

Ke Kuahaua Maui Ola

A Declaration of Practice
by
The Statewide Traditional Hawaiian Healing Kūpuna Councils
Recognized By Papa Ola Lōkahi

June 20, 2024

BACKGROUND

Indigenous Peoples from around the world have struggled to preserve, protect and perpetuate the integrity of their respective traditional and customary practices as the dominant society attempted to appropriate and dictate what these practices are and how they are defined and used. In 2007, the United Nations issued its Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to address this onslaught with Indigenous Peoples' communities around the world.

In Hawai'i, following Statehood and after our "Native Hawaiian Renaissance," there has been and continues to be a growing interest and concern in our Native Hawaiian community about healing and the use of traditional practices. Unfortunately, this has led to efforts by those within and outside of the dominant society to control the 'ike of kāhuna which was passed on to us by our ancestors and various kumu.

We, the Chairs and members of the Statewide Traditional Hawaiian Healing Kūpuna Councils recognized by Papa Ola Lōkahi (POL) stand firmly by the Kāhuna Statement (described in the MO'OKŪ'AUHAU section of this document) as our foundation and affirm our lifetime kuleana and commitment regarding traditional Hawaiian healing practices. In response to multiple threats, concerns, and questions, we also publicly declare our commitment to PRESERVE, PROTECT and PERPETUATE these practices.

PREFACE:

As chosen by our kumu to be the keepers, protectors, and transmitters of traditional Hawaiian healing knowledge, we, the current Chairs of the Statewide Traditional Hawaiian Healing Kūpuna Councils recognized by POL, and our fellow council members, commit to spiritual-based healing practices for all humanity through and with the guidance of Ke Akua. We commit to strive for balance in our work by providing traditional Hawaiian healing services within healthcare systems in collaboration with POL's administrative oversight as the Native Hawaiian Health Board.

The misuse/abuse of our traditional Hawaiian healing practices can oftentimes cause severe harm to individuals, families and/or communities as sometimes noted from a public health perspective. We, therefore, employ strict spiritual protocols and practices that are critical for the safety of all our patients and recipients of such services.

DECLARATION:

We, the beneficiaries of the 'ike left to us by our kūpuna, declare as traditional Hawaiian healing practitioners through pule and a commitment to Ke Akua to help all humanity, do hereby:

- (1) Proudly stand firm by the Kāhuna Statement made by our Hawaiian healing kāhuna in 1998; and
- (2) Seek to PRESERVE, PROTECT, and PERPETUATE the cultural integrity and ancestral traditions passed down through generations of traditional Hawaiian healing practitioners. We pledge to do this accordance with pono values of our respective teachings in the spirit of aloha. We define our efforts as follows:
 - (a) TO PRESERVE
 - o The sanctity of pule
 - o 'Ike kūpuna which dictates as Ke Akua guides, directs, and protects
 - o The sacredness of practices as passed down through numerous generations by our kumu through their mo'okū'auhau
 - o Strict protocols
 - o The values and integrity of our practices
 - (b) TO PROTECT
 - o The sanctity of pule
 - o The spiritual integrity of traditions that can be verified through lineage
 - o The strict rituals and protocols that govern our practice
 - o The 'ike of our kumu and kūpuna
 - o A rigorous process of selection for appropriate haumāna
 - o The promotion of traditional Hawaiian healing without commercialization
 - o By remaining aware of laws and policies that threaten traditional Hawaiian healing practices and values
 - o By collaborating with POL policy activities to advocate for and respond to policies that impact traditional Hawaiian healing practices
 - (c) TO PERPETUATE
 - o The sanctity of pule
 - o The rigorous "practice" that haumāna are chosen
 - o Traditional Hawaiian healing knowledge with intent to pass it to the next generation
 - o Community and/or individual sharing through educational workshops, presentations, and sessions
 - o Traditional Hawaiian healing practices with cultural integrity
 - o The legacy and traditional spiritual knowledge of our kumu
 - o The verification of the mo'okū'auhau of traditional Hawaiian healing practices transmitted over numerous generations

MO'OKŪ'AUHAU:

We declare the importance of traditional Hawaiian healing mo'okū'auhau for the following reasons:

- The lineage of kāhuna healers binds us to a genealogy before western contact.
- Akua chose the lineage of healers, and therefore genealogies from the past to the present reflect that lineage and must be taken into account when referencing "traditional Hawaiian healing practices."
- Hawaiian "tradition" defines that prior to western contact, our ancient history, arts, skills, and healing practices began with someone, was transmitted over numerous generations, and is still perpetuated today.
- There is utmost importance for a traditional Hawaiian healing practitioner to verify and understand the legacy of kumu since haumāna embody the mana of that lineage - not just what was taught, but how it was taught and intended to be shared.
- As a haumāna is chosen to become part of a lineage, it is their kuleana to perpetuate that lineage with authenticity, honor, and integrity.
- As more kūpuna healing practitioners continue to pass, the kuleana to verify and perpetuate lineage falls upon their haumāna, and to assure that traditions remain intact.

The foundation, inspiration, and mo'okū'auhau for this Declaration is the Kāhuna Statement that was mentioned previously in the BACKGROUND section. It was developed on October 31, 1998, by five State-recognized healers including Po'okela Henry "Papa" Auwae, Aunty Malia Craver, Aunty Agnes Cope, Aunty Margaret Machado and Uncle Kalua Kaiahua. They gathered in Keauhou, Hawai'i Island to discuss Act 162, which required POL to "establish a process that would protect traditional Hawaiian healing practices and Native Hawaiians who practice them through a recognition and certification process." Their two days of in-depth discussions resulted in the following Kāhuna Statement:

We, the undersigned kūpuna practitioners of Hawaiian healing have counseled and agree:

That we are only instruments in the healing process and that the true source of healing comes from the Almighty, known as Akua, 'Io, or God. It is this source that gives us our calling to practice;

That the Legislature of the State of Hawai'i is not knowledgeable in the healing traditions of the Hawaiian people;

That while we are grateful that the Legislature has passed S.B. 1946, the blood quantum, licensure, and certification issues raised in the legislation are inappropriate and culturally unacceptable for government to ascertain. These are the kuleana of the Hawaiian community itself through kūpuna who are perpetuating these practices; and

Further, we agree that kupuna Henry Auwae serves as Chairman [Po'okela] of this Council of Master Practitioners and has the consent of its members to address future issues related to this legislation.

SIGNED: Henry Auwae, Po'okela
Agnes Cope
Malia Craver
Kalua Kaiahua
Margaret Machado

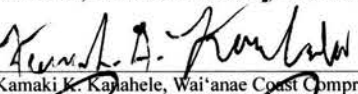
Note: Invited but unable to attend were Kahu David Ka'alakea of Maui and Aunty Abbie Napeahi of Hawai'i Island.

Acknowledging the kuleana passed down from the above kūpuna who originally signed the Kāhuna Statement, and to provide continuity of traditional Hawaiian healing practices from their generation to ours, this declaration is agreed to and undersigned by the Chairs of the Traditional Hawaiian Healing Kūpuna Councils recognized by Papa Ola Lōkahi. We affirm this declaration with confidence that we have the support of Papa Ola Lōkahi, our Council peers, and the communities we represent. It is our hope that the list of signatories will eventually grow as other healing practitioners are inspired to unite with us.

We do hereby ratify Ke Kuahaua Maui Ola on June 20, 2024.

SIGNED:


Sean Chun, Ho'ōla Lāhui Hawai'i Kāua'i/Ni'ihau


Kamaki K. Kapahala, Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, O'ahu


E. Sunny Greer, Nā Lei Hui No Ke Ola Mamo, Ke Ola Mamo, O'ahu


Kaunoa Ho'opai, Hui No Ke Ola Pono, Maui


Ikaika Dombrignes, Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Oiwī, Hawai'i Island

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