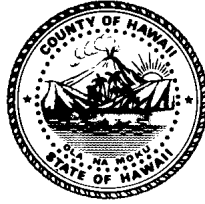


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September 24, 2024

### NEWS RELEASE

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### **THE COUNTY OF HAWAII AND HAWAII COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE PUNA STRONG COLLABORATION GRANTS OPPORTUNITY**

The County of Hawai'i and the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) are excited to announce a funding opportunity for nonprofit organizations serving the Puna area to apply for the Puna Strong Collaboration Grants.

Puna Strong is a grant program focused on disaster readiness and building community resilience for the Puna communities impacted by the 2018 Kīlauea eruption. With investments in nonprofit organizations and partnerships leading community-driven projects, the Puna Strong program is currently in its third round of funding to support 10 organizations over an 18-month period ending June 30, 2025.

The purpose of these Puna Strong Collaboration Grants is to foster collaboration among nonprofit organizations in the Puna area along with government agencies, community leaders, and/or for-profit entities. The aim is to build and enhance networking and collaborative capacities that lead to sustainable and impactful outcomes. This funding opportunity seeks to support initiatives that go beyond one-time events, focusing instead on programs or projects that promote long-term partnership building and resource sharing.

Applicants are encouraged to propose initiatives that result in measurable outcomes with a focus on collaboration. The focus of the proposed work should be on creating a lasting impact through strong, inter-organizational partnerships.

Puna Strong Collaboration Grants are available to Puna serving 501(c)(3) organizations for a 12-month period of grant funding. Grant awards are intended to range on average from \$15,000 to \$50,000. This funding opportunity is not limited to current Puna Strong Round 3 grantees; it is available to any 501(c)(3) organization that serves the Puna area. In the spirit of collaboration, only the lead application is required to be a 501(c)(3) organization.

To apply for Puna Strong Collaboration Grants visit [hawaiicf.smartsimple.com](https://hawaiicf.smartsimple.com). Registered users may log in to their account to apply. Please give yourself adequate time before the submission deadline to access the system and familiarize yourself with the application process and requirements. The deadline to apply for this funding opportunity is Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 4 p.m. HST.

HCF will host a virtual informational session for interested applicants to the Puna Strong Collaboration Grants on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. To register for this session via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/punastrong>.

For more information regarding Puna Strong or our other grant programs, please visit our website at [recovery.hawaiicounty.gov/resources/recovery-grants](https://recovery.hawaiicounty.gov/resources/recovery-grants).



## 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](https://hawaiicommunityfoundation.org) and follow our social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).