In Hawai'i, community schools are innovative, thriving hubs of learning in which partnerships and collaboration create ʻa'o mai, ʻa'o aku, reciprocal relationships between learners and place, content and context, and schools and communities.

- Community schools intentionally connect schools, ʻāina, indigenous and contemporary knowledge and ensure that learners belong to a thriving community.
- Systems of support form the foundation for community schools that are rooted in organizing resources towards the success of learners, families, and communities.
- Hawai'i-based community schools reflect who we are, how we live, and what we aspire to become.

THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

- Thriving learners, educators, families, ʻāina, and communities are supported by nurturing networks that promote reciprocity.
- Innovative, thriving hubs of learning that incubate and connect indigenous wisdom and contemporary knowledge to create and meet local and global opportunities.

THE FOUR PILLARS OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Collaborative Leadership and Practices
Parents, students, teachers, principals, and community partners build a culture of professional learning, collective trust, and shared responsibility using strategies such as site-based leadership teams and teacher learning communities.

Expanded and Enriched Learning
Afterschool, weekend, and summer programs provide academic instruction and individualized support. Enrichment activities emphasize ʻāina-, culture-, and place-based learning and community problem solving.

Integrated Student Supports
Mental and physical health services support student success. A dedicated staff member coordinates support programs to address out-of-school learning barriers for students and families.

Active Family and Community Engagement
Schools function as neighborhood hubs. There are educational opportunities for adults, and family members can share their stories and serve as equal partners in promoting student success. Schools promote interaction among families, administration, and teachers helps families to be more involved in the decisions about their children’s education.

TAKE ACTION

- Support HB1941. This bill creates a pilot grant program to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.
- Contact the Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance to learn more about community schools and how you can get involved.

The Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance works to ensure that all children in Hawai'i have access to quality afterschool and summer learning programs and community schools.