

BERNARD P. CARVALHO JR.
Mayor



WALLACE G. REZENTES JR.
Managing Director

COUNTY OF KAUA'I

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

News Release

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SARAH BLANE, CHIEF OF STAFF
Tel (808) 241-4900
Fax (808) 241-6877

Mayor Carvalho signs MOU to support Niihau language preservation

LĪHU'E – Mayor Bernard Carvalho Jr. has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Kaua'i and the Malie Foundation to facilitate the support of the preservation of the Niihau language.

"I am very excited about this agreement because with each generation, the Niihau language is becoming more and more at risk of extinction," said Mayor Bernard Carvalho Jr. "The only native speakers of Hawaiian remaining are living on Niihau and on the west side towns of Kaua'i, with a few families in Anahola."

Through this MOU, the County of Kaua'i agrees to provide support to the Malie Foundation and their experts to locate and secure funding for projects that will help with the support of preserving the Niihau language.

In addition, the Malie Foundation and their experts agree to formulate programs and initiatives such as a school curriculum, workshops, educational tools, and provide support for Niihau people as Manaleo and community members. The Malie Foundation will also advise the county regarding innovative ideas to preserve the Niihau language.

"With approximately 300 native speakers of Hawaiian left in the world, it is in the best interest of all to support the revitalization and normalization of olelo Kanaka," continued Mayor Carvalho. "I'm proud to support this initiative which could set a global precedence in language revitalization all around the world."



From left to right: Malie Foundation's Kahanu Smith, Niihau Manaleo Kuuipolani Kanahale Wong, County of Kaua'i Economic Development Specialist Nalani Brun, Niihau Manaleo Kahea Kaohelaulii Faria, and Mayor Bernard Carvalho Jr. Missing in photo is Niihau Manaleo Leiana Pahulehua.



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