



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 25, 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Michael Keany
Hawai'i Community Foundation
media@hcf-hawaii.org

HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS \$282,500 IN GRANTS TO SUPPORT MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

Seed grants to 17 nonprofits will support building organizational capacity for messaging that reduces mental and behavioral health stigma within communities.

HONOLULU, HI — The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF), through its Mental and Behavioral Health Stigma-Reduction Messaging Grants Program, has awarded \$282,500 in seed grants to 17 nonprofit organizations to support building organizational capacity for messaging that reduces mental and behavioral health stigma within Island communities.

These new grants are part of HCF's Three-Year Mental and Behavioral Health (M&BH) Strategy, aimed at reducing stigma, enhancing access to mental health services, and empowering communities across Hawai'i. Leveraging HCF's CHANGE Framework and evidence-based approaches, the strategy builds on initiatives such as Promising Minds to improve mental and behavioral health systems for children and families.

Key objectives include reduced stigma around mental illness in targeted communities, and integration of improved education, screening, intervention, and treatment within health systems. HCF is partnering with diverse organizations serving underserved populations, including Native Hawaiians, Micronesians/Pacific Islanders, Filipinos, parents with young children, and LGBTQIA+ individuals, to address community-specific M&BH issues.

Gregg Kishaba, HCF Health and Wellness program director, says, "At HCF, we envision a future where mental and behavioral health is embraced as an essential part of our collective well-being. By elevating community voices and honoring cultural strengths, we are dismantling stigma, expanding access to care, and transforming systems so every person in Hawai'i has equitable opportunities to thrive."

Morea Mendoza, director of leadership and operations at grantee Pacific Birth Collective, says, “In Hawai‘i, many families and maternal health practitioners face significant barriers to accessing mental and behavioral health care. Generational trauma, cultural expectations, and historical mistrust of Western systems discourage help-seeking, while the belief that seeking support reflects weakness or failure prevents many from reaching out. Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Filipino mothers experience the highest rates of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, yet fewer than 25 percent receive treatment. At Pacific Birth Collective, we work to dismantle these stigmas by providing culturally grounded, trauma-informed care, normalizing mental health conversations, and creating pathways that honor both traditional healing and modern support - ensuring that every parent and practitioner can access the help they need without fear or shame.”

The full list of grantees, by island:

Multi-Island

[Child and Family Service](#) - \$15,000

[Family Hui Hawai‘i](#) - \$20,000

[Hawai‘i Association for Infant Mental Health](#) - \$20,000

[Hawai‘i Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders FASD Action Group](#) - \$15,000

[Pacific Birth Collective](#) - \$15,000

[Spill the Tea Cafe](#) - \$20,000

Hawai‘i Island

[He Ho‘omaka Hou Ana O Puna](#) - \$17,500

[Jue Jue's Safe Space](#) - \$15,000

Lāna‘i

[Lāna‘i Community Health Center](#) - \$20,000

Maui

[Maui Family Support Services](#) - \$10,000

Moloka‘i

[Ho‘akā Mana](#) - \$15,000

O‘ahu

[Bobby Benson Center](#) - \$15,000

[Hawai‘i Health and Harm Reduction Center](#) - \$20,000

[Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services](#) - \$10,000

‘Ohana Services Network - \$20,000

[Residential Youth Services and Empowerment](#) - \$15,000

[Saint Louis School](#) - \$20,000

As part of this grant program, [Strategies 360](#), contracted by HCF, will provide technical assistance to grantees, supporting message development and dissemination across key channels.

--- Visuals ---

For photos of several of these grantee organizations, please visit [this link](#).

###

About The Hawai'i Community Foundation

The vision of the Hawai'i Community Foundation is to create an equitable and vibrant Hawai'i in which all our Island communities thrive. With our more-than-108-year history, our trusted expertise, and the generous support of donors, we are working to address the root causes of our state's most difficult challenges, including expanding access to affordable housing, conserving freshwater resources, and ensuring the healthy development of Hawai'i's young children. We focus our efforts through the CHANGE Framework, which identifies six essential sectors affecting the overall well-being of these islands and their people. HCF works in communities across Hawai'i, with offices and staff located statewide. In 2024, HCF stewarded more than 1,160 funds, established by individuals, businesses, and organizations who share our passion for a better Hawai'i. We distributed over \$172 million in grants to the community from funds at HCF, contracts, and private foundations statewide, including scholarships assisting more than 1,100 Hawai'i students. For more information about HCF, please visit [Hawaiicommunityfoundation.org](https://hawaiicommunityfoundation.org) and follow our social media channels on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.