

# A Guide to Completing the Application for the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo

## Master of Arts in Indigenous Language and Culture Education

### CHECKLIST

- UH Hilo Graduate application form
- \$50 application fee
- Personal statement (see page 2 of this Guide)\*
- Official transcripts from all colleges or universities (must be received in a sealed envelope)\*
- Three professional or academic letters of recommendation, one of which should be from the principal at the school where employed\*
- Teaching Experience Verification form\*
- Interview with program faculty

#### For International Students:

- Official TOEFL score report, if required\*
- [International Graduate Student Supplemental Information Form](#) \*

#### Deadline for receipt of all application materials:

**February 1**

**\*To be submitted directly to the Graduate Division**

### PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Master of Arts in Indigenous Language and Culture Education is designed for indigenous language and culture-based education practitioners such as teachers, administrators, culture resource specialists, etc. The setting at Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College with its Kahuawaiola Indigenous Teacher Education Program, the Hale Kuamo‘o center, consortium with the ‘Aha Pūnana Leo, and P-12 laboratory schools, baccalaureate, and graduate Hawaiian medium education programs provides unique resources for understanding indigenous language and culture education.

The M.A. program in Indigenous Language and Culture Education currently offers only a Plan B practicing track, which requires students to be fluent in Hawaiian language and to simultaneously pursue the Kahuawaiola Indigenous Teacher Education Certificate. Hawaiian language use in the majority of Practicing Track courses provides students with the tools to deliver indigenous language and culture education at a high level. In the future, when the faculty is larger, the college intends to open a monitoring indigenous education track that will be open to students focusing on other indigenous languages.

Students accepted into the M.A. program must have met requirements for study and fluency in the Hawaiian language and culture, which will be their point of reference throughout the program.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

The priority application deadline is February 1 for admission to the following Fall semester. After February 1, applications will only be accepted on a space-available basis.

Apply on line at:

<http://hilo.hawaii.edu/admissions/Apply.php>

The UH Graduate Division receives applications and supporting documents and maintains the applications through final notification. If you do not hear from us within 30 days of submission of your application, please contact the Admissions Office at (808) 932-7926.

Applications that meet initial requirements will be forwarded to the College of Hawaiian Language Admissions committee for a comprehensive review and consideration for admission into the program.

Admissions decisions made by the committee will be returned to the Graduate Division which sends the final notification to the applicant.

### Admission Status

The applicant’s admission status is valid only for the semester to which the applicant is accepted. Applications for students who do not register or who withdraw from the University are voided but retained for a period of one (1) year. Students may reapply for admission to the next cohort by submitting a new graduate application along with the application fee.

### CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

1. Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum 3.0 grade point average in an approved field of study, e.g., Indigenous Studies, Ethnic Studies, Education, Languages (including English), etc.;
2. Three letters of recommendation at least one of which must focus on background in the Hawaiian language and culture and service to the Hawaiian community;
3. Grade point average of 3.0 or better in the last 60 credits of coursework taken (including coursework taken after the bachelor’s degree);
4. 30 credits of study in Hawaiian language or a program approved combination of Hawaiian language and a metropolitan language, Anthropology or Linguistics, with no grade lower than a “B” and a 3.0 average;

5. 9 credits of study in Hawaiian culture or a program-approved combination of Hawaiian culture and related social science courses such as Anthropology and Sociology, with no grade lower than a “B” and a 3.0 average;
6. Teaching experience, either paid or volunteer;
7. Interview, either in person or by telephone;
8. Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores;
9. In case of second language speakers of English, passing scores on the TOEFL as determined by the College or other evidence of English fluency; and
10. Prior completion of the Kahuawaiola Indigenous Teacher Education Program or prior completion of any other teacher education program accredited in the State of Hawai‘i\*, **AND** successful completion of KHAW 490 Base-Level Fluency for Hawaiian Medium Education. *\*For those who have completed a different teacher education program accredited by the State of Hawai‘i, achievement of high level scores on the Kahuawaiola teaching performance evaluation (to be administered by the M.A. program faculty).*

#### PERSONAL STATEMENT

Your personal statement should answer the following questions:

1. *He aha kou nu‘ukia ho‘ona‘auao?*
2. *Pehea e kōkua ai kou ‘imi na‘auao ‘ana ma ia pae i ka ho‘ona‘auao ‘ōiwi?*
3. *‘Oiai ‘o ka noi‘i kekahi huapuka nui o ka papahana, he aha ke kumuhana a i ‘ole ka pō‘aiapili noi‘i āu e no‘ono‘o nei?*

#### TRANSFER OF CREDITS

Transfer of credits into this program is not currently permitted.

*For questions regarding the application process, please contact:*

Māhealani Jones  
UH Hilo Graduate Division  
200 West Kāwili Street  
Hilo, HI 96720-4091  
(808) 932-7926  
amyj@hawaii.edu  
[www.uhh.hawaii.edu/academics/graduate](http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/academics/graduate)

*For questions regarding program information, please contact:*

Ku‘ulei Kepa‘a  
Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College  
(808) 932-7730  
kuulei.kepaa@hawaii.edu

#### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

##### 13 credits in group specific indigenous language medium education:

- KED 620 (3) Foundations for Hawaiian Medium Education
- KED 621 (2) Language Arts in Hawaiian Medium Education
- KED 623 (2) Social Studies in Hawaiian Medium Education
- KED 625 (1) Physical Education in Hawaiian Medium Education
- KED 626 (2) Science in Hawaiian Medium Education
- KED 627 (2) Math in Hawaiian Medium Education
- KED 628 (1) Art in Hawaiian Medium Education

##### 6 credits in field study:

- KED 642 (3) Hawaiian Medium Field Experience I Seminar
- KED 644 (3) Hawaiian Medium Field Experience II Seminar

##### 3 credits in:

- KED 630 (3) Research Methods in Indigenous Language and Culture Education

##### 3 credits in:

- KED 693 (3) Applied Research in Indigenous Education

##### 6 credits in appropriate 600 level education, multilingual societies or linguistics electives taken from any two of the following:

- HAW 632 (3) Teaching Hawaiian as a Second Language
- KED 660 (3) Indigenous Culture-Based Education in Theory and Practice
- KED 661 (3) Curriculum Development in Maui Ola Hawai‘i-based Schools
- KED 662 (3) Cultivating Native Well-being Through Education

##### Completion of the Kahuawaiola Indigenous Teacher Education Program\*:

- KED 641 (9) Hawaiian Medium Field Experience I
- KED 643 (9) Hawaiian Medium Field Experience II

*\*OR both waived upon approved equivalent*

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All supporting documents should be directed to the UH Hilo Graduate division