

‘ALE LAU LOA

COUNTY OF HAWAII SISTER CITY GLOBAL YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

ABOUT THE NAME

‘Ale Lau Loa or long large wave is a metaphor for the long and complex histories of indigenous cultures. Just like a long, large wave that travels across the ocean, the history and traditions of indigenous cultures have often been passed down from generation to generation over a long period of time. By recognizing and respecting the importance of this cultural knowledge and heritage, we can gain a deeper understanding of the unique perspectives and contributions of indigenous peoples.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

‘Ale Lau Loa is an initiative by the County of Hawaii Sister City Program aimed at promoting cultural learning and exchange between high school students from Hawaii Island and different parts of the world, with a particular emphasis on indigenous cultures. The program provides an opportunity for young people to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the rich history, traditions, and customs of indigenous communities, while also fostering mutual respect and understanding among diverse cultures.

MISSION

To provide students with an immersive learning experience that allows them to explore the history, values, and customs of different cultures, with a particular emphasis on the unique perspectives and contributions of indigenous peoples.

PURPOSE

Through meaningful cultural exchanges, educational activities, and community engagement, our program seeks to develop responsible global citizens who are committed to building a more just and equitable world. We believe that by promoting cultural learning and exchange, we can create a more inclusive and interconnected society, where individuals from all backgrounds can thrive and contribute to the betterment of humanity.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility Criteria:

- This program is open to incoming sophomore and junior students of the Department of Education, including Charter Schools.
- Students must have an indigenous qualification, such as the ability to speak 'olelo or practicing Hawaiian culture.
- Students must be recommended by a teacher to be eligible for the program.
- Students must commit to attending ALL in-person and virtual workshops.
- Students must be willing and able to travel within the state or out of state, as required by the program.
- Students must feel comfortable speaking before small groups and large audiences.

SELECTION PROCESS

- A total of up to 10 applicants will be selected to participate in the program each year.
- All applications will be reviewed by a selection committee.
- Selection will be based on the quality of the essay and extracurricular activities
- Preference will be given to students who demonstrate financial need or lack the means to travel.

PARTICIPANT INCENTIVES

- Participants will receive an all-expense paid package for domestic and/or international travel, which includes passport application fees, airfare, hotel accommodation, transportation, meals and other related travel expenses.
- Participants will be reimbursed for mileage and gas expenses incurred while attending the workshops, symposium, and other program-related activities.
- Meals will be provided during the workshops and symposium.