



Pilina Fund

Report of Activities
May 2021 to April 2022

Presented to:
Harold K. L. Castle Foundation
Kamehameha Schools

Pilina Fund Report Outline



- Description of the Pilina Fund
- Impact of the Pilina Fund
- How Pilina Fund was designed
- Reflections
- Appendices



Background

The Pilina Fund (the fund) is a participatory grant-making process initially suggested by participants of a listening tour in November 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Community members agreed that grassroots groups were the most successful in responding to needs during the pandemic. The Pilina Fund was created to build capacity in organizations, provide funds for pandemic-related projects, and strengthen relationships across the region. Listening tour participants believed pilina and strong relationships create resilient communities.

Pilina creates resilient communities

Components of the Pilina Fund

Seed funds from Harold K.L. Castle Foundation and Kamehameha Schools

A simple application process

A committee comprised of leaders from the Ko'olau community that reviews and decides on proposals

Capacity building and technical support for grantees

Facilitation, grant management, and administrative support from a small back-of-house team

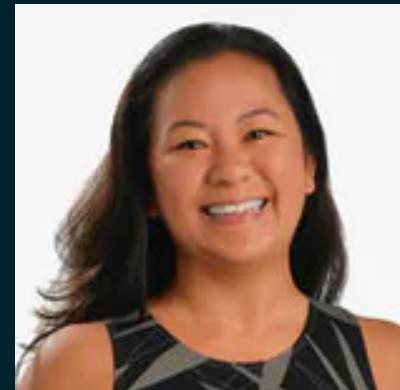
Participatory grant-making for resilient communities



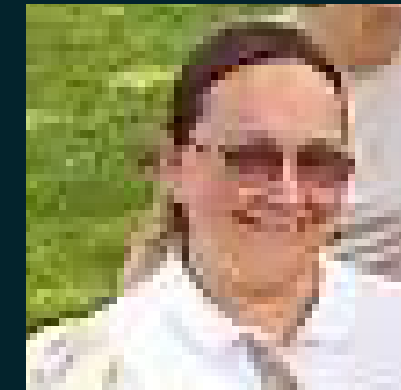
The Pilina Fund Committee

The Pilina Fund Committee consists of 8 community members with diverse skillsets, experiences, professional backgrounds, and ahupua'a of residence. The diversity of the group led to creative and compassionate decision making. Since the members are close to community needs and organizations, they provided important insight to the grant-making process.

Committee members also grew their skills in navigating and understanding the grant-making process.



Staci Hanashiro



Charlene Hoe



Adriel Lam



Kihei Nahale-a



Kehaulani Padilla



'Atalina Pasi



Shaun Wilcox



Makana Wilhelm

Growing and supporting community-based leadership

Goals

There were three initial goals of the Pilina Fund:

- Respond to COVID-19 crises via Ko'olau-based organizations
- Improve the well-being of Ko'olau residents via funds to direct service organizations;
- Build capacity in individuals and organizations to manage resources and deploy effective projects that improve community well-being; and
- Draw more and better resources into Ko'olau communities to increase quality and quantity of services, thereby improving overall well-being.

Strategies

These goals are achieved through the following strategies:

- Mentor applicant organizations to build capacity to receive and deploy funds;
- Build capacity of Committee members to lead their organizations; and
- Provide grants to respond to pandemic-related needs.

Parameters for funding

The Committee went through an extensive process in April 2021 to determine the values, priorities, and parameters of the fund. These parameters are used by the Committee to help community groups to design projects, guide conversations in Committee, and ultimately make funding decisions.

In addition to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, all grantee projects align with the parameters of the Pilina Fund as determined by the Committee.



*Kūpuna gardening program,
Mālama Nā Kūpuna o Waimānalo*

Values of the Pilina Fund

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 funding is reaching projects that best represent the purposes of this fund.

Pilina: We believe in the Pilina Fund going beyond alleviating immediate needs from COVID-19 to building long-term community well-being. We hope to invest in pilina or building the relationships among community members to ensure longer term resiliency.

Ola Ka 'Āina, Ola Ke Kānaka: 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 specific to the unique needs of our Ko'olau communities. We want to support projects that understand the unique needs of our neighbors and find creative solutions to meet these needs.



Priorities of the Pilina Fund



Family Strengthening

‘Āina, farming and food security

Health and health care



Education and learning

Other Parameters



Community exercise program

Kinai 'Eha & Kawaioloa Youth and Family Wellness Center

Must respond to the COVID-19 crisis

Requests should be between \$5,000 and \$15,000

Projects must be sponsored by an organization with IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt status

Projects may not duplicate Castle Foundation grant making in the region in education, career readiness, fostering 'āina mindsets, and evictions prevention

Impact of the Pilina Fund

As of May 1, 2022 and after 12 cycles of reviewing proposals, a total of 64 projects have received \$641,270 from the Fund. These projects represent 47 distinct organizations or grassroots groups across the region.



*Fitness program
Nurture Cultivate, Inc.*

\$641,270 across 64 projects

Funding by Priority Area

Figure 2 shows the distribution of awards across the four priority areas.

Many projects crossed more than one priority area, and some even addressed all 4 priority areas.

Education and learning received the highest share of total awards, and health and health care received the lowest share of total awards.

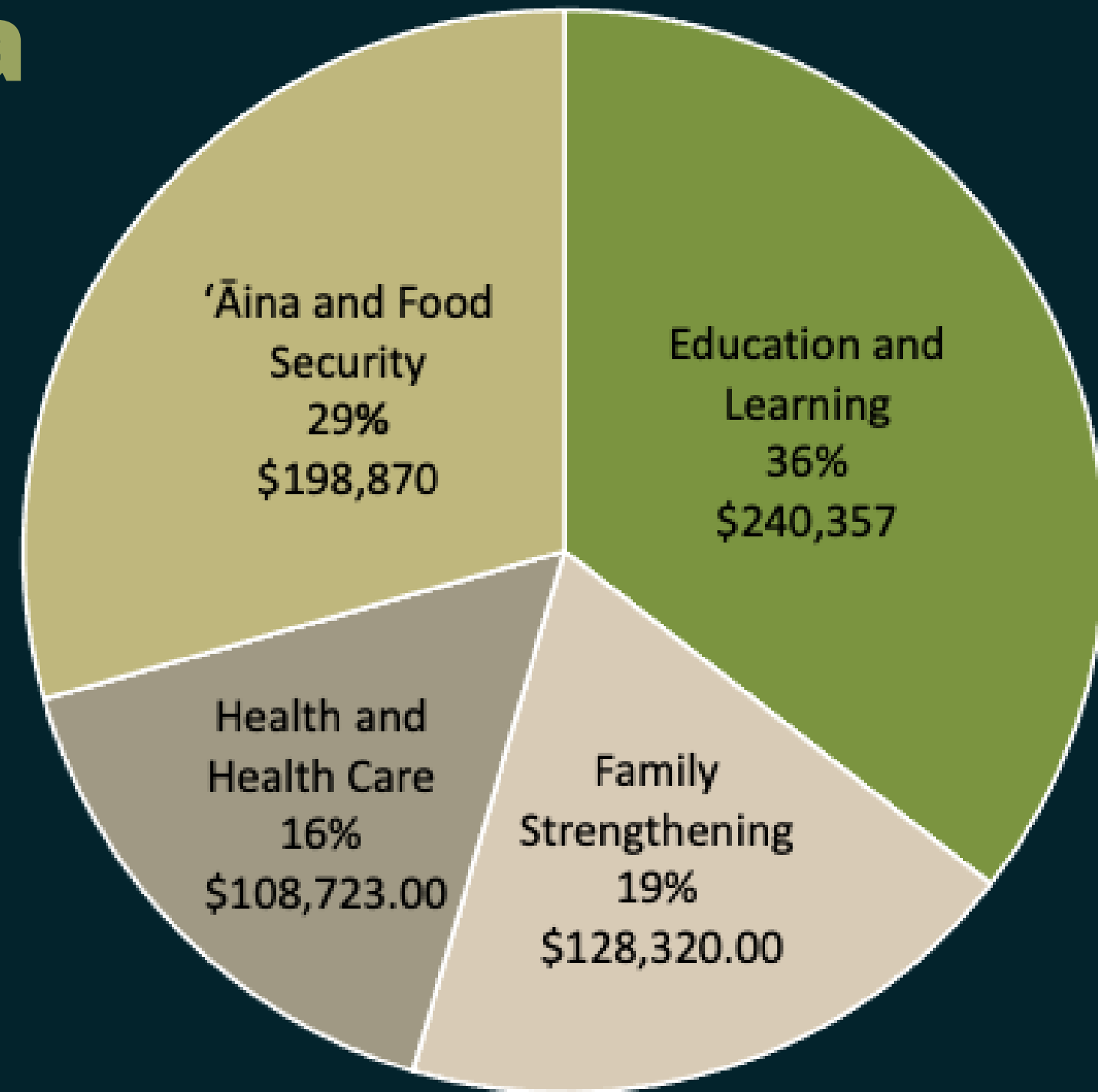


Figure 1. Funding by Priority Area
(Pilina Fund, May 2021 to April 2022)

Funding by Geography

Figure 2 shows the distribution of funds by geographic. Ko'olauloa received the largest share of funds (29 percent) followed by Waimānalo (24 percent) and Kailua (18 percent).

Approximately 10 percent of projects supported the entire Ko'olau region.

The smallest geographic areas in terms of population--Waiāhole and Kahana--received relatively small portions of the overall fund.

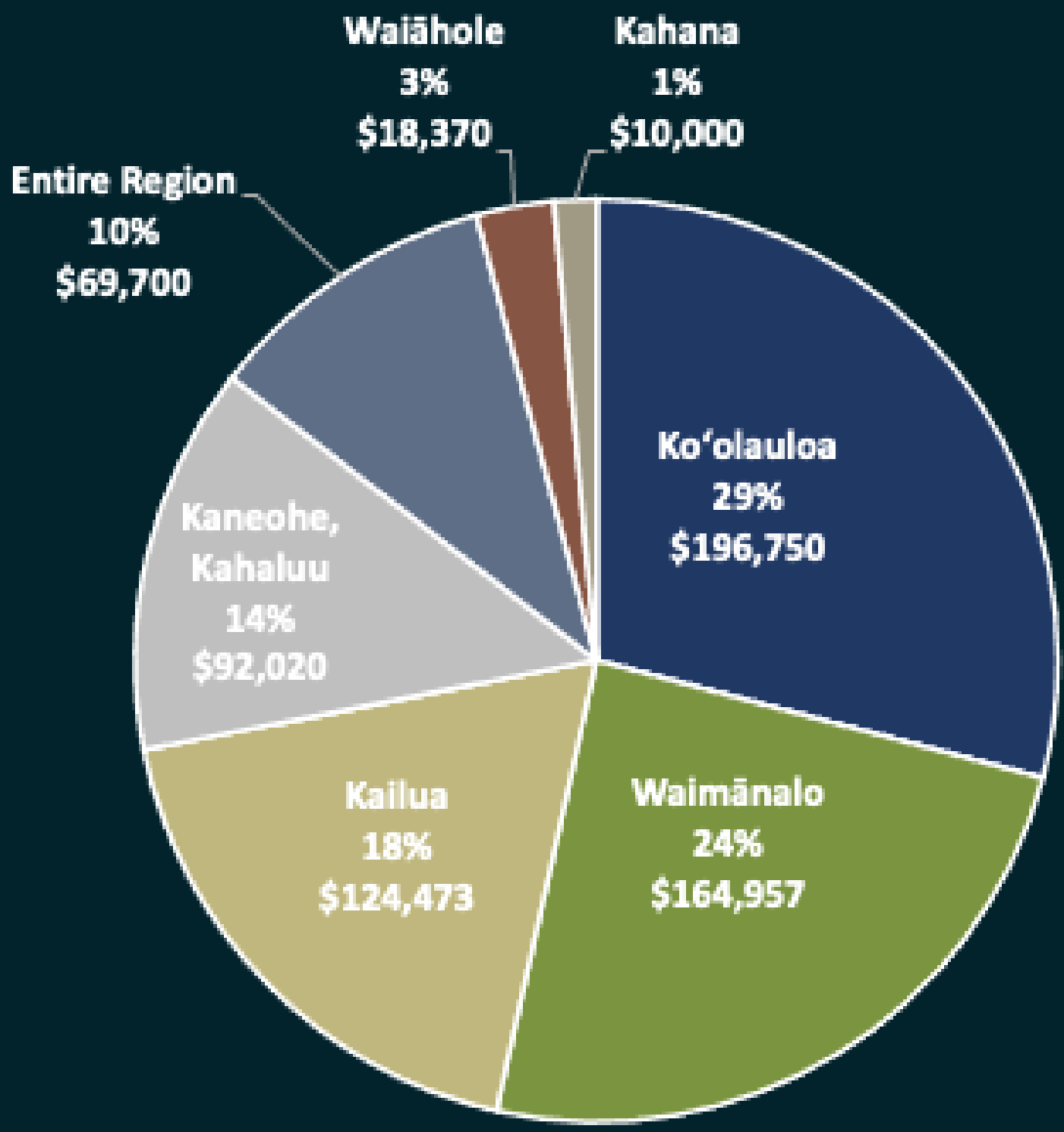
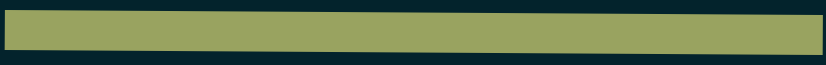


Figure 2. Funding by Geographic Area (Pilina Fund, May 2021 to April 2022)



Direct versus Indirect COVID Response

Figure 3 shows a breakdown of funding used to respond directly to COVID related issues, projects that used funds to adapt to COVID challenges, and funds used to build lasting infrastructure for a more resilient Ko'olau in the future. The Tiers are explained below:

Tier 1: Primary responses to health, education, food, and economic crises created by the pandemic

Tier 2: Secondary responses to social effects of COVID including decreased physical and mental health, social isolation, and family engagement

Tier 3: Tertiary pilina building responses including community activities, long-term infrastructure development, and 'āina/cultural practice

Note: no tier is more desirable than another and collectively the tiers represent a fuller understanding of pilina.

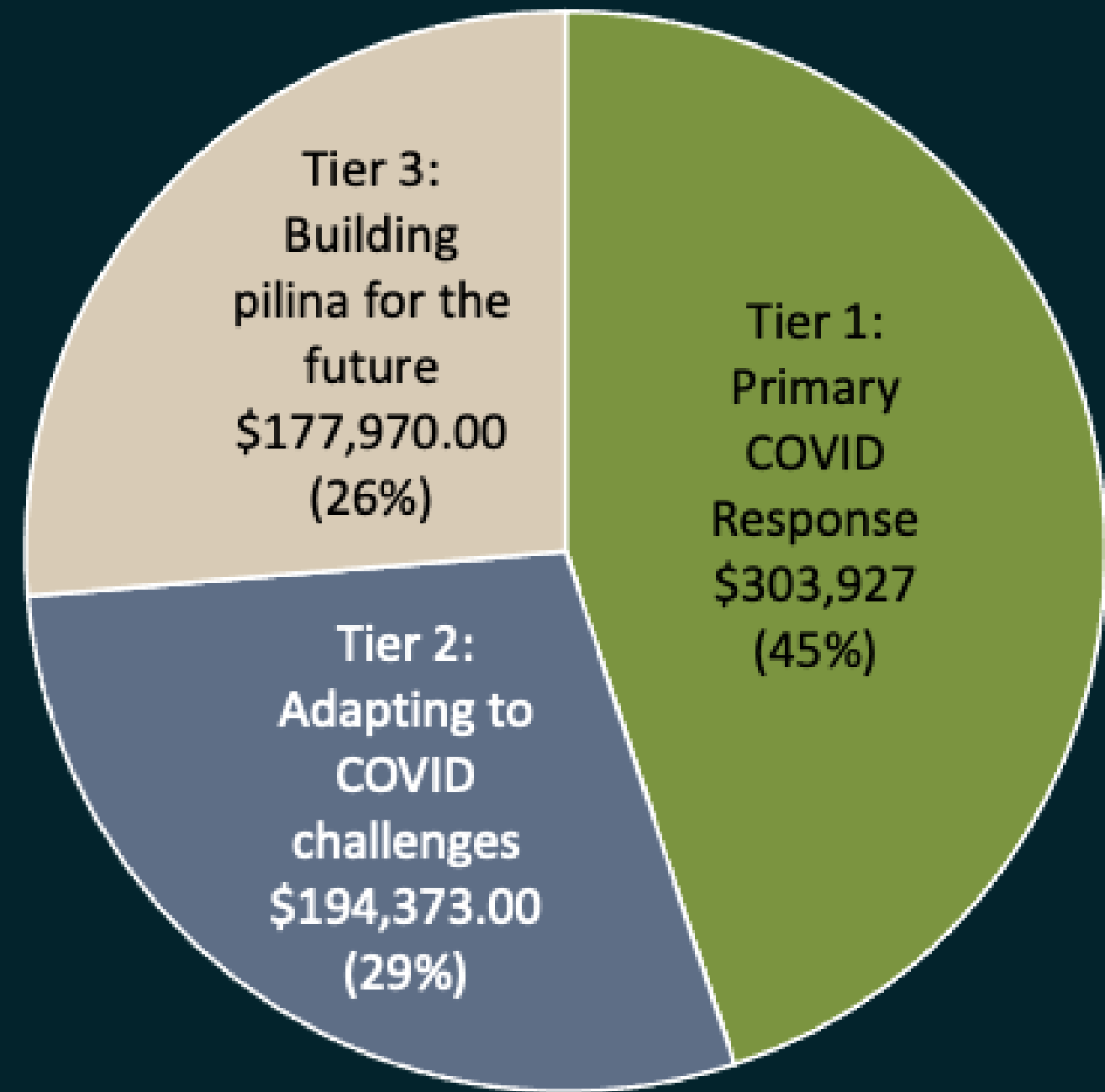


Figure 3. Funding by COVID response category (Pilina Fund, May 2021 to April 2022)

Organizations receiving awards

'Aikahi Elementary

Acts of Random Kindness

After School All Stars

Aloha Harvest

Azariah May Academy

Bright Beginning Preschool

Castle High School

COVID Pau

Epic Training808

Food Bank of Hawai'i

Hakipu'u Academy

Hui Kōkua Waiāhole

Hui Mahi'ai 'Āina

Hui Mālama o Ke Kai

Hui Maui Ola

Hui o Hau'ula

Kahana 'Āina Momona

Kahuku Elementary School

Kahumana Youth Services

Kailua Elementary School

Kailua High Immersion Program

Kainalu Elementary School

Ke 'Ike Mau Loa o Ke Kai Hohonu

Ke Kula Nui o Waimānalo

Kinai 'Eha

Ko'olau Foundation

Ko'olauloa Community Health
Center

Ko'olauloa Hawaiian Civic Club

Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

Kupa 'Āina Farm

Lāhui Foundation

Mālama Football Club

Mālama Nā Kūpuna o Ko'olau

North Shore Basketball Club

Nurture Cultivate

O Wai 'Oe Nāpu'umalei

Olomana School

Our Kūpuna

Papahana Aloha 'Āina Hawai'i

Pop Up Sustainability Labs

RYSE

Waimānalo Health Center

Waimānalo Homestead Association

Waimānalo Elementary and
Intermediate School

Windward Zero Waste School Hui

Projects not funded

'A total of 23 projects did not receive an award from the Pilina Fund and represented the priorities as follows:

- 9 focused on education and learning
- 8 focused on family strengthening
- 3 focused on health or health care
- 3 focused on 'āina and food security

The following reasons constitute some of the reasons 23 projects did not receive awards:

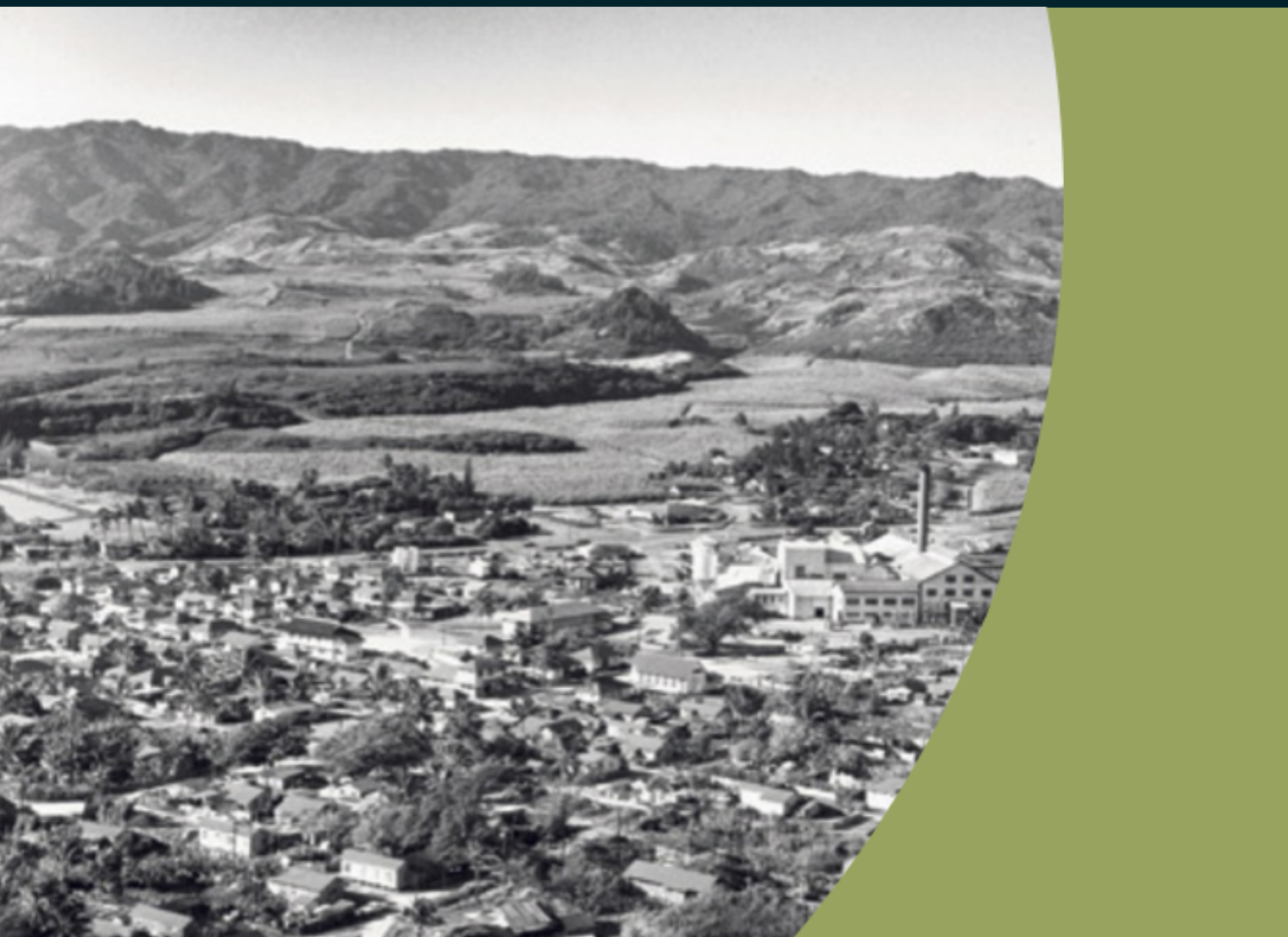
- Given the on-going pandemic, the timing for the project seemed off to Committee members. Some of these issues included an inadequate COVID-19 safety explanation, projects that potentially were better started after the community was safer, and some projects did not justify how the work constituted a COVID-19 response
- A total of 5 projects were related to facilities development, which may not have been a sufficient enough COVID-19 response or given the small size of the awards, enough to contribute to an expensive facility
- A handful of projects did not show how they served residents of Ko'olau or did not show how the projects were specific to the needs of Ko'olau

Impact to Individuals

In April 2022, 26 out of 45 organizations (58 percent) responded to a survey about the progress of their work. These organizations served over 6,200 individuals in Ko'olau. Due to the fact that not all projects had started, the numbers served and impact will increase over time.

6,200+ individuals
served across 26
projects

Individuals Served by Age



Project Participants

Count

Adults, ages 19+

3,474

Teenagers, ages 12-18

736

Children under age 11

2,056

Total

6,266

Impact to Individuals

The qualitative information from the survey showed that pilina was built among children, teachers, parents, kūpuna, 'āina-based learning staff, and cultural practitioners across Ko'olau. Impact was explained in many ways; here are a few examples of the impact to individuals:

- **Youth mental health support:** "In just a few short weeks, Keoki has grown into an exemplary young man both on and off the field."
- **Fresh produce for Ko'olau residents:** "One of our goals is to feed the community these fresh foods, and your program helped us to accomplish this."
- **Mitigating learning loss:** "Our students have made significant gains, some even gaining a grade level's worth of growth in reading in just 3 quarters of school."
- **Engagement through 'āina:** "Teachers and staff who went on the field trip to Moku o Lo'e has inspired them to find ways to make learning come to life for their students."
- **Healthy families:** "One father plans to grow microgreens for supplemental income so he doesn't have to work weekends and can spend more time with his family. The family used to eat at McDonalds several times a week and have reduced that greatly. They feel they have been sick less since the project started."
- **Regionally appropriate public health response:** "When we showed up with culturally appropriate testing and vaccine events that were engaging, people showed up by the hundreds. It was critical to meet people where they were at and make sure we left no stone unturned and no one fell through the cracks."

Education and Learning

There were 26 awards (36 percent) in the Education and Learning priority for a total of \$240,357 for Ko'olau projects.

10 awards supported after school or weekend programs
12 awards supported in-school projects or programs
3 awards supported summer programs
There was one research project

9 projects focused on academic skills
8 projects used 'āina or kai as a tool for learning
4 projects focused on health and physical health
One award was used to purchase computers

"Pilina Fund has helped develop our organization beyond enrichment and sports programming"

"Our program provided an option to have phonics lessons virtually so kids are not missing out"

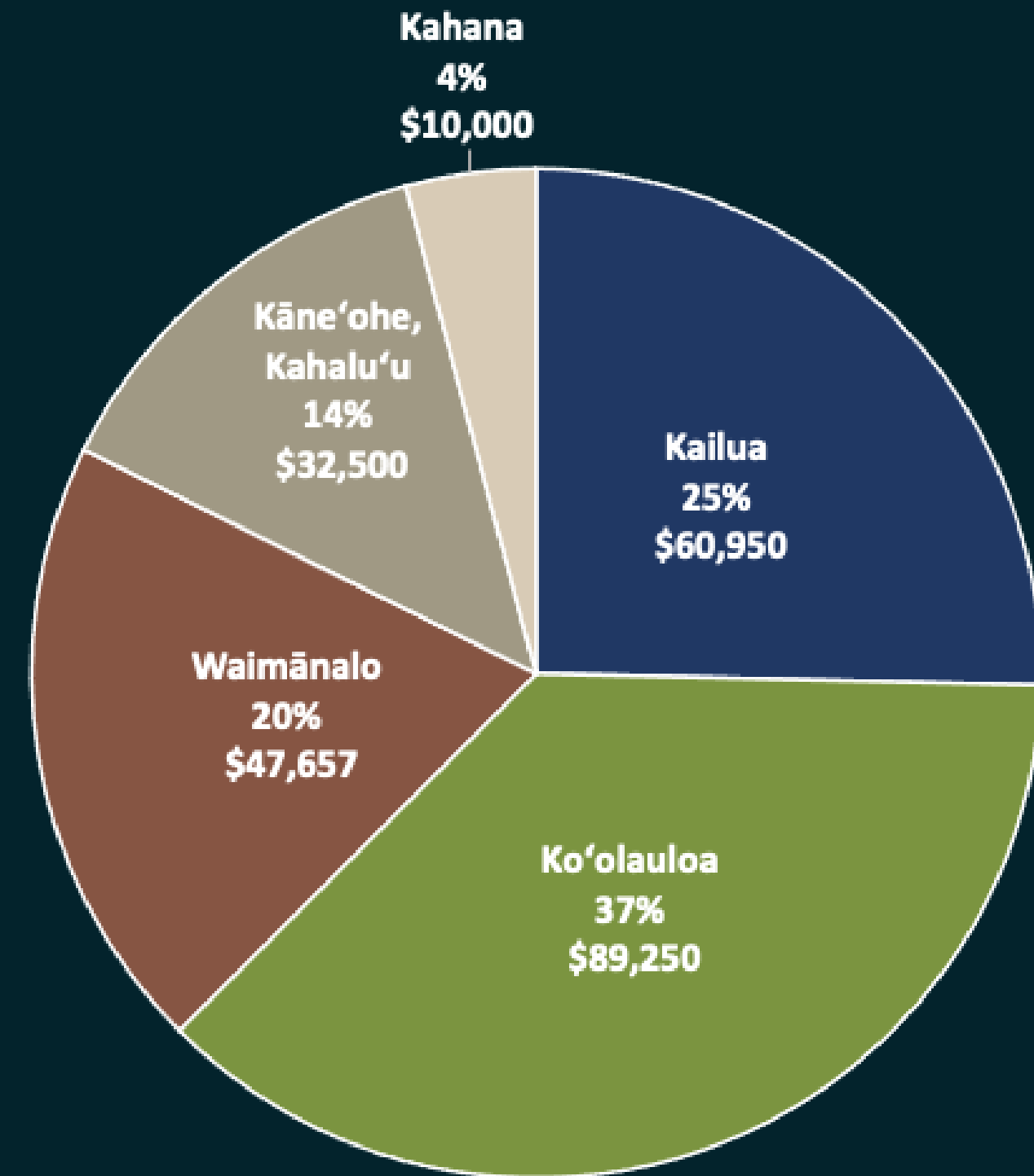


Figure 4. Funding by geography for Education and Learning priority
(Pilina Fund, May 2021 to April 2022)

'Āina, Farming, and Food Security

There were 16 awards (31 percent) in the 'Āina, Farming, and Food Security priority for a total of \$198,870 for Ko'olau projects.

- 6 projects focused on aloha and mālama 'āina work
- 5 projects helped Ko'olau residents learn how to grow food
- 3 projects served emergency food distribution needs
- One project supported food waste issues
- One projected created a farmer's market

"More people are now getting back to the 'āina and growing kalo. Others not signed up with the project are hearing of the excitement and want to join. This project has helped 25 families become closer in the community, helping other families and creating a stronger bond by meeting and working together."

"With the young ones at this site, they described learning about and growing a connection to a sacred space in the community where they live-- a bond to this place and a sense of kuleana and belonging to 'āina and each other."

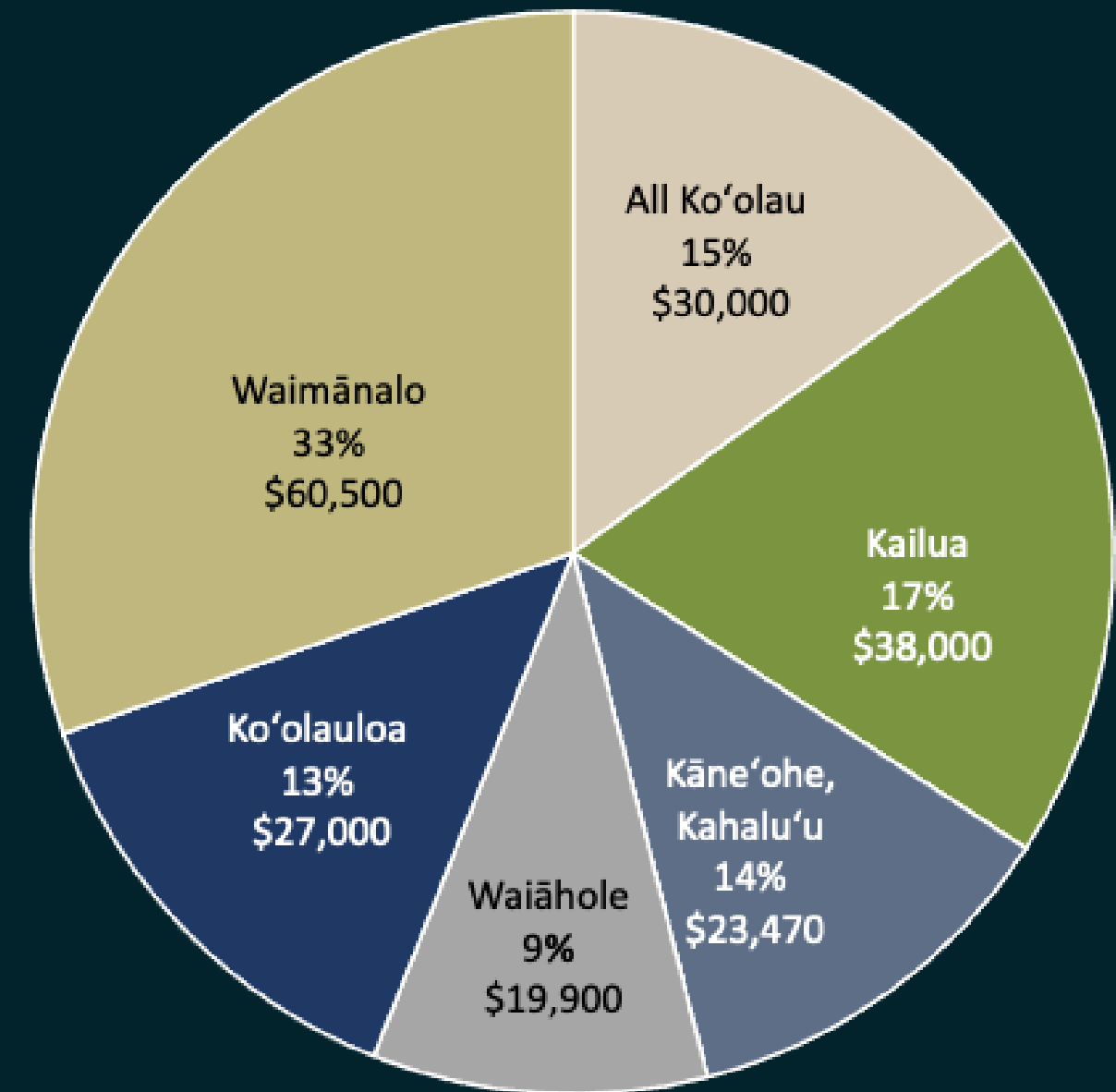


Figure 5. Funding by geography for 'Āina, Farming, and Food Security (Pilina Fund, May 2021 to April 2022)

Family Strengthening

There were 11 awards (19 percent) for \$128,320 worth of Family Strengthening projects in Ko'olau.

3 projects focused on supporting kūpuna through visitation

2 projects supported families in quarantine

One award will support a community-wide event when it is safer to gather

One award focused on supporting houseless individuals

One award provided art therapy to survivors of domestic violence

"I think a lot of the experience we provide is a safe space for wahine to checkout and refuel. The pandemic is taking a toll on them. A lot felt alone. Our program allowed them to see that they are not alone."

"The Kupuna we visited were excited for the visit. They enjoyed the mele and the mo'olelo. We talked about the impacts from the pandemic and they were thankful for the makana and visit."

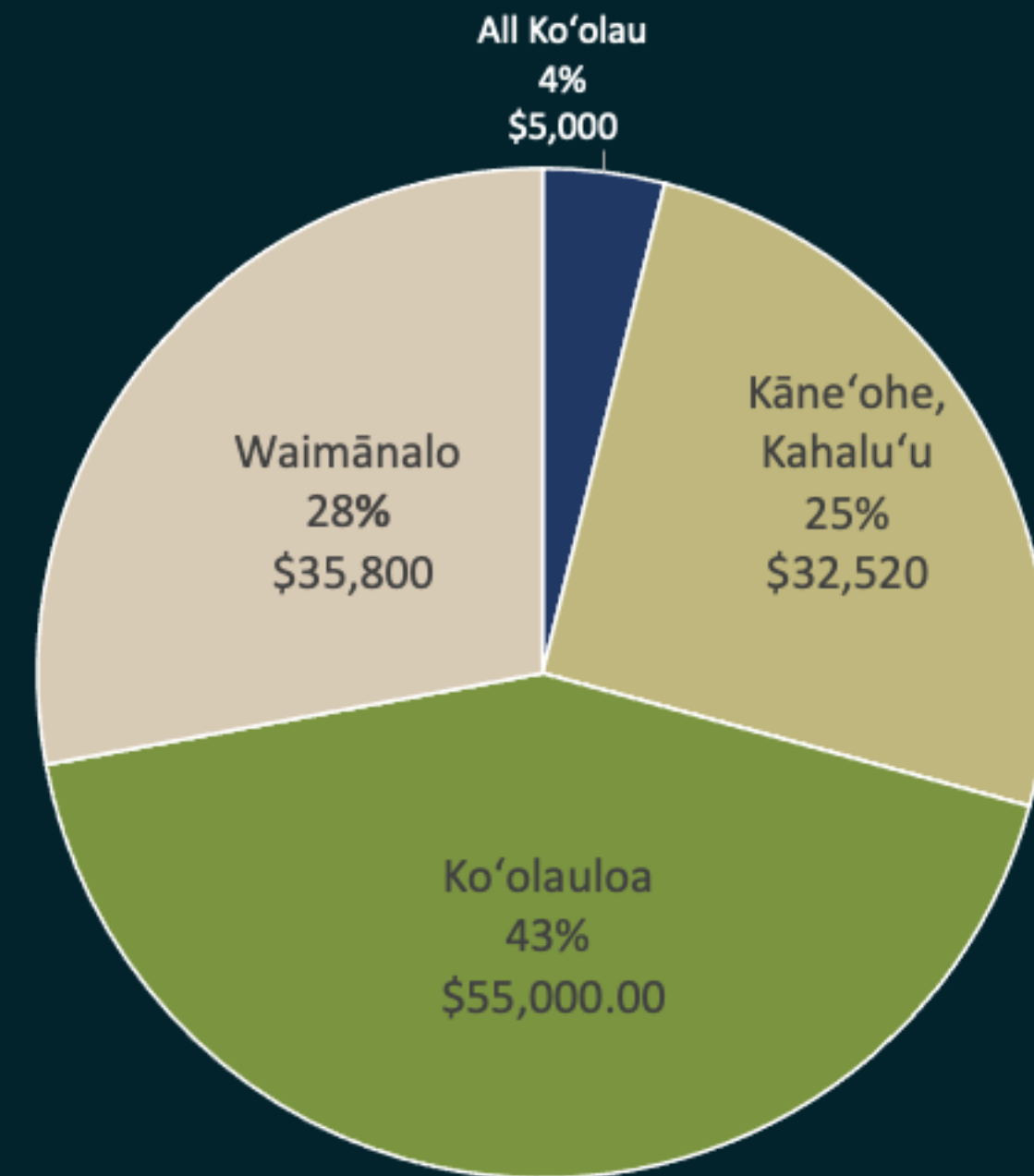


Figure 6. Funding by geography for Family Strengthening (Pilina Fund, May 2021 to April 2022)

Health and Health Care

There were 11 awards (16 percent) for \$108,723 worth of Health and Health Care projects in Ko'olau.

- 5 projects focused on fitness
- 3 projects delivered PPE or supported testing and vaccination
- 2 projects provided lomilomi services
- One projects expanded telehealth through community health workers

"There isn't anything like this on our side of the island. I have been dealing with so much things lately--I look forward to this program."

"Many mentioned that their stress levels were high during this time of COVID. They felt that getting the lomilomi work helped them to decompress."

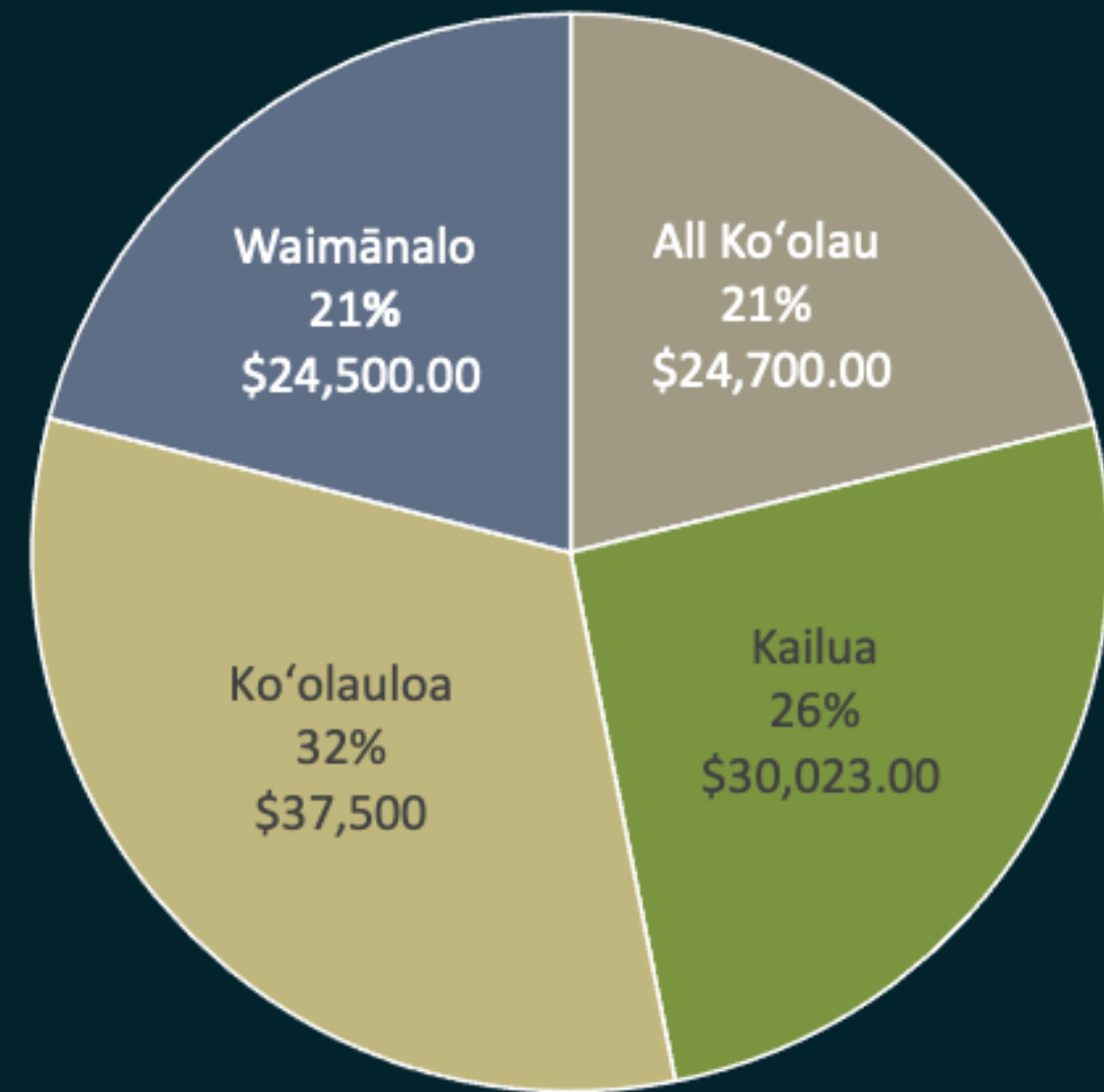


Figure 7. Funding by geography for Health and Health Care
(Pilina Fund, May 2021 to April 2022)

Impact to Relationships

The primary purpose of the Pilina Fund is to build resilience through strong relationships. These relationships will serve as the foundation for thriving communities and act as a buffer against future emergencies.

The information on the impact to pilina that is included in this report was gathered from:

- Participants in the original **2020 focus groups** that generated the initial idea for the fund
- **A design team** who helped give the fund its initial shape
- **Committee members** who implemented and guided the fund
- **Facilitators** who supported design and implementation
- **Funders** who provided the resources to create and sustain the fund

Impact to Relationships

Community engagement: Programs increased their volunteer base and network

Efficacy: People felt good and that they were making a difference

Community pride: Projects increased resources, spread goodwill, and helped people feel proud of themselves and their neighbors

Networks and Cohesion: Many, many new relationships were cultivated between project participants, programs, volunteers, organizations, and service providers

Empathy and Access to services: Families knew workers had empathy for them and trusted their advice to seek out other services and resources in Ko'olau

Identifying systemic inefficiencies: Programs became connected to the root cause of problems and with this understanding can design more effective systemic interventions

Impact to Relationships - 2

Economic development: Programs hired from within the community providing much needed work and income in the region

Organizational resilience: Organizations learned to pivot and change quickly and that this ability to adapt will be useful throughout the future

Specificity with problem solving: All projects were tailored to the needs of Ko'olau communities and residents

Connection not competition: Committee members were able to build relationships with each other and grantees in a non-competitive environment that helped increase connections

Value for equity improved empathy: Committee members believe that the value for Pono or balance/equity throughout the region helped them build empathy for unfamiliar programs

Impact to Organizations

Organizational capacity was built in the following ways:

- At least 5 grassroots organizations new to the grants process received awards
- Committee members became more familiar with grant making and will continue to share this with their own organizations
- One organization received 501(c)(3) status as a result of its award and will serve as an anchor for community projects in an underserved area
- Organizations learned to pivot and adapt quickly to changing conditions thereby building more resilient organizations

Capacity building was an important component of the Pilina Fund. Though the team was unable to implement workshops or trainings originally planned for, capacity building occurred organically. In the future a slower grant cycle or additional resources could make capacity building more realistic.



THE BEACH AT THE KAWAHAU VILLAGE BEHIND NEAR MAKAPU POINT OAHU.

Pilina Fund Design



The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation engaged with 'A'ali'i Alliance to help onboard the Pilina Fund Committee and design the processes for the fund.

During four virtual meetings, the Committee designed the parameters of the fund, the Request for Proposals, processes for receiving proposals, and process for making decisions.

The Committee used a consensus based decision making model. After a few months of building trust, the Committee's decision making practices matured and the process moved smoothly and quickly over the 12 months.

Important Design Considerations



Committee members and facilitators believed the following characteristics contributed to the success of the Pilina Fund:

A diverse committee made of community members

A process that emphasizes learning for all involved, including decision makers and funders

Structured and unstructured ways for sharing knowledge by committee members, RFP respondents, and funders

Interactions grounded in aloha and aloha for the people and places of Ko'olau

Improvements to Pilina Fund



The following are ideas for improving Pilina Fund in the future:

- Provide opportunities for grantees and Ko'olau organizations to:
 - Cross pollinate ideas & partner
 - Strategize on emerging issues in communities
- Share information on each grantee and project on a website
- Ensure Ko'olau organizations can provide fiscal sponsorship to small organizations
- Ensure facilitation of the fund preferences community-based decision making and still maintains momentum to distribute resources
- Shift from COVID response to community priorities
- Create opportunities for smaller grants with a simplified process
- More capacity building for committee members, potential grantees, and the community at-large

Reflections from the Funders

- Funding is difficult, and yet community leaders are fully capable of executing a successful process
- Community takes grantmaking very seriously
- Community hubs to get funding to ground are critical (Hui o Hauula, KEY, Ke Kula Nui o Waiamanalo)
- An open competition for committee seats is the most equitable approach to forming the committee (as opposed to hand-picking from who we know)
- A diverse-as-possible committee and a consensus-based process is combination that is inherently robust that leads to quality decisions
- We were probably at least as lucky as we were strategic in the successes we saw in terms of committee dynamics
- 5 new community groups and the birth of one new non-profit tells us that this was a worthwhile community capacity-building effort

Contact Info

Eric Co

eco@castlefoundation.org

Robert Medeiros

romedeir@ksbe.edu

Summer Keli'ipio

808-722-7872

summer@aaliialliance.com

Kanoe Enos

808-779-5495

kanoe@aaliialliance.com

***Mahalo nui to all
involved***

Pilina Fund Logic Model

