

KDC Oral Submission for Marino Wiapo  
TKKM o Ngāringaomatariki

Tauparapara: E te iwi

There are many reasons why we need a new kura for our tamariki with the values it can bring and how much a bigger and better kura can impact not just the students but also the whānau included.

As a former student of the Kura there are many problems with the area. Its location is right next to the old school which is a safety hazard with the broken down basketball court and glass that could get into the kids feet. Even getting to the school is a problem with the dangerous gravel roads and the many potholes on the Oruawharo road which leaves the journey there & back quite bumpy. There is no playing field and we used to come here to the KSA once a week to practise touch.

As parents and whānau members you want a great education and learning system built for your mokopuna, your tamariki but with the small area where the staff work, it is difficult for them to teach the tamariki.

When I first started at the Kura in 2013 there were only seventeen students. My wider whānau was lacking in speaking Te Reo Māori because of the 1857 native school act that stopped Te Reo from growing in so many whānau. Because of our past, kuia & kaumatua stopped teaching Te reo to their kids which stopped the speaking of our language. But with the Kura we can grow Te Reo Māori in the Kaipara starting with our Tamariki and our pēpi/babies who are eager to learn the ways of our ancestors/tupuna.

The Kura helped me in many ways: like planting Te reo in many whānau who are part of the community but also helped me find my own identity and my culture, to sing waiata, to be on the Marae and whaikōrero and Kapa haka which helped me out with learning about where we were from and who I am.

When I was year 8 at the kura, my whānau moved from Maungatūroto where I was brought up. We lived just down the road from my marae and in a town that I loved. We moved to Warkworth so that I could go to a wharekura on the Shore. It didn't work out that well and I went to a mainstream school this year for year 11. It has been really hard.



Next year I am going back to a kaupapa Māori kura. If there had been a wharekura at Ngāringaomatariki I would still be there. We would still probably live in our whare where my brother was born and where I have lots of great memories. My parents are staunch about us knowing our Māoritanga and sacrificed their happiness to keep me in a Māori speaking kura. We really need a kura in Kaiwaka so that whānau from our area don't have to keep moving for better education options.

The kura is my second home, tōku kāinga rua. Tōku reo tōku ohoooho. My language is my awakening. Tōku reo tōku mapihi maurea. My language is my treasure. Tōku reo tōku whakakai marihi. My reo is my adornment. Haumi e hui e, tāiki e!