

Kamehameha Schools Philosophy of Education

DRAFT

This philosophy of education is founded in the Kamehameha Schools Strategic Plan 2000-2015 and it's Vision and Mission statements as follows:

Kamehameha Schools Strategic Plan: Vision

Kamehameha Schools is a dynamic and nurturing learning community committed to educational excellence. We assist people of Hawaiian ancestry to achieve their highest potential as "good and industrious men and women." We do so by contributing to their development as people who are:

- Grounded in spiritual and Christian values;
- Intellectually, emotionally and socially self-reliant;
- Resourceful, resilient, life-long learners;
- Equipped with the skills they need to succeed in endeavors of their choosing;
- Responsible, ethical, contributing members of their multi-cultural and diverse communities, and
- Prepared to practice and perpetuate the Hawaiian values and traditions of Ke Alii Pauahi.

Kamehameha Schools Strategic Plan: Mission

Kamehameha Schools' mission is to fulfill Pauahi's desire to create educational opportunities in perpetuity to improve the capability and well-being of people of Hawaiian ancestry.

The philosophy of education is organized around seven Beliefs and Guiding Principles.

Belief 1: Every learner* possesses a unique combination of talents, abilities, interests and needs and each is able to achieve higher levels of excellence.

Guiding Principles:

- ❖ Kamehameha Schools programs will:
 - acknowledge the uniqueness of each learner.
 - assist each learner in achieving core understandings and skills.
 - offer enrichment opportunities to encourage each learner to develop individual talents and interests.
 - strive to be available and affordable to encourage broad participation of the learning community.

Belief 2: The earliest years of a child's life are the most critical to development and set the stage for future learning.

Guiding Principle:

- ❖ Kamehameha Schools will assist by providing early childhood educational services that support families as the primary educators of their children.

Belief 3: Positive and nurturing relationships are an essential foundation of learning.

Guiding Principles:

- ❖ All members of the Kamehameha community that includes learners, staff, families and alumni, are role models and will demonstrate attitudes and behaviors consistent with Hawaiian and Christian values.
- ❖ All will develop and support positive connections and interactions with learners.

Belief 4: All learners create meaning by building on prior knowledge and actively using their learning in personally relevant ways.

Guiding Principle:

- ❖ Kamehameha Schools programs will:
 - support the learning process through a diverse and integrated curriculum and a range of services that are enhanced by the use of relevant technologies, real-life connections, and authentic experiences.
 - encourage learners to use their learning in service to their ‘ohana, the community and the broader society.

Belief 5: The quality of instruction is enhanced by collaboration, professional development and the application of research based practices.

Guiding Principles:

- ❖ Kamehameha Schools will:
 - provide time and resources for professional development and collaboration.
 - support and engage in research and evaluation activities to improve the quality and effectiveness of education.
 - extend professional development opportunities to learning communities outside of Kamehameha.
- ❖ Each member of the learning community will commit to ongoing professional development and collaboration to optimize learner success.

Belief 6: Education is enhanced by involvement of the learner and all members of the learner's community.

Guiding Principles:

- ❖ Kamehameha Schools programs will:
 - provide opportunities for learners to share in and assume greater responsibility for their own development.
 - promote the active involvement of families.
 - encourage open communication and seek input from those impacted.

Belief 7: The effectiveness of our institution in meeting its mission is enhanced by collaboration and partnerships.

Guiding Principles:

- ❖ Kamehameha will recognize and encourage the good works of other programs and institutions.
- ❖ Kamehameha will contribute to building a network of services to meet the life-long educational needs of Hawaiians.

* Learner in the context of this Philosophy of Education refers to people of all ages participating in the full range of Kamehameha programs.