

KĪHEI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CASE STUDY 2024-2025

SPRING 2025 ISSUE

YEAR 7

STUDENT VOICE AT
KĪHEI ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL CONTINUES TO GROW!

New initiatives this year:

- Leader in Me
- Recycling Collection
- Teacher Book Study
- Math Buddies
- Student Council Candidate Interviews
- A student initiated becoming a photographer for Broadcast
- Leadership field trips to Lokelani and Kūlanihāko'i



Habit 6: Synergize

LEADER IN ME

This school year, our school adopted Leader in Me, which has integrated seamlessly with Student Voice. The Leader in Me lessons have strengthened students' sense of Leadership and belonging. Next year we hope to dive deeper into the curriculum and start utilizing the student workbooks more.

AT OUR SCHOOL, WE EMBRACE STUDENT VOICE!



RECYCLING COLLECTION

What started from 4th graders writing a letter to our Principal in 2023, has become a monthly student run program to ensure our school does our part to care for the Earth. Our Dolphin Support Squad (student leaders) collect recycling from all classrooms once a month and the profits go to our student activity funds.



TEACHER BOOK STUDY

This year, our instructional coach, facilitated a book study, where teachers were able to choose a book to read in small groups with colleagues. Teacher voice was honored by giving options on which books to read, and small groups were created so teachers had a safe space to share ideas and reflections from our reading. All books that were read not only strengthened teacher voice, but also gave teachers ideas to continue supporting student voice in their own classrooms.



MATH BUDDIES

Starting during Winter Quarter of this school year, some 1st and 5th grade classrooms have begun partnering up for Math Intervention. The 5th grade students have been playing math games with lower grade students. You can tell all the students are more engaged and motivated to build their math skills when they get to play and connect with peers outside their classroom.

OUR DOLPHINS TAKE THE LEAD!



STUDENT COUNCIL

Instead of an election, we interviewed each candidate running for Student Council. Amongst the interview panel, were students. They were active participants that asked the interviewees questions, completed rubrics, and shared their thoughts and opinions during panel discussions.

LEADERSHIP FIELD TRIPS

Student Council officers and 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade Dolphin Ambassadors went on leadership field trips to Lokelani Intermediate School and Kūlanihāko'i High School. They went on campus tours led by the older students, learned about what leadership looks, sounds like and feels like at their schools. And our students asked questions about middle and high school, their rules and expectations, etc. We did ice breakers and played games to help students practice social skills and strengthen their understanding of leadership.



JR COACHES & PEER MEDIATORS

- JR Coaches (3rd Grade)
 - Rotate every week to help at K-2 morning recess
 - They encourage safe play, positive talk, conflict resolution (jan, ken, po), take students to the health room when they are hurt, clean up equipment and Lost and Found items
- Peer Mediators (4th Grade)
 - 2 students per class are trained to help other students solve disputes
 - They are assigned one day per week to be out at K-2 morning recess to resolve minor conflicts



BRIGHT SPOTS

STUDENT SURVEY DATA (2024)

This year we identified Leadership & Responsibility and Confidence to Take Action as areas we wanted to focus on for growth. We did see some gains in these areas between our last two administrations of the survey, such as:

- I see myself as a leader. 40.3% to 41.6% (1.3% growth)
- I want to go to college. 67.8% to 74.4% (6.6% growth)

STUDENT VOICE & HĀ IN ACTION



HĀ in Action

See how Kihei Elementary School is fostering a sense of belonging, responsibility, and a deep appreciation for Hawaiian culture in their students. Through the vibrant HĀ program, students are learning via hula, mele, and hands-on cultural experiences. From the significance of Makahiki to the joy of playing the ukulele, these students are embracing their heritage.

"Getting the students to realize this is their home and we need to take care of it. And, keep it going as long as possible for future generations."

- Kumu Haliaka Kama
Kihei Elementary School

We are incredibly proud of our partnership between Student Voice and the Hā Program. After hearing student feedback, our teachers and staff received professional development to learn more ways of teaching students about their culture. We have strengthened our students' understanding of Hawaiian culture and identity through Hula, Ukulele, Mele, Makahiki and more.

Link: [Hā in Action Press Release](#)
(May 2025)

