

2008 Hawaii Distinguished School

**Ala Wai Elementary School
503 Kamoku Street
Honolulu, HI 96826**

Ala Wai Elementary School takes pride in its diverse student population. Nearly 36 percent of students speak English as their second language. Almost one quarter of the community's children come from a single-parent household and over 60 percent of students at Ala Wai Elementary receive free or reduced-cost lunch. This school successfully offers students a unique, multicultural environment in which students can achieve high standards in a nurturing environment.

The community plays a vital role in enabling the school to meet the challenges of achieving high educational goals. Ala Wai Elementary is involved in many community partnerships such as, 100th Infantry Battalion, Honolulu Academy of Arts, Diamond Head Rotary International and others, which assists the administration in giving students a challenging curriculum in a safe and positive environment.

Ala Wai Elementary participates in teacher training with the University of Hawaii Manoa's Master in Education in Teaching Program. Student teachers are trained on the latest innovative teaching and learning theories and practices, while university students gain professional teaching experiences from the mentor teachers at Ala Wai Elementary.

Ala Wai Elementary opened its classroom doors in 1954 to approximately 200 students. The school has experienced growth in the last 50 years with now more than 450 students in pre-school and grades kindergarten through fifth grade.

Ala Wai Elementary School is located in the Kaimuki complex in the Honolulu district, led by Principal Charlotte Unni.

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