



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

827 Fort Street Mall
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
HawaiiCommunityFoundation.org

PRESS RELEASE
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The Hawai'i Community Foundation reopens its newly renovated headquarters, the historic C. Brewer and Co. Building

After an extensive renovation of the historic C. Brewer and Co. Building, the Hawai'i Community Foundation reopened its downtown Honolulu headquarters on July 18, 2022, with an emphasis on creating a welcoming, collaborative space.

HONOLULU, Hawai'i—Last year, the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) launched a renovation of its headquarters in the historic C. Brewer and Co. Building at 827 Fort Street Mall. The project is now complete, and HCF has reopened the building to the public, as of July 18.

"HCF has been supporting Hawai'i's people and places over a century—and we hope to do this humbling work for another century," says Micah Kāne, CEO & President of Hawai'i Community Foundation. "Collaboration and inviting people into the conversation is critical to meeting our long-term vision of making a better Hawai'i for everyone here in our islands. As an organization, we know that we're greater as a combined, collective force in our efforts to solve systemic challenges."

In a real sense, the reopening brings things full circle, to the early days of the financial district and *piko* (center) of downtown Honolulu. Originally called Kou, the area was an important convening space for Native Hawaiian royalty—King Kamehameha with his council of chiefs and warriors made their compound and capitol along the harbor shore, and it was often host to meetings of planning and negotiation.

In 1930, the C. Brewer and Co. Building would be constructed on this spot as one of the "Big Five" company headquarters, an origin that would resonate decades later when it was purchased by Duane Kurisu, a Hilo-born-and-raised businessman and philanthropist shaped by Hawai'i's plantation era.

Kurisu leased the building to HCF in 2011 with the aim that the community foundation would use this historic space to make Hawai'i a better place, a mission HCF has steadfastly pursued since its own inception in 1916.

"I wasn't just looking for a tenant, I wanted a partner," Kurisu says. "There wasn't anybody more deserving of this building than the Hawai'i Community Foundation, because, together as partners, we brought collaboration and accessibility together. This is an important time, because it's a new beginning to bridge the divide in our community. Erasing that divide—whether you have money in your pocket or not, whether we're Hawaiian, or haole, or Japanese, or Korean, we're all same same."

For this renovation project, while preserving the building’s distinctive features, HCF sought to create a gathering place where community members, nonprofits, donors, and many others can come together and collaborate. With additional meeting spaces, a media room for creating content, technological advancements to conference rooms, and a new lobby experience with art and visual displays, including work by Sig Zane’s Hilo-based design firm, Sig Zane Kaiao, the goal is to create a community resource in the heart of the Honolulu business district that can support the work HCF has doing to create a thriving Hawai’i with its partners today—and into the future.

Peter Ho, president and CEO of Bank of Hawai’i and chairman of HCF’s Board of Governors, says, “When you think about the things that happen in these walls, the decisions that are made, the lives that are changed for the better, the futures and trajectories improved—it's amazing what the people in this building do and have done for many years. To be able to bring this building up to the lustre it so richly deserves, to make it more functional and create additional capacity, is an amazing opportunity.”

Catherine Ngo, president of Central Pacific Bank and HCF Board member, says, “Every space is so open and inviting—and I see it inviting conversations. There are so many issues that we’re facing today, and we all come in with different perspectives. There will be disagreements, but we can come together with the right intentions in mind to move forward.”

As part of that synergistic approach, the renovated HCF headquarters will be shared with Hawai’i Executive Collaborative, Hawai’i Data Collaborative and Holomua Collective, three organizations that are closely aligned with HCF’s mission and commitment to making a positive impact within the community.

“We’re celebrating the bringing together a family of organizations that are attempting to demonstrate the impact that Hawai’i can have, not just here in Hawai’i, not just nationally, but globally,” Kāne says. “Hawai’i has tremendous potential, and we want to start to demonstrate that as a hui of organizations.”

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*****Media Resources*****

Photos

Includes interior and exterior shots of the renovated C. Brewer and Co. Building, as well as images from the July 13 blessing ceremony:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ak3e8srmyfykzt/AAD-0tvx-Zq61ZsRpSaKxZma?dl=0>

Video News Release

Contains footage of the C. Brewer and Co. Building Blessing on July 13, as well as interviews with Micah Kāne, Peter Ho, Duane Kurisu and Catherine Ngo:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cq4etf8u4erdz8n/AABvxhaE2Hux-MQhaD24Jcqta?dl=0>

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About Hawai'i Community Foundation

The vision of the Hawai'i Community Foundation is to create an equitable and vibrant Hawai'i where all of our island communities thrive. With our 105-year history, trusted expertise, and generous support of donors, we are working to solve our state's most difficult challenges. In 2021, HCF stewarded more than 1,050 funds and distributed \$85.3 million in grants and contracts statewide, including \$7.1 million in scholarships. HCF Offices are located statewide on O'ahu, Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i Island. For more information about HCF, please visit www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org and follow our social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).

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