

**About Us**

Kalama Intermediate School serves five distinct Upcountry Maui communities, welcoming students from Paia, Makawao, Kula, Pukalani, and Haiku elementary schools. The school also features the Kaiapuni Program (Hawaiian Immersion), attracting many students from Central Maui. Located in the heart of Upcountry in Makawao, the school is rooted in the traditions and heritage of its surrounding community.

Student Voice

Student Voice brought change to our school in a number of ways. Using our weekly newsletter, we included families and our school community in our Student Voice lessons. The student newsletter, "[The Panther Press](#)," initiated two years ago, has grown to be an interactive forum for student commentary and school-related conversations. Seating arrangements in the cafeteria were changed as a result of student input (think Knights of the ROUND table!). Student voice also brought curricular change to the type of universal math screener we will use—students overwhelmingly voted to change the screener from i-Ready to IXL.

Actual SEL learning lessons began to take place in our advisory classes, thanks in large part to our work on this student voice committee. We began instituting once-a-month Student Voice lessons, following the monthly suggested activities on the Quaglia Institute website. This enabled us to get our whole staff involved. Our students benefited from learning how to utilize their voice and developing social-emotional skills in a more natural way rather than being “taught” what SEL is.

Student leadership experienced some changes this year. The elective course continued, but we discontinued having a student senate representative of every homeroom. We are still searching for a more effective way to allow for all student perspectives to be incorporated into student leadership.

Student Voice Survey

The Student Voice survey yielded great results this year. 680 students responded to our student voice survey this year. This was the highest response rate to date. Surveys were conducted in Social Studies classes. The following statements represent some of the bright spots we are celebrating:

I know what I need to do to be successful in my classes: 83%

I believe I can be successful: 80.8%

It is my responsibility to make sure I am learning: 80.4%

I think it is important to set high goals: 74.4%

I put forth my best effort at school: 73.8%

We have also used the data to identify some areas of focus for continued growth, including:

Adults at this school listen to students' suggestions: 54.8%

Teachers let my parents know what I do well: 51.8%

School is a welcoming and friendly place: 42.7%

My classes help me understand what is happening in my everyday life: 40.5%

Next Steps

Looking ahead to next year, we plan to recruit additional members of the campus community into our cohort to ensure representation in the counseling department, our Kaiapuni department, and the student leadership coordinator. We are also looking to find ways to include the student leadership class in our meetings to gain student perspectives in this project. Additionally, we will continue Student Voice Lessons once a month during advisory classes.

Ha'aheo kākou i ka nui o nā kānaka like 'ole a me ka ho'oulu 'ana i ka 'ike o nā haumāna ma o nā hana 'o'ole'a. He kuleana ko kākou ma ke 'ana i honua laulima a maluhia ho'i e pono ai nā haumāna a pau.

We will embrace our diversity and challenge our students with rigorous and relevant learning experiences in a safe, inviting, and collaborative environment that meets the needs of all students.

