

# A generous community

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It didn't surprise us when a Hawaii Community Foundation survey revealed that Maui County leads the state in charitable giving.

The 2014 telephone survey found that 96.8 percent of the households in Maui County give money, goods or time to charitable organizations. According to a story in Tuesday's Maui News, our county was followed by Kauai (93 percent), Oahu (92.8 percent) and Hawaii (92.7 percent).

Actually, when taken as a whole, the entire state can be viewed as very generous.

It is particularly pleasing, though, that Maui County leads the way. Our citizens care about our homeless, our hungry, the abused, the poor and the sick. We care when a fire or other disaster takes a neighbor's house. Mauians are there when a helping hand is needed.

Of course, we have an array of nonprofits and religious institutions that are worthy of our support. From Friends of the Children's Justice Center to the Maui Food Bank to Pacific Cancer Institute to the American Red Cross, our friends and neighbors are there when we need them.

Others are manning the posts at Feed My Sheep, the National Kidney Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Salvation Army and the American Cancer Society. And, don't forget that big umbrella organization, Maui United Way.

The visitor industry is a huge contributor, too, with its charity walks.

We share the sentiment expressed by Deborah Rice, Hawaii Community Foundation's senior philanthropic officer for Maui County. She told The Maui News in an email:

"We are inspired by the generosity of the people of Maui County. Each day, we have the privilege of helping these dedicated individuals, families and businesses who share a common goal of making our islands a better place to live, to make the greatest impact with their giving."

We are very proud to live in such a generous and loving community.

\* Editorials reflect the opinion of the publisher.

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