

Grantee Name:

Namahana Education
Foundation

Grant Award Number:

S282B230014

ALN:

84.282B – Opening a New
Charter School

State:

Hawaii

Project Duration:

3 Years

Year 1 Funding:

\$206,468

Total Expected Funding:

\$1,011,277

Grantee Address:

P.O. Box 1353
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Project Director Name:

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Project Director Email:

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Namahana Education Foundation***Namahana School: The First Public Middle and High
Charter School for The North Shore Community on the
Hawaiian Island of Kaua'i***

Namahana School is the first public charter middle and high school on the rural North Shore of Kaua'i, scheduled to open in Kilauea, HI in August 2025. Namahana will start with 120 seventh and eighth grade students and add a grade each year thereafter to reach full capacity by 2030 with 360 students in 7th-12th grades. Currently, Kaua'i's North Shore students must endure long commutes of at least 2-3 hours a day to the nearest public middle and high school and are often unable to participate in afterschool extracurricular activities.

Namahana School's mission is to serve the communities of Halele'a and Ko'olau with rigorous 'āina-based education through cultivating deep relationships with 'āina (natural environment), kanaka (self, family, community), and ao (cultures of the world). Namahana prepares students for professional and personal fulfillment with skills that empower them to actively contribute to a resilient future on Kaua'i. Namahana will serve students from diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds including Native Hawaiian, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Micronesian, and Caucasian students.

Namahana's **project objectives** include:

1. Open the first public tuition-free middle and high school on the North Shore of the island of Kaua'i.
2. Provide high-quality secondary public education in the Kapa'a Complex Area through rigorous and relevant 'āina-based education.
3. Increase opportunities for real-world learning through field studies and internships that support student college and career pathways .
4. Provide student personalized learning around students' passions and interests.
5. Increase community and parent engagement for the rural families of Kaua'i's North Shore.

Namahana School's charter application was approved on June 22, 2023, one of only two charter schools approved by Hawaii's sole authorizer since 2017.

Competition Priorities Addressed: Competitive Preference Priority – Promoting High-Quality Educator- and Community-Centered Charter Schools to Support Underserved Students.