

PROJECT ABSTRACT

The Native Hawaiian Library Services Grant will target library and information services to persons having difficulty using a library and to underserved urban and rural communities, including children from families with incomes below the poverty level. The proposed project will advance and enhance existing service and expand services that will benefit all Native Hawaiians. The specific goal of the proposed project is to develop and expand library and literacy services to increase access to underserved users. The goal will be accomplished through the following objectives, action steps, and activities.

Objective 1: Enhance the NHL digital libraries with more resources to meet the needs and interests Native Hawaiians.

In collaboration with community organizations and agencies, we will (a) add more Hawaiian Language materials and genealogical resources to our digital libraries, (b) catalog the digital collections, (c) create finding aides so patrons can easily navigate the site, and (d) update the NHL website. Digitized materials will be in searchable text format and display in both Hawaiian Language and English.

Objective 2: Conduct workshops and training on how to retrieve genealogical resources.

We will contract a genealogical consultant to conduct workshops in Hawaiian communities on neighbor islands in order to teach access and retrieval of land and genealogical information, utilizing online resources developed for this purpose. The contractor will also conduct workshops to teach Hawaiian Language vocabulary, word patterns, and phrases unique to genealogy.

Objective 3: Provide direct literacy services and life-long learning opportunities to help Native Hawaiians increase their literacy skills.

In collaboration with community education and literacy agencies, we will conduct classes to increase the literacy level of Native Hawaiian adults through the P.A.C.E. curriculum, a self-paced and self-instructed system for basic skills learning, through on-line literacy resources, and through assistance with G.E.D. preparation.

Objective 4: Expand library and literacy services in three Hawaiian communities.

In collaboration with community organizations and agencies, we will expand services at Milolii, Hawaii and Waipa, Kauai, and establish services at Nanakuli, Oahu to: (a) provide and support Internet access (b) purchase and install educational software programs, (c) conduct an after-school tutoring program for school age children, and (d) purchase and add to the library collection materials to support programming and community needs.

Objective 5: Increase parent/child interactions focused on language and literacy development, and reading aloud.

We will conduct 30 Motherread workshops in Hawaiian communities on the islands of Kauai, Oahu and Hawaii to teach parents strategies to prepare their children for kindergarten and to support their ongoing academic achievement. Parents will learn activities to develop language and literacy skills to give young children a strong start in attaining reading skills. Parents will be encouraged to read aloud to their children, take them to public libraries, and serve as reading role models for their children.

1. Assessment of Need

Description of the community

The total population of Hawai'i, per the Year 2000 Census, is 1,211,537, a 9.3% increase over 1990. The Y-2000 Native Hawaiian population is 239,655, or 19.78% of the state. Unfortunately, Native Hawaiians rank among the lowest for all ethnic groups in the state in terms of social, health, economic and educational indicators. For example, Native Hawaiians comprise over 25% of individuals receiving some form of state financial assistance and Native Hawaiian students continue to perform below both national norms and other Hawai'i groups on basic-skills achievement tests, often scoring the lowest of the four major ethnic groups. Less than 15% of Hawaiians have college degrees, 30% are assessed as functionally illiterate and 16% live under the Federal poverty line, compared to only 10.7% in the state as a whole.

In 1993, The State Department of Hawaiian Homelands contracted ALU LIKE, Inc., to produce a report depicting the profiles of ten Hawaiian Homelands areas based on 1990 Census data. The profiles showed that these Native Hawaiians have extremely low educational attainment. Of persons in the study aged 16-19, 11% were classified as dropouts compared to only 7% in the state as a whole. Of persons aged 25 and over in these areas, 33% had not graduated from high school and only 3% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. An example of these educational problems is illustrated at the Native Hawaiian Library's outreach site at Keaukaha School on the Big Island of Hawai'i. This school is identified as a Title I Corrective Action School, one of nine such schools in the Hawai'i District. Situated on Hawaiian Homelands, the school serves a predominately Hawaiian student population. Forty percent of third grade students at the school scored below average on SAT reading tests. About 80% of the school's students are also eligible to receive free or reduced-cost lunches due to family poverty and many enter kindergarten without family support to prepare them to learn. Native Hawaiians also comprise the highest percent of residents in public housing (23.6%), and, according to the latest state homeless population statistics, Native Hawaiians account for nearly 30% of Hawai'i's homeless.

Clearly, there is a critical need to help Native Hawaiians improve their educational attainment and economic status. Services of the Native Hawaiian Library provide otherwise underserved Native Hawaiians opportunities to access educational resources, develop academic and life skills, strengthen self-esteem and family cohesion, and preserve Hawaiian language and cultural values.

Current status of library services

The Native Hawaiian Library (NHL) was established in 1985 to focus on meeting the special needs of Native Hawaiians. NHL services are provided through the operation of a main library, outreach centers and web-based resources. Main library services include Books-by-Mail for those in remote communities, book circulation for walk-in customers, reference services, storytelling for children, Hawaiian language classes, special literacy, community outreach and summer programs, assistance in basic-skills learning for adults and young adults, and web-based Hawaiian language and bilingual materials. Our Outreach Centers are located in communities with high-density populations of Native Hawaiians, in which a great number of students are identified as at-risk and most families are economically disadvantaged. These centers provide book circulation, homework assistance, reading tutorials, storytelling and literacy workshops for elementary school children and their parents. The 'IKE/Literacy Lab uses evaluative testing, followed by math, reading and language workbooks and computerized basic-skills programs, to help those seeking to improve their basic educational skills. Books may be returned to the NHL through ALU LIKE sites on all major islands or at any public library.

NHL's collections focus on books pertaining to Hawai'i with emphasis on materials for children and young adults. The NHL's Native Hawaiian Data Resource Center collection consists of data and research reports, census publications and legislative materials related to Native Hawaiians. The NHL's website contains information about the library's collections; special programs and services, including Ulukau, the Hawaiian Language digital library and the Hawaii Digital Library, Ka Ho'oilina, The Hawaiian Language Journal; 19thC

Hawaiian language newspapers, and links to the Hawai'i State Public Library System and other Hawaiian agencies and institutions.

Needs to be met by the goals of this project and how determined

With the emphasis on meeting the needs of Native Hawaiians through outreach programs, special collections and unique services, the NHL will continue to reach out to those Hawaiians who have never been to a library and who have difficulty reading or using library services. Our literacy services will continue to help many Hawaiians obtain their GED and become employed. The Hawaiian language materials collection, including Ka Ho'oilina Hawaiian language journal, archival Hawaiian language newspapers and Hawaiian language dictionaries and other reference materials (all available on the web) will provide much needed support to the Hawaiian language immersion schools and to those in the community who work in and with the Hawaiian language.

The Hawaiian community on the Hawaiian Islands is dispersed with many individuals living in low-income rural areas. The dispersal of the population between the different islands, separated by rough, three-mile-deep ocean channels, makes access to cultural and educational materials difficult. Therefore, the goal of this project is to develop and expand library and literacy services to increase access to underserved users.

2. Project Design and Evaluation Plan

Goals, Objectives and Approaches for Accomplishment

The specific goal of the proposed project is to develop and expand library and literacy services to increase access to underserved users. The goal will be accomplished through the following objectives, action steps, and activities.

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Objective 5: Increase parent/child interactions focused on language and literacy development, and reading aloud.

We will conduct Motherread workshops statewide to teach parents strategies to prepare their children for kindergarten and to support their ongoing academic achievement. Parents will learn activities to develop language and literacy skills to give young children a strong start in attaining reading skills. Parents will be encouraged to read aloud to their children, take them to public libraries, and serve as reading role models for their children.

Action Step and Activities to Implement Project Objectives

Objective 1

1. Re-design/expand the Library website to include more information and links to related programs and resources.
2. Catalog documents and redesign Ulukau and Hawaii Digital Library.
3. Develop captions, introductions, and instructions in the Hawaiian Language for Ulukau.
4. Convene a meeting of Librarians, Archivists, and Genealogist to determine genealogical sources most in demand by the Hawaiian community.
5. Work with the Hawaii State Archives and Church of Latter Day Saints to secure priority resources.
6. Add the Maui district mahele records to the Mahele Database.
7. Develop finding aides for the genealogy and Hawaiian Language newspaper collections.
8. Conduct training workshops to provide instruction on online search techniques for Hawaiian language and Hawaiian studies instructors and students, and the public.
9. Assist public to research genealogical and other information.
10. Post electronic satisfaction survey.

Objective 2

1. Contract an experienced genealogical consultant.
2. Schedule genealogy workshops in neighbor island Hawaiian communities.
3. Publicize workshops.
4. Conduct workshops.
5. Develop evaluation instrument.
6. Evaluate workshops.

Objective 3

1. Revise/update the data collection forms, including intake, progress records, etc.
2. Interview clients and set goals.
3. Assess clients' literacy and skill levels.
4. Tutor clients in literacy and basic skills.
5. Help clients prepare for G.E.D. tests.
6. Produce brochures to publicize literacy resources.
7. Add links to new literacy resources to the NHL website.
8. Survey program clients and parents of child clients.

Objective 4:

1. Meet with community leadership to determine needs of the community.
2. Hire and train staff.
3. Purchase library materials.
4. Purchase computers for public use.
5. Provide transmission line and technical support.
6. Purchase new software, library and program materials.
7. Provide computer training.
8. Evaluate the program.

Objective 5:

1. Hold community meetings to determine specific needs of Native Hawaiian adults.
2. Develop and coordinate program with other community service providers.
3. Train staff and volunteers in Motherhead program.
4. Schedule programs at outreach sites.
5. Purchase library and program materials.
6. Develop evaluation instrument
7. Conduct programs at outreach sites.
8. Evaluate program
9. Plan and conduct an annual family literacy conference.

Sufficiency of Project Scope to Create Positive System Change

Accurate documentation of ancestry is critical for Native Hawaiians to receive education, housing and other services due to political changes in Hawaii. As Native Hawaiians come together to form their nation, the information and skills needed to access this information are imperative. Much of the information and documents needed for this purpose are available only in collections on the island of Oahu, making it difficult or impossible for Native Hawaiians living on the neighbor islands to access these vital documents. This project will change this by digitizing and posting information to the Library website; by providing workshops in the community to teach Native Hawaiians how to search and document their ancestry; providing research assistance; and providing Internet access in remote Hawaiian communities. Native Hawaiians will be able to use Hawaiian resource materials to research and document genealogy, land claims, and cultural traditions and practices. Native Hawaiians, especially those with limited access, will utilize library services and programs from their homes or at community access sites. While continuing to make print materials available, this project will also increase the amount of information accessible in digital form to Native Hawaiians and libraries around the globe.

Monitoring Plan

Project success will be monitored in the following ways:

The Library Director will meet with staff monthly to monitor progress and document completion of each objective. Written monthly reports on the status of each objective will be submitted to the President/CEO for review, and she will submit these to the Board of Directors. Data obtained from the year-end survey will be analyzed, and then summarized in a written report. Data will be used to update the Library three-year plan and to improve services and activities.

Library staff will maintain on-going records to assess use and participation rates in the proposed activities and surveys to determine client satisfaction. As mentioned above, this data will be analyzed, and then summarized for the mid-year and final performance report.

The Librarian will develop and disseminate a year-end survey to the community to obtain information about community satisfaction with Library services in general, and with the proposed project. The ongoing evaluation formats and records described above will address both expected and unexpected results.

Evaluation Plan

Objective 1: Enhance the NHL digital libraries with more resources to meet the needs and interests Native Hawaiians.

Outcome: Access to Hawaiian language resources, a central part of the Hawaiian culture, will be enhanced and the use of NHL digital libraries will be increased.		
Measure: 6 genealogical indexes will be added to Ulukau.	Data Source: Updated website Monthly program report	Data Interval: Annually Monthly