

Invest in the Future of Culturally Rooted STEM Education:

Support the PLACES Curriculum

The PLACES (Place-based Learning and Culturally Engaged STEM) curricula represent an innovative shift in STEM education, fostering deeper engagement with STEM subjects and cultural identity.

Provided in both 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and English, the PLACES curricula are designed to equip students with critical technical knowledge by grounding Computer Science (CS) education in student experiences, local context, and Kānaka Maoli knowledge systems. **We invite you to join us in shaping inclusive and equitable STEM education for our keiki by supporting this work.**



Culturally Revitalizing Computer Science

PLACES contextualizes national K-12 CS standards to be aligned with local culture, language, and place. Our process of “**cultural transposition**” goes beyond simply translating lessons - it uses culturally relevant metaphors and localized examples to make complex technical concepts intuitive and relatable for students. This means that students learn CS in a way that affirms cultural identity and places value on their heritage.

Empowering Students Through Computer Literacy

Alongside CS instruction, PLACES provides computer literacy lessons that equip students with essential technical skills. By including fundamental skills, and grounding them in cultural relevance, we ensure students have the tools needed to succeed in the classroom and their future careers.

'Āina-Based Projects: Connecting Knowledge to Place

PLACES' 'āina-based projects encourage students to apply their CS skills to real-world, community-centered projects. Students are encouraged to view computing not just as a tool for individual success but as a means to contribute to the health and well-being of their community and environment. This approach fosters a deep sense of place and purpose, as students use technology to engage with their 'āina - their land, culture, and community.



Fostering Critical Reflection on Technology and Society

Beyond technical skills, PLACES encourages students to critically reflect on the broader social, ethical, and cultural implications of technology. We provide structured opportunities for students to examine how computing and technology intersect with their community's values and how they can use these tools to advocate for justice, sustainability, and cultural continuity. This approach prepares students to not only succeed in STEM but to lead with cultural integrity and social responsibility.

Why We Need Your Support

By contributing to the PLACES initiative, you are investing in a future where culturally relevant education creates pathways to success for students from diverse backgrounds. Your support will:

Enable us to develop and deliver **culturally responsive CS curricula to underserved communities.**

Starting with our piloting with Pū'ōhala School and Hāna School!

Provide **professional development for teachers** to incorporate **place-based, culturally relevant methodologies**

Helping teachers implement culturally relevant education

Fund **materials and tools** that allow students to engage in **impactful, 'āina-based projects that benefit their community**

Help us build a **scalable framework that can be adapted to other Indigenous and underrepresented cultures worldwide**

This efforts specially need support for:

Micro:bit Kits for Partner Schools

Materials (Paper, Cameras, iPads) for Cultural Transposition Workshops

Laptops for Development

Software & Tools (File-Sharing Platforms, Workspaces, Development Software)

Travel Expenses (Transportation, Meals, Lodging)

Salary for Curriculum Developers

Stipends for Partner Teachers

This is an opportunity to be part of a shift in STEM education; one that honors culture, uplifts communities, and ensures that future generations have the knowledge and tools to succeed in the digital world without sacrificing their connection to place and identity.

We invite you to partner with us in this critical work. Every donation makes a difference, creating lasting change in the lives of students, their communities, & the future of STEM.

Thank you for your support!

For corporate sponsorship or large donations, please contact Hali'a Hester at hali.hester@ululahui.org

Donate today!

<https://tinyurl.com/ypz37sbr>

