

# Harold K.L. Castle Foundation steps forward

## IN A DIFFICULT YEAR

The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation answered many calls to action during a difficult year as COVID-19 forced classes to remain online, students and their families lost their jobs and the dream of a college education appeared more elusive. Through a series of grants, the foundation funded everything from community college scholarships to early college programs to tutoring and mentoring programs and also studies of the local economy.

One of the HKL Castle Foundation's gifts impacted every freshman starting out at Windward Community College. The gift from the Kāneʻohe-based foundation created [Hoʻolei Scholarships](#), which provided a half-tuition scholarship for the current school year to every member of the freshman class at Windward CC who graduated from a Windward area public high school.

"With all of the financial hardships in our communities, a dream of college seemed unattainable for our students, who needed to work to help support their families. This scholarship helped to create a stable freshman class in a difficult year," Windward CC Chancellor Ardis Eschenberg says.

HKL Castle Foundation also helped make that dream achievable for high school and middle school students in Windward

Oʻahu with a gift to Hawaiʻi P-20 Partnerships for Education's [Soar Higher](#) program. The program helps Windward high schools partner with the feeder middle schools and Windward CC to engage students by helping them explore career interests while preparing them for college.

"The foundation hopes its four-year investment will double the number of Windward public school students who earn a degree or certificate," says Alex Harris, HKL Castle Foundation vice president of programs. "We know the best path to household stability runs through a two- or four-year degree. But it's still far too difficult for young people to get to and through college."

Concerned with academic learning loss for young people most at-risk during the pandemic, the HKL Castle Foundation strengthened the pipeline to college through [tutoring programs](#) at public high schools. Through Honolulu Community College, the foundation helped Farrington High School students who attended school remotely receive tutoring in math, English and social studies.

The foundation is also enabling a pilot program pairing students at James B. Castle High School in Kāneʻohe with students from the UH Mānoa College of Engi-

neering for an intensive tutoring program in math and science.

Recognizing the impact that the pandemic posed for household stability, HKL Castle Foundation supported UH efforts addressing instability in our community. Leveraging the UH Community Colleges' efforts already underway to support those who lost their jobs, HKL Castle Foundation supported UH Community Colleges' [Hana Career Pathways in Healthcare](#) in developing stronger career pathways for health care occupations, one of the more recession-proof career fields. It also funded the UH Mānoa College of Social Sciences' work in evaluating the Windward Oʻahu eviction prevention initiative and a study about the low-income housing market.

HKL Castle Foundation's support enabled UH to serve our community and keep the aspirations for higher education alive for so many who were impacted by the pandemic.

"The University of Hawaiʻi is critical to the lives of Hawaiʻi residents. Whether it's meeting basic needs like food and housing, combating learning loss, or propelling young people in good jobs, we are grateful for our long partnership with the entire university system," says HKL Castle President and CEO Terry George.