

SUGGESTIONS FOR SENIOR INQUIRY PROJECTS:

Sample Essential Questions (idea that drives the research)	Culminating Activity (community service action resulting from the research)	Possible Target Audience
How can a career in _____ benefit our community?	Do hands-on work serving an internship in a career or on a job site to experience what it feels like to work in that career and share your experience in an organized event to teach others what you learned.	Middle school, high school freshmen or sophomores
How can I address an important issue in our school or community and improve the situation?	Explore issues or problems in the school or the community. Volunteer with an existing community organization or start a new club or organization to address this issue or problem. If you volunteer at an existing organization, create a new approach for the organization to expand and enhance the organization's role in our community.	High school, middle school students
How can teaching life skills benefit students?	Learn/improve your own life skills. Teach others banking, money management, parenting, job searching, college searching. Help plan and organize a career/college fair or an event you create to teach what you have learned.	Business classes, high school students
How can learning strategies help struggling students?	Discover learning strategies and student needs. Run a tutoring program for reading, math, and study skills. Start a study group. Help people with improving writing. Volunteer to work in one of our local schools and learn how to teach.	Struggling underclassmen, elementary students
How can studying the elements of books enhance the understanding and enjoyment of books?	Study elements of books. Read the great poets and then write a book of poetry where each poem models the different styles you read. Start a book club to enhance understanding and enjoyment of reading books. Generate book reviews for school website, create read posters.	Freshmen
How can the study of behaviors help students and their parents?	Research positive behaviors and alternative programs. Find out about liability issues. Create an alternative to violence center, start a buddy system, adopt a freshman, create a big brother/big sister type program. Do peer tutoring with a special education student that is having troubles in school.	Students with challenges
How can participation in the arts improve student learning? Why is it important to support the arts?	Research one of the arts. Study how to paint using water colors, throwing ceramic pots, printmaking techniques, etc.. Learn how to create sculpture. Study throwing ceramic pots, glazing techniques. Put on a public exhibition of your work. Paint the same portrait in three different styles. Research the psychology of art by interviewing working artists in our community. Organize a poetry, fine arts, reading, or speech festival; put on a play; put on an art exhibition. Invite guest speakers.	Fine arts students
How can this community need be improved or addressed to better the Hawaii island environment?	Research community needs. Get involved in a community event. Join the planning committee. Examples: Humane Society, Earth Day, Keiki Farm, etc.. Start your own: Lokahi, Toys for Tots, Locks of Love, Learning Center, Job Search.	Interested participants from the community
How can I reduce or eradicate a social issue?	Study a social issue—prejudice, tolerance, meth use, teen jealousy, etc.. Create activity to teach awareness to another group.	Affected group: minority, disenfranchised, etc.
How can the study of this part of the island enhance student learning?	Study a historical area of our island. Develop a lesson or unit to be used in social studies classroom and teach it.	Social studies classes
How can the study of food benefit this target audience?	Study national food policy. Study food prep, nutrition, and budgets. Prepare food for seniors, school, younger children, and special events.	Obese students, senior citizens
How can attention to this local trail benefit our community?	Adopt a local trail. Clear it regularly. Make a booklet with drawings or photos. Lead a walk.	Environmental group, MEPO
How can preserving this knowledge benefit the	Study local history about fishing, hunting, agriculture, etc. Interview locals. Create a video for school library or public library and have a	Local fishermen, hunters, farmers

people of our community?	public showing.	
How can this issue be addressed to best help this target audience?	Study an issue such as suicide, depression, body image, anxiety, peer relation, etc., to prepare a brochure/poster/PSA/video for teenagers; disseminate to the community.	Students in psychology
How can pedestrian/bicyclist/skateboarding accidents be prevented?	Survey road shoulder use for walking/biking/ skateboarding. Study usage and accidents, present results to appropriate authorities. Generate a public drive to build a skateboard park.	Walkers, runners, joggers, bicyclists, skateboarders
How can the development of the shoreline affect our community?	Study shoreline development. Work with planning commission, land trusts, zoning boards. Prepare zoning/planning ideas.	PASHA, shoreline residents
How can the changing fish populations affect the economy and lifestyle of our community?	Study historical populations and catches of fish/shellfish. Analyze trends in catch and profits. Submit to local business/industry. Start or help run your own business.	Fishermen, businessmen, entrepreneurs
How can learning to use the computer benefit young students?	Study computer programming while learning how to teach/tutor younger students.	Elementary students, middle school, youth groups
How can sports improve students' well being?	Start or help run an after school/evening sports program for younger children; learn nutrition, physical training, coaching.	Little League, youth teams, junior varsity teams
How can awareness of this health issue prevent or decrease the problem?	Study a disease/health problem (Alzheimer's, eating disorder, ADHD, etc.) Write an article or brochure; share at community event.	Parents, youngsters
How can the study of my family history contribute to the betterment of our community?	Study the techniques of genealogy. Do a genealogical study of your family, restore/maintain a cemetery; create plot map; share results and process.	Family members, reunion groups, church groups
How can increased participation in school events or issues improve our school climate?	Research school events or issues. Organize events, get involved in public relations, do a newspaper column, plan informative assemblies, do leadership training (these can not be part of the leadership or peer education classes, but must be clearly a separate event). Create a handbook for future groups.	Student government, grade level classes, clubs
How can students benefit from reading about this serious topic?	Write and illustrate children's book about a serious topic: peer pressure, divorce, littering, etc.; participate in a read-aloud. Research how you would go about publishing marketing and selling your book.	Elementary students
How can our community benefit from students interacting with senior citizens and the elderly?	Assist senior citizen physical training at the Regency or some other group setting. Learn how to deal with aging. Study national health policy and participate in an AARP teach-in at Outdoor Circle.	Elder groups
How can pollution be reduced to benefit parts of our community?	Study coastal pollution and its effects on water and life. Write a scientific paper assembling your data and have it published online. Do a cleanup. Organize a regular clean up schedule.	Coastal residents, neighborhoods
How can the study of bird behaviors affect our community positively?	Study local birds, migration, feeding habits. Make and install bird feeders.	Environmentalists, conservationists
How can aquaculture projects impact our community's economy positively?	Design an aquaculture project in partnership with an interested local business.	Businessmen, entrepreneurs
How can this political issue affect our community?	Research a political issue that interests you. Inform the community.	Community action group
How can landscapes and	Do landscape/garden design for business/domestic use. Study botanical	Businesses, neighborhood

gardens benefit businesses or homes on our community?	factors. Design a unique landscape environment with plant collections and a theme somewhere on the school campus and build it.	
How can our musical heritage be enhanced and passed on?	Write a CD of original ukelele music, record it and then organize a public performance to share your work	Music lovers
How have we lost traditional skills as our society has become more modern? Why is it important to preserve this knowledge?	Build a Taiko drum with a drum maker. Organize an assembly in the local elementary or middle school to teach younger students what you have done	Elementary and middle schoolers
How can we replace our gas driven cars with more environmentally friendly and sustainable alternatives?	Research alternatives to our present cars and rebuild an engine so that it is more efficient	High school students
How can we enhance our use of sustainable energy in our community?	Research and build working scale models of wind generators	Local engineers
How can issues around the world affect our community?	Bring global issues closer to home: collect/recycle books, clothing for developing countries or less fortunate groups, collect school supplies for underprivileged, help the Food Bank. Create an Invisible Children campaign to advertise the plight of the less fortunate.	LEO, student government, clubs
How can issues of ocean water quality affect our lives on land?	Do a study of the environmental impact of septic runoff from the land into the sea and present the paper/talk/PowerPoint about your work at a ReefTalk workshop	Whole community
How can we learn how to grow our own food/ flowers?	Learn how to garden by researching varieties to plant, interviewing successful gardeners in the community and then planting your own. Grow food for the Hawaii Island Food Bank.	Hawaii Island Food Bank, Outdoor Circle, your neighbors
How can we create a sustainable life style living on the land?	Study the old Hawaiian ways of growing in the ahupu'a'a. Learn about the plants that were used, how to cultivate them and volunteer at Amy Greenwell.	Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Park
How can we learn from the ways of our neighbors about how to provide food for our families?	Write a hunting or fishing guide. Interview well-known hunters and fishermen in the community and create a guide for others to use.	Hunters, fishermen
How can we help create jobs in our community?	Write a business plan for a business you want to create (open restaurant, surfboard factory, coffee shop)	Workforce development
How can we use the online world to teach real world skills?	Create and program a computer game that teaches a unique subject (i.e. the Spanish American War, running a hot dog kiosk, a program that converts simple mouse motions into computer commands, simulation modeling in the stock market, etc,	Students of all ages
How can we help change people's life styles so that they can include more physical activities ?	Create and model a physical fitness program and recruit members of the community to participate.	Members of the community
How can we offer a more educational experience to children who watch television?	Work with Na Leo O Hawaii. Learn the use of television equipment and studios after training and becoming certified. To become certified, you demonstrate competence in use of equipment by making two Public Service Announcements.	Na Leo O Hawaii

Why does society place such value on entertainment?	Learn how to do magic tricks and put on a magic show at a local elementary school as part of a fund raising benefit event	Local elementary school
Is it important to learn from the elderly in the community	Organize a series of lunch time events in the KHS library that bring the elders of our community to school to talk about their lives. Interview them and record their stories.	Elders of the community, the whole school
How does our population of homeless people affect our community?	Do a comparative study of state laws that might be used to address the issue in our community. Put on a concert to raise money to help our homeless population	Homeless members of the community
How can we help our aging population transition into changing but still productive lives?	Create a program of activities for our retirement community and volunteer to introduce it to the seniors in our community	Senior citizens
How can we make our lives more meaningful and productive?	Invent a product that we can use to enhance our lives. Write a marketing plan to make the product available to the community	The whole community
How can environmental policy reflect the broad diversity in ecological environments?	Hiking various trails through the 7 climatic zones on Big Island, gathering evidence of different biomes and generating compare and contrast data sets to present in the classroom	School science students
How can we preserve traditional weaving styles?	Weave a number of hammocks that demonstrate different weaving styles	The whole community, elders
How does modern society address its needs by the adoption of new technology?	Invent and build a prototype technological device	Business community
How can the community address local health issues by adopting a more nutritious approach to eating?	Write a natural foods cookbook	The whole community