



Pilina Fund Committee Application

The Ko'olau Pilina Fund is seeking community leaders in the Windward O'ahu Community for its grantmaking advisory committee

Apply now: castlefoundation.org/joinpilina

Be Part of Community-led Grantmaking

The purpose of the Ko'olau Pilina Fund is to build community resilience in the Ko'olau region. It follows a participatory approach to grantmaking in which a committee made up of Ko'olau community members will vet proposals through an open, rolling application process. The fund prioritizes projects specifically tailored to Ko'olau communities on O'ahu from Kahuku to Makapu'u and is supported by the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation.

The fund aims to foster *pilina* with, among, and beyond community defined as strengthening relationships but also driving equity, sharing risk, and collectively creating value. Learn more [here](#).

The Kuleana

The foremost responsibility of committee members is to commit to work constructively with fellow members and Foundation staff to collaboratively shape the program, evaluate small grant proposals (up to \$15,000) and make recommendations for funding from **January 2026 to December 2027 (2-year term)**. Currently, the Pilina Fund Committee prioritizes projects that create more opportunities for:

- Strong 'ohana & safe, supportive, prepared and resilient communities
- Increased access to 'āina and farming & improving food security in the region
- Improving health and wellbeing
- Community-based education and learning

Specifically, this commitment includes (1) your required attendance at **monthly** Committee meetings and trainings to bring your deep experience of assisting communities within Ko'olau to the group, (2) your informed and diverse perspective to vet and recommend projects quickly and diligently for the Foundation to award by reading and scoring batches of short grant applications before each grantmaking meeting, (3) your advocacy for the fund in sharing the opportunity with those in your community, and (4) your active listening to learn about opportunities the fund can support. The committee meets monthly to orient to the funding program, identify priorities, vision desired outcomes, shape pilina building events and resources for the community and, of course, make decisions on grant applications. Members will be asked to sign a Commitment Statement which includes a Conflict of Interest Disclosure and Confidentiality Agreement.

Please Join Us! Application Deadline is September 30, 2025.

Joining the committee is an opportunity to help the places, people and organizations you care about most. It is meant to be a vehicle by which to learn, grow and be a positive agent for change in your community. It is also a chance to apply your ideas and practices to help others to do the same, and in doing so lift up the entire region to be stronger and more resilient. Bring your caring and experience to bear on supporting solutions to help your Ko'olau community! For more information please contact Maria Quidez, mquidez@castlefoundation.org or 808-263-8917.



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Apply online at: castlefoundation.org/joinpilina. The application questions for your reference are below:

Contact Information

- Full Name and Preferred Name
- Address
Phone Number (Provide Best Contact Number)
- Email
- Are you age 18 or older?

Ko'olau Pilina

1. Please share more about your connection to the Ko'olau community and connection to place, i.e. affiliations, genealogy, professional service, etc. We are looking for committee members who can represent more than one kind of community (e.g., of place, practice, and culture) with a stress on diversity of people, generations, role in community, thinking, and experiences.
2. Describe your experience in supporting community in your portion of the Ko'olau region.
3. Are you currently working with any community groups? Has this group been funded by the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation or Pilina Fund in the past? If so, which one(s)?
4. Describe any experience you have with building coalitions or organizing across issues and geographic areas.
5. Tell us about your other organizing, activist, volunteer and/or nonprofit experiences.
6. Tell us about why you would like to join the committee – what you hope to contribute and what you hope to gain.
7. What does Pilina mean to you?
8. Will you be able to commit to a monthly 2-hour committee meeting from January 2026-December 2027?

Demographic Information

Because the Pilina Fund committee is committed to diversity and equity in the composition of its members, it would be helpful to have the following information, which will remain strictly confidential:

- Ethnic Background
- Gender
- Age (share which range you are part of)
18-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-69 70+