

## ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Lesson 43 (March 2021) by Kēhau Chrisman

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I was pleased to see that a group of us from LKNH had “attended” the virtual conference called “*Ka Waiwai No Nā Kūpuna*”, a Hawaiian-Based Cultural Education Conference For All, that was held on February 12. The topics were of interest to a wide group of people. Mahalo to Uncle Matt for sharing this information with the membership!

As with all conferences, they offered several topics per hour-sessions, and you have to choose only one, thereby missing the others. I was happy to know that they would videorecord all the sessions for posting later so that I didn’t feel like I had to miss. When and where these recordings would be posted were not mentioned. My thought was to peruse YouTube periodically, searching “Hawaiian Based Cultural Education” as a hunch that the recordings might appear there.

By mid February, they were not there on YouTube, but I did find some other very interesting presentations! One that I want to note here was a Panel Discussion in the 2013 Culture-Based Education Conference & Hawaiian Education Summit on the topic “*‘A ‘ole pau ka ‘ike i ka hālau ho ‘okahi*”. On that Panel was a former *kumu* of mine, *Kumu Hula* Coline Aiu (*Hālau Hula o Maiki*), along with other noted *kumu hula* Kimo Alama Keaulana, Nathan Nāpokā, and Hōkūlani Holt-Padilla. The 90-minute discussion was expertly moderated by Hau‘oli Akaka of Kamehameha Schools. I shared this link with all my *Hālau* students, for it is an important concept, and here I will share it with you:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJqV07OX5-A>

For this month’s lesson, I want to present to you this particular *‘ōlelo no ‘eau*. The word *‘ōlelo* means language or speech, as you know, and the word *no ‘eau* means skillful or wise. The two words together, then, are what we call in English “proverbs”, for are not proverbs “wise sayings”? The late well-known researcher and scholar of Hawaiian culture, *Tūtū Kawena Puku‘i*, produced a book called *‘Ōlelo No ‘eau –Hawaiian Proverbs and Poetical Sayings*, Bernice P. Bishop Museum Special Publication No. 71, Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu, 1983, which includes some 2942 sayings. Number 203 is the *‘ōlelo no ‘eau*, “*‘A ‘ole pau ka ‘ike i ka hālau ho ‘okahi*”, which is translated as “All knowledge is not taught in the same school”. It indicates that “one can learn from many sources”. And this is the premise of the above-mentioned Panel Discussion. The application of this proverb to the art of *hula* is that “your” *hula* school isn’t the only *hula* school. We learn much from each other, and we should be able to share this knowledge with each other.

In analyzing this *‘ōlelo no ‘eau*, let’s look at each individual word:

*‘a ‘ole* = no, not, negates something

*pau* = finish or complete

*ka* = the

*'ike* = knowledge

*i* = in, at, on

*ka* = the

*hālau* = school

*ho 'okahi* = one (*'ekahi* means the number one)