg Foundation has generously committed $1.5 million to this 2-year project to support these indigenous community projects. INPEACE’s Keiki Steps program has the honor of being one of four selected Indigenous communities in the IELC, representing Hawai‘i and our lāhui kānaka ‘ōiwi. INPEACE joins three other indigenous community serving organizations as part of the IELC: the Wilkwedong ECO Collaborative of Keweenaw, Michigan; Wicoie Nandagikendan, an immersion program in urban Minneapolis; and Daybreak Star of Seattle, Washington.

During Dr. Yazzie-Mintz’s first Zoom meeting with the IELC partners, she spoke passionately about her goals and dreams for the project. Her innate drive for improving indigenous education programs and systems was palpable as she meticulously detailed her project. Tarajean’s infectious laugh and the soothing cadence of her voice was something that quickly made us comfortable. She brought wisdom, and a calm and regal demeanor that can only be described as kupuna.

Joelfré Grant, Assistant Director of Partnership and Professional Development at BTC, is assisting...
The development of leaders and role models from within the community is at the heart of INPEACE’s work toward increasing educational equity for Native Hawaiians. The wisdom of our kūpuna - as relevant today as ever - guides our work with the understanding that there is opportunity for education in everything we do and abundant in the world around us. The learning disruptions caused by the pandemic have motivated us to innovate, gain a deeper appreciation for the knowledge of our kūpuna, and strengthen educational approaches. In 2021, INPEACE was able to work with 1,166 youth and adults to increase educational equity in rural and Native Hawaiian communities through youth leadership and teacher development programs.

In our seventh year of partnering with teachers at Waiʻanae Intermediate School, we engaged 98 seventh and eighth graders during regular school hours through virtual online classes focused on self-identity, cultural pride, and community connectedness. Students learned historic moʻolelo (stories) about their community, connecting these moʻolelo to places, landmarks, and native plants that are familiar in their daily lives.

- 28% of their families actively engaged in assigned discussions about their personal experiences and cultural knowledge that helped expand the educational dialogue, connection, and relevance for students.
- 100% of students attended at least 85% of the classes offered to them.
- 83% improved in at least one risk or protective factor, defying the existing narrative of “chronic absenteeism” at the school.
- 90% demonstrated improvement in their ‘ōlelo skills.
- 91% improved in their ability to retain and retell historical moʻolelo of their community.

During the summer, we launched Keiki Kaiaulu, a one-week cultural enrichment program in Waiʻanae. Twenty-six keiki (88% Native Hawaiian), grades 3-7, strengthened their connections to Native Hawaiian culture and to their community. Activities were conducted in ‘ōlelo Hawaiʻi and included moʻolelo, oli, mele, cooking, and haʻakaʻi (field trips) around their kaiaulu (community). The program celebrated knowledge of the past and its relevance in the present, instilling in the ‘ōpio the importance of passing on the learning to further generations.

INPEACE’s Grow Our Own model, which has been operating for over 25 years, is our flagship effort to achieve equality of educational opportunities for students in rural, hard-to-serve Native Hawaiian communities. We do this by increasing the number of highly qualified, highly effective teachers who are from the communities they serve. INPEACE supported 254 prospective and current educators in 2021 through a variety of academic pathways, including support in attaining college degrees and advanced professional certificates in the field of education. 74% of those participants are Native Hawaiian, correlating with the high percentage of Native Hawaiian keiki within those communities.

- $49,964 was provided to participants for college tuition, textbooks, and fees associated with obtaining advanced professional certificates and licensing.
- 27 individuals earned 29 degrees or certificates in the field of education.
- 6 participants became newly licensed educators and are now teaching in their community.

Professional development and support for current educators was provided through cultural enrichment and skill-building workshops to increase and sustain teacher effectiveness with youth. Skill-building workshops provided opportunities for exchanging knowledge on classroom management and culturally-focused teaching strategies and indigenous methodologies. Over 600 individuals increased their cultural knowledge through a variety of educational workshops.

Impact Story
INPEACE Launches Kaulele with “The Story of Kapa” Exhibit

What began as a desire to uplift the brilliance of our kūpuna as a means to engage Hawai‘i’s youth in science, has evolved into INPEACE’s new Kaulele Project. Designed to be a traveling pop-up indigenous science center, Kaulele is working to create exhibits that provide hands-on interactive learning opportunities, presented through an indigenous lens and focused on Hawaiian cultural practices.

In 2019, through generous support from the Atherton Foundation and Windrose Fund, INPEACE commissioned the Hawai‘i Alliance for Community Based Economic Development (HACBED) to conduct a feasibility study that determined a science center focused on using indigenous knowledge and practice to teach scientific theory would be of tremendous value to the communities we serve. Following the study’s findings, INPEACE convened an advisory committee of educators who were instrumental in developing and refining the concept that formed Kaulele’s first exhibit prototypes.

Following a series to exploratory journeys that led down a number of uncertain paths, Kaulele finally found some momentum with a kapa theme, anchored in the moʻolelo of Māui harnessing the sun. Working with an experienced science center exhibit design firm, the Kapa Exhibit was developed and unveiled with a soft-launch at the Kahuku Community Learning Center in Māili.

To read the full story, visit www.inpeace.org/empowerment
Recognizing that participants also benefit from learning and sharing with one another, INPEACE worked with 20 small businesses to established two peer discussion groups called the Business Hui. One Hui focused on businesses that incorporate "ōlelo Hawai‘i into their products or services, and the other included businesses preparing to participate in the Made in Hawai‘i Festival. Twelve talk-story sessions were facilitated throughout the year providing opportunities for entrepreneurs to share challenges and successes, and explore collaborative opportunities with each other.

- 4 Native Hawaiian owned Small Businesses made a total of $51,317 in retail and wholesale sales at the Made in Hawaii Festival.

In the past four years:

- The average credit score increase by participants seeking to increase credit score: 52 Points
- Total Debt Reduction by participants seeking to reduce debt: $24,679

Starting a business is one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences in the journey of any entrepreneur. It is often accompanied by fears and failures. A lot of work, time, and money is invested into a dream that is fueled by a passion to share one’s gifts and talents with friends and family, the community, and possibly the world through the power of e-commerce.

In 2020, many entrepreneur’s dreams were shattered due to COVID-19, which impacted local small businesses across the state. Some businesses shut down while others struggled to navigate new norms, forcing small businesses to innovate and pivot to keep businesses afloat.

INPEACE’s Ho‘oulu Waiwai program had to innovate and pivot the way it supported small businesses in the community as well. The program shifted to providing support through online services which consisted of one-on-one coaching and workshops. The program staff connected with a variety of other agencies and programs to network and collaborate in order to expand services and provide support to businesses throughout the pandemic.

In 2021, in collaboration with the Hawai‘i Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) and Innovate Hawai‘i, INPEACE supported...

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Collaborators & Partners

Advocates Hawai‘i
Aloha Diaper Bank
Aloha United Way
Dr. Anna AhSam
Ark of Safety Christian Academy
Aunty Jojo’s Little One’s Family Childcare
Aunty Maud’s Keiki Kare
Badass Burgers Hawai‘i and ‘Āina Kitchen
Bank of Hawai‘i
Brazelton Touchpoints Center
Business Action Center
Cardinal Education Group, LLC
Catholic Charities Hawai‘i
Child Care Connections
Chaminade University
City and County of Honolulu, Parks & Recreation
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement
Early Childhood Action Strategy
Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation
‘Eleu Native Hawaiian Consortium
Entrepreneurs Foundation of Hawai‘i
Feed the Hunger Foundation
First Light Education Project
Hawai‘i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development
Hawai‘i Department of Education
Campbell-Kapolei Complex
Hilo-Waiakea Complex
Kapa’a-Kaua‘i-Walimea Complex
Ka‘u-Ka‘eoau-Pahoa Complex
Leeward District
Nānākuli & Wa‘ianae Complex
Office of the Superintendent
Hawai‘i Investment Ready
Hawai‘i’s Better Business Bureau
Hawai‘i Small Business Development Center
Hawaii Tax Help
Hawai‘i Teachers Standards Board
Hawaiian Community Assets
HEE Coalition
Hoa‘ai‘aina o Mākaha
Holomua Consulting Group, LLC
Ka Wahi Kaiāulu - Wa‘ianae Neighborhood Place
Ka Waihona o Ka Na‘auao PCS
Ka‘ala Farm
Kamehameha Schools
Kapi‘olani Medical Center for Women & Children
Keiki O Ka‘Āina
KTA Super Stores
Li‘il uoku‘alani Trust
Made In Hawai‘i Festival
Mana Up
MA‘O Organic Farm
Mauliola Endowment
Molokai General Hospital
My Personal CPA and Financial Planner
National Center for Parents as Teachers
Native Hawaiian Education Council
NEST for Families
PATCH Hawaii
Pacific Rim College Planners
Parents and Children Together
Partners in Development
People Strategies Hawai‘i
Pratt Law Hawai‘i, LLC
Purple Mai‘a
Rachel-Leigh Wright
Rush Wahine
Shavone Lave
Silva Keiki Academy
Small Business Administration, Hawaii District Office
State of Hawai‘i, Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
Tender Luvin Daycare
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa College of Education
Native Hawaiian Student Services
University of Hawai‘i West O‘ahu
University of Hawai‘i Community Colleges
Honolulu Community College
Leeward Community College
Leeward Community College
Wa‘ianae Moku
VIDDO Keiki Kare
Villages of Kapolei Recreation Center
Wa‘ianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center
Wa‘ianae Coast Early Childhood Services
Women of Wa‘ianae

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