

RESOLUTION ON RENAMING LANIKAI ELEMENTARY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

The Governing Board of Lanikai Elementary Public Charter School hereby resolves that the legal name of Lanikai School shall become Ka‘ōhāo Public Charter School (aka Ka‘ōhāo School) effective July 1, 2017.

Historical Background

Historically, the geographic area that is currently known as Lanikai had a different name. According to Hawaiian tradition, as far back as the 1500’s the name of the area between Kailua Beach and Waimanalo Beach was Ka‘ōhāo. However, in 1926 Charles R. Frazier and the Trent Trust Co. bought and developed the area, renaming it Lanikai, intending to describe this beautiful land as “heavenly sea.” When our school opened its doors in 1964, it adopted the name Lanikai. Now the time has come for Lanikai School to recapture the historic and culturally significant name of its setting.

The original meaning of Ka‘ōhāo is “tying together” or “joining together,” representing the rich stories of Hawaiian history. To capture the essence of the history of the ‘āina (land), the Manoa family gifted a special rock to the school etched with the name Ka‘ōhāo. Sitting at the entrance to the campus, it represents a bridge from the past to the future, and reminds all who enter that we are a part of a larger, more complete history that should not be forgotten. This history has been shared with students, staff and parents by Kīhei and Māpuana de Silva, themselves former parents, who are respected kumu (master teachers) in mo‘olelo (history, stories, legend, genealogy and tradition) and hula in our community and at large. The mele (song), “Hanohano Wailea” was written by Kīhei de Silva urging us to simply “name the old names of Ka‘ōhāo. Put them back in our mouths and ears where they belong.”¹

¹ https://apps.ksbe.edu/kaiwakiloumoku/kaleinamanu/mele-hou/hanohano_wailea

Our School's Journey

The genesis of the name change came from a place of learning and understanding over time. First, we as a staff were very clear that a new capital improvement project building would be dedicated as the Ka'ōhāo Enrichment and Arts Center, to express support of our history and culture. Then in 2015, our Kumu 'Ike Hawai'i (Hawaiian Studies Teacher), Ms. Lilinoe Sterling, came to us and re-shared the names and stories of Ka'ōhāo with students and staff. The keiki at Lanikai School started to put Ka'ōhāo in their mouths and ears once again. The students began to inquire about the name Ka'ōhāo. They expressed confusion and disappointment that the history and the old names of this land were not common knowledge. Their conversations reflected concern for the ease by which these old names had been ignored and subsequently forgotten. Their inquiries developed into a teaching and learning opportunity, and a movement was born.

The decision to rename our school is supported by the students, staff, and families and follows our mission as a school. We strive to empower our students to solve real-world problems; we respect our community and cultural values; we endeavor to develop children who are confident and creative builders of their futures.

We believe that our name change represents much of what we stand for as a school. In many ways, we are tying and joining together the past, the present, and the future. We do this humbly, with cultural respect and understanding; and applying knowledge from awareness to action, the chief aim of education.

Our students, staff and Governing Board stand unified with our families and community in support of the name change to Ka'ōhāo School, an institution dedicated to inquiry, learning and personal growth. We hope that as we progress, others may also "join together."

Approved March 30, 2017