

IMPROVE EDUCATION  
PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT  
ADDRESS INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES  
ADOPT SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC STRATEGIES  
MEET HUMAN NEEDS & PRESERVE LOCAL CULTURE

FOCUS OUR  
MAUI ISLANDS  
NUI OUR FUTURE

Own it!

## QUALITY EDUCATION Maui's Royal Legacy



*Hale Pa'i* (house of printing) at the Lahainaluna campus, is an historical landmark. The original printing press housed in this building created Hawaii's first newspaper, and the first one west of the Rocky Mountains, *Ka Lama Hawaii* (the Hawaiian Luminary). Native Hawaiian youths educated in the 1830s at Lahainaluna Seminary were fascinated by their new-found ability to codify an exclusively oral history. Students documented native genealogies and their biblically-proportioned lists were published in *Ka Lama Hawaii* in 1834.

### Maui County boasts the oldest high school and first newspaper west of the Rocky Mountains

due in large part to Kamehameha II (Lunalilo 1797 - 1824), second monarch of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, and other Hawaiian chiefs, who had been quick to see the value of reading, writing, and learning about the rest of the world. Missionary efforts to educate the Hawaiian people and organize schools gained royal support and approval. Hoapili, governor of Maui, and Auwae, chief of Wailuku, made some of the best land available for schools.

Since the Hawaiians had no written language, the missionaries developed one based on a twelve-letter alphabet. Formal education started on Maui when Betsey Stockton organized the first school for commoners at Lahaina in 1823. Three years later there were over 8,000 students attending almost 200 island schools. In 1831, Lahainaluna Seminary, the oldest high school west of the Rockies, opened its doors to Native Hawaiian men to train as teachers, and to provide vocational education in surveying, engraving, printing and bookbinding. A seminary for girls was founded in 1836.

In 1835, the governor of Maui ordered all children over four to attend school and in the mid-1840s a public school system was founded, mandating that for every community with 15 or more children there would be a schoolhouse and teacher.

**By 1850, Hawai'i had the world's highest literacy rate.**

In 1826  
there were  
200 schools  
serving  
8,000  
students.

Today  
there are  
53 schools  
serving  
24,377  
students.



FOCUS MAUI NUI is a community-driven vision for the future of our islands, spearheaded by Maui Economic Development Board, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the economic well-being of Maui County. VISIT [www.focusmauinui.com](http://www.focusmauinui.com) or CALL 808.270.6801