

SPEAK SMART

Empowering Youth Through Innovative Learning

"I'm inspired to see the transformation in our Waipahu students, many of whom come from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds and are English language learners. Their eyes light up with excitement. There's a change in attitude, self-esteem and confidence. Through their involvement with 'Ōlelo, these children are participating in contextual-based learning—hands-on projects that connect academics with the real world. They're developing qualities that any business would want in an employee—not just technical skills but also values like teamwork, problem solving, a strong work ethic. They're also discovering the importance of stewardship and selflessness, of giving back to their families and their community. The future is bright for our students as long as we have partners like 'Ōlelo, parents, the community and businesses. We can't do it alone. It takes all of us together."

Keith Hayashi

Nānākuli-Pearl City-Waipahu Complex Area Superintendent
Hawai'i State Department of Education

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