



Ke Ao Lono

The monthly newsletter of Ka Pa'alana
A Program of Partners in Development Foundation

THE BEGINNINGS OF ALOHA 'ĀINA

By Kathy Fong

*He ali'i ka 'āina, he kauwā
ke kanaka. The land is chief;
man is its servant.*

(Mary Kawena Pukui, 'Ōlelo
No'eau No. 531)

What does this 'Ōlelo No'eau mean to you? As we begin our new theme of Aloha 'Āina, we hope to help our keiki gain a sense of love and respect for the 'āina: that which feeds. We hope keiki and their caregiv-

ers will build a positive connection to nature and living things, knowing that this connection will be reflected in how we live and behave.

During this first phase of the theme, keiki have been exploring the idea of love by sharing about what they love. Through showing, telling, creating, and singing, we are learning about their connections to the people, places, and things they love and enjoy.

Keiki are also exploring



the different jobs and kule- land and the foods the 'āina
ana that show aloha for the provides. There is still so

ALOHA 'ĀINA

By Naomi Patterson

Aloha 'Āina (love for the land) is our new theme, and what a fantastic theme to bring back to in-person preschool! 'Āina translates to "that which feeds" the land we call home, a home that gives us so much. What can we teach our keiki about giving back to the land? How do you and your 'ohana honor and care for 'āina? In what ways can we help our keiki to explore the 'āina around them?

As our theme began, keiki explored different materi-

als related to 'āina. From taking care of and building homes for their animal friends using engineering and building skills to observing lepo (dirt) and using tools in their sensory play. So much science and technology! Keiki have also had the opportunity to use their imaginations through dramatic play by creating healthy meals for us or taking care of a baby doll. As we continue with the theme, let us work together and guide our keiki in the many ways they can aloha the 'āina all around them.



K U M U K U K U I

By Pua Aquino
Welina mai kākou!

Hawai'i is known for producing some of the finest *kapa* in the Pacific and some say this is because they had enough time to perfect the craft. In order to have enough time to perfect something as labor intensive as making *kapa*, which involved soaking the bark of the *wauke* or *māmaki* plant and pounding it with a beater into a

fine cloth, all the other *kuleana*, or responsibilities, needed to be taken care of.

Hawaiians were and many still are strong believers of the saying, "Work hard so you can play hard." They took advantage of opportunities to do things when they would be most productive, like working in the *lo'i* when the sun was either coming up or about to go down. Each member in the old Hawaiian community had their own responsi-



bilities, or *kuleana*, and everyone helped one another to ensure the work was completed in a timely manner so there would be time to perfect crafts and enjoy

leisure activities.

"Ai nō i kalo mo'a."

One can eat cooked taro.
The work is done; one can sit at ease and enjoy himself.

By Nida Otto

In early education, we use the terms **Product-Focused Art** and **Process-Focused Art**. Product-Focused Art is when keiki begin a project knowing what the end product should look like and they follow a set of instructions to get to their goal. Process-Focused Art is when a child is given an open-ended project and they have the opportunity to express themselves through their work.



Although both types of art have their inherent benefits, process-focused art allows your keiki to focus on being creative, develop the confidence to explore and experiment, and practice problem solving.

Per the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), here are some ways to encourage keiki to explore process-focused art:

- Provide a variety of open-ended materials to allow keiki to lead the art experience
- No step-by-step instructions
- No sample for keiki to follow
- No right or wrong way for keiki to explore and create
- Focus on experience and exploration of techniques, tools, and materials

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