

# 2021

## REPORT TO MEMBERS

GENERATING EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS FOR  
LOCAL YOUTH AND OUR KŪKI'O 'OHANA



A group of children and adults are gathered outdoors, likely at Parker School, Lower School. They are all smiling and making heart shapes with their hands. The children are of various ages, from young kids to teenagers. The adults are also smiling and making heart shapes. The background shows lush green foliage.

# Dear Kūki'o Community

## FRIENDS & PARTNERS

We are truly grateful that so many of our members entrust our mutual investment in the future of our community through supporting educational opportunities for Hawai'i Island youth and our Kūki'o 'ohana. The support and generosity received by the Kūki'o Community Fund from our growing membership reflect our shared aloha for this special island we call home.

Over the past 21 years, we have witnessed our island community and the opportunities afforded to our students grow rapidly. The Kūki'o Community Fund continues to intentionally partner with innovative opportunities to generously invest in the success of our island youth. The results of our combined investment in Hawai'i can be seen through the expansion of diverse educational opportunities available to our students and the growth in workforce readiness, both of which help keep our island keiki, *our children*, thriving locally.

It is an honor to partner with you to ensure a vibrant future for our entire community.

### WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE & ALOHA,

Benjy, Caroline, Wally, Nancy, Gib, Leann, Hannah, and Peter  
2021 Kūki'o Community Fund Advisory Committee



# 2021 KŪKI'O COMMUNITY FUND Advisory Committee

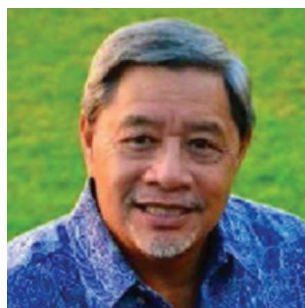
In partnership with local island leaders, Kūki'o residents give their time, wisdom, and resources to raise the funds needed to make grants and community investments possible—giving back to the island that gives us so much. In 2022, we welcome Jacquie Dorrance to the committee.



**BENJI GARFINKLE**  
Co-Chair



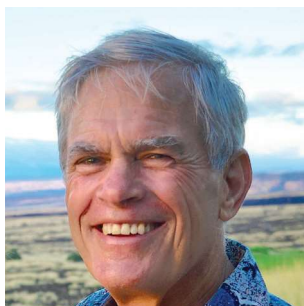
**CAROLINE LANDRY**  
Co-Chair



**WALLY LAU**



**NANCY MUELLER**



**GIB MEYERS**



**LEANN SANDER**



**HANNA SPRINGER**



**PETER TILTON**

## PAST MEMBERS

Samuel Ainslie  
Carl Carlson  
Sally Hartman

Grant Heidrich  
David Johnston  
BJ Kobayashi

Jim Lally  
Andrea McTamane  
Robert Punihaole\*

Elle Stephens  
Danielle White

Ross Wilson, Jr.  
Dawn Zierk

\*deceased



Chelsey Chow, Malu Debus, Diane Chadwick

## STAFF

The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) brings over 105 years of philanthropy work in Hawai'i, building partnerships, crafting change, sharing knowledge, and enhancing lives. By partnering with HCF, the Kūki'o Community Fund benefits from their professional staff, deep knowledge, and cost-effective infrastructure for grantmaking and operations.

**DIANE CHADWICK**, Director of Community Philanthropy

**CHELSEY CHOW**, Philanthropy Officer

**MALU DEBUS**, Philanthropy Officer

# Ēlama

## IGNITING OPPORTUNITY

The Ēlama project at Pālanuanui directly reflects the Kūki'o Community Fund's long history of investing in youth success in school, work, and life. This 13<sup>th</sup>-year program fosters non-college bound students to complete associates degrees and work-ready certificates. Since 2015, this program has witnessed the completion of 110 degrees and certificates, and has inspired the establishment of a sister program in East Hawai'i through investments with like-minded philanthropic partners. Ēlama scholars inspire other previously non-degree-seeking students to invest in their own potential, and its students continue to consistently make the Dean's List.

### ĒLAMA PROJECT — A HOPE FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

"I want to acknowledge the Kūki'o Community Fund and all of their support, which has allowed us to elevate the Ēlama Project at Hawai'i Community College—Pālanuanui. From the start, it has been our *mea kāko'o ho'okumu* (founding sponsor) for the Ēlama Project and one of our most generous patrons. Whenever I make a request, this supporter always says 'yes' to our program needs and, for that, I send a warm *aloha and mahalo*."

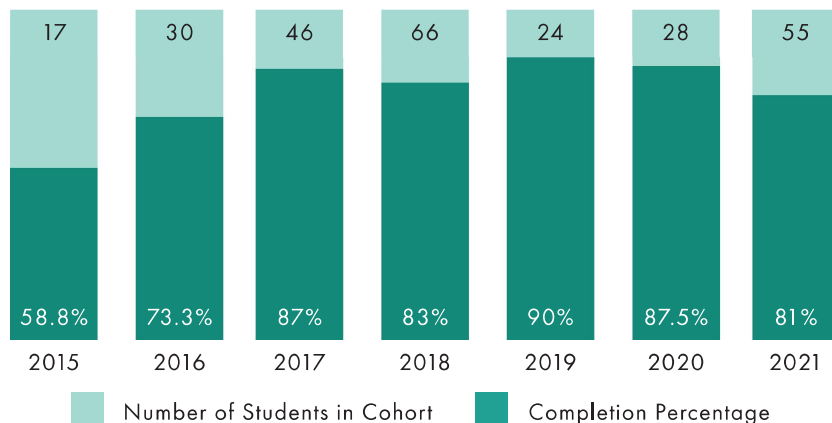
— **Dana Pumehana Aina**, program coordinator, Ēlama Project & Hilo One

Since 2015,

- Kūki'o Community Fund has awarded \$553,807 in support of the Ēlama Project.
- Ēlama Project scholars earned 55 associate degrees and 55 certificates.
- 46 Ēlama Project scholars have made the Dean's List.

In 2021, first-year Ēlama Project students performed over 360 hours of community service. In addition, Ēlama Project students in all cohorts made the Dean's List on 18 occasions and reached the Honor Roll 57 times.

Pālanuanui Cohorts By The Numbers



**AELYN IBARRA-MEDINA** moved to Hawai'i at the age of 14 from her home in Mexico to join her 'ohana. She arrived with little understanding of the English language or local Hawaiian and American culture. She found her voice through art and quickly filled her time with this new passion while immersing herself in her studies and learning a new language. She excelled and completed a handful of early college courses, earned a 4.0 GPA, and was selected as class valedictorian. She was forced to reconsider her college plans when her mother was diagnosed with lung cancer, leaving her family in financial uncertainty. Aelyn sought out options that would allow her to lend support to her family, and was selected to join the Ēlama Project. Currently, Aelyn maintains a 4.0 GPA and is completing her prerequisites to transfer to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa where she plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in Environmental Design in the School of Architecture.

*"I have a chance to continue my journey towards my dream, to have a career in an art or architecture related field. I cannot thank you enough. Your generosity has been a blessing for me and my family."*



# Akeakamai

## ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE

Since 2017, the Kūki'o Community Fund has supported Kūki'o employees and dependents on their paths to success through scholarship opportunities for continued education at any accredited two- or four-year higher education institution. Scholarships are renewable, flexible, and available to Kūki'o employees, spouses, and their children and allow recipients to balance life commitments while pursuing part-time or full-time higher education. Kūki'o employee and dependent scholarships invest in our Kūki'o 'ohana and reflect our fund's mission of supporting youth success in school, work, and in life.

Since 2017, 17 Kūki'o employees and dependents have received \$127,167 in Kūki'o Community Fund scholarships to pursue college degrees and training.

# Ka Ulu Na'auao

## ENLIGHTENED GROWTH

Through expanding partnerships with Hawai'i Island independent schools, the Kūki'o Community Fund offers financial aid to the children of Kūki'o employees attending kindergarten through high school by providing educational opportunities that may have otherwise been out of reach.

Since this scholarship program began in 2018, 23 Kūki'o employee families, including 29 students, have received a total of \$228,920 in scholarships to independent schools on Hawai'i Island.

All Kūki'o employee applicant families who display financial need have received scholarships from this program.



"Aloha! My name is Zachary Aderinto and I was blessed to be a recipient of the Kūki'o Community Fund Scholarship! I was born and raised on the Big Island and am the first in my 'ohana to attend college out of state. I currently attend Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon and am a declared Biology major. I hope to pursue a career in Public Health and Sports Medicine. In addition to attending school full-time, I was also fortunate enough to be recruited as the goalkeeper for the Pacific University Men's Soccer Team. The scholarship that I received from Kūki'o has allowed me to focus on my education, alleviate some of the financial burden on my family, and play soccer at the collegiate level. I would like to thank Kūki'o and its members for their support and for providing the Kūki'o Scholarship. It is greatly appreciated."

– **Zachary Aderinto**, son of Connie Aderinto, director of human resources



"The Kūki'o Community Fund has helped our family personally to ensure our kids will get a higher standard of education. Both of our kids, Heimata who is 14 and Vaiana who is 11, have been able to attend private schools due to the assistance we have received from this fund. They are both thriving in their education, as well as in sports. It is so simple yet amazing to see how, when a child is shown that they matter, and that we believe in them, they can truly flourish if presented with the right tools."

– **Thibert and Rebekah Lussiaa**

# Kahi Ho'oku'i

## THE POINT OF CONNECTION

The Kūki'o Community Fund is committed to supporting youth career preparation opportunities through investment in Career Connected Learning (CCL). This program provides local students with hands-on, STEM-related learning in growing industries that pay higher-than-average wages and prepare K–12 students, including Kūki'o employee children, for careers that will better support the cost of living in Hawai'i.

In the five years since CCL began, the field of work-based learning both nationally and locally has evolved rapidly. The theory and practice of strengthening career pathways into living wage jobs for Hawai'i students has resulted in growing industries on-island with a local workforce that is prepared, trained, and enthusiastic about working in the fields of STEM. The Kūki'o Community Fund's investment in career training ensures that our local students are ready for innovative opportunities as they become available.

## FRIENDS OF THE FUTURE

Friends of the Future's Career Pathways Alignment for Student Success (CareerPASS) provides students with a portfolio of activities and programs designed to facilitate collaboration among education, employment, and community partners. This program creates relevant, collective pathways that inspire students with a sense of career purpose, engaging them as learners. Through a variety of career readiness learning techniques that clarify the education process for students and families, students receive support for academic progress, connection, and resources. CareerPASS helps to transition students from high school to employment and/or ongoing post-high-school education, preparing them for career success here in Hawai'i.



## STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

**D'ARTAGNAN KUNISHIGE**, a Friends of the Future internship student, used his STEM experience to secure a 3D printing apprenticeship with Big Island Face Shields and partnered with KōCreate Lab to manufacture and distribute personal protective equipment to the community. Kunishige, who is now a college student at Hawai'i Community College, then went on to teach 3D printing to students at Hāmākua Youth Center through Vibrant Hawai'i Resilience Hubs, and participated in KōCreate Lab's 2021 summer programs while also learning how to become a teaching assistant. This experience led to his most recent success: joining the staff at Honoka'a Intermediate School as its newly hired STEM coordinator. He now enjoys working with students at Kō Education Center three days a week.



"In Kō Education Center's Hāmākua-North Hawai'i service area, students are often tempted to adopt a deficit-focused narrative about lack of opportunities. With the help of the Career Connected Learning grants, Kō Education Center clearly demonstrates multiple STEAM opportunities for students in the area. When our young people complete programs such as Medical Assisting with IslandCPR or KōCreate STEAM Lab, and they share those results with their families, it breathes new hope into the conversations about the region's future."

– **Kei-Lin Cerf**, PhD, Kō Education Center director



## ADAPTING TO THE FUTURE

**THE SUCCESS FACTORY (TSF)** builds our island economy by creating an engaged community that inspires and nurtures a skilled workforce ready for STEM careers locally. TSF provides ninth-grade students college-level training in coding, robotics and drones, real-world problem solving, career skills, STEM skills and STEM career explorations, all while offering hands-on mentoring to help guide students successfully through their chosen career pathways. Additionally, one-on-one career matches with current STEM professionals provide students with valuable insights on their desired careers, and help to establish professional relationships early.

## AFTER SCHOOL ALL STARS (ASAS)

provides additional STEM education for more than 615 kindergarten through eighth-grade students in four Hawai'i Island middle schools. Students get the benefit of field trips, guest speakers, and STEM-specific classes, and program staff receive STEM training. ASAS builds relationships with students over the course of three years to increase interest in STEM learning, which more effectively inspires students' pursuit of STEM careers, as compared with one-time experiences. ASAS is currently the only free after-school STEM program for middle schools in Hawai'i.

## HAWAI'I INSTITUTE OF PACIFIC

**AGRICULTURE'S (HIP AG)** High School Mahi'ai Mentorship and Post-secondary Farm Apprenticeship expands learning, awareness, and skills in agriculture and nutrition to ninth-grade to early career students with an interest in a career in agriculture. The apprenticeship program provides in-depth farming education to participants through 212 hours of classroom instruction and 6,500 hours of in-field training and hands-on experience in greenhouses, gardens, orchards, and fields. Each apprentice receives a wide range of training on skills that include food safety, market gardening, permaculture, Korean natural farming, agroforestry, beekeeping, crop design, planting, harvesting, herbal medicine making, and value-added food processing. Apprentices leave the program with an agricultural certificate, which can be leveraged to attain an agricultural job or to access agricultural loans to start their own operation.



"Empowering our youth with knowledge, skills, and confidence to explore career opportunities and establish competencies that will help them succeed in any career (not just the STEM fields) is critical to our community's resilience and sustainability. We are thankful for the generosity that has made this possible."

– **Noel Morin**, president of TSF



"Thanks to the support of the Kūki'o Community Fund, After-School All-Stars Hawai'i has been able to provide extended learning time each school day at Title I middle and intermediate schools in Kea'au, Ka'ū, Pāhoa, and Hilo, introducing students to diverse career options in a variety of STEM fields, both virtually and in-person."

– **Paula Fitzell**, president and CEO of ASAS



"Kūki'o Community Fund and Career Connected Learning grants are helping Hawai'i Institute of Pacific Agriculture (HIP Ag) to build a local food system in North Kohala. In collaboration with the Farm to School hui; HIP Ag supported the development of the first Garden to Cafeteria program in the state at Kohala High School. Students now harvest lettuce grown on campus and bring it to the cafeteria on a regular basis, feeding Kohala elementary, middle and high school students with the fresh produce."

– **Dashiell Kuhr**, executive director of HIP Ag

# He Lei Poina 'Ole Ke Keiki

## A BELOVED CHILD IS A LEI NEVER FORGOTTEN

### COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

The Kūki'o Community Fund advances local youth-focused programs through Hawai'i Community Foundation's Community Grants program. This grantmaking vehicle provides critical support to community programs that directly impact our island youth outside of the classroom by:

**EQUIPPING** youth-centered educational projects with rich opportunities

**ELEVATING** educational experiences available in the greater community

**IDENTIFYING** unique learning environments with impactful and progressive programs

### AIDING COMMUNITY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS THAT SUPPORT EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR OUR LOCAL YOUTH

The Kūki'o Community Fund's participation in Community Grants ensures that our investment in youth success benefits students beyond the classroom with unique learning opportunities that complement conventional education experiences.

The Kūki'o Community Fund's investment in youth success has transformed our island community. The generosity of our members continues to shape the future for our students and their families by ensuring that local youth are prepared for career opportunities here in Hawai'i.



Girl Scouts Hawai'i

**KĪPUKA O KE OLA (KOKO)** is a federally qualified rural health clinic located in Waimea, Hawai'i Island. KOKO has strategically expanded its services to include pediatric care, primary care, women's health, and traditional healing. This grant supported the staffing of behavioral health specialists to help families navigate new challenges and cope with increasing stress in ways that can strengthen a family instead of tearing it apart.

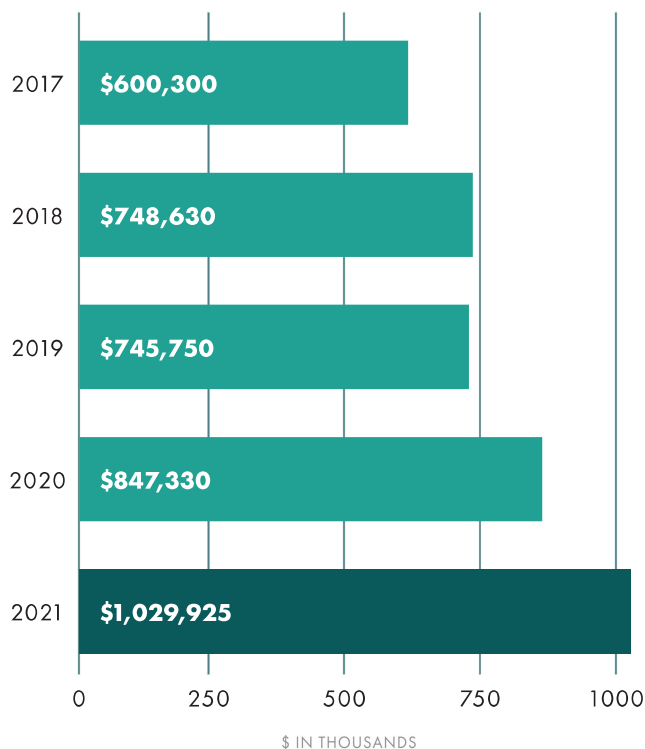
**GIRL SCOUTS HAWAI'I (GSH)** mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. GSH provides girls with experiences that improve their leadership abilities and increase their exposure to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)—sectors in which women are vastly underrepresented. This grant supported the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, providing youth development and educational opportunities for 332 girls across Hawai'i Island.

**HO'ŌLA NĀ PUA**, which means "New Life for our Children," is committed to the health, healing, and renewal of underage sex-trafficked youth. Its foundational premise is that the societal reintegration of children who have been commercially sexually exploited requires a social safety net, and a response framework that focuses on four critical program areas: health, education, advocacy, and reintegration. This grant supported the expansion of the Starfish mentoring program and the Hōkū program, which provides group activities for at-risk and victimized youth at the Salvation Army Noho 'Olu Girls Safe House and Youth Challenge Academy in Hilo.

**THREE RING RANCH (TRR)** benefits the environment through the education of Hawai'i children about their place in the natural world. TRR is Hawai'i's only accredited animal sanctuary, improving the lives of animals in its care. This grant supported the Animal Lady Online Science Adventure Series to educate Hawai'i Island youth about animal care.



Nearly \$7 million raised and distributed since 2001 to support educational opportunities, career readiness, and scholarships that benefit our island youth and Kūki'o family.



"Because of the generous donation from the Kūki'o Community Fund, **KĪPUKA O KE OLA**, was able to on-board a much-needed psychiatrist. The COVID crisis increased the demand for mental health services exponentially, so we are grateful for the financial support that made it possible to address this meaningful service delivery for our *lāhui* (people)."

– **Claren Kealoha-Beaudet**, PsyD., CEO and clinical psychologist of Kīpuka o ke Ola

"We successfully pivoted to virtual programs with our **GIRL SCOUTS OF HAWAII** at-home with hands-on activity kits led by STEM and other professionals. Girl Scouts of Hawai'i reduces disparities in access to high-quality after-school programming at no cost to girls' families, in communities where it's needed most. Mahalo for supporting this important program."

– **Shari Chang**, CEO of Girl Scouts of Hawai'i

"Thanks to the generous grant from the Kūki'o Community Fund, **HO'ŌLA NĀ PUA** is shining the light on sex trafficking throughout Hawai'i Island. Each week, we empower victimized and at-risk keiki by strengthening their sense of self so they discover the foundations of what makes them unique. Mahalo for supporting us in providing these vital opportunities for youth resiliency development on Hawai'i Island."

– **Jessica Muñoz**, MSN, APRN-RX, FNP-BC, CEO and founder of Ho'ōla Nā Pua

"The pandemic brought an increase in animal surrender to **THREE RING RANCH**, and rescuing these various species gave us new topics for our Animal Lady Online Science Adventures. This has been a far more involved and difficult journey than first expected; however, without your help, we would never have taken those first steps."

– **Ann Goody, PhD**, executive director and board member of Three Ring Ranch

# 2021 KŪKI'O COMMUNITY FUND Grantee List

**Alex and Duke DeRego Foundation**  
Water Safety & Ocean  
Awareness Education

**Aloha Performing Arts Company**  
Aloha Teen Theatre

**Big Island Mediation, Inc.**  
Peer Mediation

**Boys and Girls Club  
of the Big Island**  
Daily Transport Services of Critical  
Needs Resources for Income  
Challenged Youth & Families

**Canada-France-Hawai'i  
Telescope Corporation**  
Maunakea Scholars Dual Credit  
Cultural Astronomy Class

**Center for Getting Things Started**  
Mamaki Ola K-12 Curriculum  
Refinement  
and Implementation: Agri-preneurship  
for an Abundant Hawai'i

**Center for Tomorrow's Leaders**  
Equipping Young Hawai'i Island  
Leaders for a More Resilient Hawai'i

**ClimbHI**  
ClimbHI Bridge

**FreediveSafe! Hawai'i**  
Freediving and Spearfishing Safety  
Training for Hawai'i Island Youth

**Friends of Pu'u Nui Park**  
Waikōloa Community Park  
Improvement

**Friends of the Children  
of West Hawai'i, Inc.**  
Youth Leadership Alliance

**Friends of the Future**  
CareerPASS

**Girl Scouts of Hawai'i**  
Hawai'i Island STEM Fests &  
Girl Scout Leadership Experience

**Give and Grow Discovery School**  
Give and Grow Discovery School

**Hale Kipa, Inc.**  
Ka'i Like Program

**Hāmākua Youth Foundation Inc**  
Keiki Program, Tutoring

**Hana Lāulima Lāhui 'O Ka'ū**  
Kahea Mai Ka 'Āina Academy

**Hawai'i Institute  
of Pacific Agriculture**  
High School Mahi'ai Mentorship  
& Internship and Post-secondary  
Farm Apprenticeship  
Lo'i Kalo for the Youth Engagement

**Hawai'i Preparatory Academy**  
Sustainable Agriculture and  
Community Outreach Internship  
Scholarships for Dependents  
of Kūki'o Employees

**Hilo Medical Center Foundation**  
Hawai'i Island Pre-Health  
Career Corps Program

**Hōlualoa Foundation  
for Arts and Culture**  
Youth Education Program:  
Beyond the School 2021

**Ho'ōla Nā Pua**  
Shining the Light on Sex Trafficking  
Throughout Hawai'i Island

**Ke Kula 'o Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u**  
Ko Kula Kai

**Kea'au Robotics Inspire**  
Kea'au Robotics Inspire

**Kealakehe High School**  
Scaling Collegiate & Industry  
STEM Opportunities in West Hawai'i

**Keaukaha One Youth Development**  
RISE 21<sup>st</sup> Century After School Program

**Kū-A-Kanaka LLC**  
HANA PĀKAHI

**Kuleana Education Inc.**  
Scholarships for Dependents  
of Kūki'o Employees

**Laupāhoehoe Train Museum**  
'Āina-Based Education Program

**Lead For Hawai'i**  
Lead for Hawai'i Fellowship Program

**Mākua Lani Christian Academy**  
Scholarships for Dependents  
of Kūki'o Employees

**Māla'ai — The Culinary Garden  
of Waimea Middle School**  
Connecting STEM Learning to Careers  
Quality Agriculture Education  
for Hawai'i Island Youth

**Parker School**  
Persevering in STEAM  
Cross-Curricular Integration  
Equitable Enrichment at Parker School

Scholarships for Dependents  
of Kūki'o Employees

**Project Vision Hawai'i**  
Career Connections for  
Healthcare Learners

**Teach For America**  
Teach For America Hawai'i —  
Hawai'i Island Programming

**The Arc of Hilo**  
Arc of Hilo's School-to-Work  
Career Exploration Program

**The Success Factory**  
The Success Factory's NexTech  
STEM Advance Series Programs

**University of Hawai'i Foundation**  
CAMP 'IMI-POSSIBLE: Inspiring  
Hawai'i's Youth Toward  
Careers in Science  
THINK Big Island VEX IQ  
Robotics Leagues  
Ēlama Project of Hawai'i  
Community College at Pālanuanui

**Waikōloa Dry Forest Initiative**  
Future Foresters  
'Āina Explorers Summer Camp

**Waimea Middle Public  
Conversion  
Charter School**  
We're Going Places!  
Supporting All Students Through  
Social Emotional Learning

**WeGo! Foundation**  
At Risk Youth Athletic Sponsorship

**West Hawai'i Dance Theatre**  
West Hawai'i Dance Theatre  
Dance Performance & Video  
Mentorship Project for Youth

**Zoological Society of San Diego**  
'Alalā Reintroduction Community  
Inquiry Program

"The Career Connected Learning Program and the Kūki'o Community Fund grant funding for Waikōloa Dry Forest's Future Foresters program has transformed our capacity to serve keiki in our community by allowing us to expand the program and develop a more dynamic, intentional curriculum that integrates watershed sciences and stewardship. Through experience and exploration, students discover the connection between their actions and the health of the environment, no matter where they are."

– Jackie Milligan, education coordinator for Waikōloa Dry Forest

"Youth and counselors in the Child & Family Service temporary foster program are now equipped with technology allowing students to receive counseling and maintain their schoolwork. These are just a few of the many opportunities made possible thanks to the generosity of the Kūki'o Community Fund. Mahalo!"

– Rebekah Mraz, MBA, MA, LMFT, Child & Family Service director

"Friends of the Children of West Hawai'i, now known as Get Ready Hawai'i, our staff, and the members of our Youth Leadership Alliance would like to express our gratitude to the Hawai'i Community Foundation and the Kūki'o Community Fund for your support of our efforts. We are excited by the progress that has been made and the opportunities before us."

– Jefferson Gourtley, executive director of Get Ready Hawai'i

"In these uncertain times, breaking down the economic barriers to the arts makes all the difference for families in need. Kūki'o Community Fund's support enabled Donkey Mill Art Center to offer all of our Beyond the School Spring 2021 programs at a 75-percent subsidized rate and to provide free art supplies."

– Maja Grajski, executive director of Donkey Mill Art Center





**ESTABLISHED IN 2001 SO MEMBERS COULD:**

IMPACT youth success, in school, work, and life.

SUPPORT evolving local community needs and  
advance career opportunities.

TRANSFORM the future of education with like-minded  
collaborative philanthropic investors.

Together, we are making a difference.  
Mahalo for your commitment, involvement, and generosity!

**WE INVITE YOU TO LEARN MORE ABOUT  
WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE WORK.**

Please join us in making a difference on Hawai'i Island!

Contributions are tax-deductible and can be made online at  
[HawaiiCommunityFoundation.org/KukioFund](https://HawaiiCommunityFoundation.org/KukioFund), delivered to  
the concierge, or sent to:

Kūki'o Community Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation  
827 Fort Street Mall, Honolulu, HI 96813

(EIN: 99-0261283)