

HEE NALU

LEARNING CENTER

PO Box 1677 Kailua HI 96734 inquiry@heenalulc.org

FACT:

- Each year 1 in 3 public high school students drops out or fails to graduate. They tend to be ethnic minorities* from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Without a high school diploma they are likely to be unemployed, live in poverty and poor health and are 8 times more likely to wind up in jail.
- The combined loss of income and revenue to the American economy from a single year's worth of drop outs is \$192 billion.
- One measure puts the cost to society for each dropout who later moves to a life of crime or drugs as somewhere between \$1.7 and \$2.3 million.

**Over 60% of the teens in the Hawai'i State Juvenile system are part Hawaiian.*

Statistics per "The Silent Epidemic" (Bridgeland; Dilulio, Jr.; and Morison, 2006)

NALU
STUDIES

Catching Waves to College

 COMMUNITY LINKS HAWAI'I

Community Links Hawai'i is a 501(c)3 organization and the fiscal sponsor of He'e Nalu Learning Center and it's programs, The Surfrider Spirit Sessions and Nalu Studies.

"I want IN to NALU Studies, just tell me what to do. I live in a house with 15 family members and I'm the only one who has a job. They're all on unemployment, and they don't know how to do anything different. I work 2 jobs to support my disabled mom and little brother. I want to move us out. I want to make my life different, better. I want to go to college and this is my chance to show my mother I can do it and that it's worth it."

~ Alika

Aloha ~

Ask anyone who knows me and they'll tell you, I hate to ask for money. I don't believe in hand-outs. I believe in empowering others to take their lives into their own hands to create a better future for themselves, and their community. I do believe in making smart investments and giving back for the greater good. And, I admit, I like empowering others to succeed.

Alika is one of several teens in Hawaii's Juvenile Justice System who has demonstrated to me, my team, and the courts, that they are up to challenge of moving their lives in a positive direction. They are proving that not only do they want to be in NALU Studies, they are serious about learning and bucking the trend they've lived in.

My team and I have been inspired by their ability to overcome challenges and like them, we are striving to do what seems outrageous: enroll them in college and help them earn a college credit during a 2-week fall intercession. We know we can do it.

We already have the support of Windward Community College and the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology. We've secured over \$40,000 in-kind donations and contributions. And while additional funds are on their way, we've just been notified they won't arrive time for this year's program.

The kids' stories and commitment to turning their lives around have compelled me to do what I never thought I'd be happy to do; which is, to ask you for money. We need to raise \$38,000 by October 1, 2008 to cover the cost of transportation, technical equipment and consumables such as chemistry kits. The teens are raring to go and we're determined to help them keep their momentum and get them into college this year. With your help, NALU Studies will run this October as planned and together, we'll get these kids off to a strong start in 2009.

Please join us in supporting their passion and commitment to change and make an investment in He'e Nalu Learning Center today.

Mahalo for your support~



Cynthia Y.H. Derosier
Executive Director
He'e Nalu Learning Center

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Meet some of the teens applying to NALU Studies whom you can invest in:

Alika:

Alika is very personable and light-hearted despite his dysfunctional family. His mentally disabled mother requires medication and his father is in jail for auto theft and drug possession. Alika came into the system when he was arrested with his father. Alika is a caretaker and is a hard worker. He's had several jobs and does well in them until something happens at home, then the burdens and troubles of his family derail him. The Court is trying to make arrangements for him to leave home and get a healthy distance from his family. He has been very outspoken and enthusiastic about NALU Studies.

K:

K's father is very stable and loving and works two jobs to support K, her two brothers, her uncle and her cousin. K began to have problems when her mother became addicted to ice and depleted the family finances. Her mother continues to use despite several entries into rehab, so her parents have separated and K is now the "woman of the house". Occasionally K's mom returns home when she is ill or needs a place to rest and often steals from them. During these times, K misses school as she tries to help her mother and protect their property. K is in a "learn at your own pace" school and she is working hard to get a year ahead so she can get to college quickly and become a nurse.

Kimo:

Kimo has graduated from the Juvenile Justice program and has returned to public school. He is working as a Junior Mentor in The Surfrider Spirit Sessions program and has proven to be a great leader. Kimo wants very much to be a part of NALU Studies and has told us "I really want to get into NALU but if there isn't enough money or not enough spaces I'll give up my spot to let someone else go. I have my life on track and one of the other guys might need the extra boost more than me. I can catch up with them later." We want Kimo in NALU Studies so he can continue to lead the way.

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FACT:

It is estimated to cost \$417 per youth per day spent in Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility*resulting in little, if any, tangible positive change in life direction. For \$260 per day you can help a teen earn college credit and set a new course in life.

**Figure provided by Sharon L. Agnew, Executive Director, Hawai'i Office of Youth Services*

YOUR INVESTMENT OF:

\$2,600

\$10,000

\$7,000

\$3,500

\$500

\$300

\$125

WILL:

SPONSOR ONE STUDENT and all related costs for the entire program

COVER THE COST OF ALL TRANSPORTATION including boats, vans and fuel

PURCHASE ALL CONSUMABLES such as chemistry kits, waterproof notebooks and pens, biochemicals and disposal costs

COVER THE COST OF CLASS AND LABORATORY EXPENSES

or

PURCHASE EQUIPMENT such as a GPS Chart plotter, a YSI Meter kit, or 6 portable microscopes that become part of our permanent field gear

SPONSOR A HALF-DAY CLASS BY A DNA EXPERT

PURCHASE AN IDEXX COLIFORM KIT to measure bacteria presence in water

SPONSOR A LIFE GUARD FOR ONE-DAY

Please make checks payable to: CLH/ He'e Nalu Learning Center

Mail to: Community Links Hawai'i.
1003 Bishop St, Suite 2605
Honolulu, HI 96813

Please include your full a name, address and e-mail so we may send you a receipt for your tax-deductible contribution.

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