



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Mary Leong Saunders Joins the Hawai'i Community Foundation as Vice President of Philanthropy

HONOLULU, HAWAI'I — The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF), one of the state's leading philanthropic institutions, is pleased to announce that Mary Leong Saunders has joined the organization as vice president of philanthropy. Leong Saunders comes to HCF from Catholic Charities Hawai'i where she was vice president of philanthropy, providing leadership and guidance for fund development and community engagement programs and activities. In her new role, Leong Saunders will oversee HCF's development and donor relations, and planned giving. Her first day in her position was on January 23, 2023.

"We are excited to welcome Mary to the HCF 'ohana," said Micah Kāne, CEO and president for HCF. "Her longstanding commitment to Hawai'i's people and place, along with her expertise in the philanthropic sector will help to ensure the success of our organization."

Leong Saunders has dedicated much of her career to supporting local communities. Prior to Catholic Charities Hawai'i, she served as executive director for Family Promise of Hawai'i and Rotary Club of Honolulu, and was the state supervisor of the National Assessment of Educational Progress. She is a current member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and previously served on the board of Junior League of Honolulu. Leong Saunders is a Maryknoll High School alumna and holds a bachelor of arts degree in English literature from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

"I'm excited and grateful for the opportunity to uplift Hawai'i's communities and people through my new role at HCF," said Leong Saunders. "I'm looking forward to helping the Foundation have a greater impact and contributing what I can with my knowledge and experience, working with the philanthropy team, and building strong relationships with our donors and partners."

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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 more than 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 \$100 million in grants to the community from funds at HCF, contracts, and private foundations statewide, including \$7.1 million in scholarships. HCF offices and staff are located statewide. For more information about HCF, please visit hawaiicomunityfoundation.org and follow our social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#).