

Parent Handbook



It is this program's policy to not discriminate against persons with disabilities on the basis of disability and to provide children and parents with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in the center's programs and services, in compliance with state law and the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

Due to the fluidity of COVID 19, new protocols and program structure may be employed as needed. If you have questions, please contact Program Education Manager Anya Tagawa at (808) 932-7836.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

‘Imiloa proudly introduces Hālau Ōkupu Play and Learn Mondays, a unique Place-based and Play-Based Enrichment Program designed for keiki (Ages 1-4) along with their caregivers. ‘Ōkupu refers to young sprouts or the new shoots of a plant sent out to grow. ‘Imiloa invites parents and caregivers to come explore with their young sprouts in an environment that fosters learning through curiosity, exploration and play! Through a variety of activities, including gross and small motor skill exercises, sensory exploration, dramatic play, movement activities, and arts and crafts, keiki are encouraged to actively engage while developing essential skills. These engaging experiences are specially developed to provide opportunities for keiki and their caregivers to foster stronger connections to their island home and community. Join us on this exciting journey of discovery and growth at Hālau Ōkupu Play and Learn Mondays!

The Hālau ‘Ōkupu Play and Learn Program will provide unique play-based learning opportunities for children ages 1-4 years old. This program will:

- Engage children in multi-sensory, age-specific activities that will establish a connection to our unique Island and local culture.

- Encourage exploration through play to support higher-order thinking.
- Promote the development of social/emotional, physical and cognitive skills.
- Increase high-quality early learning experiences by offering STEAM based activities.
- Engage and support families and caregivers as a child's first teacher.

MONDAY SESSIONS

Hālau 'Ōkupu Play and Learn will take place one Monday each month beginning in May. Please note that while the program is typically scheduled for one Monday a month, there may be occasional instances where sessions will not be held. Hālau 'Ōkupu sessions are thoughtfully planned on Mondays, a day when 'Imiloa is closed to general admission. This strategic scheduling not only ensures that the hālau has the space and resources it needs but also creates an ideal environment for keiki to safely explore alongside their peers. Please note that during this time, 'Imiloa opens up the opportunity for potential field trips, enhancing educational opportunities at 'Imiloa.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions prior to the start of the program, please contact **'Imiloa Guest Services at (808) 932-8901.**

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

- Keiki must be between 1-4 years old and have an accompanying adult to participate. Due to space limitations, only 1-2 accompanying adult(s) may participate with each keiki. **Participation is limited to eligible keiki and their caregiver(s).**
- The accompanying adult(s) is/are expected to participate and guide their child(ren) through the program's hosted activities.

Session 1 ARRIVAL/Departure PROCEDURES

- **Doors open at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Program Session: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**
- Please fill out a name tag for you and your child upon arrival.
- Participants may leave at any point during the offered program hours.

Session 2 ARRIVAL/Departure PROCEDURES

- **Doors open at 12:00 a.m.**
- **Program Session: 12:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**
- Please fill out a name tag for you and your child upon arrival.
- Participants may leave at any point during the offered program hours.

EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai‘i is part of the University of Hawai‘i System and follows the same Emergency Response Procedures. Emergency Response Procedures can be found at:

<https://hilo.hawaii.edu/security/emergency.php>

SICK POLICY

Help keep your child and our staff healthy by being alert to signs of illness and keeping sick children at home. Children who exhibit symptoms of illness and/or a temperature of 100.4F or more will need to be kept at home. If a child begins exhibiting symptoms during the program they will be instructed to go home.

REFUND POLICY

Refunds will not be provided for withdrawals or missed program days.

PROGRAM RULES

- Participants will be required to arrive and check-in by 9:00am.
- Parents/caregivers, participants and instructors are required to practice good hygiene by washing hands upon arrival, after eating or using the bathroom.
- Parents and caregivers are required to stay with their child at all times during the program.
- Parents and caregivers are to help their child follow all safety rules while participating in the program and using materials and equipment.
- Parents and caregivers are to accompany their child to the restroom.
- Parents and caregivers are encouraged to support their child in fostering positive and respectful interactions with others and their environment.
- Participants are encouraged to walk calmly and mindfully in the museum.
- Parents and caregivers have the option to bring food from home and have a snack break. Food is only allowed at the designated snack area during the program.

POSITIVE GUIDANCE APPROACH

‘Imiloa educators will strive to provide support and maintain a safe learning environment for all participants. Redirection and other forms of positive reinforcement will be routinely used in the learning space for all participants. Positive Guidance looks like:

1. Giving your child a win by pointing out positive behavior!
2. Diverting a behavioral issue by offering two choices that you are ok with.
3. Encourage your child to use words to solve problems.
4. Tell your child specifically what you would like them to do (for example, "Please walk" vs. "Don't run").
5. Look for reasons behind behavior to help you understand why your child may be challenging you.

CONTACT US

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