



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF HANAHAU'OLI SCHOOL

Hanahau'oli School

A Century Plus of Lifelong, Joyful Learning

1922 Makiki Street, Honolulu, HI 96822

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Lia Woo
Head of School

Step onto Hanahau'oli's green and vibrant campus and you will hear, see, and feel joyous work- children collaborating, playing, imagining, building, and wondering. This is because the Junior Kindergarten through 6th Grade progressive school recognizes and celebrates childhood as its own distinct and important stage of life and honors the natural way children learn—through play.

"At Hanahau'oli, children experience a childhood brimming with play, experiential learning, authentic experiences and intimate relationships at a pace that supports growth through deep reflection and inquiry," says Head of School Lia Woo, a Hanahau'oli graduate herself.



Translated as "joyous work" in Hawaiian, Hanahau'oli offers families a carefully designed and developmentally appropriate learning environment, grounded in comprehensive research on child development. Key to this joyous work is deep and caring relationships among children, teachers, staff, and families.

"Our close-knit community ensures every child is known and valued for their uniqueness," says Woo. "In our progressive curriculum, children take active leadership roles in the running of the school, learning from an early age the value of interdependence and community."

A multiage classroom structure is intentionally organized to meet children where they are—both cognitively and socially. Designed in a two-year cycle, the curriculum gives students and parents an opportunity to develop longer lasting relationships with the teachers

who support them.

"Our excellent and knowledgeable teachers, who stay current on best practices, work to provide opportunities for students to lead, follow, collaborate, as well as to express autonomy," says Woo.

Hanahau'oli's educational program includes an integrated curriculum with full-time specialist teachers in Visual Art, Physical World Lab (shop), Music, Mandarin, Orchestra/Band, Physical Education, Library Studies and Hawaiian Culture. Valued as an essential part of a child's learning and growth at Hanahau'oli, the arts offer self-expression while also nurturing in children an appreciation of the value of quality.

As a progressive school, Hanahau'oli responds to a changing world, believing that real-life problems and situations offer the best means for developing useful skills and understandings and becoming productive members of a democratic community. Cleaning plastics from beaches, educating the community about democracy and the right to vote, and promoting local agriculture are some of the issues students engage in.

Hanahau'oli offers an After School Camp and Enrichment Classes to support families and learners and continue joyous work into the late afternoon. Campers may choose to play indoors or out, or join clubs, classes, and clinics based on their passions and interests. Multi-age Hui groups anchor campers and help to build community across the school. Hanahau'oli's five-week summer program celebrates the wonder of learning. "The Skills We Need" program continues Hanahau'oli's commitment to supporting the community, offering tuition-free summer school for students from DOE Title 1 schools.

"At Hanahau'oli, we harness our progressive practices and creativity so that students respond to our changing world with purpose, compassion, and leadership," reflects Woo. "Students embrace responsibility for themselves, for others, and for a better future society."



HANAHAU'OLI SCHOOL
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