



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Media Contact:

Michelle Hee

Hawai'i Community Foundation

(808) 566-5564 | [mhee@hcf-hawaii.org](mailto:mhee@hcf-hawaii.org)

**Hawai'i Community Foundation Accepting Applications for Richard Smart Fund Grants  
to Support Waimea's Future**

Waimea, Hawai'i Island — The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) is now accepting applications for grants from the Richard Smart Fund, which supports nonprofit organizations working to strengthen the well-being of the Waimea community on Hawai'i Island.

The Richard Smart Fund at HCF invests in healthcare, educational, and charitable efforts that serve Waimea residents and reflect community priorities. Grants generally range from \$5,000 to \$25,000, with \$500,000 available to support projects during the June 2026–June 2027 grant period.

The 2026 funding opportunity continues the evolution of the Richard Smart Fund through Waimea Futures, a community-driven initiative launched by HCF to ensure grantmaking reflects Waimea's shared values, aspirations, and kuleana for future generations. Through community conversations and guidance from the Waimea Community Weaving Hui, the fund supports organizations that strengthen caring relationships, engage Waimea's diverse people, and take a place-based approach rooted in connection to 'āina.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, fiscally sponsored community groups, church programs with a charitable purpose, and Hawai'i Department of Education school projects that are based in Waimea (ZIP code 96743). Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their work responds to priorities identified by the community and contributes to a thriving future for Waimea.

The online application deadline is Friday, May 1, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. HST. For full details, eligibility requirements, key dates, and to apply, visit:

[www.hawaiicomunityfoundation.org/strengthening/island-by-island/richard-smart-fund](http://www.hawaiicomunityfoundation.org/strengthening/island-by-island/richard-smart-fund)

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### **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 2025, HCF stewarded more than 1,175 funds, established by individuals, businesses, and organizations committed to building a better Hawai'i. Through these funds, along with contracts and private foundations, we've distributed over \$116 million in grants statewide so far this year, including scholarships assisting more than 1,400 Hawai'i students. For more information about HCF, please visit [Hawaiicomunityfoundation.org](http://Hawaiicomunityfoundation.org) and follow our social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#).