



HAROLD K.L. CASTLE
FOUNDATION

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, October 21, 2014

*Closing the achievement
and preparation gaps
in public education*

*Restoring nearshore
marine ecosystems*

*Strengthening Windward
Oahu communities*

Contact:

Shauna Goya, Communications Pacific
(808) 543-3506; sgoya@commpac.com

HAROLD K.L. CASTLE FOUNDATION AWARDS NEARLY \$1.4 MILLION TO SUPPORT WINDWARD COMMUNITY, PUBLIC EDUCATION AND MARINE CONSERVATION

One Grant Will Help Hawaii DOE Improve Effectiveness of Those Who Coach School Principals on Instructional Leadership

KAILUA, Hawaii — The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation board of directors has approved \$1,382,825 in grants to community groups for projects that align with the Foundation's three-part mission of strengthening the Windward Oahu community, helping public schools and improving marine conservation.

A key Foundation effort over the past several years has been to close student achievement gaps by developing a strong pipeline of teachers and principals equipped with new teaching and learning strategies. To that end, the Foundation's board of directors this month approved a \$249,000 grant that will increase the effectiveness of public school principals. The partnership between the University of Washington's Center for Educational Leadership and the New Teacher Center will enable several DOE Complex Area Superintendents to spend two days a week in schools working directly with principals.

Terry George, Harold K.L. Castle Foundation President and CEO, believes the New Teacher Center grant may be one of the most important Foundation investments this year.

1197 Auloa Road
Kailua, Hawai'i
96734

tel 808-263-7073
fax 808-261-6918

www.castlefoundation.org

(more)

“Redefining the Complex Area Superintendents’ role around providing direct instructional support to school principals sends the clearest possible message that the effectiveness of principals is a top priority,” George said. “This investment in complex area superintendents will be one of the first visible signs of the DOE’s new approach to leadership development.”

Following are the grants awarded this month in support of the Foundation’s other core goals:

Marine Conservation

The Foundation board approved:

– A \$153,825 grant to the University of Hawaii Foundation for a Kaneohe Bay “fish-flow” study that combines cutting-edge science with engaging and educating those who fish in Kaneohe Bay with the goal of improving marine resource management.

The study will focus on a few key kinds of fish and track where they go – from microscopic eggs to what tables they end up on for dinner. Understanding where our fish come from and where they ultimately go is critical knowledge for making good decisions on how to sustain our reef fisheries.

Windward Community Building

The Foundation board approved:

– A \$110,000 grant to the Marimed Foundation, which runs an innovative therapeutic and job-training center for at-risk and under-employed youth and young adults. The program’s “classroom” is the 96-foot sailing vessel SS Makani Olu, moored in Kaneohe Bay.

Under the guidance of Marimed’s trained staff, all onboard operations are performed by the students, including outfitting the ship. The students spend much of their time sailing the ship, often going on long voyages.

– A \$70,000 grant to the Feed The Hunger Foundation as part of the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation’s effort to support food-producing organizations in Windward Oahu.

(more)

George said food-producing groups have found their way into the Foundation's grant portfolio because farms and fishponds build leadership and are great places for at-risk youth to develop resiliency, and because food production helps "ground" a community by connecting young people with the land. The Feed The Hunger Foundation is a relatively new group that has a promising track record of providing small loans and technical assistance to food producers in Hawaii.

– A \$40,000 grant to Kako'o 'Oiwī to support various groups involved in removing invasive algae from Kaneohe Bay reefs and clearing non-native mangrove from near-shore waters. A biodigester and biochar machine will be built to transform the invasive plants into compost for use by Windward farmers.

The algae is removed from the reefs using a "SuperSucker" apparatus deployed and staffed by the State Division of Aquatic Resources and The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii. Mangroves will be removed from He'eia coastal areas by Paepae o He'eia and Hui o Ko'olaupoko, two of the nonprofit partners in this innovative project. This grant also supports the Foundation's marine conservation goal.

– A \$60,000 grant to the Positive Coaching Alliance, Hawaii Chapter, to help Windward athletes become "Better Athletes and Better People." The Alliance helps coaches and parents teach life lessons to student athletes to build character and strengthen families. One effort is to move school sports participation from a "win-at-all costs" mindset that burns out athletes and conflicts with academic goals that should be a priority for students.

– A \$670,000 grant (over three years) to Le Jardin Academy to help recruit and support directors of advancement and finance. The half-century-old private international school, now located at the site of the old Kailua Drive-in theater, is in an exciting period of growth into one of the nation's few International Baccalaureate schools that has adopted the IB curriculum from preschool all the way through high school.

OTHER

In the Foundation's "Other" category of grant-making – which allows it to make grants that may not fall specifically under the Foundation's three core missions – the Foundation approved a \$30,000 grant to the Hawaii Presidential Center, an organization formed to try to get the Obama Presidential Library located in Hawaii. Hawaii has beat out nine other first-round competitors to become one of four sites vying to host Barack Obama's presidential library and museum.

For more information on the Foundation's grant giving, visit www.castlefoundation.org or <https://facebook.com/haroldkcastlefoundation>.

###

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.