

History

The IKE AŌ PŌNŌ program was piloted in 2001 with 6 students and became established as a permanent program in 2004 with 66 students. The primary mission of the program is threefold:

- To improve the health and healthcare of Hawaii and the Pacific through effective and culturally sensitive care.
- To increase the number of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander nurses in Hawaii.
- To provide young Hawaiians with positive role models.

With these ideals in mind, IKE AŌ PŌNŌ strives to encourage the enrollment and successful graduation of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students to the nursing profession from the UH Manoa Nursing Program.

As of 2021, IKE AŌ PŌNŌ has successfully graduated 487 Native nurses from the baccalaureate, graduate, and doctoral programs and by the end of 2021, 500 Native nurses will have graduated from the entry level and graduate nursing programs.