



HAROLD K.L. CASTLE  
FOUNDATION

## NEWS RELEASE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*Closing the achievement  
and preparation gaps  
in public education*

*Restoring nearshore  
marine ecosystems*

*Strengthening Windward  
Oahu communities*

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## **HAROLD K.L. CASTLE FOUNDATION AWARDS NEARLY \$2 MILLION IN GRANTS TO IMPROVE HAWAII TEACHING AND EDUCATION**

### ***Programs Will Identify, Recruit and Train Hawaii's Next Generation of School Principals, Teacher-Leaders and Teacher Mentors***

KAILUA — The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation announced today that its board of directors has approved grants to five organizations totaling \$1,905,988 to support bold initiatives to improve student education by developing a strong pool of leadership talent in Hawaii's public and private schools.

The purpose of the grants is to identify, recruit and train new "teacher-leaders," teacher mentors and school principals, as well as give front-line teachers a greater voice in education policy. But the ultimate goal of the diverse education programs is to address Hawaii's growing education achievement gap and improve student education across the state.

"There is a critical need for a stronger pipeline of education leadership talent to help our keiki, high school and college students get the education they need and deserve to succeed in today's world and become Hawaii's next generation of community leaders," said Terry George, Harold K.L. Castle Foundation president and CEO. "The Foundation believes that mentoring new teachers and identifying and training emerging teacher-leaders and school principals are critical to improving educational results for our students."

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(more)

George said the board of directors approved the following grants, which he believes will go a long way toward reaching the goal of helping Hawaii students by helping Hawaii teachers, principals and school administrators:

- \$762,690 to be used over three years for the New Teacher Center, which will work with the state Department of Education (DOE) to establish a process for recruiting, training and supporting in-school mentors for all new teachers and for struggling veteran teachers.
- \$668,832 to be used over two years to finance the Hope Street Group program to develop State Teaching Fellowships to help teachers refine their leadership skills, influence state policy and generate solutions for educational reform. The private program will work with state education agencies to ensure that teachers' voices are heard and that innovative ideas generated by teachers are considered.
- \$395,641 to be used over two years to support New Leaders, Inc.'s Emerging Leaders Program. The program will continue its work with Hawaii DOE, the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission and various community partners to recruit up to 35 outstanding teacher-leaders. These teacher-leaders not only will cultivate their own leadership skills but simultaneously display quality leadership practices for their peers.
- \$40,000 for the Waimanalo Learning Center, a unique community program at the Waimanalo Agricultural Research Station that supports more than 1,500 youths and adults in partnership with three Windward schools as well as community organizations. The grant will allow the hiring of a part-time coordinator to increase the Learning Center's ability to reach out to and welcome school and youth groups to learn about farming and healthy food.
- \$5,250 for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawaii to implement Common Core educational standards at three Windward Catholic schools, as well as customize the professional development of principals, teacher-leaders and faculty.

In addition to these educational grants, the Foundation board also approved a \$50,000 grant to the Coral Reef Alliance to promote sustainable tourism and coral reef conservation in Hawaii through collaboration with hotels and condominiums on the Big Island and Maui. The Alliance will use the grant to build on its continuing efforts to help hotels to become good stewards of the coastal environment by controlling harmful runoff into near-shore waters and reefs, watershed management and developing on-site green sustainability practices.

For more information on the Foundation's grant giving, visit [www.castlefoundation.org](http://www.castlefoundation.org).

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*The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation, the largest private foundation headquartered in Hawaii, is committed to closing the achievement and preparation gaps in public education so that all Hawaii's children have access to high-quality pre-K-12 education that prepares them for success in college, career and citizenship. Its grants also focus on restoring nearshore marine ecosystems and strengthening Windward Oahu communities.*