



**PRESS RELEASE** Contact: Cathy Lee Chong  
catherine.chong@chaminade.edu (808) 554-2009

**Ensuring a Great Start for Hawai'i's Keiki  
Teacher Prep Partnership between Chaminade University and Kamehameha Schools  
150 College Scholarships for Early Education, Primary and Secondary Teachers**

**Wednesday, May 3, 2023  
1 pm to 1:30 pm  
Ceremonial Chambers of  
Office of the Lt. Governor, State Capitol, fifth floor**

(Honolulu, Hawai'i) - There is a critical need for early education, primary and secondary teachers in Hawai'i and across the nation. This shortage of [educators](#) has led to an innovative and community-focused teacher prep partnership between Chaminade University and Kamehameha Schools to provide 150 [Mu'o Scholarships](#) to educate, train and prepare aspiring teachers to lead Hawai'i's classrooms.

This partnership provides full-tuition scholarships, and aligns with Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke's "Ready Keiki" program, which aims to create universal preschool access for all of Hawai'i's 3- and 4-year-olds by 2032.

On Wednesday, May 3, Chaminade University, Kamehameha Schools and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor held a press conference to share details of this partnership, and how these future teachers will positively impact Hawai'i.

"We are excited to announce this partnership with Kamehameha Schools, which directly addresses one of our most pressing community issues: a teacher shortage," says Chaminade University President Dr. Lynn Babington. "By providing these scholarships, we're removing barriers that too often hinder many working adults in the state from obtaining a bachelor's degree while still maintaining family and work commitments."

"Every keiki should have access to early learning, which provides a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning," said Dr. Wai'ale'ale Sarsona, vice president of Hi'ialo at Kamehameha Schools. "We are committed to help make this vision a reality, and this latest partnership with Chaminade University will bring Hawai'i closer to achieving this goal."

Beginning Fall 2023, Chaminade University and Kamehameha Schools will offer 50 students full-tuition Mu‘o Scholarships to Chaminade’s online bachelor’s program to become teachers here in Hawai‘i, prioritizing early learning. This enrollment will continue for two additional years for a total of 150 funded scholarships as a partnership through KS Kaiāulu, a new way for Kamehameha Schools to impact keiki and ‘ohana in the kaiāulu (community) alongside community partners.

**The press conference ran from 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Guest speakers included:

- The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai‘i
- Dr. Lynn Babington, President of Chaminade University
- Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona, Vice President of Hi‘ialo, Kamehameha Schools

Chaminade University’s online bachelor’s degree program is designed for working adults in Hawai‘i who may already be serving as a teacher’s aide or, currently, in a similar position. The online delivery format will allow students to continue working while pursuing their bachelor’s degree. [Program information](#) is available and applications for the scholarships are being accepted. This transformative program is 100 percent online, with a requirement to complete a student-teaching track. Students will be paired with an academic advisor to guide them on the road to graduation.

Applications are open to all Hawai‘i residents with additional consideration extended to those of Native Hawaiian ancestry. Recruitment and admittance priority will also be given to early childhood education applicants.

[Chaminade University](#) and [Kamehameha Schools](#) are institutions that value education and understand how teachers—at the early stages of childhood—have a positive impact on kids, their families and the community-at-large. This partnership is a testament to their commitment.

Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke’s [Ready Keiki](#) plan will create 80 preschool classrooms by August 2024 and 465 classrooms by 2032. The plan identifies sites for additional classrooms, increases provider subsidies to expand access to children from lower-income households, and envisions educational partnerships to train new preschool teachers and assistants.

###

[Link to B-roll](#)

[Link to time codes](#)