The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation has committed $2,983,000 to a variety of nonprofits in the Windward Oahu community.

The Waimanalo Health Center received $2 million in support of its first capital improvement campaign. The center, which is the largest employer in Waimanalo, aims to raise $13 million for a new facility to accommodate 2,500 more patients each year.

"The Waimanalo Health Center is probably the single most important nonprofit organization in Waimanalo, but their reach is far beyond Waimanalo," Harold K.L. Castle Foundation President and CEO Terry George told PBN. "Our goal is to help encourage others to give to this campaign, and that's why we made this a challenge grant, which means our grant needs to be matched by other donors."

Waimanalo Health Center serves patients from Makapuu to Kualoa, nearly half of whom are part Native Hawaiian.

A second grant recipient is Hoola Na Pua, a therapeutic home for young girls victimized by commercial sexual exploitation. It recently acquired a 40-year lease from the state Department of Land and Natural Resources for 12 acres in Windward Oahu. The $110,000 grant will finance fencing and security for the property and assist with renovations of the 24,000-square-foot home, which is a $3 million project.

"There is a tremendous need for a place to put these girls, specifically the under-aged," said Jodi Allione, chairperson and vice president for planning
and development. "Right now, there's no place to put them where they can receive therapy. This facility will provide medical services and therapy under one roof."

Hoola Na Pua is set to begin operations in about two years.

The Castle Foundation board of directors approved four other grants in December, including $10,000 to Catholic Charities of Hawaii to support about 1,000 students affected by the lava flow on the Big Island.

An additional $118,000 went to youth farming and mentoring projects at Hookuaaina Cultural Learning Center. Also, $105,000 was given to the University Clinical Education and Research Associates for a program that provides more nurses in public schools, and $105,000 was committed to the University of Hawaii Manoa College of Education.