

Traditional Hawaiian and Neo Hawaiian

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ABSTRACT:

The difference between Neo Hawaiian language and Traditional Hawaiian is a direct result of the different ways in which Neo speakers and Traditional speakers acquire Hawaiian language skills. Typically, Neo speakers acquire the language from educational institutions which employ other Neo speakers, while Traditional speakers acquire Hawaiian as a first language spoken in the home. This has resulted, albeit inadvertently, in differences in the way the language is used among these two groups and ultimately the development of a new cultural identity.

Neo Hawaiian represents a new era for Hawaiians and their language. It is the result of external and internal pressures to change. It is the next phase in the cycle of growth of the native people and language, decimation and repression, and a rediscovery of the value of the native language and culture in response to years of repression.