KA KUMU KAWELO PAPA

By: Justine Mercado

Mālama Honua Digital Storybook Series
Gloria Y. Niles, Ph.D. (Editor)
University of Hawaiʻi-West Oʻahu
KAʻI KUMU KAWELO PAPA

by: Justine Mercado
Bodhi is the new kid from Florida and he is having a hard time adjusting to his new surroundings. On his first day, Kumu Kawelo teaches her students about ola. Bodhi is too preoccupied daydreaming and misses the lesson. With help from his classmates, he finds friendship and learns what ola means.

This story highlights a strengthened sense of belonging and total well-being as part of the Nā Hopena A’o. Bodhi builds relationships with his new classmates and utilizes his resources to learn the meaning of ola.
“I heard he eats bugs and collects their heads”, Kaimi whispered to Jade.

Liezel chimed in, “well I heard he’s from England. That’s what Journey said!”

“I think he’s weird.” Jade replied as she peered at the new guy.
Bodhi turned beet red as they all glanced his way. He kept his head down and wished he could just go away. Everything they heard was a lie. It’s never easy being the new guy.
“Aloha kakahiaka class! Before we start our morning kuleana, I would like to introduce Bodhi, your new classmate.” Kumu Kawelo boomed as the first bell rang.

“E komo mai, Bodhi. Welcome to my fourth grade class, I know you’ll have a blast.”

Bodhi fiddled with his pen when he heard his name. He stared at his desk as he grew with shame.
Kumu Kawelo wrote kuleana on the board and instructed her class to record. Bodhi looked around. He was so confused. He never heard terms like the ones Kumu Kawelo used.
“Nā haumana! Listen to what I have to say. When you’re done copying your kuleana in your homework planners, sit on the floor we will learn about health and much more.”

Why couldn’t she just say copy my homework?

He thought to himself as he sat on the floor
“Ola means healthy in Hawaiian. By show of hands, give me examples of what it means to be ola…”

Bodhi ignored what kumu Kawelo was saying. He miserably stared out the door he no longer wanted to be there anymore.
The day went by fast as Kumu Kawelo’s class learned how to compose a draft. They learned about tectonic plates and multiples of eight.

Bodhi looked at the clock and let out a sigh of relief. The day was coming to an end and he still hasn’t made a single friend.
“Before I let you go, we learned about ola this morning. Finish your worksheet and bring in example on Monday for you will be sharing.”
Bodhi slung his backpack over his shoulder and rushed out the door. He raced to the bike rack and punched in his lock code 4-4-4.
“Hey! You’re Brody, right? I’m Jordan. You want to go to Dan the manapua man with us?”

He turned around and there stood three boys from his class.

He pointed at his friends, “this is Toa and Aiden. We’re going to Dan the manapua man and maybe play at Hau bush later.”

“Who? Are you talking to me? The name is Bodhi.”

“No. I’m talking to this tree..DUH! I’m talking to you!” Jordan said.
Bodhi wasn’t too fond of the idea hanging out in a bush. Even if he did go, he knew his mom would be furious if she knew he hung out with some guy named Dan the manapua man.

“Nah. It’s okay. My mom said I needed to go home after school. Thanks anyway!”
Bodhi took out his homework since he had nothing to do. He read the first question *What does healthy mean to you?* He reread it a few times. He had no clue. He wished he paid attention instead of feeling blue.

His mom opened the front door and went to the kitchen. She brought out a big glass of wine and turned on the television.
“Mooooom! What does it mean to be healthy?” Bodhi came running in. She shifted her gaze from her son to her glass, “well, what did you learn in class?”

“Ola!”
She closed her eyes and sighed, “They teach Spanish in fourth grade?..nevermind. Go play outside!”

*Must be the wine* he thought. She’s usually never home, she works a lot so he left her alone.
“Mooooom! Where’s my skateboard?” Bodhi hollered from the garage.

“It’s in the same pile with your baseball and football gear. Don’t forget your helmet either, dear!”
He stopped by the park and climbed a tree and wondered *What does healthy mean to me?* He grabbed an apple on his way out. He skated around the block, his usual route.
Bodhi skateboarded to class Monday morning and put away his things. He sat patiently and waited for first bell to ring.

“Aloha kakahiaka class! I hope you all had enough hiamoe! Copy down your kuleana and bring your things to the floor we will discuss health and more.”

*I need to pay attention today if I want to pass.*

Bodhi thought to himself as he glanced at his empty paper and folded it in half.
“Nā haumana! Ho’omau kaukau? We will begin our ha‘awina. Share your example of ola, your goal and how you will accomplish your goal, and what happens if you’re not ola.”
Shaylen stood in front of the class with a soccer ball and cleared her throat. Her shirt had a picture of a basketball underneath her coat.

“I play sports like soccer. I want to be strong by eating balanced meals and exercising. Eating a lot of sweets can cause diabetes and cavities.”
“Ah! Maika‘i Shaylen! Please pass around your kinipopo.” Praised kumu Kawelo

Bodhi unfolded his paper and wrote football like Shaylen presented. After all, he played football at the last school he attended.
One after another, it all became clear. He filled out his work sheet from listening to his peers.

He felt silly how he was so confused. His turn was coming up, but he wanted to share something no one else used.
“Wonderful! You’re all so akamai! A lot of sports players, nutritious foods, and great goals! Bodhi will present before we hele on, makaukau?” Kumu Kawelo smiled at Bodhi.
He ran back to his desk and grabbed his skateboard. His confidence rose as the class filled with ooh’s and ahh’s.
“I played football and baseball before I moved. I like to skateboard or ride my bike, but I have to wear a helmet. Our food pantry is full of fruits and veggies. My goal is to learn new tricks on my skateboard. Too much television and wine will make you tired.”
Kumu Kawelo chuckled, “Maikaʻi Bodhi, however, it’s recommended women drink only one glass of red wine a day. Thank you for sharing.”
He walked back to his seat and there was Jordan.

“Hey! Did your mom say you have to go home early today? I brought my football and we were going to play at Hau bush later.” Jordan said.

Bodhi had a big grin on his face. He finally felt welcomed in this place. He also realized Hau bush isn’t a bush.
Glossary

Akamai
Aloha kakahiaka
E komo mai
Ha‘awina
Hele
Hiamoe
Kinipopo
Kuleana
Kumu
Maika‘i
Makaukau
Na haumana
Ola

Smart/intelligent
Good morning
Welcome, come in
Lesson
Go
Sleep
Ball - sports
Responsibility
Teacher
Good, well
Ready
Students
Health
YOU, ME, HEALTH LITERACY worksheet

Just like in the story, the students will answer what they think it means to be healthy, activities they do to stay healthy, and health goals. Then, they will share with the class.

Liezel

Jordan

Toa
HCPS III

Standard 1: Core Concepts
• Healthy eating and physical activity
• Personal health and wellness

Standard 6: Decision-Making and Goal-Setting
• Decision-making across topic areas
• Goal-setting across topic areas

Standard 7: Advocacy
• Advocacy across topic areas

Credits

Prisma       Photo editor
Bodhi        Keanu H.
Bodhi’s mom  Erica H.
Kumu Kawelo  Mrs. “Lani” Kawelo
Kumu Kawelo’s Students  Mrs. Kawelo’s 4th grade class
Cover picture  Toaspartan (student)
Hawaiian translations  Sam Barr