

Foundation relaunches Hawaii Resilience Fund in response to federal funding cuts

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The Hawaii Community Foundation has made two grants totaling \$146,000 to the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization and the Hawaii Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations through its Hawaii Resilience Fund amid federal funding cuts to nonprofits, and plans to provide more funding to other organizations.

The foundation said Tuesday that it activated the Hawaii Resilience Fund in response to federal funding cuts to nonprofit organizations. HCF said that the grants it made so far to UHERO and HANO will “help measure the scope of impact in Hawaii and to support nonprofits whose funding has been cut, frozen or reduced.” A \$46,700 grant to UHERO will go toward funding an analysis of Hawaii’s nonprofit sector as it relates to the funding cuts. A \$100,000 grant will go to HANO to support additional staff, upgrading technology and more.

HCF said it seeded the initial investment in collaboration with the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation, and now the organizations are seeking donors to contribute to the fund for additional grants in the future.

“The Hawaii Resilience Fund is designed to complement — not duplicate — state resources by offering more nimble, transparent, and transformative support,” HCF President and CEO Terry George said in a statement. “It is focused on building nonprofit capacity, adaptability, and sustainability beyond short-term relief. Our goal is to collectively build a nonprofit sector that is prepared, not just reactive; collaborative, not siloed; sustainable, not fragile.”

HCF initially launched the Hawaii Resilience Fund in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and distributed more than \$12 million through the fund.

HCF said that \$97 million in federal funding to Hawaii nonprofits has already been cut or delayed, and that an additional \$300 million is at risk. HCF also noted that the nonprofit sector makes up 12% of Hawaii’s workforce — and that those workers may face layoffs amid the funding cuts.