IKE AO PONO

For Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander & Native American Students

The IKE AO PONO program is designed to promote, mentor, and support nursing graduates to return to their home communities to advance the health, well being and recovery of native islanders and all peoples throughout Hawaii nei. By increasing the number of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Native American nurses in Hawaii, we will also increase the number of culturally informed and sensitive health professionals committed to improving health and healthcare.

The program is a 2010 recipient of the American Association of Colleges of Nurses Award in recognition of unprecedented success in Innovations in Professional Nursing Education. The program has also been recognized in the U.S. Congressional Record for these achievements by U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye.

Meaning

Envisioning Health and Wellness for the Whole Community.

- IKE … a shared vision held and nurtured by all
- AO … the everlasting quality of continuation
- PONO … well being in life

Goal

IKE AO PONO means to envision a lasting improvement, advancement, and promotion of health within the individual,
family and the whole community. The goal of IKE AO PONO is to provide Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and Native American nursing students with access to quality nursing education at the baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral level.

The mission of IKE AO PONO is to increase the number of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and Native American nurses in Hawaii to improve health and healthcare, with special attention to at-risk, under-represented and under-served communities.

IKE AO PONO has the full support of the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene (SONDH), the UH Administration and the Board of Regents, the Native Hawaiian Councils of Kualii and Pukoa and community health partners such as Papa Ola Lokahi, Kamehameha Schools and The Queen’s Health Systems.

As a Native Hawaiian nurse, I look forward to helping Hawaiian people with health issues that are common to our population. The IKE AO PONO Program has supported my academic journey as a graduate student, and I intend to repay this support by helping to improve the health of future generations. - Kanoe Tani, Master of Science in Advanced Population Health Nursing

Services

IKE AO PONO focuses on:

- Providing support to nursing students and advanced practice RNs enrolled at the University of Hawaii at Manoa through: cultural advising; Student Readiness
Skills seminars; academic tutoring; study group sessions; workshops and community service focused on cultural health issues.

- Working with community and UH partnerships to strengthen clinical learning sites, scholarship and employment opportunities.
- Advocacy for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students in university endeavors that will improve workforce diversity and professional development.
- Develop an ohana style of learning & mentoring with a study/computer lab & relevant reference materials to assist with the nursing curriculum at all educational levels.
- Recruitment efforts at the high school and community college level.
- Encourage students to feel accepted at UH Manoa Nursing by providing positive support for student empowerment and successful academic achievement.

Contact

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