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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**INPEACE RECEIVES NEARLY \$5 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDING  
FOR KEIKI STEPS PROGRAM TO CONTINUE  
SERVING NATIVE HAWAIIAN KEIKI**

***W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
RECOGNIZE IMPACTFUL WORK OF NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION***

**Honolulu, Hawai‘i** – The Institute for Native Hawaiian Education and Culture (INPEACE) is pleased to announce two important grants to further its Keiki Steps preschool program.

Keiki Steps is a free program that provides quality preschool experiences for Native Hawaiian children and their families. Its mission is to provide a safe and fun learning environment with culturally enriching experiences that promotes school success for Native Hawaiian children and to support opportunities for growth by developing early childhood practitioners through extensive trainings and professional development.

“To receive not one but two generous and significant grants will help bring INPEACE one step closer to achieving our goal of providing quality early learning experiences for Native Hawaiian keiki,” said Dr. Kanoë Nāone, Chief Executive Officer of INPEACE. “The grants will fund our Keiki Steps programs, reaching families in 12 communities across the state.”

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation granted \$814,000 to INPEACE to fund six Keiki Steps sites in year one. The foundation was established to “help people help themselves.” Specifically, the Kellogg Foundation supports children, families and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society.

The second grant to fund Keiki Steps was presented by the Native Hawaiian Education Program (NHEP) under the U.S. Department of Education. This three-year grant will result in a total donation of \$4.1 million. In its first year, INPEACE will receive \$948,000 to fund six Keiki Steps sites and workforce development for the staff who are hired from the communities they serve; \$1.5 million and \$1.6 million respectively will be given over the next two years to fund a total of 12 Keiki Steps sites each year.

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The NHEP combines academic support with cultural enrichment, connecting tradition to the 21st century. Grants encourage the maximum participation of Native Hawaiians in planning and managing education programs. The purpose of this grant program is to develop innovative education approaches to assist Native Hawaiians and to supplement and expand programs and authorities in the area of education.

INPEACE's Keiki Steps program benefits keiki and their families in the communities of Nānākuli, Kamaile, Mā'ili, Wai'anae, Mākaha, Leihoku and Kapolei on O'ahu; Moloka'i; and Hilo, Keaukaha, Pana'ewa and South Kona on the Big Island.

INPEACE is dedicated to improving the quality of life for Native Hawaiians through community partnerships that provide educational opportunities and promote self-sufficiency. Their focus is in three areas: early childhood, higher education, and leadership development. We run family-child interaction learning programs, transition to kindergarten programs, and we hire and train community members to staff these programs. INPEACE also offers services to develop leadership within communities.

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