

## He Wa'a He Moku He Moku He Wa'a

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The short film ***He Wa'a He Moku He Moku He Wa'a*** was produced in a partnership with the Polynesian Voyaging Society, The Nature Conservancy and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and World Heritage Site. The goal of this film is to introduce *wa'a* (canoe) values, to students and teachers in Hawai'i and across the Pacific. The values expressed, essential to open-ocean voyaging, translate well to ways we should live on our islands, and on this planet. Engendering these values in students supports social-emotional wellbeing and provides a means for academics to engage in solutions to our most critical environmental issues. The title, translated in English, means: The Canoe is an Island, and the Island is a Canoe, supporting a message of intentional responsibility, caring, cooperation, and striving toward sustainability.

***He Wa'a He Moku He Moku He Wa'a*** opens with commentary from Polynesian Voyaging Society President Nainoa Thompson and features pillars of the Hawaiian voyaging community. The film serves as a tool for introducing strategies for how we can conserve limited resources; care for one another; understand our individual responsibilities; and seek knowledge to find our way as a community on land and in the ocean. Students and teachers who adopt these values in their classrooms will find that a journey of learning is less dependent on authoritarian rules and regulations, and more reliant on a shared value system that promotes individual and group growth and nurturing.

The film ending features students from several schools who have taken the voyaging values beyond the walls of their classrooms and applied them in the wild spaces of Hawai'i to restore native habitats in the forests, wetlands and coasts near their schools. During the production of this film, ten participating schools were visited by members of the voyaging community as well as experts in traditional ecological knowledge, botany, and wildlife management and restoration. The film is now utilized as a primer for UOG School of Education students working with Dr. Limtiaco, elementary schools, and restoration organizations, to show how academic pursuits might translate into accomplishments that reflect our island values.

As pandemic restrictions lift and schools reopen, social-emotional supports will be vital in establishing trust and camaraderie among students who have experienced isolation and potential trauma. ***He Wa'a He Moku He Moku He Wa'a*** continues to support and enrich the ongoing development and testing of culturally relevant social-emotional learning tools, supports and teacher pedagogy at the University of Guam.

*"As an educator, it's important to instill a sense of safety, support, and personal responsibility in your students early on. Nurturing classroom settings are cultivated in human values and an understanding that, as a classroom community, we will care for one another along the way. This film was produced to help begin a dialogue about how we can*

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*commit to building and sustaining a nurturing classroom, school, community, and world.*" – Matthew Limtiaco, Coproducer and Program Coordinator for the Elementary Education Program at University of Guam School of Education



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