



2022 REPORT TO MEMBERS

.....
Transforming the future for our keiki & yours



DEAR KŪKI'Ō 'ŌHANA

Friends and Partners

We are truly grateful for your philanthropic support of our Hawai'i Island youth.

The following report shows how our Fund contributes to education, workforce development, health, and safety for young people living on Hawai'i Island.

Over the past 20+ years, programs, once merely concepts, have become resounding successes, offering increased opportunities to keiki and 'ōpio, and touching thousands of lives. Your continued generosity illustrates our collective aloha for this special place.

The 2022 calendar year continued in this spirit, raising an unprecedented \$1.2 million, and distributing grants to 40 youth-serving non-profits.

The exceptional efforts and impact of the Kūki'ō Community Fund (KCF) were recently recognized through the Aloha Chapter's President's Award, given by the Association of Fundraising Professionals in Hawai'i. This prestigious award has only been given 14 times in the past 39 years. Kudos to Kūki'ō!

Year 2023 finds our KCF in transition. With the introduction of the separate Ho'ōmana Foundation that will focus on "inside the gates" funding priorities, KCF is free to concentrate our efforts "outside the gates," to the Hawai'i Island community at large. Our aim is to foster initiatives that create authentic engagement with community and culture, and support our island's challenges and opportunities. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months.

With the help of new advisors, Kūki'ō members Darrell Cavens and Janet Bond, and community at-large advisor Susan Maddox, our committee is strongly committed to empowering our young people.

It is an honor to partner with you in co-creating a vibrant future for Hawai'i Island. Thank you for your trust, your commitment and your deep generosity.

With sincere gratitude and aloha,

Benjy, Caroline, Jacquie, Wally, Nancy, Gib, Leann, Hannah, Peter, Janet, Darrell, and Susan

2022 and 2023 Kūki'ō Community Fund Advisory Committee



2022 KŪKI'Ō COMMUNITY FUND

Advisory Committee

In partnership with local Island leaders, Kūki'ō 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 2023 we welcome Janet Bond, Darrell Cavens, and Susan Maddox to the committee.



Benjy Garfinkle
(co-chair)



Caroline Landry
(co-chair)



Jacquie Dorrance



Wally Lau



Nancy Mueller



Gib Myers



Leann Sander



Hannah 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*

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'ō Community Fund benefits from its professional staff, deep knowledge, and cost-effective infrastructure for grantmaking and operations.



Diane Chadwick
Director of Community
Philanthropy,
Hawai'i Island



Chelsey Chow
Program Officer



Malu Debus
Philanthropy Advisor

ĒLAMA

An Opportunity to Succeed

The Ēlama project at Pālanuanui affords higher education to previously non-degree seeking students. Since 2015, this 13th year program has helped non-college-bound students to complete 72 associate degrees and 83 work-ready certificates. This program has inspired the establishment of a sister program in East Hawai‘i, and continues to attract investments from like-minded philanthropic partners. Ēlama scholars have built a reputation of making the Dean’s List, giving back to the community through volunteer opportunities, and working to actively inspire other previously non-degree-seeking students to invest in their own potential.

Ēlama Project — Possibilities Abound

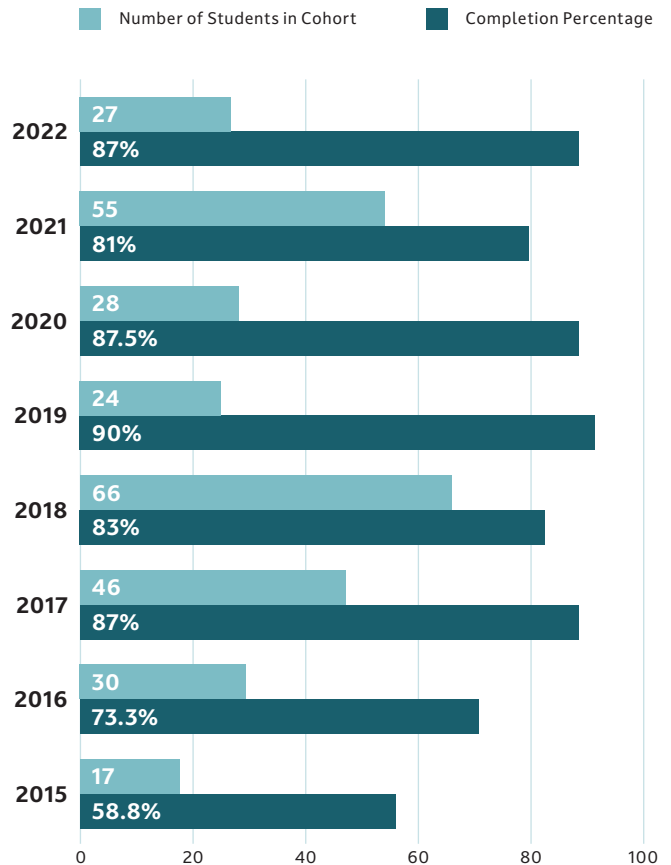
“The Kūki‘o Community Fund continues to be one of our most generous contributors. From the start, it has been our mea kāko‘o ho‘okumu (founding sponsor) for the Ēlama Project. Whenever I make a request, this supporter always says “yes” to our program needs. When we asked to re-allocate \$30,000 of carryover funds towards the coordinator’s salary, the Kūki‘o Community Fund did not hesitate. For that benefit, and much more, I send a warm aloha and mahalo.”

Dana Pumehana Aina, Program Coordinator,
Ēlama Project and Hilo One

Franziska Bass was once a nanny for Kūki‘o families; however, she recently found herself facing the most difficult time of her life. A newly single mother, Franziska lost her younger son after a months-long battle with illness. This experience in the hospital led her to become a certified nurse aide, and eventually a registered nurse. Kūki‘o Community Fund’s support of the Ēlama program made this educational opportunity possible. She now works at the North Hawai‘i Community Hospital and lives in Waimea with her older son.

“I am more determined than ever to inspire others and be a productive and contributing community member. I strive for the same educational opportunities as others with more favorable circumstances. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support and appreciate the financial assistance you have given me toward my education.”

Ēlama Project Completion Rates 2022–2015



Since 2015,

- Kūki‘o Community Fund has **awarded \$638,807** in support of the Ēlama Project
- Ēlama Project scholars have earned **72 associate degrees and 83 certificates**
- **66** Ēlama Project scholars have made the **Dean’s List**

In 2022, Ēlama Project students in all cohorts performed **over 475 hours of community service**.



ULU A'E

Continued Growth

In 2017, the Kūki'o Community Fund created the **Kūki'o Employee and Dependent Scholarship**, which has so far assisted 26 higher education learners and 35 Kūki'o employee dependents attending independent schools in their pursuit of learning. This opportunity will now be available through a new pathway. Beginning in 2024, Ho'omana, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established to provide this type of employee opportunity — among others — will continue to administer educational scholarships to our Kūki'o 'ohana. We are grateful for the growth of our community's commitment to youth success, quality education, and advancement opportunities and encourage our Kūki'o community to support the future we build together through both our Kūki'o Community Fund and Ho'omana.

Since 2017, 26 Kūki'o employees and dependents have **received \$198,500** in Kūki'o Community Fund scholarships to pursue college degrees and training.

NO NĀ KEIKI

For Our Children

Since 2018, the Kūki'o Community Fund has offered financial aid to the children of Kūki'o employees attending kindergarten through high school, providing educational opportunities that may have otherwise been out of reach. These scholarship opportunities will now be available through Ho'omana.

Since this scholarship program began in 2018, 27 Kūki'o employee families, including 35 students, have **received a total of \$351,920 in scholarships** to independent schools on Hawai'i Island.

Kūki'o employee scholarships will now be available through **Ho'omana**, a new 501(c)(3) created to support the needs of Kūki'o employees and their 'ohana.



"Aloha, my name is Raphael Gadot and I am honored to be a recipient of the Kūki'o Community Fund Scholarship. Born and raised on the Big Island of Hawai'i, I am grateful for the opportunities that Kūki'o and its members have provided for my 'ohana and me. Many of my family are employed at Kūki'o, and my sister, Rheanne Gadot, is also a Kūki'o scholarship recipient finishing a Bachelor's degree in May. The scholarship has only made my journey studying out of state much more comfortable, as I am now a student at Johns Hopkins University studying molecular and cellular biology in a rigorous pre-med pathway. This scholarship has provided the supplies and programs I need to focus on my classes and work in biology and chemistry labs. In the future, I aspire to give back to my community as a surgeon or through research. To Kūki'o and its members for providing the opportunity and support for our educational and occupational dreams, mahalo nui loa!"

Raphael Gadot, Son of Jeff Gadot, General Service Attendant



"We are very grateful to have had the opportunity to be members of the Big Island community. Our 6-year-old daughter is a kindergartener at Parker school in Waimea, where she is thriving under the incredible care and curriculum they provide. Watching our daughter come home excited about learning and making new friends, especially after a difficult and unexpected transition, has been extremely rewarding. The Kūki'o Community Fund has provided us with the opportunity to set an incredible standard for our daughter's educational foundation, and we could not be more grateful for this experience."

Oliver Black, Water Conservation Manager

I MĀKAUKAU NO KE AO HOU

Preparing for the Future

In the seven years since Career Connected Learning (CCL) started, the Kūki‘o Community Fund has committed itself to supporting youth career preparation opportunities that have now grown into robust grassroots programs. KCF will continue to ensure that local K-12 students, including Kūki‘o employee children, receive hands-on, STEM-focused education in growing industries that pay higher-than-average wages, preparing them for careers that will better support the cost of living in Hawai‘i. The Kūki‘o Community Fund’s dedication to investing in career training ensures that our local students are prepared for innovative career opportunities in STEM fields on Hawai‘i Island.



*We’re Going Places participants from
Waimea Middle School*



*Four Akamai alumna engineers at the Daniel K. Inouye
Solar Telescope now serve as mentors*

AKAMAI

The Smart Choice

The Kūki‘o Community Fund pursued a unique opportunity to support a successful CCL grantee, **The Akamai Workforce Initiative Internship Program** in expanding its impact for Hawai‘i Island students. Akamai is a nationally recognized program dedicated to workforce development, using a research-based model aimed at a high leverage point for STEM workforce development. Akamai focuses on advancing college students pursuing STEM degrees that ultimately lead to STEM jobs.

More than **200 Akamai alumni** are now in STEM jobs, approximately two-thirds of those in Hawai‘i.

The Akamai Internship Program has been supported by the Kūki‘o Community Fund through the CCL grant program since 2015. Akamai serves students statewide in Hawai‘i and places them in mentored summer internships to work at telescopes across Hawai‘i or the TMT project office in Pasadena. To date, 113 students from Hawai‘i Island have participated in Akamai. The program has a long history of success, including long term retention of greater than 85 percent of Akamai undergraduate interns in STEM degrees and careers. The program includes mentor training, a workshop and summer internship, and a challenging project of value to host organizations and students.

32 interns participated in the Akamai Internship Program in 2022; seven were Hawai‘i Island graduates supported through the Kūki‘o Community Fund.

Seven Hawai‘i Island graduates participated in the Akamai Internship Program at the following Hawai‘i Island locations: Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope, Subaru Telescope, Institute for Astronomy, Hilo, Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai‘i Authority, and KBR in Kihei, Maui, and University of California Observatories in Santa Cruz, California. Student projects included using model-based systems to describe a telescope, deploying a highly sensitive video camera for astronomical observations, environmental monitoring of a telescope, risk assessment of a sea water pumping system, measuring the performance of optical fibers, counting satellites visible through MegaCam images, and designing, manufacturing, programming, and deploying Mauna Kea Observatories All-Sky Infrared and Visible Sky Analyzer.

Advancing Our Workforce

Ko Kula Kai: People of the Sea is an ocean-based program within Ke Kula o Nāwahiokalani'ōpu'u Hawaiian Medium Education school in Kea'au that incorporates Hawaiian language, perspective, practices, customs, and traditions into a STEM-focused curriculum to develop youth who are culturally grounded and well prepared for STEM careers, as well as faithful stewards and guardians of our ocean.

"Words cannot fully express our endless appreciation for the Kūki'o Community Fund at the Hawai'i Community Foundation and their support of our Hawaiian cultural program over the years. You provide us an essential opportunity to develop and deliver a quality STEM education through a Hawaiian lens that fosters the sense of pride and kuleana, responsibility, in our young people to become active and productive stewards of our island home and the living ocean that surrounds, nurtures and sustains us."

Henani Enos, Director

Māla'ai runs a one-acre garden on the campus of Waimea Middle School and provides STEM-related hands-on instruction in a variety of subjects to middle school students. Instruction is coordinated with the school's science teachers so that classroom learning and lessons in the garden are integrated. Lessons from the garden also include a strong place-based cultural component, incorporating Native Hawaiian principles of mālama 'āina and culinary uses of native plants, and build awareness of potential career opportunities by bringing in guest speakers from local area businesses working in agriculture, nutrition, and food systems.

"Funding from the Kūki'o Community Fund has allowed Māla'ai to be a consistent and reliable refuge for the students, teachers, and families in our Waimea community. We know this is important to many students with one seventh grader saying, 'the garden gave me a peaceful place in school where I know I can go.' During a time of educational upheaval, the garden continues to be a living laboratory where students can explore, be curious, and feel safe learning outside in nature. 8th grade students have said, 'I can use the experience I get in the garden in the future,' and 'the garden has made me more thankful to the land.' Mahalo for continuing to support our programming and students."

Zoe Kosmas, Executive Director

Hilo Medical Center Foundation serves as the Area Health Education Center for Hawai'i Island, building and implementing the Pre-Health Career Corps program which works with students from middle school through post-secondary school to educate them on the vast array of healthcare jobs available to them. This program works to identify job opportunities, future growth areas, skills necessary for health care jobs, and work with the educational system to create learning opportunities for students to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to obtain local health industry jobs.

"The Hawai'i Pre-Health Career Corps' purpose is to promote and support the development of a local healthcare workforce for our community. The Kūki'o Community Fund's grant made a major impact on our ability to purchase the necessary materials needed for our Hawai'i Island educators who so often do not have any spare funds in their budget to provide materials for their students. This makes our work, and your support, integral to providing an exciting and inspirational educational experience for our students."

JD Domizio, Hawai'i Island Pre-Health Career Corps Student Services Coordinator



Learning about the ocean shoreline first hand



7th grade students jumping for joy while preparing a bed for a new crop



Students learning CPR techniques

KA 'IKE A KA MAKUA HE HEI NA KE KEIKI

The Knowledge of the Parent is Absorbed by the Child

Community Grants Program

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

- **Advancing** impactful youth-centered educational programs available in the community
- **Accomplishing** educational dreams through leading-edge learning methods
- **Capitalizing** on learning opportunities that combine cultural knowledge with groundbreaking technologies

*"The Kūki'o Community Fund's generous contribution to **FreediveSafe! Hawai'i** allowed us to immediately impact the trajectory of Hawai'i resident ocean-drowning statistics by dramatically increasing the availability of freediving and spearfishing safety training for Hawai'i youth. Subsistence spearfishing is an essential part of Hawaiian culture; by distributing modern safety training proven to save lives, **FreediveSafe! Hawai'i** is protecting and empowering residents participating in the sport. Mahalo nui loa for supporting our work!"*

Niki Stepanek, Founder and Board President

*"Support from the Kūki'o Community Fund in 2022 was instrumental in helping **ClimbHI** continue to grow its ClimbHI Bridge online portal, which links educators, students, businesses and organizations together to provide educational and workforce development opportunities. ClimbHI engaged 8,700 students and onboarded 867 educators with access to ClimbHI Bridge from elementary through post-secondary schools across the county of Hawai'i. There are currently over 575 opportunities provided by businesses and organizations in an unprecedented public-private partnership. We are grateful for the generous support of the Kūki'o Community Fund and our communities as we strengthen educational and career opportunities for our keiki right here in Hawai'i."*

Julie Morikawa, President

The Kūki'o Community Fund's participation in Community Grants ensures that our investment in youth success impacts students beyond the classroom to provide unique learning opportunities in addition to conventional education.

Freedivesafe! Hawai'i was founded in August 2020 by a team of industry leaders to improve the safety of the spearfishing and freediving communities in Hawai'i. As the sport continues to grow in popularity, so too has the urgency to make this safety training accessible to our Island communities. This grant supported its Basic Freediving Safety program, which includes a five-hour course that educates young people ages 12–25 years old about proper freediving supervision and basic safety and rescue procedures.



Freedivesafe! Hawai'i teaches freediving safety to keiki

ClimbHI seeks to inspire students to finish high school and proceed to post-secondary education or employment by exposing them to future career paths and showing how to achieve those goals. It achieves this through three primary initiatives: The ClimbHI Bridge online portal, Leadership, Exploration, Inspiration in-person events, and the ClimbHI Service Excellence Certificate program through the Hawai'i State Department of Education. This grant supported the ClimbHI Bridge online portal that connects students and educators with local businesses that offer guest speaking, mentorship, job shadowing, internships, and more.



Leaders across Hawai'i Island gathering to inspire Hawai'i Island keiki

The Arc of Hilo was founded by a group of parents in 1954 advocating for youth, adults, and seniors with developmental disabilities. Their mission is to enrich the lives of those served through meaningful employment opportunities, community inclusion, advocacy, and access to affordable housing. This grant supported the new Career Exploration program, which provides transition-age youth the skills and experience they need to ready themselves for the workforce prior to age 22.



Career Exploration participants learn how to make ice cream

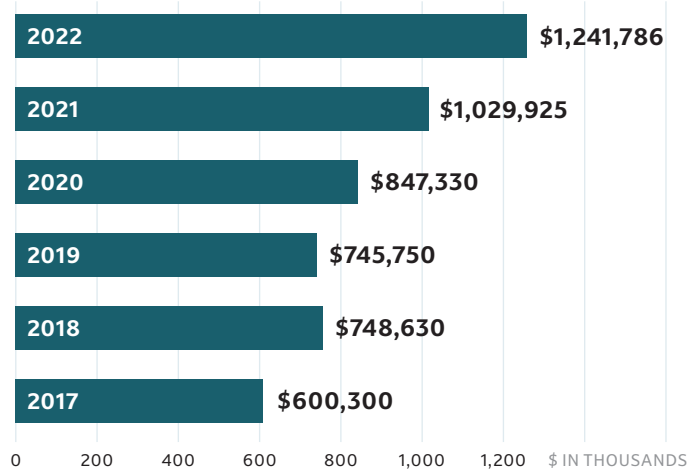
Center for Tomorrow's Leaders (CTL) was established in 2003 with the mission of engaging, equipping, and empowering young leaders for Hawai'i. CTL strengthens the school to college and workforce pipeline so that Hawai'i students become resilient leaders in local companies, communities, and government. Over 12 months, CTL served 10th through 12th grade students across Hawai'i Island with a hybrid in-person and digital adaptation of its Ambassadors program, a 3-year leadership development program embedded within the school day.



Field trip to Hawai'i Forest Farms with Dr. Katie Kamehameha

Through the generosity of our members, the Kūki'o Community Fund continues to build the world we want to live in. Our combined investment in youth success continues to transform our Island community by ensuring that local youth are prepared for career opportunities available here in Hawai'i.

Over \$8 million raised and distributed since 2001 to support educational opportunities, career readiness, and scholarships that benefit our island youth and Kūki'o family.



“The Arc of Hilo’s innovative youth school-to-work training program, Career Exploration, wouldn’t be possible without the support of the Kūki’o Community Fund at Hawai’i Community Foundation. With over 250 kids with special needs in our East Hawai’i schools, it’s imperative that we help prepare them for greater independence and self-sufficiency, through work and life skills training. The Arc of Hilo’s Career Exploration Program is uniquely situated to help serve them, as we’re the largest employer of people with disabilities in Hawai’i County, with over 70 individuals working in janitorial, landscaping, commercial laundry, and event and hospitality services.”

Robert Efford, Chief Executive Officer

“Center for Tomorrow’s Leaders is grateful to the Kūki’o Community Fund for your support of emerging young leaders on Hawai’i Island. Through your generosity, CTL has been able to work with young leaders to empower them to make a positive difference in their community. We have also been able to provide meaningful connection events, such as camp. Thank you for investing in our organization so that we can invest in Hawai’i’s future leaders.”

Katie Chang, Executive Director

GRANTEE LIST

2022 Kūki'o Community Fund

Alex & Duke DeRego Foundation
Water Safety & Ocean
Awareness Education

Aloha Performing Arts Company
Aloha Teen Theatre

Big Island Mediation, Inc.
Peer Mediation

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

**Canada-France-Hawaii
Telescope Corporation**
Maunakea Scholars Dual Credit
Cultural Astronomy Class

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

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

ClimbHI
ClimbHI Bridge

FreediveSafe! Hawaii'i
Freediving & Spearfishing
Safety Training for Hawaii'i
Island Youth

Friends of Pu'u Nui Park
Waikōloa Community Park
Improvement

Friends of the Future
CareerPASS

**Get Ready Hawaii'i (Friends of the
Children of West Hawaii'i)**
Youth Leadership Alliance

Girl Scouts of Hawaii'i

- Girl Scout Leadership Experience
— Hawaii'i Island
- Hawaii'i Island STEM Fests & Girl
Scout Leadership Experience

Give & Grow Discovery School
Give & Grow Discovery School

Hale Kipa, Inc.
Ka'i Like Program

Hāmākua Youth Foundation, Inc.
Keiki Tutoring Program

Hana Laulima Lāhui O Ka'ū
Kahea Mai Ka 'Āina Academy

**Hawaii'i Institute
of Pacific Agriculture**

- High School Mahi'ai Mentorship
& Internship & Post-secondary
Farm Apprenticeship
- Lo'i Kalo for the Youth
Engagement

Hawaii'i Preparatory Academy

- Scholarships for Dependents
of Kūki'o Employees
- Sustainable Agriculture &
Community Outreach Internship

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

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

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

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

Ke Kula 'o Nāwahiokalani'ōpu'u
Ko Kula Kai

Kea'au Robotics Inspire
Kea'au Robotics Inspire

Keaukaha One Youth Development
RISE 21st Century After School
Program

Kū-A-Kanaka LLC
HANA PAKAHI

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

Laupāhoehoe Train Museum
'Āina-Based Education Program

Lead for Hawaii'i
Lead for Hawaii'i Fellowship
Program

Makua 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 Hawaii'i Island Youth

Parker School

- Equitable Enrichment at
Parker School
- Persevering in STEAM
Cross-Curricular Integration
- Scholarships for Dependents
of Kūki'o Employees

Project Vision Hawaii'i
Career Connections for
Healthcare Learners

**Regents of the University
of California, Santa Cruz**
Akamai Internship Program:
Building a STEM Workforce on
Hawaii'i Island Through Akamai

Teach For America
Teach For America Hawaii'i —
Hawaii'i Island Programming

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

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

University of Hawaii'i Foundation

- CAMP 'IMI-POSSIBLE: Inspiring
Hawaii'i's Youth toward Careers
in Science
- Ēlama Project of Hawaii'i
Community College at Pālanuanui
- THINK Big Island VEX IQ
Robotics Leagues

Waikōloa Dry Forest Initiative

- 'Āina Explorers Summer Camp
- Future Foresters

**Waimea Middle Public Conversion
Charter School**

- Supporting All Students Through
Social Emotional Learning
- We're Going Places!

WeGo! Foundation
At Risk Youth Athletic Sponsorship

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

Zoological Society of San Diego
'Alalā Reintroduction Community
Inquiry Program

"Hawaii'i Preparatory Academy is very grateful to have the support of the Kūki'o Community Fund at the Hawaii'i Community Foundation, helping to sustain the connectivity and reciprocity of this important work and our mutual commitment to Hawaii'i communities through the Sustainable Agriculture and Community Outreach Internship. Your generous partnership has not only made these internships possible, it has challenged us to continuously consider our community needs, priorities in agriculture and policy, and supported professional development in the agriculture sustainability field."

Fred Warner, Head of School

"Our Youth Education Program at Donkey Mill Art Center fills a vital need in the community by providing art education to our youth — whether in local elementary schools or on our campus in Hōlualoa. It weaves in visual arts, literature, 'āina-based learning, and environmental studies through the direction of local, professional teaching artists. Mahalo nui to Kūki'o Community Fund for supporting us and allowing us to provide this resource to our community at a subsidized rate."

Ashley Raymond, Interim Executive Director



Established in 2001 so that members could:

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

TRANSFORM the current educational system to build career opportunities for our children.

PARTNER with like-minded collaborative philanthropic investors to address community needs.

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 through the options below:

Credit Card can be done online at:

HawaiiCommunityFoundation.org/KukioFund

Personal Checks, Grants from a Private Foundation or Donor Advised Fund, or IRA Disbursement can be mailed to:

Attn: Malu Debus

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

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