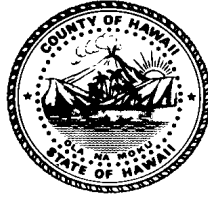


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Puna Strong Collaboration Grant Recipients Announced

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 17, 2024

The County of Hawai'i, in partnership with the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF), announces the award of \$586,917 in Puna Strong Collaboration Grants to support community resilience and disaster readiness in Puna.

Created in response to the 2018 Kīlauea eruption, Puna Strong has awarded more than \$2.1 million in total funding. The Puna Strong Collaboration Grant program is the next phase of this effort to support the impactful work of community organizations.

“By fostering collaboration with our community organizations, we can increase community resilience and meet our current and future challenges,” said Mayor Kimo Alameda. “We want to thank Hawai'i Community Foundation for their ongoing partnership as we continue to offer these grant opportunities.”

“We also know that a lot more work remains to be done to support Puna’s recovery, and our administration looks forward to delivering more progress for those affected by the eruption,” Alameda added.

Puna Strong is made possible by financial support from the County’s recovery funds and HCF’s Hawai'i Island Strong Fund.

Puna Strong Collaboration Grants have been awarded to 13 organizations whose projects align with the Kīlauea Recovery and Resilience Plan and will advance sustainability and capacity building across various sectors with communities throughout Puna. This round of funding has been awarded to the following organizations:

Organization Name	Program	Total Award
Arts & Sciences Center	Removing Barriers to Transportation for Puna Youth	\$36,452

<u>Hawai'i Animal Kuleana Alliance Inc.</u>	Hawai'i Animal Kuleana Alliance (HAKA) creates personalized emergency plans videos with a focus on the specific needs of Puna residents.	\$47,465
<u>Hawaii Science & Technology Museum</u>	The PueoWorks Community Robotics and Technology Center (PCRTC) serves as a resource hub for students and community members at Keonepoko Elementary School.	\$50,000
<u>Hawaiian Volcano Education & Resilience Institute</u>	Establishes a teacher resource room to enhance access to education for young families in lower Puna.	\$50,000
<u>Hawaii's Volcano Circus, Ltd.</u>	Access to Education and Outreach on Community Resilience	\$23,000
<u>Malama O Puna</u>	Smoke It Up! promotes the consumption of feral pig meat to enhance food security and support the agricultural economy.	\$50,000
<u>Mālamalama Waldorf School</u>	Mālamalama Waldorf School Community Plant Nursery to increase its plant propagation capacity.	\$30,000
<u>Men of PA'A</u>	Men of PA'A Mentorship Initiative supports the successful reentry of justice-involved individuals.	\$50,000
<u>Nā Maka Hāloa o Waipi'o</u>	Kū Mai Puna program enhances community capacity and resilience through two cohorts featuring four Hawaiian Cultural classes and one community event.	\$50,000
<u>'O Maku'u Ke Kahua Community Center</u>	Māla Ho'oulu 'Ike inspires agricultural opportunities to create a self-sustainable life for 'ohana and community.	\$50,000
<u>Pōhaku Pelemaka</u>	Mālama Ka'akepa Pōhaku Pelemaka and Na Lau'ō Ka'akepa are collaboratively stewarding the Ka'akepa area by addressing environmental concerns and developing a comprehensive management plan.	\$50,000
<u>Puna Rising 'Ohana</u>	Puna Ola: Community Resource Center collaborates with 16 partner organizations to host 69 impactful events, fostering community engagement and connection throughout Puna.	\$50,000
<u>Purple Mai'a Foundation</u>	Mālama Design Studio (MDS), a 9-month accelerator for early-stage Native Hawaiian-owned businesses, and internship opportunities.	\$50,000

Each of these organizations was chosen for its commitment to addressing community needs and fostering innovative collaborations that will enhance resilience and quality of life for Puna residents.

“The Puna Strong program represents the spirit of collaboration and innovation that defines our community,” said Robbie Kane, Program Director at the Hawai‘i Community Foundation. “The Collaboration Grants continue to build a strong foundation for Puna’s future, enabling local organizations to work together and create lasting solutions.”

To learn more about the Puna Strong grant recipients and our other grant programs, please visit our website at recovery.hawaiicounty.gov/resources/recovery-grants.

For photos of the Puna Strong grantees, please visit [this Dropbox folder](#).



**HAWAI‘I COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

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-107-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 fresh water 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 its people. HCF works in communities across Hawai‘i, with offices and staff located statewide. In 2023, 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 \$107 million in grants to the community from funds at HCF, contracts, and private foundations statewide, including scholarships assisting more than 1,000 Hawai‘i students.

For more information about HCF, please visit hawaiicommunityfoundation.org and follow our social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).

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