

Activity: Charting Your Research Course

This exercise helps you move from a broad topic to a focused research question and develop a strategic keyword plan for navigating Hawaiian and Pacific research tools.

Step 1: Start with a Broad Topic

Write your initial topic below:

Examples:

- *Hawaiian sovereignty*
- *Land and the Māhele*
- *Genealogy and identity*
- *Militarization in Hawai'i*
- *Language revitalization*

Step 2: Narrow Your Focus

Refine your topic by answering the following...

Time period: When does this issue take place?

Place: Which island, moku, ahupua'a, or community?

Community or perspective: Whose voice or experience are you centering?

Step 3: Draft a Research Question

Transform your narrowed topic into a researchable question that is:

- Specific
- Grounded in time and place
- Researchable through available sources

Draft Question:

Step 4: Keyword Mapping (English + ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i)

Create a keyword map using:

Core Concept	English Terms	‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Terms	Related Terms

Example:

Core Concept	English Terms	‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Terms	Related Terms
Sovereignty	independence, annexation	ea, kū‘oko‘a	overthrow, governance

Consider:

- Alternative spellings
- Historical terminology
- Place-based references
- Names of key people or events

Step 5: Identify Source Types

What kinds of sources will help you answer your question?

- Hawaiian-language newspapers
- Archival documents
- Genealogical records
- Government reports
- Scholarly analysis
- Oral histories
- Land records
- Other _____

Which research tools might you use?

- Papakilo
- Ulukau
- Kipuka
- Library databases
- Hawai‘i State Archives
- Other _____

Step 6: Reflect & Revise

After mapping your keywords and identifying sources:

- Does your question need to be narrowed further?
- Do you need to add a time frame?
- Are you centering the appropriate community or place?
- Are you working with Hawaiian-language materials that require additional context?

Reflective Notes:

Revise your question if necessary. **Revised Question:**
