



*'A'ole pau ka 'ike i ka hualau ho'okahi*

## New Zealand Delegation to Visit Connections in Hilo

On February 5, 2013, Connections Public Charter School will host a delegation of visitors from New Zealand's *High Tech Youth Network* (HTYN). HTYN will establish branches of their organization in Hawai'i.

“This is a great opportunity for our community, especially young people motivated to start a productive career in a high tech field,” said John Thatcher, Director of the school.

Heather McDaniel, chair of Connections Governing Board added, “One of the reasons this group is visiting Connections is to see our Makery project. Students use sophisticated computer controlled fabrication systems to turn their ideas into real products. Our students

use computer aided drawing and computer aided manufacturing software and hardware to fabricate products made out of wood, plastic, metal, bone and shell. Dr. Neil Scott at the University of Hawaii, Manoa developed the program. Dr. Scott is also from New Zealand. I know he is excited about sharing his work with his fellow Kiwis.”

The *High Tech Youth Network* provides a creative and safe afterschool learning environment where young people work with adult mentors to explore their ideas, develop new skills, and build confidence in themselves through the use of technology.

### **The Delegation**

Five members of the Network are visiting Hawai'i to begin working on the establishment of chapters throughout the State. Mr. Haami (Sam) Chapman is the Chairperson of the *High Tech Youth Network*. He is recognized as one of New Zealand's foremost leaders of indigenous work and in 2010 received a national title of Community Leader of the year. In 2012 Mr. Chapman received a citation from the Queen of England for over 40 years of emeritus work within the global not-for-profit community development sector. Professor Graham Smith, Mike Usmar, Filemoni' Timoteo and Kane Milne will also be visiting

Connections. Professor Graham is currently the Pro Vice Chancellor and CEO of New Zealand's only fully accredited indigenous University. He is a renowned and prominent Māori educationalists who has been at the forefront of alternative Māori initiatives. Mr. Usmar is the founder of the *High Tech Youth Network*, and serves as the CEO for the Network both within New Zealand and the United States. In 2012 Mr. Usmar was named as one of the twenty-five most influential CEO's of New Zealand. Mr. Timoteo is the Chairperson of the *High Tech Youth Academy*, and is developing pioneering work around providing international "High-Tech" credentials for young people. He is working with Microsoft, Adobe, national qualifications authorities and industry providers including a Nickelodeon studio. Mr. Milne was recruited at the formation of the *High Tech Youth Network* as one of the countries most sought after technical gaming videographers. He has taken the principal role of leading the learning pedagogy at regional training centers.

### **Background on the High Tech Youth Network.**

On November 21, 2011 Prime Minister John Key launched the first *High Tech Youth Academy* at Studio 274 in Otara, New Zealand. The concept originated from a successful pilot funded by Microsoft, New Zealand. *The High Tech Youth Network* seeks to empower young

people and communities to become more capable, creative, and confident life long learners by encouraging them to develop a positive identity and belief in their potential, through linking cultural knowledge and values with technology. Connections hopes to become one of the first sites in Hawai'i. The school shares *High Tech Youth Network's* belief that core cultural values can result in strong relationships of trust, sharing, friendship and guardianship. *The High Tech Youth Network* is committed to the development of a community of closely affiliated *High Tech Youth Studios* in underserved communities across the Pacific region.

For more information on the *High Tech Youth Network* please call Mike Usmar at 808-799-6377 or visit [www.hightechyouth.org](http://www.hightechyouth.org).

For more information about Connections Public Charter School please call 808-961-3664 or visit [www.connectionscharterschool.org](http://www.connectionscharterschool.org).