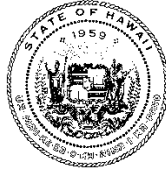


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



ROY M. TAKUMI
CHAIRPERSON

**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

May 15, 2025

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Elynne Chung
Chairperson, 2025 Commission Regular-Term Nominations
Investigative Committee

AGENDA ITEM: Investigative Committee (a permitted interaction group pursuant to paragraph 92-2.5(b)(1), Hawai'i Revised Statutes) investigation relating to nomination of individuals to serve as members of the State Public Charter School Commission; findings and recommendations on nominations

I. BACKGROUND

On June 30, 2025, the three-year terms of three commissioners on the State Public Charter School Commission (Commission) are scheduled to expire. These commissioners are: Kama Hopkins, Matthew Kodama, and Carl Takamura.

Pursuant to [subsection 302D-3\(c\), Hawai'i Revised Statutes \(HRS\)](#), the Board is responsible for appointing the members of the Commission. The nominees selected will serve three-year terms beginning on July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028.

The Board followed its process for the nomination and appointment of individuals to serve as members of the Commission, as explained in Chairperson Roy Takumi's memo to the Board on March 13, 2025. This process included establishment of the investigative committee (Committee) – charged with reviewing the applications received, and recommending nominees from the pool of applicants – at the Board's

March 13, 2025, general business meeting, to which Board Members Elynne Chung, Bill Arakaki, Kahele Dukelow, and Makana McClellan were appointed, with Board Member Chung serving as chairperson.

The Board published on its website a call for applications and an application form, as well as notified charter school stakeholders, including governing boards, and charter school directors, and the Commission, on March 6, 2025.

II. FINDINGS

The Committee received five applications, all of which met the submission deadline of April 25, 2025. Of the five applicants, the Committee found that three were the best qualified and suited to serve on the Commission for three-year terms beginning on July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028:

- Jill Baldemor, whose nomination letter and resume are attached as **Exhibit A**;
- Keolani Noa, whose cover letter and resume are attached as **Exhibit B**; and
- Michael Sarmiento, whose cover letter and resume are attached as **Exhibit C**.

III. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends the Board appoint the aforementioned individuals to the Commission, each to serve three-year terms beginning on July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028.

Proposed Motion:

“Moved to appoint the following individuals to the Commission, each to serve three-year terms beginning on July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028:

- **Jill Baldemor;**
- **Keolani Noa; and**
- **Michael Sarmiento.”**

This report concludes the work of the Committee as tasked by the Board.

Jill Baldemor's Nomination Letter and Resume (contact information redacted)

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



MAKALAPUA ALENCASTRE, Ed.D.
CHAIRPERSON

**STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)**

LETTER OF NOMINATION: JILL BALDEMOR

I wholeheartedly submit this letter of nomination for Jill Baldemor, Esq. to serve on the State Public Charter School Commission. Ms. Baldemor is more than qualified to fulfill this position and meets and exceeds all qualifications pursuant to HRS §302D-3(d). Jill has already successfully served as a commissioner and is eligible and willing to serve once again.

Jill's commitment to education is a matter of public record through her leadership at Teach For America - Hawai'i as the executive director and senior vice president, regional field executive. The very essence of Teach For America (TFA) is to help "young people build a more just world". TFA-Hawai'i specifically served the most underserved and hard to fill teaching positions across the state. Under Jill's leadership, the program thrived, specifically within charter schools. In terms of integrity, civic virtue, and high ethical standards, Ms. Baldemor would be a model commissioner. She will bring her years of experience in the education field, coupled with her law degree background to engage in constructive dialogue to promote best practices within the role of commissioner.

Beyond the minimum qualifications, Ms. Baldemor also has experience leading a local and national organization via TFA-Hawai'i. In her role as executive director, she led and managed a staff, provided professional development opportunities, created strategic plans, constructed contracts with state departments and non-profits. Anyone who has worked with Ms. Baldemor respects her collaborative spirit and ability to process complex and diverse issues.

In closing, Ms. Jill Baldemor is an ideal candidate to be considered to fulfill duties as a commissioner within the State Public Charter School Commission. She has demonstrated all the key qualifications necessary to be an effective leader and will apply the same determination to uplift the charter movement in Hawai'i. Jill not only demonstrated these qualities in her professional career, but also as a former commissioner.

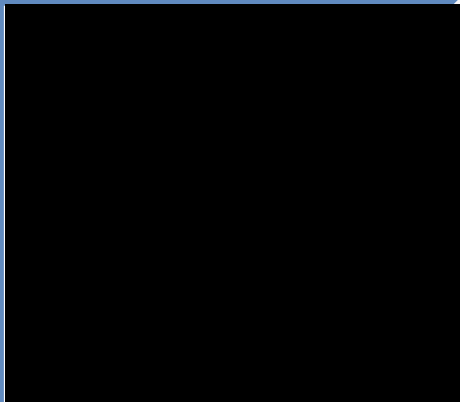
The State Public Charter School Commission needs someone of Ms. Baldemor's quality and character and believe she will bring much value to an already established commission board.

Respectfully,

A blue ink signature, likely of Ed H. Noh, written in a cursive style.

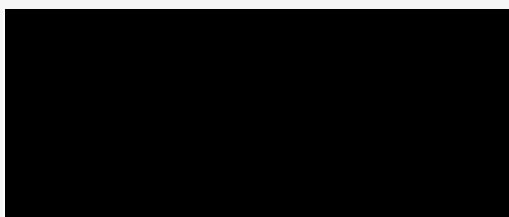
Ed H. Noh, Ed.D.
Executive Director, Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission





Jill Baldemor

Contact



Education

University of Washington, School of Law
Juris Doctor, June 2000

Northwestern University
Masters of Arts, June 1995

Northwestern University
Bachelor of Science, June 1995

Recognitions

Rhoda Lewis Award for Outstanding Public Service, Awarded by Hawai'i Women's Legal Foundation, 2018

Women Who Mean Business, Awarded by Pacific Business News, 2015

40 Under 40, Awarded by Pacific Business News, 2011

Fellow, Pacific Century Fellows, 2008

Experience

Senior Vice President, Regional Field Executive

Teach For America

2023 - Present

- Oversee and support Teach For America's impact in the Western regions: California (the Bay Area, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego), Phoenix, Nevada, and Hawai'i. Coach and support Executive Directors and partner with Regional Board of Advisors to collectively fundraise \$33 million and invest in the leadership of over 600 first and second year teachers and a network of over 10,000 alumni.

Executive Director, Teach For America Hawai'i

Teach For America

2007 - Present

- Create and evolve a long term vision and strategic plan to maximize Teach For America's impact in Hawai'i. Grew region from 50 corps members (teachers) to a network of 500+ members in Hawai'i. Work with 18-member board of advisors to cultivate external networks and maximize our broader impact. Oversee a \$4m regional budget.
- Create and oversee a nationally accredited alternative teacher credential program, providing teacher training, support and professional development to new teachers, focused on student academic and broader outcomes.
- Grow and diversify a sustainable funding base. More than tripled our regional fundraising from \$1.1m (FY07) to \$3.9m (expected in FY24) to grow and support our region.
- Identify and inspire local candidates to join Teach For America Hawai'i. Grew the diversity of our corps to include over 230 Kama'āina and Native Hawaiian corps members
- Build partnerships with school and community leaders, share resources, and collaborate to maximize impact.
- Foster a strong team culture and develop, empower, and retain a team of leaders. Average team tenure of 7.5 years, with 100% of regional team staff members consistently recommending Teach For America as a great place to work.
- Created a Native Alliance Initiative (NAI) with colleagues in South Dakota and New Mexico to raise organizational awareness and prioritize resources for indigenous students and Native communities

Attorney (Litigation)

Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel, LLP

2000 - 2007

- Defended landowners, property owners, and managers including hotels, restaurants, and recreational and sports facilities in disputes involving premises liability, ocean liability, food products liability, animal owner liability, and contracts.
- Trial Experience: Two criminal jury trials (misdemeanor domestic violence) as a Special Assistant Prosecuting Attorney with the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney; Two civil bench trials, First Circuit Court and State District Court; Numerous arbitration hearings.
- Conducted all aspects of discovery, including oral depositions and written interrogatories; drafted and argued motions in state and federal court; participated in settlement conferences, mediations, and arbitrations Experience in legal research, case analysis, analysis of medical records, work with witnesses (expert and lay), opposing counsel, and clients.

Activities

Commissioner, Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission
2014-2017 & 2020-2023

Board Member, HawaiiKidsCAN Advisory Board, 2017 - Present

Keolani Noa's Cover Letter and Resume (contact information redacted)

Mrs. Keolani LC Noa

04/25/2025



Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my sincere interest in serving Hawai'i as a commissioner for the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission. With deep respect for Hawai'i's diverse communities and a strong commitment to educational equity and innovation, I am eager to contribute my experience in governance, policy, and community engagement to support the mission of our charter schools.

I was born and raised in Kuli'ou'ou, O'ahu, the ahupua'a where my family has lived for seven generations. My approach to education and leadership is rooted in accountability, cultural responsiveness, and strategic oversight. I understand the critical importance of holding our charter schools to high standards while ensuring they are responsive to the unique needs of our communities.

I am passionate about sustaining Hawai'i's customary practices and committed to promoting student success through higher education. I recognize the value of cultivating cross-cultural awareness and have had the privilege of designing and implementing the *Model of Understanding: Unlocking the Mind to Academia*, which merges mo'olelo with science as a pathway to student achievement.

I am especially honored to submit my application because of the Commission's vital role in shaping innovative educational opportunities across the islands. I am confident that my skills and perspectives would be a valuable addition to the outstanding team of commissioners already in place.

Mahalo, thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs. Keolani Noa".

Mrs Keolani Noa

KEOLANI LINDSEY CORREA NOA

A Native Hawaiian community leader widely recognized and honored for commitment to improving the well-being of the Lāhui, A proven track record of building teams to collectively pursue transformational initiatives within Education and social services. Maintaining a high level of professional and personal integrity, exceptional communication and interpersonal skills is paramount to optimal governance, fostering positive team building and professional interactions while generating collective impact. A visionary philosophy coupled with passion and outstanding implementation skills yields effective leadership that produces exceptional results.

- **Collective Transformation through Individual Excellence**, Proactive, visionary leader with ability to build collective impact initiatives, and cultivate critical relationships with a shared sense of purpose.
- **Results-driven for highest impact** with 40 years of experience in Native Hawaiian Community Advocacy and Education. Proven ability to provide leadership, guiding quality initiatives both internally and externally to organization to improve community well-being.
- **Success in turnaround operations**, Re-scoping appropriately to solve complex problems through innovative collaborative solutions, elevating morale, overcoming negative perceptions, and increasing meaningful communications building trust.
- **Nationally recognized for developing initiatives, programs, and facilities serving Native Hawaiian Community**. Deeply committed to improving the lives of Native Hawaiians and Hawaii's communities.

BOARD POSITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2016-2019 KapCC Native Hawaiian Academic Advancement Coordinator
- 2015-2019 **Kapi'olani Community College (KapCC) Kalahu Committee**, Committee member. Title III oversight for Teacher professional development initiative
- 2015-2019 **Kalaualani KapCC Native Hawaiian Counsel (AGO)**, Vice-chair/ Chair (2016-2019)
- 2015- 2017 **PEEC (Pre-engineering Education Collaborates) Advisory Board**, Advisor.
- 2014- 2019 **Student Success Council Initiative KapCC**, Council Member.
- 2013- 2019 **SOEST- Maile Mentoring Initiative (School of Ocean and Earth Science Technology)**, Co-founder. Focus to retain Native Hawaiian undergraduates in ocean, earth and environmental science fields.
- 2006-2017 **National Science Technology, engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Tribal Colleges and Universities Washington D.C. Committee**, Member.
- 2012 -2015 **Alaska Anchorage University "Indigenous Alliance Partners"**, Hawaii Representative.
- 2011-2016 **STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) Scholars committee**, Member.
- 2010-2019 **University of Hawaii Systems Puko'a council**, KapCC Representative.
- 1999 -2002 **Hawaii State Adult Education**, Board of Directors Co-chair.
- 1996 - 2000 **St. Patrick School Parent Teacher Board** , President
- 1991 -1993 **Hana Health Medical Clinic**, Member of Board of Directors
- 1991 -1993 **Hui No Ke Ola Pono Maui**, Member of Board of Directors
- 1991-1993 **'Ahahui 'o Ka'ahumanu Society, Hana Chapter 11**; Founder and President.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

KAPIOLANI COMMUNITY COLLEGE, HONOLULU, HI

STEM Program Coordinator and Outreach Specialist, September 2006 – 2017

Facilitate and execute strategic vision and plan for STEM educational program initiatives. Responsible for operational and fiscal oversight of \$5million diversified portfolio of grant and operational funding. Lead community and regulatory agency relationship-building initiatives and advocate for minority STEM faculty and students to improve enrollment, retention and completion.

Key Accomplishments:

- Developed and Implemented STEM Summer Bridge Programs for High School juniors and seniors to increase college matriculation in STEM pathways.
- Restructured and streamlined services by centralizing KapCC location of supports, programming, fiscal/facility improvements. Vision and execution of the KapCC STEM Learning Center to include technologies, classrooms, faculty offices, mentoring center.
- Developed Professional Development training for STEM faculty to deepen Native Hawaiian Culture-Based Education curriculum instruction and assessment to implement in STEM pathways.
- Increased Native Hawaiian learner recruitment, retention, and completion within STEM pathways.
- Increased national and local strategic partnerships both internally and externally to strengthen STEM awareness, funding, transitional, and subject matter expertise.
- Created student centered supports to include: mentoring program, STEM focused scholarships, work-study STEM positions, Internship program, Research-based

SAINT PATRICK SCHOOL, HONOLULU, HI

Lead Teacher 1995 – 2005

Lead Teacher of Hawaiian Studies and Health for grades K-8th. Contributed to school strategic planning and execution of strategies to align to school goals and objectives with emphasis on building a comprehensive school-wide Hawaiian studies and health program to include courses, after school program, and teacher training.

ALU LIKE , HANA MAUI, HI

Site Coordinator and Community Researcher 1988 – 1993

Served as liaison with organization and cross-sector agencies to support community-based programming and initiatives. Served on various business and community development committees engaged in empowering community change. Directed all district office operations. Managed local budget and coordinated efforts to execute positive outcomes for youth, 'Ohana, and staff.

HANA HAWAIIAN VILLAGE, HANA MAUI, HI

Co-Owner and operator 1987 – 1993

Family owned business The Hana Hawaiian Village efforts to regain the stability of traditional Hawaiian excellence through effective engagement and leadership. Provided coordination and supports to build a community self-reliant work-force. Provided intergenerational workshops, conferences to promote and strengthen the Hawaiian traditional practices dedicated to health, 'Ai pono, La'au Lapa'au, Loko I'a, Performing Arts, and revitalizing ecosystems.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX, HONOLULU, HI

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY, HONOLULU, HI

COLLEGE OF NOTRE DAME, BELMONT, CA

ACTIVITIES, RECOGNITION, AWARDS

Community and Volunteer Service

- Facilitate partnership with State, County and Community for the continued efforts to restore Maunalua.
 - Native Hawaiian Protocol Practitioner o Kuliou'ou of the Ahupua'a o Maunalua and Pu'u honua
 - Partnership with Dept. of Land and Natural Resource to clean the Paiko Lagoon and bird sanctuary with community and youth. Spearhead cultural ceremony of the new canoe hale at Maunalua Bay.
- National Education Association: Committee member of Hawai'i's Team on education for underrepresented students
- Coordinated student and scientist groups to Kaho'olawe for restoration efforts.
- Coordinated with 'Ōlelo Palolo Public T.V. to build production program for students
- Coordinated capturing Kupuna Mo'olelo within community
- Coordinated tribute to the revered elder and authority John Keola Lake on the new John K. Lake Hawaiian Studies Department at St. Louis School

Awards and Recognition

- *Outstanding Staff Award* KapCC (2015)
- *50 Finest Star Award* University of Hawaii Community College. (2013)
- *National Women's Biography Awardee* National Education Association. Recognized for women committed to education. (2004)
- *Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Award* National Education Association. A Human and Civil Rights Award for leadership in resolving social challenges particularly with Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders. (1997)
- *Delegate to Washington D.C.* Honored to be one of 10 Native Hawaiians statewide who participated in a private Conference on health issues with the First Lady Hillary Clinton. (1993)
- Governor appointed to a three-member delegation from Hawai'i to the State of Colorado to promote and facilitate the collaboration of state and county agencies, to improve community-based health and education systems (1993)
- *Keolani Street.* Dedication of Street name on Maui. Spearheaded movement to correct, through the inclusion of proper diacritical marks, all Hawaiian county and state street names. Project members included Mayor of O'ahu, Director of the Department of Transportation and the University of Hawai'i Hawaiian Studies Program. (1976-1979)

Publications and Presentations

- SACNAS Conference - Facilitate talk session Indigenous Issues in Education (2019)
- Rapa Nui Polynesian Conference - University of Hawaii Select Team in higher education (2017)
- WIPCE Canada
- Wiliki Polytech Institute
- Keynote Speaker - University of Hawaii / Community Colleges 2017
- Oceanography - Official Publication - Summer Bridge Model as a pipeline to Higher Education (2016)
- McDonald House - Panelist on Higher Education
- WIPCE Hawaii
- University of Hawaii Sea Grant: Presenter on Culture as a tool in Science (2011)
- University of Hawaii Sea Grant: Presenter on Culture as a tool in Science (2011)
- Communicating Ocean Sciences for Scientists and Educators: Presenter on unlocking the Native Hawaiian mind to STEM academia (2011)
- National Science Foundation STEM Leadership Forum Presenter: Strategies that broaden the participant of Native Hawaiians in STEM careers. (2011)

- UH Systems Community College: Panelist representing KapCC STEM (2009)
- NEA minority conference: speaker on behalf of native Hawaiian community education (2009)
- KapCC Lead presenter on Cultural Relevance & STEM: The Academic Experience of College Science Students Conference at the University of Michigan (2006)
- Keynote speaker: Hawaiian Women Career or Family, University of Hawaii. (2005)
- National Publication in partnership with The Polynesian Voyaging Society and the Hawaiian Studies students of St. Patrick School. Utilizing tele communications between students and Hokūle‘a en route to Rapa Nui. As a ho‘okupu the students designed a book of poetry gifted to the Crew of the Hokūle‘a. (2003)
- Keynote Speaker for the Head Start Collaboration Conference. Building linkage aimed to establish networking with public and private agencies. (1997)
- Featured in the video series “Art Start With Head Start” as well as script and program consultant (1994)

Michael Sarmiento's Cover Letter and Resume (contact information redacted)

Michael Keone Sarmiento

[REDACTED]

04-25-2025

Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission
Applications Committee

Aloha mai kākou,

I am honored to submit my application to serve as a Commissioner for the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission. As an educator, curriculum developer, administrator, and community leader with nearly three decades of experience, I am deeply committed to fostering the academic, social, and overall development of our keiki. I believe that high-performing, culturally grounded charter schools are critical to advancing educational excellence and equity across our state.

My career in education began as a classroom teacher within the Hawai'i Department of Education and continued at Ka Waihona o ka Na'auao Public Charter School. These experiences shaped my understanding of the opportunities and challenges faced by both traditional and charter public schools. They also grounded me in a deep respect for the importance of school culture, community engagement, and a shared vision for student success. I have carried these lessons forward into my work as Vice President of Educational Design at the Purple Mai'a Foundation, where I lead initiatives such as Hālau Hekili, Kūkulu Ea, and Waiw.AI Studios — programs that blend indigenous knowledge systems with digital innovation to prepare young people for college, career, and community leadership.

Throughout my professional journey, I have upheld high standards of integrity, civic virtue, and ethical leadership. I believe in creating spaces of trust and accountability and in modeling the kind of leadership I hope to see in others. I am committed to engaging thoughtfully, conscientiously, and collaboratively with fellow Commissioners, educators, families, and the broader community. I understand that governance work requires not just passion but also preparation, presence, and a willingness to make difficult decisions with care and integrity.

I bring to this role a strong and evolving understanding of educational best practices, including charter school governance, culturally responsive pedagogy, and community-driven innovation. I am committed to continuous learning and welcome any further training necessary to ensure that my service on the Commission strengthens the quality and impact of Hawai'i's public charter schools.

Thank you for considering my application. I am eager to contribute to the Commission's mission and to help steward a charter school system that honors the brilliance and potential of all our keiki.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Michael Keone Sarmiento

Michael Keone Sarmiento

Professional Summary

Visionary education leader with close to three decades of experience as a teacher, curriculum developer, administrator, and systems-level program strategist. Born and raised in Mākaha, Mike is committed to educational equity, Indigenous innovation, and empowering the next generation through high quality learning experiences. He leads with a deep grounding in community-based practice, supporting haūmana and kumu to thrive through culture-based, tech-integrated programming. As Vice President of Education at Purple Mai‘ā Foundation, Mike designs and scales initiatives that blend computer science, AI, and digital storytelling with Hawaiian ways of knowing—building pathways for youth to become *future ancestors* and sovereign solution-builders in their communities.

Professional Experience

Vice President of Education

Purple Mai‘ā Foundation | Honolulu, HI | Aug. 2022 – Present

- Leads strategic direction for culture-based coding, computer science, and digital innovation programs.
- Oversees key initiatives including **Hālau Hekili**, **Kūkulu Ea**, and **Future Ancestors**.
- Develops educator-facing professional development rooted in *pilina* and Indigenous pedagogy.
- Supports fundraising, program development, and partner alignment (including Apple Education).
- Manages a team of 6 educational technologists.

Wai‘anae Regional Project Manager

Kamehameha Schools | Wai‘anae, HI | July 2018 – Aug. 2022

- Managed a portfolio of regional investments focused on Native Hawaiian student success.

- Built *pilina* across the Wai‘anae Coast to strengthen advocacy and systems change.

Classroom Teacher, Curriculum Coordinator, and Vice Principal

Ka Waihona o Ka Na‘auao Public Charter School | Nānākuli, HI | 2007 – 2018

- Taught 6th grade inclusion with a focus on student voice, equity, and cultural relevance.
 - As Curriculum Coordinator and later Vice Principal, led WASC accreditation, implemented 8th Grade Portfolio Defenses, and helped build a traditional hale as a place-based learning center.
 - Supported schoolwide adoption of culture-based education and PLC frameworks.
-

Education

Whittier College, CA

- M.Ed. in Education, 2000
 - B.A. in Child Development, 1998
-

Skills & Focus Areas

- Indigenous Innovation & Culturally Grounded Curriculum Design
- Place-Based & Mo‘olelo-Centered Pedagogy
- Pilina Development & Community Engagement
- Instructional Leadership & Professional Development
- Project-Based Learning & Strategic Program Design
- Technology Integration (AI, Apple Tools, Coding, Digital Storytelling)
- Grant Writing & Strategic Partnerships

Selected Projects & Initiatives

Hālau Hekili

A collaborative kula model between Purple Mai‘ā, Kailua High School, and Windward Community College that allows haūmana to earn dual high school and college credit. Hālau Hekili integrates Hawaiian Knowledge and Innovation (HIKI) certification with hands-on learning in traditional technologies, digital tools, and entrepreneurship. Mike designed the program to model an education system where youth learn *for* their communities, grounded in ‘ike kūpuna and modern skills.

Kūkulu Ea: Young Minds Building Sovereign Solutions

A teacher fellowship and student innovation pipeline rooted in the concept of “Stories to Solutions.” This initiative combines culturally grounded storytelling with tech tools like Keynote, Scratch, and web design to support project-based learning around mo‘olelo, circular economy, and ‘āina resilience. Mike serves as the lead designer of the Kūkulu Ea framework and fellowship experience, in partnership with Apple Education.

Pilina Development

A professional development approach that centers relationships and community relevance as the foundation for teacher growth. Rather than one-size-fits-all PD, Mike's pilina framework supports kumu as designers of place-based, culturally sustaining learning grounded in local mo‘olelo and mana‘ o. This model is being used in districts across Hawai‘i to transform school culture and practice.

Pa‘ a Mo‘ olelo

An AI + image generation course designed for Kumu to reclaim digital storytelling using the Remember–Reflect–Reimagine framework. Mike built this as an entryway for teachers to learn how to use MidJourney and generative AI tools to bring ancestral stories to life in visually compelling ways that honor indigenous aesthetics.

Future Ancestors (Purple Mai‘ā Program)

An ‘Ōpio-focused leadership and innovation program that equips youth with the tools to become community storytellers, designers, and advocates for ancestral and future knowledge systems. Rooted in culture, creativity, and kuleana, Future Ancestors supports students in developing tech-based projects that honor ‘ike kūpuna while envisioning bold futures. Mike helped shape the program’s direction to center Indigenous design thinking, digital skills, and youth voice across storytelling, product design, and entrepreneurship.