



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS OVER \$400K FROM THE RICHARD SMART FUND TO 18 PROGRAMS SUPPORTING WAIMEA

Series of community conversations helped prioritize needs in support of a thriving Waimea

Honolulu, HAWAI'I — Today, the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) is announcing the award of \$415,770 from the Richard Smart Fund to 18 programs supporting culture, education, health, and safety in Waimea on Hawai'i Island. Community organizations and residents participated in a series of conversations throughout 2023 that helped to advise the Richard Smart Fund and HCF on the top priorities and greatest needs of community members.

Richard Palmer Kaleioku Smart established the Richard Smart Fund at HCF when he created the Parker Ranch Foundation Trust to support healthcare, educational, and charitable giving for the Waimea community on Hawai'i Island. From 2001 to 2023, HCF distributed over \$7.7 million to nonprofit organizations serving Waimea.

“These grants from the Richard Smart Fund are the result of Waimea community members describing the future they want for Waimea, a future where all of the residents of the community understand and embody their kuleana for each other and the ‘āina,” said HCF director of donor relations for Hawai'i Island Diane Chadwick. “The funding also aligns with HCF’s long-term strategy to elevate community voices and position Hawai'i as a model for local and global civic responsibility and collaborative policy development.”

“The Hawai'i Songwriting Festival is honored to be a recipient of a Richard Smart Fund grant. With these funds, we will be able to expand our programs and career development opportunities for the growing music community in Waimea,” says Julia Brotman, executive director of the Hawai'i Songwriting Festival.

Naka Nathaniel, a board member of the Kawaihae Canoe Club, says, “Our club does its best to try to create pilina and deepen relationships in our community, and HCF has been incredibly supportive of our efforts. We can't mahalo them enough.”

The proposals were evaluated based on the following criteria: what their kuleana is for Waimea's future, how their work addresses critical opportunities for Waimea's future, how they contribute to strengthening caring relationships, and how they effectively involve and engage with the community's diverse people, organizations, and 'āina.

Collaboration and policy development will be further supported by building on the momentum that began with the community conversations by bringing together a learning cohort with these grantees to share indigenous knowledge and innovative approaches to addressing issues such as water and land management, economic development, and educating all members of the community about creating a vibrant future for Waimea.

Full list of grantees:

Grantee	Program Title	Grant Amount
Alex & Duke De Rego Foundation	Water Safety & Ocean Awareness Youth Education Program	\$25,000
Big Island Mediation	Community Mediation	\$25,000
Discover Your Kuleana/Friends of the Future	Discover Your Kuleana	\$24,885
Five Mountains Hawai'i	Ho'ohui Ola: Facilitating Seamless Connections for Waimea Patients Requiring Complex & Collaborative Care	\$25,000
Friends of the Future	Tutu's House	\$25,000
Hawai'i Preparatory Academy	HPA's Community Arts Program at Isaacs Art Center	\$7,500
Kahilu Theatre Foundation	The Stories that Shape who We are and who We will Become: Sharing Mana'o and the Story of Kahilu	\$25,000
Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra Society	Free Youth Education Concerts	\$15,000
Kaua'i Music Festival	Hawai'i Songwriting Festival	\$25,000
Kawaihae Canoe Club	Kawaihae Canoe Club Ho'okipa	\$25,000
Mala'ai – The Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School	Kokua Aku, Kokua Mai: Sharing and Reciprocity in Waimea Nui	\$25,000
Paniolo Preservation Society	Cataloging and Digitalizing Artifact Collection	\$25,000
Parker School	Facilitating Connection and Shared Kuleana	\$18,500
Small World Preschool	Early Childhood Education Accessibility for our Keiki	\$25,000
St. James Episcopal Church	Waimea Community Meal	\$25,000
Waimea Community Theatre	WCT Funding for 2024-2025	\$25,000
Waimea Hawaiian Civic Club	Waimea Water Summit	\$25,000
Waimea Resilience Hub	Waimea Emergency Communications Awareness Network (WECAN)!	\$24,885
Total		\$415,770

To learn more about the Richard Smart Fund, please visit <https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/strengthening/island-by-island/richard-smart-fund>

For images of the grantee organizations, please visit [this Dropbox folder](#). All photos are provided courtesy of respective grantee.

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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-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](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).