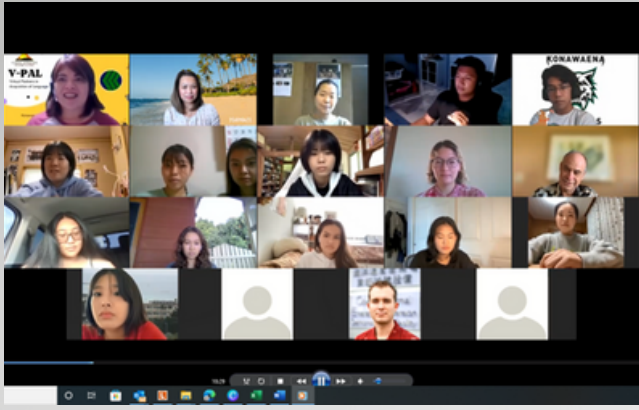


# V-PAL

HILO HIGH SCHOOL - KUMEJIMA HIGH SCHOOL

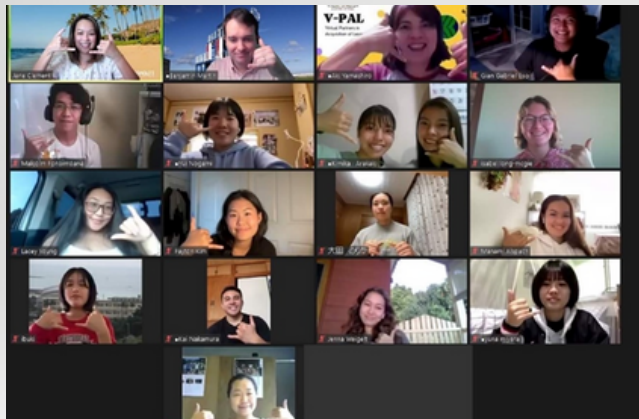






Introductory meeting with Mayor Mitch Roth

The V-PAL program, a pioneering venture in educational innovation, initiated its journey with Hilo High School in Hawai'i County and Kumejima High School in Japan as its first participants. This collaboration involved 14 students from both schools, engaging in a five-month cultural and linguistic exchange from January to May 2022. Through the use of Zoom, these students met virtually once a month, diving into discussions about their cultures, differences, and similarities, underlining the program's commitment to fostering understanding and language skills in English and Japanese.



January 2022 Topic: New Year Resolution

Recognizing the challenges of speaking a foreign language, V-PAL encouraged communication in any comfortable language, with peers assisting in translations. This approach significantly eased the pressure associated with language learning, emphasizing mutual support and learning.



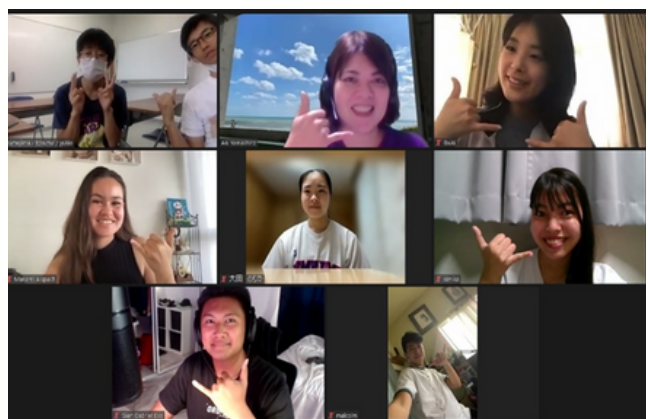
February 2022 Topic: Valentine's Day

Additionally, the LINE app facilitated ongoing interactions among students, allowing them to share daily activities and experiences, thus strengthening friendships and extending the program's impact beyond the monthly meetings.



March 2022 Topic: Graduation and Future Plans

The V-PAL program exemplifies educational innovation, offering students a platform for language learning, cultural exchange, and the formation of global friendships. This initiative between Hilo and Kumejima High Schools has set a strong foundation for future exchanges, promoting language proficiency, cultural awareness, and a deeper global understanding.



April 2022 Topic: Mythology

## STUDENT SURVEY

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### What are your thoughts on the V-PAL Program?

- たしかかったです！ It was fun
- 楽しかったです！ でも、自分の英語力が落ちてることを痛感しました It was fun. But I felt my English skills are not as good as used to be.
- 緊張してあまり話せなかったけど、ハワイの高校生と交流ができて嬉しかった I was so nervous that I could not talk so much. Happy to interact with students from Hawaii.
- It was a pretty cool opportunity to speak and listen to Japanese speakers although I wish I got more Japanese in there.
- Very fun and interesting!
- もっと話したかったけどあまり盛り上がらなかった。 I wish I could have talked more, but it did not pick up streams.

### What do you want to get out of this virtual exchange program?

- コミュニケーション力を高めたいです。 I want to improve my communication skills.
- 久米島高校の生徒は英語、コナワエナ高校の生徒は日本語で交流する！ 日常生活を英語で説明できるようになる！！ Kumejima high students use English and Konawaena uses Japanese during the activities. Hope to be able to use English in everyday life.
- 英語を使って自分の考えを言えるようになりたい I want to be able to express my thoughts in English.
- I want to challenge my Japanese listening comprehension. I really really want to work on my Japanese and be able to speak more of it but I find it very difficult on my own so I hope through this program I can grow a little more. I also get really nervous when I have to speak Japanese out loud to other people so I hope to improve and get less nervous
- I want to challenge my own writing/typing and reading skills in Japanese. Particularly my kanji.
- 外国に友達を作る I want to make friends abroad.