



Quarterly Newsletter



December 2025

The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation is excited to launch its inaugural newsletter to stay connected, share what we are learning, and explore ways to collaborate with you on shared goals in support of Hawai'i. Click the images and links below to learn more about our recent work. Especially in this moment, it is critical we stay together on the issues facing the people and places we love.

Aloha nō, Alex Harris, President, and Eric Co, CEO



The shutdown is over but the struggles continue for Hawaii's communities. Here's what we're seeing and doing about it.

Uncle Bruce Campbell and his team at Well Fed 'Ohana, a Pilina Fund grantee, work to share knowledge and resources for local families to grow their own food. Click on the image above to learn more.

GoodJobsHI is a great example of why Foundations like ours need to derisk promising new programs.

The Case for Investing in What Works: Lessons from



Welcome Amber!

Learn more about Dr. Amber Datta, the Foundation's new Oceans Program Officer.

Partner Spotlight

This month, our Pilina Fund Advisory Committee comprised of eight community leaders who provide grants to the Ko'olau region on our behalf, provided \$40,000 to the Windward network of community resilience hubs to provide food resources to those in need in light of Federal SNAP benefit cuts.

Click here for recent grants in [Education](#), [Oceans](#), [Windward O'ahu](#), [Climate](#) and [other needs](#).

*Ko'olau
Pilina
Fund*

The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation's vision is a thriving and resilient Hawai'i, where our young people are prepared for their future, our adaptable communities navigate change, our vibrant culture guides us, and our abundant 'āina sustains us for generations to come.

Click here for our strategies for [Education](#), [Oceans](#), [Windward O'ahu](#), and [Climate](#).

We are pleased to announce grants from our December 2025 Board of Directors meeting:

Hawaii Leadership Forum : To create a Climate Fellows program and develop a network of climate leaders across government, business and private sectors in Hawai'i.	\$100,000
City & County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change : To support the Policy and Grants Specialist and implement the Climate Ready O'ahu plan in Ko'olau through the Climate Champions Program.	\$200,000
Hawaiian Council : To launch the Kalāhiki program- an effort to provide resilience audits and install climate resilience retrofits for Low-to-Moderate Income homes primarily focused in Waimānalo.	\$175,000
Sierra Club : To develop and pilot a first-of-its-kind climate training course targeting at least 50 civil servants at all levels of local government on climate-change impacts to Hawai'i and opportunities to address them through existing policy to improve awareness and decision-making.	\$50,000
Kalanihale : To ho'okumu (initiate) Kai Kuleana Network to advance community-led conservation by establishing a permanent, independent network of communities that support each other through shared learning and capacity, collaborative stewardship, and a unified voice for West Hawai'i.	\$136,112
Academy of Healthcare Innovation : To test and expand low-barrier certificate programs that lead to meaningful, well-paying positions with ample career growth, while creating pathways to post-secondary education.	\$150,000
Lift HI Foundation : To scale a promising effort that trains, prepares and places low-income and ALICE residents into jobs as a certified nurse aide.	\$122,400
50CAN : For an unrestricted core operating grant in support of HawaiiKidsCAN strategic advocacy.	
Holomua Collective : For general operating support that develops and advances pathways for young people to have living wage careers in Hawai'i.	\$100,000
University of Hawaii Foundation : To redesign the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Education undergraduate elementary education teacher preparation program with a focus on literacy instruction.	\$150,000
University of Hawaii Foundation (Hawai'i P-20) : To scale and expand support for students in rural and neighborisland high schools to initiate and sustain professional relationships and build social capital.	\$30,613
'Aali'i Alliance : To support a Youth Voice report that provides insight about the educational experiences of public middle school students.	\$16,150
Hawaii State Department of Education : To expand Career and Technical Student Organizations to public middle schools.	\$45,000
Education Strategy Group : To provide technical assistance as the Hawaii State Department of Education crafts updated high school graduation requirements.	\$55,000
Kāko'o 'Ōiwi : To fortify the existing commercial kitchen to also serve as a resilience hub and disaster distribution center.	\$50,000
Paepae O He'eia : To support Ko'olau 'Āina Aloha to develop a multi-year regional strategy that strengthens 'āina organizations and advances resilience priorities in Ko'olau.	\$100,000
Nurture Cultivate Inc. : To support strategic and sustainability planning.	\$25,000