



Ko'olau Pilina Fund 2026 Request for Proposals

The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation are seeking grant proposals for the Pilina Fund to support community-based, resilience building strategies in Ko'olau O'ahu. For questions, concerns, or interest, please contact pilinafund@gmail.com or call (808) 263-8917.

ABOUT THE KO'OLAU PILINA FUND

The purpose of the Ko'olau Pilina Fund (the fund) is to build community resilience in Ko'olau, O'ahu, which is defined, for these purposes, as the region between Kahuku and Makapu'u, O'ahu. The fund is intended to support trusted, community-based organizations to build well-connected, safe, and strong communities.

Granting decisions are made by the Pilina Fund Committee, who are a group of community members who reside across the Ko'olau region. The committee hopes to help derisk new ideas, scale promising ideas, help to build capacity in the region and progress grassroots community efforts.

The fund prioritizes projects tailored to Ko'olau communities (Kahuku to Makapu'u) and proposals must:

- Show alignment to Pilina Fund Values and Priorities;
- Come from or are sponsored by an organization with IRS 501 (c)(3) tax exempt status;
- Request between \$3,000 and \$15,000;
- Be for future events and projects (funds cannot be used to reimburse previous work done);
- Not duplicate program grants by the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation.

The Pilina Fund Committee will use the following values and priorities to shape decision making and prioritization of projects:

VALUES

Pilina: We believe in building long-term community well-being by strengthening the positive connections between people and place. We hope to invest in pilina through projects that embrace collaboration and partnership in the pursuit of long-term resiliency.

Pono: As much as possible, we desire to be pono and strive for balance across the Ko'olau region. Our goal is to spread funding equitably, while also working to ensure the funding is reaching projects that best represent the purposes of the fund.

Ola Ka 'Aina, Ola Ke Kanaka: It is important that these funds support both healthy people and healthy lands. If our land thrives, so do we as a Ko'olau community.

Aloha Ko'olau: All projects must be community-led and specific to the unique needs of our Ko'olau communities. The fund will support projects that understand the unique needs of our neighbors and find creative solutions to meet these needs. Especially important are projects that demonstrate collaboration among Ko'olau-based organizations or entities.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

The Pilina Fund Committee will prioritize projects that create more opportunities for:

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



Proposal Due Dates	Grant Announcements
February 18, 2026	February 30, 2026
March 8, 2026	March 30th, 2026
April 5, 2026	May 14, 2026
June 7, 2026	July 9, 2026
August 2, 2026	September 10, 2026
October 10, 2026	November 4, 2027

*There are limited funds available each year, so once funds are expended for the year, applications may be placed on hold for future review.

If you are selected for a grant, funds will be sent approximately 3-4 weeks after receiving your organization's information for payment.

You may use this the Google Form linked here: <https://castlefoundation.org/pilinaform> to submit a brief proposal for the project online or provide a proposal letter no longer than **2 pages**. The letter should be emailed to pilinafund@gmail.com.

Proposal letters should include the following (2 page maximum):

Organization Information

- Organization Information:** Name, Mailing Address, Phone Number and Website (if applicable)
- Main Point of Contact:** Name, Email and Phone Number
- Executive Director:** Name, Email, and Phone Number (if different than POC)
- Tax Exempt Status:** Does Your organizations have a **Federal IRS 501 (c)(3)** tax exempt status? YES/NO
 - o If no, are you able to apply through a fiscal sponsor in the community?
 - o If YES, please submit a letter from the Board Chair or Executive Director of the fiscal sponsor acknowledging their role and willingness to comply with grant provisions.
 - o If NO, you do not have a fiscal sponsor, let us know if you need help connecting to one, or if you prefer to find one on your own.
- Past Grantee:** Has your organization ever received a Pilina Fund grant in the past? YES/NO
- Pilina and Kuleana:** Description of the organization and its pilina and kuleana to Ko'olau.
- Which community is your project tailored towards** (from Kahaku to Makapu'u)? Please check all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/> All Ko'olau	<input type="checkbox"/> Kailua	<input type="checkbox"/> Kahalu'u
<input type="checkbox"/> Ko'olaupoko	<input type="checkbox"/> Waimānalo	<input type="checkbox"/> Waiāhole
<input type="checkbox"/> Ko'olauloa	<input type="checkbox"/> Kāne'ōhe	<input type="checkbox"/> Waikāne
<input type="checkbox"/> Kahuku	<input type="checkbox"/> Lā'ie	<input type="checkbox"/> Makapu'u
<input type="checkbox"/> Hau'ula	<input type="checkbox"/> Ka'a'awa	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Project Information

- Name of Project:** What is your project called?
- Anticipated Project Start and End Dates**
- Project Summary:** Include **what** the main goals of the project are, **when** your project will take place, **who** this project is targeting and **how** you will get the word out.
- Project Impact:** What will change in the community because of your project? How does the project demonstrate collaboration among Ko'olau organizations or entities?
- Which Pilina Fund Priorities does your project highlight?** (Please check all that apply)
 - Strong 'ohana & safe, supportive, prepared and resilient communities
 - Increased access to 'āina and farming & improving food security in the region
 - Improving health and well being
 - Community-based education and learning

- Pilina Fund Values and Priorities:** How does this project align to any of the Pilina Fund Values and Priorities?
- Budget:** Detailing project expenditures to the extent you are able. Request should be for \$3,000-\$15,000 (this will not count toward the 2-page letter length).

Optional (will not count toward the 2-page letter length)

- How did you hear about the Pilina Fund?
- How is your Ko'olau community doing? Are there any concerns or other community matters that you would like to share?

For help creating a proposal, filling out the form, or articulating your project, please email pilinafund@gmail.com or call (808) 263-8917.

