



Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department)
Professional Development and Educational Research Institute (PDERI)
Na Kumu Alaka'i - Teacher Leader Academy (TLA)
School Year 2025-2026

Applicant Narrative Questions

Below are the applicant narrative prompts for the TLA application. Responses to the prompts need to be typed directly into the application portal (www.ehr.k12.hi.us). The narrative responses will be evaluated on the following: content, organization of ideas, professionalism, and adherence to correct grammar and convention.

Narrative 1 Prompt (limit 3000 characters)

The TLA application is open to tenured teachers currently serving in the Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) or a Hawai'i Public Charter School. Applicants must be highly qualified educators who demonstrate teacher leader dispositions, knowledge, and skills readiness based on the [Teacher Leader Look Fors](#).

Describe a time when you facilitated or assisted in leading an initiative intended to improve teacher practice and student outcomes. In your response, include the following:

- a. Explain the purpose of the initiative as it relates to school or system-wide improvement efforts focused on increasing student achievement, enhancing professional practice, and supporting organizational change.
- b. Discuss how you demonstrated your teacher leader dispositions, knowledge, and skills and how it contributed to advancing the purpose of the initiative.

Narrative 2 Prompt (limit 3000 characters)

Participants in TLA strengthen and refine their teacher leader dispositions, knowledge, and skills in preparation for pursuing various leadership roles, such as coach, resource teacher, curriculum coordinator, department chair, or school-level administrator. These roles may exist within their school, complex area (e.g., resource teacher), or at the state office level (e.g., State Office Teacher).

- a. What are your leadership goals, and how can TLA support your development as a leader?
- b. Which teacher leader dispositions, knowledge, and skills do you need to develop to prepare for your next steps in leadership?
- c. How will your participation in TLA positively impact your colleagues and students?