

Abstract

Name of Organization: Kamalani Academy

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Mission: Kamalani Academy believes that each of our students is born with great abilities. We use the arts to release those talents. The arts enhance the learning of core academic subjects and also provide students with vital skills such as creativity, communication, leadership, and collaboration. **Vision:** A space where children become leaders, prepared for a Twenty First Century we cannot even imagine.

This project supports Kamalani Academy (KA), a new arts-integration, Hawaiian focused charter school that opened its doors in August 2017. The vision of arts integration at KA is expressed by the Hawaiian proverb: *Ma ka hana ka 'ike*. (In working one learns.) The school's students hail from North Shore of O'ahu, where a majority of disadvantaged students struggle academically in their traditional classrooms. Strong cultural continuity between home, school and community will provide them with a sense of place and a sense of purpose. As a result, the students will thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. This project will build the school's culture that will become the backbone for their model of school-wide arts integration and equip the flagship charter school with state of the art technology, Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math (STEAM) lab, high quality curriculum materials, and music and movement equipment.

If selected, KA is determined to use their funds in meeting the following goals to significantly increase student academic outcomes, close the achievement gap, and create an engaging learning environment: a) improve student achievement and educator effectiveness through arts integration; b) provide high quality curriculum and programs that promote excellence and prepare all students for success in the 21st Century; and c) provide access to state of the art technology, STEAM, and arts integrated learning environments where students feel safe to take educational risks.