







2026

Hawai‘i Ku‘u Home Aloha

past - present - future

HAWAI‘I PAPA O KE AO

Native Hawaiian Place of Learning Advancement Office

SUMMIT OVERVIEW

The 2026 Hawai'i Ku'u Home Aloha summit, held on January 21st and 22nd, fostered opportunities for reflection, collaboration, and collective visioning. Attendees engaged in dialogue, place-based and culturally-grounded learning, and community-centered exploration to deepen their understanding of Hawai'i's history, resilience, and collective pathways toward a thriving future. This report provides highlights and key insight from 218 survey respondents.

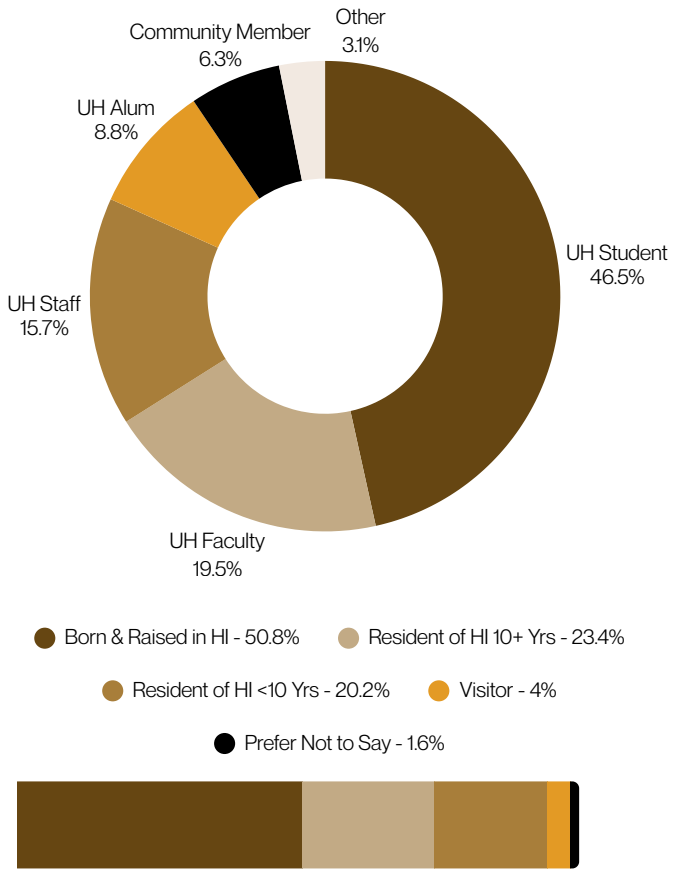




Key Takeaways:

- feedback indicates overall positive trends in pilina-building
- greater awareness and acknowledgement of issues (i.e., institutional, historical, socioeconomic, etc.) correlated with greater ability to imagine alternative futures for Hawai'i as it relates to the TRHT™ framework
- engaging in pilina-building activities positively shaped people's understanding of Hawai'i's history & relevance to present-day issues; these results are significant
    - *note: *pilina-building activities* in this context refers to Hawai'i-grounded spaces that foster dialogue and co-creation of understanding

Attendee Composition & Connection to Hawai'i*



94 respondents out of 218 opted out of answering these questions

Recommendations:

- continue to provide a variety of opportunities to build pilina with self, others, and Hawai'i
- expand campus-based opportunities for self-reflection and positionality work to help participants situate themselves in the present and strengthen their ability to imagine alternative futures for Hawai'i
- support pilina-building activities that integrate critical awareness and understanding of Hawai'i's present-day challenges with concrete, actionable pathways to deepen confidence in the possibility of positive change

ENGAGEMENT STATS

Attendee participation and feedback throughout the summit reflected meaningful connections, shared experiences, and rich dialogue that bridged self, others, and ʻāina, illuminating the depth of learning and community-building.



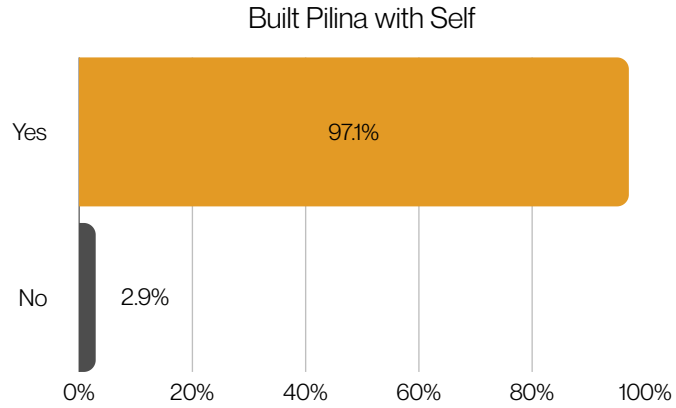
"This work is what gives our entire existence as an institution meaning and value. It's what grounds us, connects us, and makes us resilient."

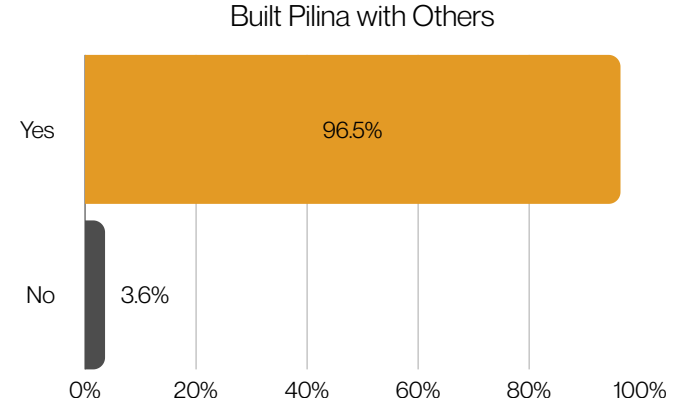


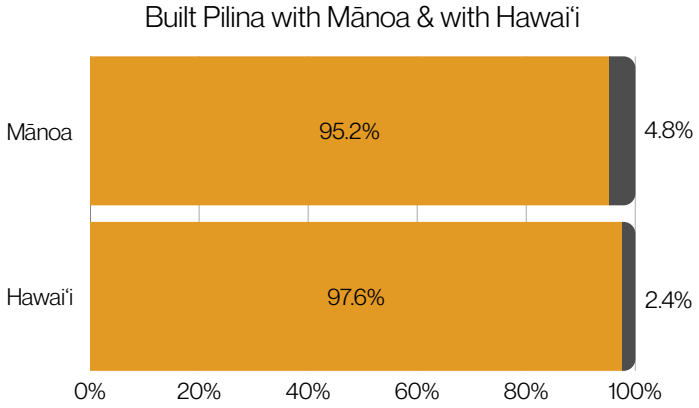
"...Hawai'i is about shared time and shared space. This is something that resonated deeply with me and the way that I was raised. It made me wonder how we might center that more in what we do on campus."



"Talking to other units helped me see how we can support each other in this imperative—by learning from each other's experiences, but also building momentum across campus."







71% first-time summit attendees

81.2% expressed increased understanding of Hawai'i's history and its relevance to present-day issues

541.2% increase in survey respondents (from 2025 summit)

DAY 1 HIGHLIGHTS

This year's summit began grounded in past, present, and future through ceremony, ʻāina-based learning, collective visioning, and the cultivation of pilina.

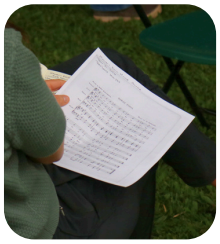
Hawaiʻi Ponoʻī Workshop with Kumu Hula Pelehonuamea Harman





100%

agreed they learned the proper pronunciation of ʻōlelo Hawaiʻi words in the mele, Hawaiʻi Ponoʻī



Attendees opened the summit chanting *Welina Mānoa* and explored *Hawaiʻi Ponoʻī* through collective singing.

Recognizing Queen Liliʻuokalani and Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Loved the combination of the MLK, Jr. Day, National Day of Healing, and the [recognition of the] overthrow of Hawai'i's queen as part of the summit."







Participants gathered for lei ceremony and reflection at Ke Ahu o Kamakaʻeha and the MLK plaque.

Mālama ʻĀina Walk & Talk with Nōweo Kai



"Everyone who steps foot on campus has at least some kuleana to mālama ʻāina this place."





Guests engaged in place-based exploration and conversation around the campus' many **mea kanu**.

Visioning Workshop with Dr. Kaiwipunikauikawēkiu Lipe





"The openness of people was surprising to me. To feel that vulnerable in a space talking about and thinking about ourselves as individuals and together was powerful."

Participants envisioned liberated futures for Hawaiʻi through reflective writing and drawing.

DAY 2 HIGHLIGHTS

The summit closed by encouraging collective care and kuleana across Hawai‘i’s past, present, and future through introspection, reflection, and shared accountability.

Kūpa‘a i ka Mauli Ola: Trauma-Informed Care with Tia Hartsock



“I really loved how she stated that, ‘hopelessness is the death of us.’ Amazing presentation.”





Participants explored trauma-informed practices to strengthen connection and collective resilience.

Lunch & Learn: Interactive Gallery with Cohort Kumukahi





70.8%
felt they deepened/increased their understanding of a specific unit’s 5-year action plan



Guests engaged campus units in dialogue around 5-year pathways toward a Native Hawaiian place of learning.

Behind the Blueprint: Panel Insights with Cohort Kumukahi





“The most important thing I learned was the kinds of supports that are needed to move a vision forward, and how to evaluate whether these supports are appropriately placed.”

Audience members learned about Cohort Kumukahi’s journey and lessons learned during plan development.

Mele, Mo‘olelo, & Momentum: Closing Plenary with Dr. Bruce Ka‘imi Watson & Friends

85%
agreed that this panel helped them feel more connected to Hawai‘i, Moananuiākea, Indigenous knowledge, and/or future generations





Panelists’ reflective musings centered shared challenges and responsibilities across Moananuiākea.

MAHALO Ā NUI!

We'd like to express sincere gratitude to all attendees of this year's Hawai'i Ku'u Home Aloha summit for their curiosity, insights, and engagement. Together, we explored Hawai'i's past, present, and future while strengthening pilina with ourselves, each other, and 'āina. We look forward to welcoming you again next year!

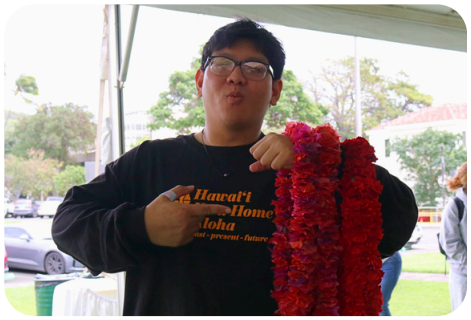
special thanks to

President Wendy Hensel • Interim Provost Vassilis Syrmos • Dr. Kaiwipunikauikawēkiu Lipe • Allyson Franco • Dr. Bruce Ka'imi Watson • Cohort Kumukahi Hui Members • Keanu Rochette-Tsu Tsuen • Dr. LaJoya Reed Shelly • Niya McAdoo • Nōweo Kai • Kumu Hula Pelehonuamea Harman • T.T. • Tia Hartsock & our amazing team of volunteers!

photos courtesy of the HPOKA NHPOLA Office



















APPENDIX

This appendix details how insights in this report were drawn from attendee survey feedback collected during and after the summit. Quantitative findings reflect aggregated responses to closed-ended questions and quantified patterns identified within open-ended responses, while qualitative insights were drawn from open-ended reflections and reviewed iteratively to identify recurring themes and shared language related to pilina, ʻāina-based learning, reflection, and collective kuleana. Together, these approaches center participant voices and capture how attendees engaged with the summit's learning spaces, people, and programming.

Variable Definitions for Key Takeaways Evidence

Variable Name	***Variable Label***	***Description***	***Data Type/ Scale***
BPS_Index	Build Pilina Strength Index	an index that noted cases of building pilina	Likert Scale
After_Understanding	Post-Session Understanding	response to, *"After participating in this session, I have a stronger understanding of Hawai'i's history and its relevance to present-day issues."*	Likert Scale
After_Applying	Post-Session Application Confidence	response to, "*After participating in this session, feel more confident applying Hawaiian cultural values in my personal and/or professional life."*	Likert Scale
After_Vision	Post-Session Future Visioning	response to, *"After participating in this session, have deepened and/or expanded my ability to imagine alternative futures for Hawai'i."*	Likert Scale

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APPENDIX

Variable Definitions for Key Takeaways Evidence (cont...)

Variable Name	***Variable Label***	***Description***	***Data Type/ Scale***
Before_Vision	Pre-Session Understanding	response to, *"Before participating in this session, had a strong understanding of Hawai'i's history and its relevance to present- issues."*	Likert Scale
Change_Vision	Change in Visioning	difference between *After_Vision* and *Before_Vision*, capturing the directional change in respondents' Likert Scale positions	-4 to +4
Ack_Iss	Acknowledgement of Issues	coded indicator reflecting respondent acknowledgement of Hawai'i's social, political, or historical issues in open-ended responses	Qualitative Code (Binary)
Action	Action Orientation	coded indicator reflecting respondent articulation of an intended action to address Hawai'i's issues in open-ended responses	Qualitative Code (Binary)
Change_Vision x Ack_Iss	Interaction Term	interaction between *Change_Vision* and *Ack_Iss*, used to examine how shifts in future-oriented visioning co-occur with acknowledgement of Hawai'i's issues	Interaction
AP_Index	Active Pilina-Building Index	a standardized index that incorporates *BPS_Index*, *Build 'Ike* marker (did respondent learn any 'ike Hawai'i), and *Particpant Engaged in Workshop* marker	Continuous

Note: *Likert Scale items were coded to reflect increasing levels of agreement. Open-ended responses were independently reviewed and coded for acknowledgment of Hawai'i's issues (Ack_Iss) and articulation of action-oriented responses (Action). The interaction term was used to explore the relationship between changes in respondent's ability to imagine alternative futures and their explicit recognition of Hawai'i's contemporary challenges.*

APPENDIX

feedback indicates overall positive trends in pilina-building

```
. reg BPS_Index After_Understanding
```

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs	=	150
				F(1, 148)	=	47.12
Model	10.7687446	1	10.7687446	Prob > F	=	0.0000
Residual	33.8245887	148	.228544518	R-squared	=	0.2415
				Adj R-squared	=	0.2364
Total	44.5933333	149	.299284116	Root MSE	=	.47806

BPS_Index	Coefficient	Std. err.	t	P>|t|	[95% conf.	interval]
After_Understanding	.4237439	.0617314	6.86	0.000	.301755	.5457327
_cons	1.901512	.2898968	6.56	0.000	1.32864	2.474383

```
. reg BPS_Index After_Applying
```

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs	=	149
				F(1, 147)	=	17.60
Model	4.76546477	1	4.76546477	Prob > F	=	0.0000
Residual	39.8117164	147	.270828003	R-squared	=	0.1069
				Adj R-squared	=	0.1008
Total	44.5771812	148	.30119717	Root MSE	=	.52041

BPS_Index	Coefficient	Std. err.	t	P>|t|	[95% conf.	interval]
After_Applying	.2844769	.0678174	4.19	0.000	.1504539	.4184999
_cons	2.543652	.3196406	7.96	0.000	1.911967	3.175336

```
. reg BPS_Index After_Vision
```

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs	=	150
				F(1, 148)	=	117.38
Model	19.7238333	1	19.7238333	Prob > F	=	0.0000
Residual	24.8695001	148	.168037163	R-squared	=	0.4423
				Adj R-squared	=	0.4385
Total	44.5933333	149	.299284116	Root MSE	=	.40992

BPS_Index	Coefficient	Std. err.	t	P>|t|	[95% conf.	interval]
After_Vision	.5627877	.0519459	10.83	0.000	.4601362	.6654393
_cons	1.235735	.2457433	5.03	0.000	.7501161	1.721354

APPENDIX

greater awareness and acknowledgement of issues (i.e. institutional, historical, socioeconomic, etc.) correlated with greater ability to imagine alternative futures for Hawai'i as it relates to the TRHT™ framework

```
. reg BPS_Index Before_Vision After_Vision
```

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs	=	147
				F(2, 144)	=	66.15
Model	21.3293481	2	10.664674	Prob > F	=	0.0000
Residual	23.2148696	144	.161214372	R-squared	=	0.4788
				Adj R-squared	=	0.4716
Total	44.5442177	146	.305097381	Root MSE	=	.40152

BPS_Index	Coefficient	Std. err.	t	P>|t|	[95% conf.	interval]
Before_Vision	-.068704	.042182	-1.63	0.106	-.1520798	.0146718
After_Vision	.6062419	.0527059	11.50	0.000	.5020647	.710419
_cons	1.314428	.2852943	4.61	0.000	.7505224	1.878333

```
. reg BPS_Index Change_Vision
```

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs	=	147
				F(1, 145)	=	39.13
Model	9.46703438	1	9.46703438	Prob > F	=	0.0000
Residual	35.0771833	145	.241911609	R-squared	=	0.2125
				Adj R-squared	=	0.2071
Total	44.5442177	146	.305097381	Root MSE	=	.49185

BPS_Index	Coefficient	Std. err.	t	P>|t|	[95% conf.	interval]
Change_Vision	.2691267	.0430208	6.26	0.000	.1840979	.3541555
_cons	3.740762	.0455786	82.07	0.000	3.650678	3.830846

```
. reg BPS_Index Change_Vision Ack_Iss
```

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs	=	108
				F(2, 105)	=	29.66
Model	5.56271031	2	2.78135515	Prob > F	=	0.0000
Residual	9.8446971	105	.09375902	R-squared	=	0.3610
				Adj R-squared	=	0.3489
Total	15.4074074	107	.143994462	Root MSE	=	.3062

BPS_Index	Coefficient	Std. err.	t	P>|t|	[95% conf.	interval]
Change_Vision	.2335154	.0311896	7.49	0.000	.1716722	.2953585
Ack_Iss	-.1551834	.0647299	-2.40	0.018	-.2835308	-.0268361
_cons	3.852986	.0379471	101.54	0.000	3.777744	3.928229

APPENDIX

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```
. reg BPS_Index Change_Vision Ack_Iss Action Change_VisionxAck_Iss
```

Source	SS	df	MS		
Model	7.63977465	4	1.90994366	Number of obs	= 107
Residual	7.7620945	102	.076098966	F(4, 102)	= 25.10
				Prob > F	= 0.0000
				R-squared	= 0.4960
				Adj R-squared	= 0.4763
Total	15.4018692	106	.145300652	Root MSE	= .27586

BPS_Index	Coefficient	Std. err.	t	P>|t|	[95% conf.	interval]
Change_Vision	.0398521	.0468623	0.85	0.397	-.053099	.1328031
Ack_Iss	-.3188482	.0670854	-4.75	0.000	-.4519118	-.1857845
Action	.0346156	.0619426	0.56	0.577	-.0882471	.1574784
Change_VisionxAck_Iss	.2999149	.0588665	5.09	0.000	.1831536	.4166763
_cons	3.934018	.0406912	96.68	0.000	3.853307	4.014729

engaging in pilina-building activities positively shaped people's understanding of Hawai'i's history and relevance to present-day issues; these results are significant

```
. reg Change_Understanding AP_Index
```

Source	SS	df	MS		
Model	14.6565132	1	14.6565132	Number of obs	= 180
Residual	167.987931	178	.943752423	F(1, 178)	= 15.53
				Prob > F	= 0.0001
				R-squared	= 0.0802
				Adj R-squared	= 0.0751
Total	182.644444	179	1.02036002	Root MSE	= .97147

Change_Und~g	Coefficient	Std. err.	t	P>|t|	[95% conf.	interval]
AP_Index	.3548403	.0900423	3.94	0.000	.1771525	.5325281
_cons	.5466105	.0724111	7.55	0.000	.4037157	.6895052

Na: Dr. Kawehionālani Goto, Keaupuni Davis, & Kikilia Lani

Recommended citation: Goto, K., Davis, K., Lani K. (2026). Hawai'i Ku'u Home Aloha Summit Evaluation. Hawai'i Papa o ke Ao Native Hawaiian Plcae of Learning Advancement Office. https://www.canva.com/design/DAG_p-77RHw/yeKrLVs1aoVrOMGOe_bdlQ/edit?utm_content=DAG_p-77RHw&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton