

✓ 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!

[www.focusmauinui.com](http://www.focusmauinui.com)

**DID YOU KNOW:**

**In 1826 there were almost 200 schools serving over 8,000 students. Today there are 49 schools serving 24,526 students.**



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

**QUALITY EDUCATION—Maui's Royal Legacy**

**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 king 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 their support and approval. Hoapili, governor of Maui, and Auwae, chief of Wailuku, made some of the best land available for schools.

Formal education started on Maui when Betsey Stockton organized the first school for commoners at Lahaina in 1823. Two years later there were over 8,000 students attending almost 200 island schools. Within 35 years, literacy had risen to exceptional levels.

In 1831 Lahainaluna Seminary, the oldest high school west of the Rockies, opened it's doors to Native Hawaiian men to train as teachers, and to provide vocational education in surveying, engraving, printing and bookbinding.

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.

"This  
[education]  
is the thing  
which will  
establish the  
government  
of your  
chiefs...  
Knowledge is  
fundamental  
to living as  
a chief."

~ Auwae,  
Chief of Wailuku  
Early 1820s



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 OUR WEBSITE AT [www.focusmauinui.com](http://www.focusmauinui.com) or CALL 808.270.6801