

Every Student Succeeds Act Primer: Native Hawaiian Education



Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, opportunities for participation and coordination from Native Hawaiians are increased with a focus on language and culture to improve student outcomes.

Native Hawaiian Education Program (NHEP)

The ESSA requires the Department of Education to award grants via the NHEP to give priority to:

- Programs that meet the educational priority recommendations of the Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC)
- Reading and literacy in K-3, at risk children and youth
- Needs in fields that Native Hawaiians are underemployed
- Programs that improve academic achievement of Native Hawaiian students by meeting their unique cultural and language needs

Change in NHEC Composition

The composition of the NHEC is revised under the ESSA. Fifteen named government and Native Hawaiian organization leaders replace the 21 Native Hawaiian, island community based providers and consumers of education services. The named organization leader may designate someone who has experience in Native Hawaiian education or cultural activities with traditional cultural experience given due consideration.

Community Consultation

The NHEC is to hold community consultations not less than once on each of the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Oahu, and Kauai. This public meeting is to allow the Council to gather input on current grantees, priorities and needs of the community, and to discuss Native Hawaiian education concerns.

For additional fact sheets about ESSA and Native communities, visit <http://niea.org/>.

The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) advances comprehensive educational opportunities for all Native students. Serving as the critical link between Native communities and the diverse array of institutions that serve our students, NIEA holds all accountable for improving achievement. Through advocacy, capacity-building, and education, NIEA supports Native students and their communities to succeed. [NIEA.org](http://niea.org)

