



## Instructional Innovation Grants for School Leaders

**The Why:** Our public school students deserve a high quality education and learning experience to better prepare them for their present and future successes through school-wide initiatives to promote innovative next practices. As schools prepare to welcome more students back to school, we have a real chance to solidify new practices that expand equity and increase access to challenging instruction.

**The What:** The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation in partnership with the Hawaii Department of Education's Leadership Institute, will be awarding \$25,000 grants to up to seven public schools through an application process designed to foster unique and innovative ideas that benefit students, staff, and the greater community. We are particularly interested in helping to sustain and spread positive instructional practices that emerged in response to the pandemic. Those interested in this opportunity will be asked to complete a written proposal and furnish a 90-second pitch video to accompany the application.

**The Who:** Innovative and forward-thinking school leaders from the Hawaii Department of Education and Hawaii Public Charter Schools are invited to apply. All applications must be signed by the complex area superintendent (DOE) or board chair (charter school).

**The How:** Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by a review committee using the following criteria:

1. Innovative Practice
2. Implementation
3. Realistic Budget
4. Sustainable and Spreadable
5. Student Impact

Interested applicants are invited to join a virtual session on April 29 at 3:00PM HST. Applications will be submitted through the Harold KL Castle Foundation's grants management portal. Instructions are as follows:

Applicants will also be asked to attach a copy of the school's academic/financial plan or charter contract and envisioned budget to the proposal.

**The When:** Proposals are due no later than 5:00pm on May 14th and should be no longer than 1,500 words total. The selection committee will finalize award decisions by the end of May and projects can run through August 2022, making this a 15-month grant award.

**Guidance:** This grant envisions supporting one of two different types of innovative whole-school practices (note that hyperlinks in this section support additional resources):

*New instructional models that*

- Incorporate technology to [flip classrooms and blend learning](#);
- [Accelerate students](#) back to grade-level;
- Cover content through [real-world projects](#);
- Better differentiate support and personalize student needs;
- Help students to succeed in traditionally challenging courses like [Algebra I](#); or,
- Extend the reach of excellent teachers.

*Rethink old structures like*

- [Master schedules](#) and use of time;
- Mastery-based grading and [performance assessments](#) of learning;
- Professional planning and [collaboration](#);
- New models of school leadership and/of staffing; or,
- Different ways to share limited resources across multiple schools.

**Writing Prompts:** When evaluating the five proposal criteria, please consider the following question prompts:

- a. **INNOVATIVE PRACTICE** - Please describe how your proposal is unique or innovative. Are you pursuing an instructional innovation or structural rethink? (see section below for relevant examples). What are the anticipated outcomes? How will it be measured?
- b. **IMPLEMENTATION** - How will the project be executed? Who is responsible for day-to-day implementation? Has your school leadership team successfully managed any similar efforts in the past?
- c. **REALISTIC BUDGET** - How do you propose to use these funds? (see section below on allowable uses of funds). Are you contributing other resources to this effort?
- d. **SUSTAINABLE & SPREADABLE** - How will you measure and document impact and project success? How will the project affect the future of education and long-term positive impact in Hawaii? How will you sustain this project after grant funding ends? How will you share your practice to build capacity among other school leaders?
- e. **STUDENT IMPACT** - What issue does your proposal address? How will this project help you to meet the student goals in your Academic/Financial Plan or Charter Contract? Please provide up to five grant outcomes to detail how you will specifically define success in the project?

Applicants are also asked to submit a detailed budget that clearly explains the anticipated use of funds, being sure to denote expected expenses in years 2021 and 2022.

**Use of Funds:** Funds may be used to support a range of expenses, from hiring part-time teachers to offering a design team with stipends over the summertime. Funds may also be used

to contract with outside experts or support facilitation and planning. Finally, funds can be used to further test and refine your idea through a cycle of continuous improvement. Schools may also hui together and jointly propose a project together. Selected schools will be expected to document their practices and share their work via a culminating showcase event.

**Expectations:** Each selected school will enter into a grant agreement with the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation directly. The Hawaii State Department of Education's Leadership Institute will periodically convene grantees so that we can all learn from one another. In addition, grantees will be expected to publicly share their accomplishments and lessons learned in a showcase event at the end of the grant period.

**Summary Checklist:**

- Proposal (not to exceed 1,500 words), providing a clear point of contact and signed by CAS or Board Chair
- Link to view 90-second pitch video
- Academic/Financial Plan or Charter contract
- Program budget, denoting expenses for 2021 and 2022

**Proposals should be uploaded directly to the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation portal:** <https://hklcf.fluxx.io/apply/innovation>

**Timeline:**

April 26 Instructional Innovation Grant for School Leaders announced  
April 29 Virtual information session via [Zoom](#), 3:00p - 3:30p  
April 30 Application window opens  
May 14 Application closes, 5:00p  
May 28 Awardees announced  
June 2021 Grant begins  
August 2022 Projects conclude  
TBA Showcase event

**Questions:**

For more information, please contact:

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