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Harold K.L. Castle Foundation grants \$1.9M to education-focused efforts in Hawaii

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The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation has awarded \$1.9 million in grants to five organizations dedicated to improving education in Hawaii.

“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,” Terry George, Harold K.L. Castle Foundation president and CEO, said in a statement. “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.”

These multi-year grants will help to recruit and train teacher mentors and principals and give front-line teachers a louder voice in shaping policy decisions that will narrow the education achievement gap and improve student outcomes.

The largest is a three-year grant of \$762,690 for the New Teacher Center that will work with the state Department of Education to launch the process for recruiting and training mentors for teachers.

The other four grants include:

- A two-year grant of \$668,832 to fund the Hope Street Group program that will develop fellowships for teachers to refine leadership skills and foster collaboration with state education agencies on policy making.
- A two-year grant of \$395,641 to support New Leaders Inc.’s Emerging Leaders program, which will be tasked with recruiting up to 35 “teacher-leaders.”
- \$40,000 for the Waimanalo Learning Center at the Waimanalo Agricultural Research Station to hire a part-time coordinator and increase outreach and education efforts for youth groups on farming and healthy food.
- \$5,250 for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawaii to implement Common Core educational standards at three Windward Catholic schools

Separately, the Windward foundation has also granted \$50,000 to the Coral Reef Alliance to support sustainable tourism and coral reef conservation in collaboration with Hawaii's hotels and condominiums.

George, who was recently promoted to president and CEO of the foundation after the recent \$373 million sale of the foundation's real estate portfolio, along with some of Kaneohe Ranch's portfolio, to Alexander & Baldwin Inc., noted that its grantmaking ability is projected to increase to as much as \$10 million per year as a result of that sale.