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January 22, 2024

NEWS RELEASE

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THE COUNTY OF HAWAII AND HAWAII COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE THIRD ROUND OF PUNA STRONG GRANT RECIPIENTS

The County of Hawai'i and the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) are excited to announce the third round of Puna Strong grant recipients. Puna Strong remains focused on disaster readiness and building resilience for the Puna communities impacted by the 2018 Kīlauea eruption with a \$608,000 investment in nonprofit organizations and partnerships leading community-driven projects and building the capacity of local organizations.

“The fact that we are now in the third round of grants is a testament to the tremendous success of this program,” said Mayor Mitch Roth. “Our ongoing partnership with HCF continues to be a source of pride for our county. These grants empower local Puna organizations and contribute to their impactful work with our residents.”

The first two rounds of grants supported the work of more than two dozen organizations that addressed a range of issues important to the community, including mental health, home and community food production, youth development, cultural grounding, environmental protection, educational opportunities, access to community-focused information, and readiness to respond to community emergencies/disasters.

“Each grant recipient was carefully chosen for their commitment to supporting and strengthening the long-term resilience of the Puna community,” said Chelsey Chow, program officer for the Hawai'i Community Foundation. “Since the inception of Puna Strong, grantee partners have developed their own capacity and the network of organizations across Puna has been strengthened.”

Grants were awarded to 10 organizations and ranged from \$50,000 to \$75,000 for an 18-month period:

- Arts & Sciences Center: ASC Beyond School Community Learning

- Equality HI: Cooking for Resiliency, Moving from Neighbors to Ohana
- Hawai‘i Animal Kuleana Alliance: HAKA’s Emergency Rescue and Disaster Preparedness Programs
- Hawaiian Volcano Education and Resilience Institute: Disaster Preparedness, Outreach and Sustainability Support
- Hawaii’s Volcano Circus: Startup and Realignment for Community Resilience
- Ho‘oulu Lāhui: Planning for Long-Term Resilience
- Men of Pa‘a: Resilience and Sustainability - Charting a Path to Recovery
- Nā Maka Hāloa O Waipi‘o: Kūkulu Kaiāulu, Hawaiian Culture, Language, and History
- ‘O Maku‘u Ke Kahua Community Center: Māla Ho‘oulu ‘Ike at ‘O Maku‘u Ke Kahua Community Center
- Pōhaku Pelemaka: Community-Based Stewardship Management, Hawaiian Culture, Language, and/or History

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

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-105-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. HCF works in communities across Hawai‘i, with offices and staff located statewide. For more information about HCF, please visit hawaiicommunityfoundation.org and follow our social media channels on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.