

Kaiali'i Kahele - *Chairperson*
Keoni Souza - *Vice Chairperson*
Dan Ahuna - *Trustee, Kaua'i & Ni'ihau*
Kaleihikina Akaka - *Trustee, O'ahu*
Keli'i Akina, Ph.D. - *Trustee, At-Large*
Luana Alapa - *Trustee, Moloka'i & Lāna'i*
Brickwood Galuteria - *Trustee, At-Large*
Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey - *Trustee, Maui*
John D. Waihe'e IV - *Trustee, At-Large*



Phone: (808) 594-1888
Fax: (808) 594-1868

OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
KE'ENA KULEANA HAWAI'I
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96817

O'AHU ISLAND COMMUNITY MEETING

DATE: Monday, October 12, 2026

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC)

Dining Room

86-260 Farrington Hwy.

Wai'anae, HI. 96792

And Remote Meeting via Interactive Conference Technology

Viewable at www.oha.org/livestream and 'Ōlelo Community

Media Channel 53 <https://olelo.org/tune-in/channels/>

This meeting will be held virtually and may be viewed live via OHA's website at www.oha.org/livestream or listened to by phone by dialing (213) 338-8477 and entering Webinar ID: 993 3011 3291. A physical meeting location will be open to the public for those who wish to provide oral testimony or observe the meeting in person at: 86-260 Farrington Hwy. Wai'anae, HI. 96792

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Introductions

III. Approval of Minutes

A. May 28, 2026

IV. Status of OHA Activities and O'ahu Island Updates

V. Community Presentation

A. Honoring the Contributions of Thomas "Kamaki" Awa Kanahele III and Dr. Agnes Kalaniho'okaha Cope (Aunty Aggie Cope)

B. Government Officials Update

C. Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center - Rich Bettini (CEO)

D. Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center - Dr. Agnes Kalaniho'okaha Cope Center for Traditional Native Hawaiian Healing - Aunty Nalani Benioni (Healing Center Administrator) & Kaliko Chang (Director)

E. Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center - Ian Ross (Public Affairs Director)

- F. ‘Elepaio Social Services - Alicia Higa (Executive Director), Jesse Mikasobe-Keali'inohomoku (Indigenous Food Systems Manager), and Johnal “Nani” Estevez (Food Distribution & Pantry Manager)
- G. Nā Kama Kai - Duane DeSoto (CEO)
- H. MA‘O Organic Farm - Kau‘ilani Arce (Project Manager)
- I. Windward Community College – Ardis Eschenberg, PhD (Chancellor)

VI. Community Concerns and Celebrations

VII. Announcements

VIII. Adjournment

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, please contact Keola Fong at (808) 626-5484 or by email at keolaf@oha.org as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled. Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats.

In the event that the livestream public broadcast is interrupted and cannot be restored, the meeting may continue as audio-only through the phone number and Webinar ID provided at the beginning of this agenda. Meeting recordings will be made available on OHA’s website <https://www.oha.org/about/leadership/board-of-trustees/> as soon as practicable after the meeting.

Public Testimony will be called for each agenda item and must be limited to matters listed on the meeting agenda. Community Concerns and Celebrations is not limited to matters listed on the meeting agenda. Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, Chapter 92, prohibits Board members from discussing or taking action on matters not listed on the meeting agenda. The board packet will be available for the public to inspect at OHA’s main office located at 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96817, no later than three full business days before the meeting. The board packet will also be made available on OHA’s website, <https://www.oha.org/bot> as soon as practicable thereafter.

Testimony can be provided to the Board of Trustees either as: (1) written testimony or (2) live, oral testimony online, by telephone or at the physical meeting location during the remote meeting.

- (1) Persons wishing to provide written testimony on items listed on the agenda should submit testimony via email to botmeetings@oha.org or via postal mail to Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Attn: Board of Trustees Meeting Testimony, 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96817. Testimony is requested to be received at least twenty-four hours prior to the scheduled meeting to allow board members with sufficient time to review the testimony before the meeting. All written testimony will be posted on OHA’s meeting website. Please omit or redact any personal information (e.g., name, email address, phone number, home address, or materials) that you do not want to be disclosed publicly online.
- (2) Persons wishing to provide oral testimony online during the remote meeting, please click on the link: <https://zoom.us/j/99330113291>

To provide oral testimony online, you will need:

- 1. a computer or mobile device to connect to the remote meeting, internet access, and
- 2. a microphone to provide oral testimony.

Persons wishing to provide oral testimony by telephone during the remote meeting may dial the phone number listed at the beginning of this agenda and enter the corresponding Webinar ID. Telephone participants will be able to provide oral testimony during the meeting.

Persons wishing to provide oral testimony at the physical meeting location can sign up the day of the meeting at the physical meeting location.

If you willfully disrupt the meeting, support staff will remove you from the Zoom meeting. You can continue to view the remainder of the meeting on the livestream or by telephone, as provided at the beginning of this agenda.

Oral testimony online, by telephone or at a physical meeting location will be limited to five (5) minutes.



Trustee Kaiali‘i Kahele
Chairperson, Board of Trustee

10/6/2026
Date



IV. Approval of Minutes

A. May 28, 2026

DRAFT

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
560 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE 200
(In-Person Meeting)

The OHA Board of Trustees meeting can be viewed and observed via livestream on OHA's website at www.oha.org/livestream or listened by phone: (213) 338-8477.

**A physical meeting location open to the general public will be available at the
Nā Lama Kukui 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Honolulu, HI. 96817**

**This meeting can be viewed at:
Video:**

**Minutes of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MINUTES
May 28, 2026
8:30 a.m.**

ATTENDANCE:

Chairperson Kaiali'i Kahele
Vice Chair Keoni Souza
Chair Emerita Lindsey
Trustee Dan Ahuna
Trustee Luana Alapa
Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka
Trustee Keli'i Akina
Trustee Brickwood Galuteria
Trustee John Waihe'e IV.

BOT STAFF:

Aleena Auyoung, Interim COS
Lehua Itokazu, Board Secretary
Pamela Knapp, Trustee Aide
Momi Ka'aihue, Trustee Secretary
Pohailani Kealoha, Trustee Aide
Kanani Iaea, Trustee Aide
Remy Keliiahoomalu, Trustee Aide
Pohai Ryan, Trustee Aide
Mark Watanabe, Trustee Aide

ADMINISTRATION:

K.Sean Kekina, COO
Everett Ohta, General Counsel
Kaponi Kiakona, Counsel
Ryan Lee, Director of Investment
Bill Brennan, Director of Communications
Poni Askew, Director of Economic & Business Resilience
Kuike Kamakea-Ohelo, Director of 'Ōiwi Well-Being & 'Āina Momona
Kuuleianuhe Awo-Chun, Director of Education & Culture Based Learning
Grace Chen, Budget Chief
Arlene Aguinaldo, Systems Engineer Administrator

GUEST:

Call to Order (0:09 | 8:36 am)

Chair Kaiali'i Kahele Calls the Board of Trustees Meeting to order for Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 8:36 a.m. Board Secretary, please do a roll call.

MEMBERS			Present	Notes
TRUSTEE	DAN	AHUNA	X	
TRUSTEE	KALEI	AKAKA	X	
TRUSTEE	KELI'I	AKINA	X	
TRUSTEE	LUANA	ALAPA	X	
TRUSTEE	BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA	X	
TRUSTEE	CARMEN "HULU"	LINDSEY		Joins meeting at
TRUSTEE	KEONI	SOUZA	X	
TRUSTEE	JOHN	WAIHE'E		Joins meeting at 8:40 am
CHAIRPERSON	KAIALI'I	KAHELE	X	
			7	

At the Call to Order, **SEVEN (7)** Trustees are PRESENT, thereby constituting a quorum.

Chair Kahele summarized. Welcomes the Board to today's meeting and states that this meeting can be viewed on OHAs livestream at oha.org/livestream and also on 'Ōlelo TV. He welcomes the COO to the table for introductions.

K.Sean Kekina, COO Introduces administration staff present at the meeting.

(2:15 | 8:39 am)

Approval of Minutes

A. May 14, 2026 Site Visit Summary – Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF/ Barking Sands)

Trustee Akina moves to approve the May 14, 2026 summary minutes to be approved.

Motion made at 8:39 am By Trustee Akina						
Approval of the May 14, 2026 Site Visit Summary – Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF/ Barking Sands) Summary Minutes						
8:40 am Vote Taken	1	2	'AE	A'OLE	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
TRUSTEE DAN AHUNA			X			
TRUSTEE KALEI AKAKA			X			
TRUSTEE KELI'I AKINA	X		X			
TRUSTEE LUANA ALAPA			X			
TRUSTEE BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			

TRUSTEE CARMEN HULU LINDSEY						
TRUSTEE KEONI SOUZA			X			
TRUSTEE JOHN WAIHE'E						
CHAIRPERSON KAI KAHELE			X			
			7			
MOTION: ☐ UNANIMOUS ☒ PASSED ☐ DEFERRED ☐ FAILED Motion passes with a SEVEN (7) Yes votes, XXX NO votes () and XXX () Abstention						

(3:06 | 8:40 am)

New Business

A. Alaka'i Awards Recipients 2026 (January – March, 2026)

Chair Kahele announces that the first item on the agenda, the Alaka'i Awards will be deferred to a the next Board meeting.

Chair also announces item F. on the agenda will be taken out of order due to time restraints. There is unanimous consent and the Board moves to agenda item F. Once item F is ratified the board will resume the order of the agenda.

(4:21 | 8:42 am)

F. Request for approval to waive Action Item BOT #26-06: Approval of the use of up to \$250,000 to fund a statewide, primetime-broadcast Primary Debate on July 20, 2026, for Hawai'i's First Congressional District race, and up to three (3) live-broadcast OHA Board of Trustees candidate General Election Forums for the O'ahu, Maui, and At-Large races in October 2026, from the Committee on Budget and Finance to the Board of Trustees, pursuant to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees Bylaws (September 4, 2025), Article VIII, Section M.

Chair Kahele reads the following:

Motion to request for approval to waive Action Item BOT #26-06.

Discussion:

Trustee Alapa I would like to know why we are entertaining a primary debate with the congressional districts when I believe we should focus on our own Trustees?

Chair Kahele Great question and we can talk about that once we vote on the waiver and bring it to the table for discussion.

Trustee Akaka reiterates her comment from previous meetings in terms of the use of the word debate versus a forum where oftentimes where it's if it's if it's a debate it's often where it's pitting one candidate against the other or more whereas it should be an opportunity for candidates to be able to share their platform and some of what they would like to do in office.

Motion made at 8:42 am by Chair Kahele						
Motion to request for approval to waive Action Item BOT #26-06.						
8:43 am Vote Taken	1	2	‘AE	A‘OLE	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
TRUSTEE DAN AHUNA			X			
TRUSTEE KALEI AKAKA			X			
TRUSTEE KELI‘I AKINA			X			
TRUSTEE LUANA ALAPA			X			
TRUSTEE BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
TRUSTEE CARMEN HULU LINDSEY						
TRUSTEE KEONI SOUZA			X			
TRUSTEE JOHN WAIHE‘E			X			
CHAIRPERSON KAI KAHELE	X		X			
			8			
MOTION: ☐ UNANIMOUS ☒ PASSED ☐ DEFERRED ☐ FAILED						
Motion passes with a EIGHT (8) Yes votes, XXX NO votes () and XXX () Abstention						

(7:02 | 8:43 am)

New Business – Continued

- A. Action Item BOT #26-06: Approval of the use of up to \$250,000 to fund a statewide, primetime-broadcast Primary Debate on July 20, 2026, for Hawai‘i’s First Congressional District race, and up to three (3) live-broadcast OHA Board of Trustees candidate General Election Forums for the O‘ahu, Maui, and At-Large races in October 2026, from the Committee on Budget and Finance to the Board of Trustees, pursuant to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees Bylaws (September 4, 2025), Article VIII, Section M.**

Chair reads the following:

Move to approve Action Item #26-06

(7:20 | 8:44 am)

Testifier

Ohana Unity Party *summarized.* The testifier opposed the proposed \$250,000 expenditure for an OHA candidate forum, stating that the cost was excessive and that less expensive options should be considered. The testifier supported the proposed KIKU-TV acquisition-related expenditure and expressed approval of the remaining agenda items.

Recess taken at 8:47 am

Board resumes at 9:00 am

Chair Kahele *summarized.* Described a proposal for OHA to sponsor and control a live, statewide, prime-time debate for candidates seeking Hawai‘i’s First Congressional District seat. The debate would focus on issues affecting Native Hawaiians, including the Public Land Trust, ceded lands, military leases, astronomy development, housing, incarceration, and federal programs. Hawai‘i News Now and Pelina Productions submitted proposals to produce and broadcast the debate on Monday, July 20, at 6:30 p.m. The proposal also includes candidate forums for OHA races that advance to the general election, including the O‘ahu, Maui, and three at-large seats. The action item requests up to \$250,000, with most of the funding intended for the statewide congressional debate.

Katie Pickman *summarized.* The presenter described a proposal for an OHA-led statewide debate intended to support civic participation and expand public access to discussions affecting Native Hawaiian communities and voters. OHA would select the producer and help determine the format, moderators, and overall vision, while Hawai‘i News Now would provide technical production, statewide distribution, streaming, and promotion. The debate is proposed for July 20 at 6:30 p.m. and would air simultaneously on KGMV, KHNL, K5, Hawai‘iNewsNow.com, and related digital platforms, with encore and on-demand access available afterward. The proposal includes use of Hawai‘i News Now’s studio for an OHA-branded production and statewide promotion across its television, digital, podcast, streaming, and social media platforms. The presenter stated that Hawai‘i News Now’s role would be to make the OHA-led conversation widely accessible and professionally produced.

Trustee Galuteria *summarized.* Requested clarification of the proposal’s advertising terminology, including the differences between a spot, a promotional announcement, and an impression. The explanation was requested to help the Board better understand the proposal and the projected number of audience impressions.

Katie Pickman *summarized.* The presenter explained that a “spot” is a dedicated commercial used to promote an organization or message. A “promo” is a promotional message designed to build interest in an event and encourage viewers to watch, with content tailored for television, digital, and streaming platforms. An “impression” represents one person seeing the promotional message. A single promo may generate many impressions when it airs during a widely viewed program or appears across high-traffic digital platforms.

Trustee Akina *summarized.* Asked how Hawai‘i News Now compares with other media companies in political advertising and campaign viewership. Hawai‘i News Now is Hawai‘i’s largest media company, with five television stations, digital platforms, and a broad social media presence. Approximately 3 million unique monthly visitors to its digital properties and stated that its combined television, digital, and social media reach provides broad access to audiences statewide. Trustee also asked whether competitors reach certain audiences that Hawai‘i News Now may not, and whether Hawai‘i News Now reaches audiences its competitors do not.

Katie Pickman summarized. Stated that Hawai‘i News Now works to reach a broad statewide audience through original programming designed for diverse communities. The presenter highlighted its investment in Native Hawaiian cultural programming, including the Merrie Monarch Festival, Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards, Ke Kula Ho‘okele, and coverage of Hōkūle‘a’s voyage. The presenter also stated that Hawai‘i News Now provides extensive news coverage across KGMB, KHNL, and K5 and does not believe competitors reach any audience more effectively.

Trustee Akina What about your cost? How would you compare cost and value to your competitors?

Katie Pickman summarized. Stated that Hawai‘i News Now tailors proposals to each partner’s goals and intended audience rather than using a fixed pricing approach. The presenter also stated that its proposals are designed to be fair and competitively priced.

Trustee Akaka summarized. Trustee reiterated a preference for a candidate forum rather than a debate, stating that a forum may provide a more welcoming setting for candidates to share their platforms, visions, and reasons for seeking office. Trustee requested additional information on how the proposed event could be structured as a forum.

Katie Pickman summarized. Both forum and debate formats were considered when the proposal was developed. Hawai‘i News Now plans to provide candidates with conversational, forum-style opportunities through programs such as *Spotlight Now*, while the proposed debate would offer the public a different format for comparing candidates and observing how they respond to structured questioning.

Trustee Akaka summarized. Asked how the proposed format would differ if it were limited to OHA candidates or expanded to include candidates for Hawai‘i’s First and Second Congressional Districts or other elected offices.

Katie Pickman summarized. The presenter stated that Hawai‘i News Now would treat the debate as a priority civic program. It would be broadcast simultaneously on KGMB, KHNL, and K5 at 6:30 p.m. following the evening news and would also be streamed online. The presenter stated that this level of distribution is generally reserved for Hawai‘i News Now’s most important programming. All of these conversations are equally important and so if given the opportunity to be able to host more of these, we would absolutely look at being able to utilize the full breath of our tools to be able to showcase them.

Trustee Ahuna clarified that the proposal includes two separate events: a debate for congressional candidates and a nonpartisan forum for OHA candidates.

Chair Kahele summarized. Clarified that OHA would host a Congressional District 1 debate during the primary election. If needed after the primary, OHA would also hold three separate candidate forums in October for the O‘ahu, Maui, and at-large Trustee races before general election ballots are distributed. The forums may use a different venue or media platform, and approval of the action item would allow OHA to begin planning. The congressional debate would focus on Native Hawaiian issues and include questions developed by OHA. Trustees were encouraged to participate in developing questions, pre-production activities, and public promotion of the event.

Bill Brennan, Director of Communications *summarized.* expressed support for OHA sponsoring the Congressional District 1 debate, stating that it would allow OHA to focus the discussion on federal issues affecting Native Hawaiian education, housing, healthcare, and other beneficiary concerns. The speaker also emphasized the importance of OHA Trustee races and shared that the Communications Division is developing candidate questionnaires for publication in *Ka Wai Ola*. The questionnaires will include open-ended and yes-or-no questions addressing candidates' positions on relevant issues. The Communications Division also plans to work with Advocacy on voter registration, voter education, and get-out-the-vote efforts to help beneficiaries make informed voting decisions.

Grace Chen, Budget Chief *summarized.* Funding of up to \$250,000 was identified from projected unspent balances across several FY2026 budget areas. This includes \$100,000 from the Board of Trustees budget, consisting of \$60,000 in travel funds and \$40,000 from the Board office budget; \$30,000 from Advocacy; and additional savings from Compliance and Enforcement, parking, office rent, printer supplies, and Operations. The total projected FY2026 surplus is \$228,500. An additional \$120,000 in FY2027 funding for the delayed SNI data dashboard project was also identified as available. In total, \$348,500 was identified, of which \$250,000 could be allocated to the proposed project.

Trustee Alapa *summarized.* Asks how to educate the public on the importance of voting in OHA elections, which have a high number of blank votes. The discussion sought ways to increase voter awareness, participation, and understanding of the role and responsibilities of OHA Trustees.

Bill Brennan, Director of Communications *summarized.* Shares low participation in OHA elections may be influenced by differing views about whether non-Native Hawaiian voters should participate, as well as limited familiarity with candidates running for island-specific seats. Eligible voters were encouraged to learn about the candidates and cast informed votes because OHA elections affect Native Hawaiian communities and the broader state. Voter education efforts may include candidate forums, *Ka Wai Ola* questionnaires, and public messaging about the importance and responsibilities of OHA Trustee positions. Candidates also share responsibility for informing voters about their qualifications, priorities, and reasons for seeking office.

Trustee Akina Is there someone who can address procurement issues that may be involved here? Is this a single source contract or is this a protocol for procurement that has been looked at with regard to engaging Hawaii News Now?

Chair Kahele Under the state procurement laws, media is an exempt procurement category. So, there is no procurement that applies to media.

Trustee Akaka *summarized.* The proposed partnership with Hawai'i News Now provides an opportunity to share messaging across television, social media, and other platforms about OHA's mission, Strategic Plan, history, and role within county, state, and federal government. Voter education should also include clear instructions on how to properly complete OHA portions of the ballot. This may help reduce overvotes, blank votes, and confusion involving island and at-large races. Clear and accessible guidance could support broader voter understanding and participation in OHA elections.

Bill Brennan, Director of Communications *summarized* Working with Hawai'i News Now could expand the reach of voter education messages through its digital and social media platforms. A ballot explainer was suggested to show voters how to properly complete primary election ballots, including selecting candidates within one political party and voting in OHA races and other ballot questions. Clear instructions could help

prevent spoiled ballots and reduce voter confusion. The information could be shared through a short video, social media, OHA's website, and Ka Wai Ola.

Trustee Galuteria summarized. Clarification was requested on whether the proposed \$250,000 includes a broader get-out-the-vote campaign or is limited to the debates and candidate forums. The discussion also raised the need for targeted outreach to increase voter participation among individuals ages 18 to 29 and whether that effort would require a separate campaign.

Bill Brennan, Director of Communications Comms working with advocacy would make that a separate campaign.

Trustee Waihe'e summarized. Support was expressed for the concept and for the Board's decision if the proposal is approved. Concern was raised about using current-year funds before completing a detailed review of next fiscal year's budget requests and available resources. The proposal was viewed as less essential than other anticipated needs, and unspent funds could otherwise carry over into the next fiscal year. For these reasons, opposition to the expenditure was indicated, while also noting a willingness to support implementation if the Board approves it.

Trustee Akina summarized. Support was expressed for the value of political debates in helping voters understand candidates' positions and responses under pressure. Concern was raised about whether a government agency should sponsor and control political debates rather than an independent media organization or nonprofit. Potential conflicts of interest were identified because incumbent Trustees who may be candidates could participate in decisions regarding the format, agenda, and funding of OHA candidate forums. Concerns were also raised about political partisanship and the appearance of self-dealing in both Trustee and congressional debates. While the debate concept was supported, uncertainty remained about OHA's role as the sponsoring government agency.

Chair Kahele summarized. OHA has previously supported political debates. On July 2, 2018, OHA partnered with Kamehameha Schools to host a statewide debate featuring candidates for Congressional District 2, Governor, and Lieutenant Governor. Trust resources were used in partnership with other organizations, and the event reportedly reached approximately two million viewers statewide while amplifying Native Hawaiian issues and voices. The proposed debate was described as consistent with OHA's past practices.

Trustee Akaka summarized. Clarification was requested on the estimated cost of holding only the OHA candidate forums rather than including the congressional debate. The discussion also sought information on how possible advertising revenue or other offsets could affect the final cost.

Chair Kahele summarized. The cost of OHA candidate forums would depend on whether one or three forums are held and which organization is selected to host them. Funding the forums directly would allow OHA to determine the format, questions, moderators, audience participation, and overall messaging. Partnering with another host may reduce OHA's control over the questions and presentation. The forums were also described as an opportunity to educate the public about OHA's role and responsibilities.

Trustee Akaka summarized. Prioritizing a congressional district debate over OHA candidate forums could create confusion among beneficiaries and Hawai'i voters. If a choice must be made between the two, priority should be given to the OHA races.

Chair Emerita Lindsey suggests that she would like to amend the motion on the table.

(1:33::08 video)

Chair Kahele withdraws his motion and offers a new motion to be considered.

Chair Kahele reads the following:

To Approve Action Item #26-06 as amended, to fund up to \$181,445 to fund a statewide primetime broadcast primary debate on or about July 20, 2026 for Hawaii's First Congressional District race from the Committee on Budget and Finance to the board of trustees pursuant to office of affairs board of Trustees bylaws September 4, 2025 article 8 section M.

More discussions take place.

(1:41:23 video)

Chair Kahele withdraws the current motion on the table and states that they will go back to the original motion.

Chair Kahele reads the following:

To Approve Action Item #26-06 the approval of up to \$250,000 to fund a statewide primetime broadcast primary debate on or about July 20, 2026, for Hawaii's First Congressional District race, and up to three (3) live-broadcast OHA Board of Trustees candidate General Election Forums for the O'ahu, Maui, and At-Large races in October 2026, from the Committee on Budget and Finance to the Board of Trustees, pursuant to the Office of Hawaii affairs board of trustee bylaws September 4th 2025 article 8 section M.

Motion made at 10:18 am by Chair Kahele						
To Approve Action Item #26-06 the approval of up to \$250,000 to fund a statewide primetime broadcast primary debate on or about July 20, 2026, for Hawaii's First Congressional District race, and up to three (3) live-broadcast OHA Board of Trustees candidate General Election Forums for the O'ahu, Maui, and At-Large races in October 2026, from the Committee on Budget and Finance to the Board of Trustees, pursuant to the Office of Hawaii affairs board of trustee bylaws September 4th 2025 article 8 section M.						
10:19 am Vote Taken	1	2	'AE	A'OLE	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
TRUSTEE DAN AHUNA			X			
TRUSTEE KALEI AKAKA			X			
TRUSTEE KELI'I AKINA						
TRUSTEE LUANA ALAPA			X			
TRUSTEE BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			

TRUSTEE CARMEN HULU LINDSEY				X		
TRUSTEE KEONI SOUZA			X			
TRUSTEE JOHN WAIHE'E				X		
CHAIRPERSON KAI KAHELE	X		X			
			6	3		
MOTION: [] UNANIMOUS [X] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED Motion passes with a SIX (6) Yes votes, XXX NO votes () and XXX () Abstention						

(1:47:05 | 10:23 am)

B. Committee on Budget and Finance – May 27, 2026

1. Action Item BF #26-11: Approval of OHA funding for Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui event sponsorship awards for the following organizations and events for Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027, Quarter 1:

- (1) a. 'Imi Ola Canoe Club – Race for Hawai‘i’s Future
- (2) b. 'Kīkaha Foundation – Papa Hula Kāne
- (3) c. Goodwill Industries of Hawaii – Goodwill Goes GLAM!
- (4) d. Youth in Motion – Molokai Holokai Ho‘olaule‘a
- (5) e. Hana Arts – Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui: Hāna Mele & Cultural Gathering 2026
- (6) f. Big Island Substance Abuse Council – 12th Annual Summer Jam
- (7) g. Pu‘uhonua Society – Lā Ho‘iho‘i Ea
- (8) h. Hiki Ola – Ipuāehu and Mele in the Forest
- (9) i. ODKF Support Inc., dba Duke Kahanamoku OceanFest – Duke Kahanamoku OceanFest
- (10) j. Bishop Museum – E Ulu A Pa‘a 2026 Fundraiser Gala
- (11) k. Welo Foundation – Kū I Ka Welo
- (12) l. Ho‘olehua Homesteader's Association – Molokai Paniolo Heritage Festival & Rodeo Round Up
- (13) m. Leadership in Disabilities & Achievement of Hawaii – Hoomalamalama Ohana
- (14) n. Kekelaokalani – Hawai‘i Swim Show
- (15) o. The Lawrence and Hokulani De Rego Foundation – Hula ‘Oni E Hula Festival
- (17) q. Aloha Amplified, Inc. – Lights for Lahaina 2026
- (18) r. Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders Association Inc. Trade Name/ DBA: Aloha Festivals Island of Hawaii – 74th Annual Paniolo Parade Aloha Festivals Island of Hawaii
- (19) s. Maui United Way – Pa‘ūpili Saturday: Ho‘omau - Resilience and Rebuilding
- (20) t. Friends of Amy B.H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden – ‘Ulu Festival
- (21) u. Moanike‘ala Akaka Aloha ‘Āina Education Aha (MA‘AEA) – Aha ‘Ulu: ‘Ike Kūpuna, ‘Ike Honua

Trustee Waihee reads the following:

Your Committee on Budget and Finance, having met on May 27, 2026, and after full and free discussion, recommends approval of the following four (4) actions to the Board of Trustees:

Approve and authorize OHA funding for Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui event sponsorship awards for the following organizations and events for Fiscal Year 2027, Quarter 1: Items 1. through 21. minus 16.

Motion made at 10:23 am by Trustee Waihee						
Approve and authorize OHA funding for Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui event sponsorship awards for the following organizations and events for Fiscal Year 2027, Quarter 1: Items 1. through 21. minus 16.						
10:24 am Vote Taken	1	2	‘AE	A‘OLE	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
TRUSTEE DAN AHUNA			X			
TRUSTEE KALEI AKAKA			X			
TRUSTEE KELI‘I AKINA			X			
TRUSTEE LUANA ALAPA			X			
TRUSTEE BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
TRUSTEE CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X			
TRUSTEE KEONI SOUZA			X			
TRUSTEE JOHN WAIHE‘E	X		X			
CHAIRPERSON KAI KAHELE			X			
			9			
MOTION: [X] UNANIMOUS [] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED						
Motion passes with a NINE (9) Yes votes, XXX NO votes () and XXX () Abstention						

(1:48:54 | 10:24 am)

(16) p. Hawai‘i Songwriting Festival – Hawai‘i Songwriting Festival 2026

Trustee Waihe‘e reads the following:

Move to approve and authorize OHA funding for the Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui event sponsorship awards for the following organization and event for fiscal year 2027, Quarter 1: Item 16. This is for the Hawai‘i Song Festival in the amount of \$7,500.

Motion made at 10:24 am by Trustee Waihee						
Move to approve and authorize OHA funding for the Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui event sponsorship awards for the following organization and event for fiscal year 2027, Quarter 1: Item 16. This is for the Hawai‘i Song Festival in the amount of \$7,500.						
10:25 am Vote Taken	1	2	‘AE	A‘OLE	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
TRUSTEE DAN AHUNA			X			
TRUSTEE KALEI AKAKA					X	
TRUSTEE KELI‘I AKINA			X			
TRUSTEE LUANA ALAPA			X			
TRUSTEE BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
TRUSTEE CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X			
TRUSTEE KEONI SOUZA			X			
TRUSTEE JOHN WAIHE‘E	X		X			
CHAIRPERSON KAI KAHELE			X			
			8		1	
MOTION: ☐ UNANIMOUS ☒ PASSED ☐ DEFERRED ☐ FAILED						
Motion passes with a EIGHT (8) Yes votes, XXX NO votes () and ONE (1) Abstention						

(1:49:58 | 10:25 am)

Action Item BF #26-12: Approval for Administration to execute the Pu‘uhonua Reentry Program from Strategy and Implementation – Health Outcomes Fiscal Year 2026 Contracts budget.

Trustee Waihe‘e reads the following:

Approve Administration to:

- 1) Execute the Pu‘uhonua: Restorative Justice program from Strategy and Implementation – Health Outcomes Fiscal Year 2026 Contracts budget;**
- 2) Execute and/or procure all necessary agreements, instruments, applications, and other appropriate documents necessary for due diligence to engage and administer the Pu‘uhonua Restorative Justice Program;**
- 3) Appropriate funds up to \$200,000 [Contingent on approval of the FY26 Biennium Budget allotment request under program - 7130.] to cover necessary costs incurred for, or associated with the administration of the Pu‘uhonua Restorative Justice Program; and**

4) Take all other reasonable actions necessary and appropriate to implement the foregoing.

Motion made at 10:25 am by Trustee Waihee						
Approve Administration to:						
1) Execute the Pu‘uhonua: Restorative Justice program from Strategy and Implementation – Health Outcomes Fiscal Year 2026 Contracts budget;						
2) Execute and/or procure all necessary agreements, instruments, applications, and other appropriate documents necessary for due diligence to engage and administer the Pu‘uhonua Restorative Justice Program;						
3) Appropriate funds up to \$200,000 [Contingent on approval of the FY26 Biennium Budget allotment request under program - 7130.] to cover necessary costs incurred for, or associated with the administration of the Pu‘uhonua Restorative Justice Program; and						
4) Take all other reasonable actions necessary and appropriate to implement the foregoing.						
10:25 am Vote Taken	1	2	‘AE	A‘OLE	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
TRUSTEE DAN AHUNA			X			
TRUSTEE KALEI AKAKA			X			
TRUSTEE KELI‘I AKINA			X			
TRUSTEE LUANA ALAPA			X			
TRUSTEE BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
TRUSTEE CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X			
TRUSTEE KEONI SOUZA			X			
TRUSTEE JOHN WAIHE‘E	X		X			
CHAIRPERSON KAI KAHELE			X			
			9			
MOTION: [X] UNANIMOUS [] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED						
Motion passes with a NINE (9) Yes votes, XXX NO votes () and ONE (1) Abstention						

(1:51:37 | 10:26 am)

Action Item BF #26-13: Approval of: (1) Budget Realignment; and (2) Distribution of Funds to the Papahānaumokuākea Native Hawaiian Cultural Working Group Through Fiscal Sponsor Nā Maka Onaona.

Trustee Waihe'e reads the following:

Move to recommend approval of Action Item BF #26-13, as amended by the revised budget table and budget summary distributed at the 5/27 BF meeting, approving the proposed Papahānaumokuākea budget realignment and related FY26 budget update for account 203 6600, including the additional \$8,000 in FY26 budget for the Nomenclature Book project under services on a fee basis, and authorizing the distribution of up to \$243,000 as an OHA grant to Nā Maka Onaona, as fiscal sponsor for the Papahānaumokuākea Native Hawaiian Cultural Working Group, to carry out duties under the NOAA-OHA MOA

Motion made at 10:26 am by Trustee Waihee						
Move to recommend approval of Action Item BF #26-13, as amended by the revised budget table and budget summary distributed at the 5/27 BF meeting, approving the proposed Papahānaumokuākea budget realignment and related FY26 budget update for account 203 6600, including the additional \$8,000 in FY26 budget for the Nomenclature Book project under services on a fee basis, and authorizing the distribution of up to \$243,000 as an OHA grant to Nā Maka Onaona, as fiscal sponsor for the Papahānaumokuākea Native Hawaiian Cultural Working Group, to carry out duties under the NOAA-OHA MOA						
10:25 am Vote Taken	1	2	‘AE	A‘OLE	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
TRUSTEE DAN AHUNA			X			
TRUSTEE KALEI AKAKA			X			
TRUSTEE KELI‘I AKINA			X			
TRUSTEE LUANA ALAPA			X			
TRUSTEE BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
TRUSTEE CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X			
TRUSTEE KEONI SOUZA			X			
TRUSTEE JOHN WAIHE‘E	X		X			
CHAIRPERSON KAI KAHELE			X			
			9			
MOTION: [X] UNANIMOUS [] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED						
Motion passes with a NINE (9) Yes votes, XXX NO votes () and ONE (1) Abstention						

(1:53:26 video)

Chair Kahele announces that the board needs to go back to BF action item #26-12. He recognized Kapono Kiakona, Board Counsel to explain.

Kapono Kiakona, Board Counsel It's my understanding that the action item number two was misread. It's supposed to be the Pu'uhonua re-entry program, not the restorative. The simplest way to do it will be to vote to amend the prior approved action item to include the change in language from restorative justice to re-entry program

(1:55:29 video)

Chair Kahele reads the following:

The Chair will make a motion to amend the previously approved action item BF #26-12 and the motion will be to approve for administration to execute the Pu'uhonua re-entry program from strategy and implementation health outcomes fiscal year 2026 contracts budget

Motion made at 10:28 am by Chair Kahele						
Motion to amend the previously approved action item BF #26-12 and the motion will be to approve for administration to execute the Pu'uhonua re-entry program from strategy and implementation health outcomes fiscal year 2026 contracts budget						
10:29 am Vote Taken	1	2	‘AE	A‘OLE	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
TRUSTEE DAN AHUNA			X			
TRUSTEE KALEI AKAKA			X			
TRUSTEE KELI‘I AKINA			X			
TRUSTEE LUANA ALAPA			X			
TRUSTEE BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
TRUSTEE CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X			
TRUSTEE KEONI SOUZA			X			
TRUSTEE JOHN WAIHE‘E	X		X			
CHAIRPERSON KAI KAHELE			X			
			9			
MOTION: [X] UNANIMOUS [] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED						
Motion passes with a NINE (9) Yes votes, XXX NO votes () and XXX () Abstention						

(1:58:32 | 10:35 am)

Committee on Investment and Land Management – May 27, 2026 Action item ILM #26-06: Approval to perform Due Diligence activities for Kalaeuila, O'ahu. TMK: No. TMKs: (1)5-6-003:031, (1)5-6-003:030, (1)5-6-003:019, (1)5-6-003:011, (1)5-6-003:024, (1)5-6-003:020, (1)5-6-003:021, (1)5-6-003:022, (1)5-6-003:023, (1)5-6-003:026, (1)5-6-003:046, and (1)5-6-003:049 for potential land transfer to OHA.

Vice Chair Souza reads the following:

Your committee on Investment and Land Management having met on May 27, 2026 after full and free discussion recommends approval of the following action to the Board of Trustees. Approval to perform due diligence activities for Kalaeuila, O'ahu. TMK: No. TMKs: (1)5-6-003:031, (1)5-6-003:030, (1)5-6-003:019, (1)5-6-003:011, (1)5-6-003:024, (1)5-6-003:020, (1)5-6-003:021, (1)5-6-003:022, (1)5-6-003:023, (1)5-6-003:026, (1)5-6-003:046, and (1)5-6-003:049 for potential land transfer to OHA.

Motion made at 10:35 am by Vice Chair Souza						
approval of the following action to the Board of Trustees. Approval to perform due diligence activities for Kalaeuila, O'ahu. TMK: No. TMKs: (1)5-6-003:031, (1)5-6-003:030, (1)5-6-003:019, (1)5-6-003:011, (1)5-6-003:024, (1)5-6-003:020, (1)5-6-003:021, (1)5-6-003:022, (1)5-6-003:023, (1)5-6-003:026, (1)5-6-003:046, and (1)5-6-003:049 for potential land transfer to OHA.						
10:35 am Vote Taken	1	2	A'E	A'OLE	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
TRUSTEE DAN AHUNA			X			
TRUSTEE KALEI AKAKA			X			
TRUSTEE KELI'I AKINA			X			
TRUSTEE LUANA ALAPA			X			
TRUSTEE BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
TRUSTEE CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X			
TRUSTEE KEONI SOUZA			X			
TRUSTEE JOHN WAIHE'E	X		X			
CHAIRPERSON KAI KAHELE			X			
			9			
MOTION: [X] UNANIMOUS [] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED						
Motion passes with a NINE (9) Yes votes, XXX NO votes () and XXX () Abstention						

(1:59:56 | 10:36 am)

Presentation: Informational Briefing on Federal Education Landscape and Implications for Native Hawaiian Education (Strategy and Implementation; and Community Partners): Ku‘uleianuhea Awo-Chun, Director of Education and Culture-Based Learning

Kuuleianuhea Awo-Chun, Director of Education & Culture Based Learning summarized. Representatives of Partners in Development Foundation, INPEACE, and Keiki O Ka ‘Āina presented concerns regarding a significant funding shortfall affecting Family Child Interaction Learning programs statewide. FCIL programs provide free, community-based, culturally grounded early learning for keiki from birth to age five and their caregivers, particularly in rural and underserved communities. The organizations currently operate 65 sites across five islands, serving more than 2,000 keiki and thousands of caregivers. Due to the loss and uncertainty of federal funding, the number of sites may decrease to approximately 39, resulting in reduced access to early learning, family support, cultural education, food, diapers, hygiene supplies, mental health resources, and other wraparound services. Kaua‘i may decrease from four sites to one, and Partners in Development Foundation reported that 17 of its 36 sites may close on September 1, affecting approximately 800 keiki, 1,300 caregivers, and up to 100 staff members.

The presenters emphasized that FCIL programs have served Native Hawaiian families for approximately 40 years and support intergenerational learning, family relationships, school readiness, cultural identity, language, and community well-being. They described their longstanding collaboration, shared program standards, data collection, policy advocacy, and efforts to secure alternative funding. The organizations requested that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs consider providing immediate funding to stabilize FCIL programs during the federal funding transition and include FCIL programs as an ongoing component of OHA’s early learning investments.

	Number of FCIL Programs	Number of Keiki Served	Number of Caregivers Served	Number of Early Learning Sites
Current State of FCIL Programs	65	2,000	2,000	65
Future State of FCIL Programs	39	800	1,000	39
Risk Level	60%	60%	60%	60%

(2:33:44 | 11:10 am)

Administration Update: I Ola – OHA’s Emergency Relief Fund: K.Sean Kekina, Chief Operating Officer

K.Sean Kekina, COO summarized. Provided an update on the ‘I Ola emergency relief program, which was initially established to assist Native Hawaiian households experiencing hardship during the federal government shutdown. Following the Kona low disaster, the Board unanimously authorized the program to provide emergency assistance to eligible Native Hawaiian homeowners and renters whose primary residences sustained major damage or were destroyed. Eligible homeowners may receive up to \$15,000, and eligible renters may receive up to \$7,500. Applications opened on May 16. Administration reported that the agreement was revised to strengthen funding controls, align disbursements with verified demand, and maintain OHA’s oversight of unreleased funds. Of the \$2.9 million authorized for the program, approximately \$1.1 million was initially approved for deployment based on projected need for slightly more than 100 households.

As of May 27, Hawaiian Council had distributed approximately \$270,000 in direct assistance. The program received 328 applications, consisting of 209 homeowner applications and 119 renter applications, with 28 applications approved at that stage of review. As of May 21, applications included 163 from O‘ahu, 96 from Moloka‘i, 45 from Maui, and eight from Hawai‘i Island. Administration reported that statewide demand was greater than initially projected and that the funding thresholds for the first and second release phases had been met, with the program approaching the third release. Assistance to beneficiaries continued without interruption, and administration stated that it would continue monitoring verified demand, disbursement activity, and the pace of future funding releases.

(2:42:14 | 11:18 am)

Request for approval to waive Action Item BOT #26-07: Approval of the use of up to \$172,500 to fund confidential due diligence concerning a potential acquisition by OHA of certain assets and real property controlled by a production and/or broadcast company serving the Hawai‘i market, from the Committee on Budget and Finance to the Board of Trustees, pursuant to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees Bylaws (September 4, 2025), Article VIII, Section M.

Chair Kahele reads the following:

Motion to request for approval to wave action item BOT #26-07. the approval of the use of up to \$172,500 to fund confidential due diligence concerning a potential acquisition by OHA of certain assets and real property controlled by production and or broadcast companies serving the Hawaii market from the committee on budget and finance to the board of trustees.

Motion made at 11:18 am by Chair Kahele						
Motion to request for approval to wave action item BOT #26-07. the approval of the use of up to \$172,500 to fund confidential due diligence concerning a potential acquisition by OHA of certain assets and real property controlled by production and or broadcast companies serving the Hawaii market from the committee on budget and finance to the board of trustees.						
12:35 pm Vote Taken	1	2	‘AE	A‘OLE	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
TRUSTEE DAN AHUNA			X			
TRUSTEE KALEI AKAKA			X			

TRUSTEE KELI'I AKINA				X		
TRUSTEE LUANA ALAPA			X			
TRUSTEE BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
TRUSTEE CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X			
TRUSTEE KEONI SOUZA			X			
TRUSTEE JOHN WAIHE'E	X		X			
CHAIRPERSON KAI KAHELE			X			
			8	1		
MOTION: [X] UNANIMOUS [] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED Motion passes with a EIGHT (8) Yes votes, ONE (1) NO votes and XXX () Abstention						

Chair Kahele announces that this action item will be discussed in executive session and makes a motion to recuse the Board into Executive Session.

(2:48:53 | 11:25 am)

Executive Session§

Action Item BOT #26-07: Approval of the use of up to \$172,500 to fund confidential due diligence concerning a potential acquisition by OHA of certain assets and real property controlled by a production and/or broadcast company serving the Hawai'i market, from the Committee on Budget and Finance to the Board of Trustees, pursuant to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees Bylaws (September 4, 2025), Article VIII, Section M.

The Board anticipates deliberating and consulting with OHA's attorneys regarding confidential due-diligence activities for the potential acquisition opportunity, including the Board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities, pursuant to HRS §§ 92-4, 92-5(a)(3), and 92-5(a)(4).

Motion to move into Executive Session is made by Chair Kahele.

(2:49:23 | 11:25 am)

Ohana Unity Party summarized. A testifier expressed support for the proposed media project while emphasizing the need for thorough financial, operational, and management due diligence. The testifier stated that, if the project involves a purchase price of approximately \$30 million, OHA should establish clear financing terms and identify qualified individuals to oversee management, production, staffing, regulatory compliance, and technical operations. The testifier also raised concerns regarding Hawaiian-language programming, including the accuracy of closed captioning, subtitles, and translations, and noted that experienced Hawaiian-language speakers and production professionals would be needed. The testifier recommended hiring staff with television production, editing, Federal Communications Commission compliance, and station management experience, while also creating training opportunities for future

generations. The testifier supported the potential revenue opportunities and overall project but stated opposition to a separate debate-related initiative.

The Board recuses into Executive Session at 11:28 a.m.

Motion to recuse into executive session pursuant to HRS Section §92-5						
Vote taken at 11:28 am	1	2	'AE (YES)	'A'OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
TRUSTEE DAN AHUNA			X			
TRUSTEE KALEI AKAKA			X			
TRUSTEE KELI'I AKINA			X			
TRUSTEE LUANA ALAPA			X			
TRUSTEE BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA			X			
TRUSTEE CARMEN HULU LINDSEY			X			
TRUSTEE KEONI SOUZA			X			
TRUSTEE JOHN WAIHE'E			X			
CHAIRPERSON KAI KAHELE	X		X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			9			
MOTION: [X] UNANIMOUS [] PASSED [] DEFERRED [] FAILED						
Motion passes with a NINE (9) Yes votes, Zero (0) No votes and Zero (0) Excused vote.						

Board returns to open session at 12:38 p.m

Chair Kahele reports the following:

The Chair would like to report out that action item #26-07: the approval of the use of up to \$172,500 to fund confidential due diligence concerning a potential acquisition by OHA of certain assets and real property controlled by a production and or broadcast company serving the Hawaii market was not affirmed by the OHA board of trustees. The Motion fails.

Voting Yes:

Trustees Ahuna
Trustee Souza
Trustee Galuteria
Trustee Kahele

Voting No:

Trustee Akina
Trustee Aapa
Trustee Akaka and
Trustee Lindsey
Trustee Waihe'e

(4:03:08 | 12:42 pm)

Community Concerns and Celebrations

No testifiers are signed up.

(4:03:22 | 12:43 pm)

Announcements

Chair Kahele shares the following:

- The Board will reconvene for another agenda at 1:00 pm
- Mahalo to our COO, K.Sean for issuing the Kona Low SITREPS
- June 5th is an ALL OHA work day
- June 7th Trustee Akaka will represent OHA at Hawaii on the Hill and The King Kamehameha Lei Drapping
- The Board will reconvene on June 25 for the next Board meeting
- Aha ‘Ōpio will relaunch on June 21st
- June 27 TAG meeting will take place.

(4:05:25 video)

Community Concerns and Celebrations – *Chair Kahele revisits this agenda item.*

Raymond Sinn summarized. A testifier reflected on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Jewish American Heritage Month and shared lessons drawn from the writings of Puanani Burgess, including the importance of identity, ancestry, aloha, pono, kuleana, aloha ‘āina, ho‘oponopono, and preserving names, languages, and stories. The testifier also described their family’s immigrant background, multicultural upbringing, and appreciation for Hawai‘i’s welcoming spirit, concluding with an emphasis on family, community, and cross-cultural connection.

Maiara Brandimarti summarized. A testifier, whose two children attend Tūtū and Me, described the program as a family-centered and culturally grounded early learning environment that supports school readiness, strengthens caregiver-child relationships, and fosters identity, confidence, language, and belonging. The testifier asked OHA to continue protecting and investing in FCIL programs so that families, particularly those with limited access to early childhood and cultural learning opportunities, may continue to benefit.

(4:14:43 | 12:51 pm)

Adjournment

Chair Kahele moves to adjourn meeting.

Adjournment – vote taken at 12:51 pm							
TRUSTEE		1	2	‘AE (YES)	A’OLE (NO)	KANALUA (ABSTAIN)	EXCUSED
DAN	AHUNA			X			
KALEI	AKAKA			X			
KELI’I	AKINA			X			

LUANA	ALAPA			X			
BRICKWOOD	GALUTERIA			X			
CARMEN HULU	LINDSEY						
KEONI	SOUZA			X			
JOHN	WAIHE'E			X			
CHAIR KAIALI'I	KAHELE	X		X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT				8			

Chair Kahele Adjourns the Board of Trustees meeting at 12:51 pm,

Respectfully submitted,

Lehua Itokazu
Board Secretary

As approved by the Board of Trustees on XXXXX, 2026

Kaiali'i Kahele
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Attachments: (All handouts will be added once minutes are approved)

1.



IV. Status of OHA Activities and O'ahu Island Updates



‘Elepaio Social Services - Alicia Higa (Executive Director), Jesse Mikasobe-Keali'inohomoku (Indigenous Food Systems Manager), and Johnal “Nani” Estevez (Food Distribution & Pantry Manager)

Nā Kama Kai - Duane DeSoto (CEO)

MA‘O Organic Farm - Kau‘ilani Arce (Project Manager)

Windward Community College – Ardis Eschenberg, PhD (Chancellor)



O‘AHU ISLAND COMMUNITY MEETING

OCTOBER 12, 2026



MANA I MAULI OLA: OHA'S 15-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

(2020 – 2035)



OHA's Strategic Plan "Mana i Maui Ola" (Strength to Wellbeing) includes three foundations: '**Ohana**' (family), '**Mo'omeheu**' (culture), and '**Āina**' (land and water). We recognize these foundations have the power to affect the wellbeing of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, they are woven into our plans to affect change in the areas of education, health, housing, and economics. These four directions are used to guide our work to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians.

At the center of this work is **Ea**, the living expression of Native Hawaiian self-determination and the ability of the lāhui to sustain and govern itself across generations through the interconnectedness of people, 'āina culture, knowledge, and governance.



EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS

Supporting initiatives, leveraging partnerships, engaging in strategies to develop educational pathways that strengthen culture-based education, early education, K-12 and post-secondary education will ensure that Native Hawaiians are grounded in their past while participating in a technologically oriented future.



HEALTH OUTCOMES

Supporting initiatives, leveraging partnerships, engaging in strategies to promote healthy and strong families.



QUALITY HOUSING

Leveraging partnerships to ensure Native Hawaiians can obtain affordable rentals as well as homeownership while also engaging in opportunities to affect legislation that support Hawaiian Home Lands, overall housing costs, and housing supply will greatly enhance the ability for Native Hawaiians who so desire to remain in Hawai'i.



ECONOMIC STABILITY

Engaging in strategies to enhance the economic development and financial empowerment of the lāhui will ensure that Native Hawaiians progress toward a state of economic stability.

O‘AHU GRANT FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

\$16.75 MILLION



OHA disbursed over **\$16.75M** in funds to **31 grantees** providing services on O‘ahu that support a broad range of initiatives focused on education, housing stability, economic development, public safety, cultural preservation, environmental stewardship, and community well-being for Native Hawaiians.

Funding supports:

- educational and cultural programs serving youth, charter school students, families, and kūpuna;
- community-based efforts that strengthen public safety, mental health, cultural healing, and ‘āina stewardship;
- housing initiatives that provide homeownership opportunities, rental assistance, supportive housing, and services for homeless individuals and families; and
- economic development projects that assist Native Hawaiian-owned businesses and entrepreneurs.

O‘AHU GRANT FUNDING DETAILS



O‘ahu serving grants, include:

Educational Pathways – 13 active grants (\$7,872,826)

- Seven active grants are exclusive to O‘ahu; \$2,922,400 total funds disbursed
- Six active grantees provide services statewide, including O‘ahu; \$4,950,426 total funds disbursed

O‘ahu Only

Boys & Girls Club of Hawai‘i / Ka Ulu A‘e o ka Na‘auao – \$410,000

Hakipu‘u Academy – \$353,000

Hālau Kū Māna New Century Public Charter School – \$353,000

Ka Waihona o ka Na‘auao Public Charter School – \$551,800

Kamaile Academy PCS – \$548,600

Ke Kula ‘o Samuel M. Kamakau Laboratory Public Charter School – \$353,000

Mālama Honua Public Charter School – \$353,000

Multi-Island, including O‘ahu

Purple Maia Foundation / Waiw.AI: Building a Flourishing Future for Kanaka with AI – \$200,000

Kanu o ka ‘Āina Learning ‘Ohana / Facilities Funding – \$2,850,000 (FY24-25)

Kanu o ka ‘Āina Learning ‘Ohana / Federal Advocacy – \$550,000 (FY24-25)

Kanu o ka ‘Āina Learning ‘Ohana – \$538,986 (FY26-27)

EA Ecoversity / Basic Hawaiian – \$401,440

Keiki O Ka ‘Āina / Board and Stone, Strengthening Families and Equipping for the Future – \$410,000

O'AHU GRANT FUNDING DETAILS



Educational Pathways Grant Funding in West O'ahu

Native Hawaiian-Focused Public Charter Schools

This funding supports the following Native Hawaiian-focused public charter schools dedicated to providing Hawaiian language- and culture-based education while fostering academic achievement and cultural identity.

- Ka Waihona o ka Na'auao Public Charter School - \$551,800
- Kamaile Academy PCS - \$548,600

O‘AHU GRANT FUNDING DETAILS



O‘ahu serving grants, include:

Health Outcomes – Nine active grants (\$3,200,000)

- Four active grants are exclusive to O‘ahu; \$1,500,000 total funds disbursed
- Five active grantees provide services statewide, including O‘ahu; \$1,700,000 total funds disbursed

O‘ahu Only

TiLeaf Group / Homestead Neighborhood Watch Project – \$300,000

Hui Mauli Ola / Hāinu Lā‘au: Keiki Wellness – \$500,000

Kula no na Po‘e Hawai‘i / Kupuna Community Care Network (KCCN) – \$500,000

Papahana Kuaola / Kupu A Lau – \$200,000

Multi-Island, including O‘ahu

Purple Maia Foundation / Waiw.AI: Building a Flourishing Future for Kanaka with AI – \$200,000

Awaiaulu, Inc. / Awaiaulu – Restoring Continuity of Hawaiian Knowledge – \$500,000

Polynesian Voyaging Society / Moananuiākea: A Voyage for Earth – \$200,000

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawai‘i / Mana Mama, Healthy Babies, Strong Families – \$500,000

Mana Maoli / Mana Mele Project – \$300,000

O‘AHU GRANT FUNDING DETAILS



O‘ahu serving grants, include:

Housing Outcomes – Five active grants (\$2,975,000)

- Five active grants exclusive to O‘ahu totaling \$2,975,000

O‘ahu Only

TiLeaf Group / Homestead Neighborhood Watch Project – \$300,000

Honolulu Habitat for Humanity / Affordable Homeownership for Native Hawaiian Families – \$1,500,000

Housing Solutions Incorporated / Mohala Mai – \$180,000

Hui Mahiai ‘Āina / Waimānalo Vulnerable Populations – \$495,000

Waimānalo Health Center / Hale Kōkua Waiwai Program – \$500,000

O‘AHU GRANT FUNDING DETAILS



Quality Housing Grant Funding in West O‘ahu

Mālama Honua Grant for Nonprofits

The OHA Mālama Honua Grant for Nonprofits (MHGN) Provides funding through nonprofit partners to administer a health- and safety-focused home repair program for income-qualified Native Hawaiian homeowners who are otherwise unable to access traditional financing. Grants of up to \$10,000 support minor and safety repairs, while grants of up to \$20,000 address critical systems such as plumbing, electrical, HVAC, kitchens, bathrooms, and septic systems. The program closed for new applications on Aug. 15, 2026, and applications are currently under review.

Mālama Honua Disaster Fund

The OHA Mālama Honua Disaster Fund (MHDF) grant provides funding to Native Hawaiian owner-occupant homeowners whose primary residence in O‘ahu, Maui, and Hawai‘i counties sustained major damage from the March 2026 Kona Low storms. Applications for this \$10,000 grant are still available to support repairs needed to keep homes safe and livable.

O'AHU GRANT FUNDING DETAILS



O'ahu serving grants, include:

Economic Stability – Four active grants (\$2,710,000)

- Two grants are exclusive to O'ahu; \$800,000 total funds disbursed
- Two grantees provide services statewide, including O'ahu; \$1,910,000 total funds disbursed

O'ahu Only

Kapolei Community Development Corporation /
KCDC Homestead Night Market – \$400,000

Wai'anae Economic Development Council / Native
Hawaiian Entrepreneurship Initiative on the Wai'anae
Coast – \$400,000

Multi-Island, including O'ahu

Hawaiian Community Assets / Kūkulu Kahua –
\$1,660,000

Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association / Entrepreneur
Development and Capacity Building – \$250,000

O'AHU GRANT FUNDING DETAILS



Economic Stability Grant Funding in West O'ahu

Wai'anae Economic Development Council / Native Hawaiian Entrepreneurship Initiative on the Wai'anae Coast - \$400,000

This project empowers Native Hawaiian entrepreneurs and emerging business leaders through culturally grounded business development, education, and technical assistance programs. Through the Native Hawaiian Entrepreneurship Initiative, WEDC will provide business training, one-on-one counseling, networking opportunities, and startup support to 200 Native Hawaiians on O'ahu's Wai'anae Coast, helping increase Native Hawaiian business ownership, leadership, and economic self-sufficiency while integrating traditional Hawaiian values with modern business practices.

O‘AHU SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



The Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship Program provides financial support to nonprofit, community-based organizations in Hawai‘i to host events that provide significant benefits to the Native Hawaiian community. Eligible events include community gatherings; health and wellness, cultural and educational events; Native Hawaiian practitioner gatherings, ‘āina- and culture-focused events, Native Hawaiian conventions, and events that benefit the Native Hawaiian community.

The next application cycle **opens October 1, 2026**, with applications **due November 30, 2026**, for events taking place April–June 2027.

Sponsorship Amount: **Up to \$15,000 per event**

OHA has awarded **\$788,100** in Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorships in FY26 and FY27 for **66** events on O‘ahu.

O‘AHU SPONSORSHIP EVENTS (UPCOMING)



Event	Organization	Award	Event Dates	Event	Organization	Award	Event Dates
Kānaka Actor's Pū Pa'akai	INAMONA	\$11,250	10/3-10/4/2026	WATRRS Group Halloween Night	Worker Against the Recidivism Rate (dba WATRRS Group)	\$11,138	10/31/2026
Mālama 'Āina Kākou 2026	Hawaiian Islands Land Trust	\$7,500	10/4/2026	He Lei No Kaiona Hula Festival	Tulipa Style	\$11,250	11/06-11/07/2026
Molokai Hoe	O'ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association Hawaii	\$15,000	10/11/2026	Wai'anae Moku Made, Business Resource Hub	Wai'anae Economic Development Council	\$15,000	11/7/2026
Kēhau (Morning Dew) 30-Years of Hawaiian Education: Reflections and New Beginnings	Keiki O Ka 'Āina Family Learning Centers	\$15,000	10/16/2026	Fourth Annual Keiki Rise Showcase	Acton Digital Inc	\$15,000	11/14/2026
Royal Order of Kamehameha, Na Wahine O Kapuaiwa - 2026 Kuapapa	Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club	\$3,000	10/16-10/17/2026	ALA PILI : Global Residency (Community Panel)	Sacred Light Ohana	\$11,250	11/14/2026
2026 Hawai'i Farmers Union 16th Annual State Convention: Mahi'ai Makahiki	Hawai'i Farmers Union Foundation	\$15,000	10/16-10/18/2026	Lā Kū'oko'a at Loko Ea	Mālama Loko Ea Foundation	\$11,250	11/21/2026
'Ā'a I Ka Hula Competition	Hooulu Ike Center for Hula and Mele	\$15,000	10/24/2026	Hana Lima: 'Āina Based Service-Learning Day at Waipao	Papahana Kuaola	\$13,500	11/21/2026
Kānaka Actor's Pū Pa'akai	INAMONA	\$11,250	10/3-10/4/2026	The 10th Annual Nā Kama Kai Keiki Surf Kontest at Mākaha	Nā Kama Kai	\$15,000	11/27-11/29/2026
						TOTAL SPONORSHIPS AWARDED	\$185,138

O'AHU LOAN OPPORTUNITIES



OHA offers a range of loan programs designed to support Native Hawaiian individuals, families, farmers, and businesses. The Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund (NHRLF) provides financing for business development, agriculture, home improvement, education, debt consolidation, and disaster recovery.

- **Education: 1** loan for **\$20,000**
- **Debt Consolidation: 48** loans for **\$1,020,417**
- **Home Improvement: 22** loans for **\$1,100,071**
- **Business: 10** loans for **\$694,771**

The OHA Consumer Micro Loan Program provides smaller loans for unexpected expenses and career advancement.

- **Six** loans for **\$29,969**

AHO – ACCESS TO HOME OWNERSHIP



A deposit backed program that reduces financial barriers to homeownership for Native Hawaiians



- Lower down payment requirements – as little as 3% down AND
- No PMI (Private Mortgage insurance) Requirement

\$4.5M TOTAL Committed to AHO

For more information visit: [AHO – Access to Home Ownership](#)

EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDING



Federal Shutdown / I Ola – \$6.1M

- **\$2.5M** in program funds for impacted federal workers and SNAP recipients.
- **Kona Low Pivot**
 - **1.5M** repurposed for Kona Low Relief Programs
 - **2.1M** will be held and released as data supports additional disbursement

Kona Low Programs – \$3.96M

- Includes **\$900K** Board-approved augmentation of Kona Low emergency funding
- **I Ola (\$1.5M)** major and total damage sustained by primary residences – **15 Awards to West O‘ahu.**
- **Mahi‘ai Micro Fund (\$240K; \$3K to \$5K per farmer)** farming assistance – **1 Award to West O‘ahu**
- **Malāma Honua (\$250K; up to \$10K per award)** non-major residential damage
- **‘Īna‘i Kōkua Gift Card Program (\$400K+; \$2K each)** Home Depot gift cards for any demonstrated impacts

EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDING



Lāla / Kōkua Kaʻū – Approximately \$338.5K

- **\$184.5K** in remaining I Ola Emergency Aid funding redeployed, with priority support for Kaʻū.
- **\$123.6K** in unused Foodland and KTA gift-card value redeployed for Essential Needs Support.
- **\$30.4K** in remaining ʻĪnaʻi Kōkua resources authorized for direct disaster-aid assistance.
- Response focused on:
 - Immediate emergency support.
 - Continued household recovery efforts.
 - Community preparedness and resilience activities.

EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDING



Hurricane Lowell / Kālele – Up to \$362.8K

- Up to **\$250K** authorized for direct disaster-aid grants to verified Native Hawaiian households impacted by Hurricane Lowell.
- Up to **\$75K** authorized for community resource hubs across:
 - West O‘ahu
 - Kaua‘i
 - Ni‘ihau
- **\$37.8K** in remaining Times gift cards authorized for Kaua‘i County response activities.
- Current work includes:
 - Community engagement.
 - Household and community needs assessments – **38 received from West O‘ahu**
 - Planning and deployment of authorized recovery resources.

COMBINED TOTAL: Approximately \$10.76M authorized, activated, or redeployed for emergency relief and recovery efforts.

RESEARCH & EVALUATION ACTIVITIES



MiMO Strategic Plan Community Input

- Throughout October 2025, OHA collected input from beneficiaries and community members to inform the Board of Trustees in their reassessment of OHA's Mana i Maui Ola (MiMO) Strategic Plan, to ensure continued alignment with the needs and vision of the community. 288 or 54% of the 534 total responses were from O'ahu.

District Data for State Legislators

- Provided Native Hawaiian population data, current Native Hawaiian issues and information on OHA's reach for O'ahu legislative districts, including West O'ahu State House Districts 44 & 45 and State Senate District 22.

OHA Genealogy and Research Systems Workshops

- OHA Research and Evaluation Paia support Genealogy Workshops which cover genealogy research resources, tools, and information on OHA's Papakilo Database and the Kīpuka GIS Database.

RESEARCH SYSTEMS ACTIVITIES



Papakilo Digital Archive

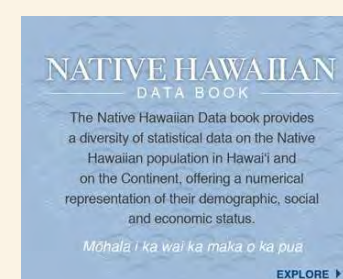
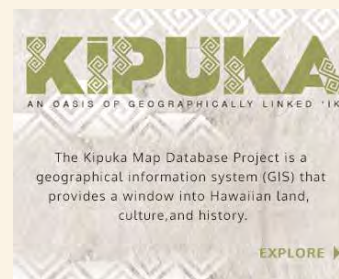
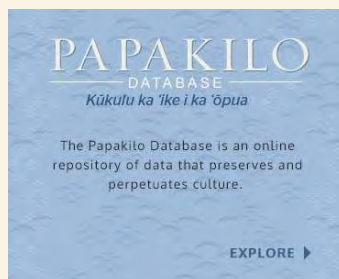
- The Papakilo Database was accessed by 22,261 users on O‘ahu in FY2026.
- In total, the Papakilo Database was accessed by more than 1,397,894 clicks from users on O‘ahu.
- The top two collections accessed by users during this reporting period were the Hawaiian language newspapers and the Mahele Records collections.

Kīpuka GIS System

- The Kīpuka GIS System was accessed by 10,488 users on O‘ahu, in FY2026.
- In total, the system was accessed by more than 276,262 clicks from O‘ahu users.

Native Hawaiian Databook

- The Native Hawaiian Databook was accessed by 919 users on O‘ahu, in FY2026.
- In total, the data book was accessed by more than 5,592 clicks during the period.



OHA IN THE COMMUNITY



Honolulu Intertribal Powwow: “Circle of Nations” — September 21, 2025

An OHA Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui community grant supported the Honolulu Intertribal Powwow’s “Circle of Nations,” held at the Waikīkī Shell in Kapi‘olani Park. The gathering created an opportunity for cultural exchange and strengthened connections between Native American and Native Hawaiian communities. OHA’s community engagement team further enhanced the experience by offering a hands-on kūpe‘e (wristlet) crafting activity, providing participants with an interactive opportunity to engage with Hawaiian cultural practices.



Ola Ka ‘Ī Ko'olau Outreach – Windward Mall – February, 2026

OHA Beneficiary Services partnered with OHA’s Strategy & Implementation Education Team to participate in the annual Ola Ka ‘Ī Ko'olau event at Windward Mall in celebration of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Month. The outreach featured an informational table with OHA resources, information on programs and services, and OHA promotional items. The highlight of the engagement was a series of interactive educational games and coloring books designed by Education Strategist Maki‘ilei, which encouraged the use of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i among keiki and their parents while introducing foundational aspects of OHA and its mission. Through hands-on activities and family engagement, the event provided an engaging opportunity to promote the Hawaiian language, strengthen cultural connections, and increase awareness of OHA’s programs and services among the Windward community.



OHA IN THE COMMUNITY



2025 Molokaʻi Hoe — October 12, 2025

OHA supported the 2025 Molokaʻi Hoe through a Hoʻākoakoa Lāhui community grant. The annual canoe race followed the traditional course from Molokaʻi to Oʻahu and brought together paddlers, supporters, families, and community members at the Kālia Beach finish line.

OHA's community engagement team provided cultural hoʻokipa (hospitality) to paddlers and attendees while sharing information about OHA's programs and services. The event provided a meaningful setting for OHA to support community connection while recognizing the cultural importance of canoe paddling and 'ohana participation.



OHA IN THE COMMUNITY



2026 ‘Onipa‘a Peace March — January 16–17, 2026

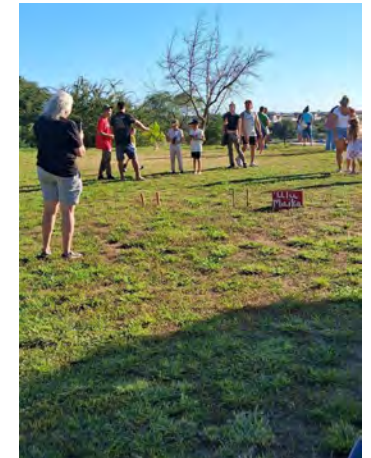
A Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui community grant supported the 2026 ‘Onipa‘a Peace March, which traveled from Mauna ‘Ala to ‘Iolani Palace.

The march honored the historical significance of Hawaiian sovereignty and provided an opportunity for participants to reflect on Hawai‘i’s history and continuing legacy. OHA and other community organizations hosted resource tables, providing attendees with information about available programs, services, and community resources.

Lonoikamakahiki Season Celebrations — 2025–2026

Two Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui community grants supported organizations celebrating the opening and closing of the Lonoikamakahiki Season in Kapolei and at Turtle Bay on O‘ahu’s North Shore.

The gatherings brought community members together to honor the Makahiki season through traditional Hawaiian games and competitions. OHA’s community engagement team hosted an interactive kōnane activity, introducing attendees to the traditional Hawaiian strategy game and creating an engaging way for participants to connect with Hawaiian cultural practices.



15 YEAR OHA HIGHLIGHTS



\$243M+

invested in the lāhui

\$57M

Housing

\$13M

Health

\$37M

Education

\$18.5M+

Emergency
Assistance

\$17M

Cultural Initiatives

Advocate

- Supported recognition of Native Hawaiians as Hawaii's Indigenous people
- Advanced protections for health, housing, water, cultural rights & subsistence practices
- Facilitated repatriation of ~400 iwi kūpuna & funerary/sacred objects

Researcher

- Made 1.2M+ Native Hawaiian records publicly accessible, partnering with 20+ community archives to preserved historical, genealogical, land, & cultural information
- Research to inform policy, advocacy, funding, & community planning
- Collaborated with 4 Hawaiian trust agencies to conduct the annual 'Imi Pono Hawai'i Wellbeing Survey, with over 10,500 responses

Community
Engagement

- Expanded community meetings, island offices, events & beneficiary services
- Expanded Traveling Beneficiary Services through satellite offices
- Grew the Hawaiian Registry to 10,000+ verified Native Hawaiians

‘Āina
Stewardship

- Developed community-informed management plan for 25,856 acres of Wao Kele o Puna
- Secured protection & restoration efforts around Kūkaniloko
- Continued stewardship of Waialua courthouse, Pahua Heiau & other significant cultural places



MAHALO
a nui loa!





Island Community Report: O‘ahu

Executive Summary



This Office of Hawaiian Affairs' (OHA) Island Community Report presents an annual overview of key issues affecting Native Hawaiian communities on O‘ahu. It highlights current Native Hawaiian data, community concerns monitored by OHA, and updates on OHA’s grant and loan initiatives. The topics covered align with OHA’s four Strategic Directions: Educational Pathways, Health Outcomes, Quality Housing, and Economic Stability.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

O‘ahu had a Native Hawaiian population of 196,071, representing 19% of the island’s total population (1,015,167) and 63% of the state’s total Native Hawaiian population (310,789) (2017-2021)¹



Educational Pathways Data

- Approximately 33% of O‘ahu Native Hawaiian public high school graduates enrolled in colleges across the nation compared to 54% of all O‘ahu public school graduates and 33% of all Native Hawaiians statewide (2025).²
- There are currently six Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools and twelve Hawaiian-medium schools or programs on O‘ahu (2025).³



Health Outcomes Data

- 78% of Native Hawaiian adults on O‘ahu report having a physical checkup in the past year, compared to 82% of all O‘ahu residents, and 77% of Native Hawaiians statewide (2024).⁴
- 35% of Native Hawaiians on O‘ahu report that they are able to converse in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i at a beginner level, compared to 8% of non-Hawaiian O‘ahu residents, and 36% of Native Hawaiians statewide (2025).⁵



Quality Housing Data

- 43% (8,777 of 20,567) of Native Hawaiian renters on O‘ahu pay affordable rent (<30% of household income toward rent), compared to 41% (55,862 of 137,352) of all households on O‘ahu, and 42% (13,778 of 32,538) of Native Hawaiian renters statewide (2017-2021).⁶
- 56% (26,253 of 46,820) of Native Hawaiian households on O‘ahu owned their homes, compared to 58% (193,041 of 330,393) of all households on O‘ahu, and 57% of all Native Hawaiian households statewide (43,870 of 76,408) (2017-2021).⁷
- 42% (5,104) of all Department of Hawaiian Homelands leases statewide (12,037) are on O‘ahu (2026).⁸



Economic Stability Data

- Native Hawaiian median household income on O‘ahu is \$90,868, 98% of the median income of all O‘ahu residents (\$92,600). Statewide, Native Hawaiian median household income is \$83,317 (95%), compared to \$88,005 for all households (2017-2021).⁹
- There are 4,822 Native Hawaiian entrepreneurs on O‘ahu. This is 55% of the 8,829 Native Hawaiian entrepreneurs statewide (2017-2021).¹⁰

EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS

ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

Advancing Support for Hawaiian-Focused and Hawaiian Medium Education

OHA continues to advocate for policies that increase support and resources for, and access to, Hawaiian Focused Charter School and Hawaiian Medium Schools. At the federal level OHA joined other Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs) to oppose transferring certain federal activities and duties from the U.S. Department of Education to U.S. Department of the Interior which would reduce program expertise and access for Native Hawaiian serving educational institutions. OHA also joined other NHOs to oppose proposed federal cuts to Native Hawaiian serving educational institutions. OHA joined a press conference in July 2025 urging the DOE to continue to provide campus space and access for Pūnana Leo o Ko'olaupoko and Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Pū'ōhala and to ensure 'ōlelo learners have equitable facilities, staffing, and resources. In July, federal funding was extended for another year but long-term funding levels for the Native Hawaiian Education Program remain unclear.

INITIATIVES

'Aha 'Ōpio o OHA

'Aha 'Ōpio o OHA is a free, week-long residential leadership and civic engagement program for Native Hawaiian high school students interested in culture, leadership, and advocacy for our lāhui, with preference given to 11th graders. Participants take part in cultural experiences, public speaking, legislative research, and hands-on legislative simulation. All 'ōpio are encouraged to apply for the next cohort. OHA covers interisland airfare, lodging, meals, and program transportation for selected delegates. Applications for summer 2027 programming will open around December 2026 or January 2027. The weeklong program will run at the end of June 2027.

Nā 'Elele o Kahikina

Nā 'Elele o Kahikina is OHA's year-long congressional fellowship for emerging Native Hawaiian leaders interested in public service, policy, and advocacy. Fellows relocate to Washington, D.C. for hands-on experience in congressional offices, federal agencies, or policy organizations, along with mentorship, professional development, and cultural grounding. The fellowship provides a stipend of up to \$70,000 to support housing and living expenses, and all beneficiaries with a bachelor's degree are encouraged to consider applying for the next cohort. Applications will open around October or November 2026. The Fellowship will run from August 2027 to July 2028 for selected Fellows.

GRANTING ACTIVITIES

OHA has awarded \$16,757,826 in grants, including 13 active grants totaling \$7,872,826 supporting the Educational Pathways Strategic Priority.

- Seven active grants are exclusive to O'ahu; \$2,922,400 total funds disbursed
- Six active grantees provide services statewide, including O'ahu; \$4,950,426 total funds disbursed

O'ahu Only

Boys & Girls Club of Hawai'i / Ka Ulu A'e o ka Na'auao - \$410,000

This project supports Native Hawaiian youth through culturally relevant educational, academic, and career readiness programs that promote student success and long-term achievement. By providing mentoring, academic support, cultural learning opportunities, and alternative education pathways to help youth strengthen educational outcomes and prepare for post-secondary opportunities.

Native Hawaiian-Focused Public Charter Schools

This funding supports the following Native Hawaiian-focused public charter schools dedicated to providing Hawaiian language- and culture-based education while fostering academic achievement and cultural identity.

- *Hakipu'u Academy* - \$353,000
- *Hālau Kū Māna New Century Public Charter School* - \$353,000
- *Ka Waihona o ka Na'auao Public Charter School* - \$551,800
- *Kamaile Academy PCS* - \$548,600
- *Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau Laboratory Public Charter School* - \$353,000
- *Mālama Honua Public Charter School* - \$353,000

Multi-Island, including O'ahu

Purple Maia Foundation / Waiw.AI: Building a Flourishing Future for Kanaka with AI - \$200,000

This project supports Native Hawaiian students and teachers across O'ahu, Lāna'i, and Hawai'i Island through culturally relevant AI education and training, this project aims to reach 200 students and teachers, building AI skills, college and career readiness, and pathways for Native Hawaiians to shape emerging technology. The project also aligns with OHA's Health Outcomes direction.

Native Hawaiian-Focused Public Charter Schools

Supporting and advancing Hawaiian-focused education by providing funding to Kanu o ka 'Āina for fiscal administration, financial oversight, and advocacy coordination for the 16 Hawaiian-Focused Charter Schools across Hawai'i.

- *Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning 'Ohana / Facilities Funding* - \$2,850,000 (FY24-25)
- *Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning 'Ohana / Federal Advocacy* - \$550,000 (FY24-25)
- *Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning 'Ohana* - \$538,986 (FY26-27)

EA Ecoversity / Basic Hawaiian - \$401,440

This project advances Hawaiian language and cultural revitalization through innovative, culturally grounded educational programs. Through the Basic Hawaiian project, the organization developed accessible online learning opportunities designed to strengthen Hawaiian language proficiency and deepen cultural knowledge among Native Hawaiian participants across Hawai'i.

Keiki O Ka 'Āina / Board and Stone, Strengthening Families and Equipping for the Future - \$410,000

This project strengthens Native Hawaiian families and communities through culturally grounded education that preserves and perpetuates traditional Hawaiian knowledge and practices by providing hands-on learning experiences that reconnect participants to ancestral traditions, deepen cultural understanding, and promote intergenerational knowledge transfer.

SPONSORSHIPS OPPORTUNITIES

Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship

The Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship program provides up to \$15,000 per event to nonprofit organizations for events that benefit the Native Hawaiian community, including educational, cultural, and 'āina-based learning opportunities that strengthen knowledge, skills, and community connections. The next application cycle opens October 1, 2026, with applications due November 30, 2026, for events taking place April–June 2027.

To date, OHA has awarded \$788,100 in Ho'ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorships, including 14 sponsorships totaling \$156,775 supporting the Educational Pathways Strategic Priority for the following non-profit organizations (FY26 and FY27):

- Eddie Aikau Foundation, Inc. / Eddie Aikau Big Wave Invitational - Opening Ceremony - \$10,000
- Hawai'i Opera Theatre / Ho'oulu Festival: Kamalehua World Premiere - \$15,000

- Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture / Preschool Here I Come (PHIC) - \$15,000
- Kāhuli Leo Le'a / May Day 2026 - \$11,250
- Conservation Council For Hawai'i / Manu o Kū Festival - \$2,500
- Ka Po'e Lawai'a / Manini & Me Holoholo Festival - \$15,000
- Leeward Kai Canoe Club / Lauhoe: Father's Day Regatta Festival - \$15,000
- Ho'omau Foundation / Ho'omau Foundation Fundraising Gala - \$5,775
- Mana Maoli / Paepae Pōhaku Student Leadership Camp - \$14,980
- Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club / Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club Annual Scholarship Luau - \$8,000
- 'Aha Pūnana Leo Foundation, Inc / 'Aha Pūnana Leo (Pūlama Mauli Ola) - \$15,000
- Sacred Light Ohana / ALA PILI: Global Residency (Community Panel) - \$11,250
- Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club / Royal Order of Kamehameha, Na Wahine O Kapuaiwa - 2026 Kuapapa - \$3,000
- Keiki O Ka 'Āina Family Learning Centers / Kēhau (Morning Dew) 30-Years of Hawaiian Education: Reflections and New Beginnings - \$15,000

LOAN OPPORTUNITIES

NHRLF Mālama Education Loan

This OHA loan product provides financing for education and professional development expenses, including preschool, K–12, trade school, college, postgraduate education, tuition, campus charges, books, and other eligible education-related costs. Loan Amount: \$2,500–\$20,000

- Open Mālama Education Loans: One loan; \$20,000 disbursed

OHA Consumer Micro Loan Program (CMLP)

This OHA loan product provides smaller loans to Native Hawaiians experiencing temporary financial hardship from unforeseen circumstances or seeking career advancement. Eligible uses include apprenticeship programs and career-development courses. Loan Amount: \$500–\$7,500

HEALTH OUTCOMES

ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

Protecting State Reefs

During the 2026 legislative session OHA championed a bill to prohibit the extraction of reef fish for the commercial aquarium trade due to observed negative impacts to cultural practices and native ecosystems in the communities where extraction is concentrated. The OHA bill did not pass in part because of ongoing rulemaking at the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR), Department of Aquatic Resources (DAR) seeking to reopen West Hawai'i to commercial extraction following a ten-year judicial pause to ensure compliance with environmental review. OHA stood alongside community, all four county councils, and Native Hawaiian leaders urging DAR to reject the proposed rule package and instead ban the practice, providing testimony at both the county council and agency levels. In August, after nearly eight hours of testimony overwhelmingly in opposition, BLNR remanded the proposed rules to DAR to further consider public trust and cultural impacts of the trade. OHA continues to support a statewide prohibition of commercial extraction through BLNR or the legislature.

Kamananui Conditional Use Permit Reconsideration (North Shore gondola project)

Kaukonahua Ranch LLC (Kamananui) sought City Council approval and a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) from the Department of Permitting and Planning (DPP) to install a gondola (tram) on the north shore slopes of Mt. Ka'ala claiming the use was incidental to agricultural operations on its property. OHA testified in opposition to this proposal at the North Shore Neighborhood Board hearings on the proposed project and through written

comments to DPP arguing that the primary use of the parcel was tourist related commercial activity, not agricultural activities. OHA also pushed to ensure a Ka Pa‘akai Analysis was performed prior to the issuing of an CUP to ensure mitigation of adverse effects. In June 2026, the DPP determined that the proposed gondola was not suitable for the site, consistent with Act 172 (2026), banning private passenger and cargo ropeways in culturally and ecologically sensitive sites.

Makaīwa Hills Landfill Proposal – West O‘ahu

In 2026, the City and County of Honolulu proposed the Makaīwa Hills area above Kapolei as the site for a new municipal landfill to replace Waimānalo Gulch. The proposal generated significant concern in West O‘ahu, where communities have already borne decades of landfill and other industrial impacts. Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and community members pointed to health and environmental justice concerns and the prior assurances that a replacement landfill would not again be located on the West Side. OHA joined with West O‘ahu communities and opposed the proposed Public Infrastructure Map amendment, which would have financially committed the County to the new landfill site before any environmental review. OHA asserted that such a substantial financial commitment could not be implemented without a good-faith effort to evaluate the impacts of that decision through a level of environmental review. OHA also supported community calls for greater transparency in the County landfill siting decision-making process by requesting disclosure of the complete site-selection record and reasons other locations were rejected. The County ultimately withdrew Makaīwa Hills as its new landfill site.

O‘ahu Military Leased Lands Community Briefing & Listening Sessions

OHA has been conducting community briefings and listening sessions across the pae ‘āina to raise awareness of military leases on Public Land Trust lands that are scheduled to expire between 2028 and 2031 and to hear community mana‘o regarding the future of those lands. On O‘ahu, meetings have included Mā‘ili, Wahiawā, and Kahuku, communities located near major military land use areas. Across the meetings, recurring concerns included returning lands instead of renewing leases or allowing condemnation; ending live-fire training; requiring full military cleanup and restoration; addressing environmental, health, and cultural impacts; protecting Native Hawaiian rights and access; and ensuring Native Hawaiians have a voice in decisions about the lands. Participants also repeatedly situated the issue within the broader history of land dispossession and urged OHA to take an active role in protecting trust lands, holding the military accountable, and ensuring community concerns remain central to future negotiations and land disposition decisions.

OHA has continued this outreach as part of its work surrounding expiring military leases, providing information on the status and significance of the leased Public Land Trust lands while creating opportunities for affected communities to identify priorities and concerns. The meetings and compilation of responses provide a record of community mana‘o that can inform OHA’s ongoing advocacy work concerning land dispositions and the future stewardship of military controlled Public Land Trust lands.

GRANTING ACTIVITIES

OHA has awarded \$16,757,826 in grants, including nine active grants totaling \$3,200,000 supporting the Health Outcomes Strategic Priority.

- Four active grants are exclusive to O‘ahu; \$1,500,000 total funds disbursed
- Five active grantees provide services statewide, including O‘ahu; \$1,700,000 total funds disbursed

O‘ahu Only

TiLeaf Group / Homestead Neighborhood Watch Project - \$300,000

This project will train 36 Native Hawaiians and establish Neighborhood Watch initiatives in four Hawaiian homestead communities, strengthening community safety, reducing property crime, improving neighbor

relationships, and fostering stronger partnerships with law enforcement. The project also aligns with OHA's Quality Housing direction.

Hui Maui Ola / Hāinu Lā'au: Keiki Wellness - \$500,000

This project provides culturally grounded mental health education and support to 245 Native Hawaiian keiki, parents, and educators. Through an 'ohana-centered approach, the project develops a traditional Hawaiian healing curriculum and trains educators to strengthen youth protective factors and support the mental and emotional well-being of Native Hawaiian youth and families.

Kula no na Po'e Hawai'i / Kupuna Community Care Network (KCCN) - \$500,000

This project expands culturally grounded support for 400 Native Hawaiian kūpuna and caregivers ages 50 and older in homestead communities on O'ahu. Services include cultural programming, health education, home safety support, and development of a Kūpuna Supportive Living Center to address chronic disease, social isolation, and senior care needs while helping kūpuna safely age in place.

Papahana Kuaola / Kupu A Lau - \$200,000

This project engages 2,400 Native Hawaiians in 'āina restoration practices at Waipao in the upper He'eia ahupua'a on O'ahu. The project will provide 110 community stewardship opportunities and 20 restoration workdays, strengthening connections to 'āina while addressing invasive species and restoring land health, cultural practices, and Native Hawaiian stewardship.

Multi-Island, including O'ahu

Purple Maia Foundation / Waiw.AI: Building a Flourishing Future for Kanaka with AI - \$200,000

This OHA funded project supports Native Hawaiian students and teachers across O'ahu, Lāna'i, and Hawai'i Island through culturally relevant AI education and training. The project aims to reach 200 students and teachers, building AI skills, college and career readiness, and pathways for Native Hawaiians to shape emerging technology. The project also aligns with OHA's Educational Pathways direction.

Awaiaulu, Inc. / Awaiaulu – Restoring Continuity of Hawaiian Knowledge - \$500,000

This OHA funded project strengthens the preservation and perpetuation of Hawaiian language and cultural knowledge by training fluent speakers in archival research, translation, and historical context. The project supports 11 long-term fellows in digitizing Hawaiian-language archives and developing bilingual publications and educational resources for future generations.

Polynesian Voyaging Society / Moananuiākea: A Voyage for Earth - \$200,000

This OHA funded project supports cultural education and intergenerational learning through traditional Hawaiian voyaging and wayfinding, training 60 Native Hawaiian voyagers and reaching 5,000 Native Hawaiian students across Hawai'i. The project uses Hōkūle'a and Hikianalia to perpetuate traditional knowledge, strengthen cultural identity, and promote environmental stewardship.

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawai'i / Mana Mama, Healthy Babies, Strong Families - \$500,000

This project improves maternal and infant health outcomes for Native Hawaiian families by providing culturally responsive prenatal, postpartum, and family support services through integrating healthcare, mental health services, peer support, and traditional practices to increase access to early prenatal care and support the well-being of hāpai and postpartum Native Hawaiian women.

Mana Maoli / Mana Mele Project - \$300,000

This project empowers Native Hawaiian youth through music, culture, and mentorship-based education that strengthens cultural identity, creativity, and academic success through providing culture-based music instruction, mentorship, and traditional Hawaiian musical learning experiences that preserve Hawaiian cultural traditions while supporting student well-being, college readiness, and career development.

SPONSORSHIPS OPPORTUNITIES

Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship

The Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship program provides up to \$15,000 per event to nonprofit organizations for events that benefit the Native Hawaiian community, including health and wellness, ‘āina-based, and community activities that promote well-being, strengthen connections, and support healthy communities. The next application cycle opens October 1, 2026, with applications due November 30, 2026, for events taking place April–June 2027.

To date, OHA has awarded \$788,100 in Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorships, including 37 sponsorships totaling \$437,695 supporting the Health Outcomes Strategic Priority for the following non-profit organizations (FY26 and FY27):

- Ho‘oma‘a Foundation / Rell Sunn Menehune Contest - \$11,250
- Imi Ola Canoe Club / Inaugural ‘Imi Ola Canoe Club Long Distance Race - \$14,852
- Four Strings at a Time / ‘Ukulele Summit - \$11,250
- Boys & Girls Club of Hawai‘i / Project Hope - \$11,250
- Sky Brothers Collective CBA Oahu Intertribal Council / 2025 Honolulu Intertribal Powwow – Circle of Nations & Ho‘okipa Ali‘i - \$15,000
- Hawai‘i Land Trust / Mālama ‘Āina Kākou (FY26) - \$10,000
- Kualoa-He‘eia Ecumenical Youth (KEY) Project / Waihe‘e Festival 2025 - \$7,500
- Ho‘oulu ‘Ike Center for Hula and Mele / ‘A‘a I Ka Hula Competition (FY26) - \$10,875
- Nā Kama Kai / Keiki Surf Kontest - \$11,250
- The Queens Court / The ‘Onipa‘a Peace March 2026 - \$15,000
- Mutual Aid Ka Lahui / Onipa‘a Peace March - \$11,250
- Lunalilo Home / King Lunalilo Trust’s Annual ‘Aha ‘Aina Hōuluulu Kālā no ka Lani Lunalilo Event - \$15,000
- Ulu A‘e Learning Center / Makahiki Ma Kapolei - \$5,500
- Hui Makua O Kawaiahao Inc (Ka ‘Aumanu) / Holo no ‘Ōlelo 5k - \$10,000
- Nurture Cultivate Inc / 2nd Annual Panina Makahiki - \$15,000
- Wai‘anae Coast Community Foundation / 7th Annual Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana‘ole Festival - \$15,000
- Nā‘ālehu Theater / Gabby Pahinui Waimānalo Kanikapila - \$5,000
- ‘Imi Ola Canoe Club / Race for Hawai‘i’s Future - \$11,250
- Hawaii Academy of Recording Arts / Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards Show - \$15,000
- Kīkaha Foundation / Papa Hula Kāne - \$7,500
- Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement / Annual Queen Lili‘uokalani Keiki Hula Competition - \$15,000
- Polynesian Voyaging Society / Kealaikahiki: Mahalo Pā‘ina - \$15,000
- Pu‘uhonua Society / Lā Ho‘iho‘i Ea - \$11,280
- ODKF Support Inc., dba Duke Kahanamoku OceanFest / Duke Kahanamoku OceanFest - \$11,800
- Bishop Museum / E Ulu A Pa‘a 2026 Fundraiser Gala - \$10,000
- The Lawrence and Hokulani De Rego Foundation / Hula ‘Oni E Hula Festival - \$15,000
- Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce / Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce Annual Convention - \$10,000
- Eddie Aikau Foundation Inc / Eddie Aikau Big Wave Invitational - \$10,000
- Friends of Iolani Palace / ‘Iolani Palace - Queen Kapiolani Night Tours - \$15,000
- ‘Imi Ola Canoe Club / Race for Hawai‘i’s Future - \$11,250
- Ho‘oulu ‘Ike Center for Hula and Mele / ‘A‘a I Ka Hula Competition (FY27) - \$15,000
- Papahana Kuaola / Hana Lima: ‘Āina Based Service-Learning Day at Waipao - \$13,500
- Nā Kama Kai / The 10th Annual Nā Kama Kai Keiki Surf Kontest at Mākaha - \$15,000
- Mālama Loko Ea Foundation / Lā Kū‘oko‘a at Loko Ea - \$11,250

- Tulipa Style / He Lei No Kaiona Hula Festival - \$11,250
- Worker Against the Recidivism Rate (dba WATRRS Group) / WATRRS Group Halloween Night - \$11,138
- Hawai'i Land Trust / Mālama 'Āina Kākou (FY27) - \$7,500

LOAN OPPORTUNITIES

OHA Consumer Micro Loan Program (CMLP)

This OHA loan product provides smaller loans to Native Hawaiians experiencing temporary financial hardship from unforeseen circumstances or seeking career advancement. Eligible uses include funeral expenses and emergency health situations. Loan Amount: \$500–\$7,500

- Open Consumer Micro Loans: One loan; \$7,500 disbursed
- New Consumer Micro Loans as of 6/30/26: One loan; \$2,600 disbursed

QUALITY HOUSING

ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

Individual Housing Account Program

Hawai'i continues to experience significant housing challenges that are a primary driver of out migration for local families including Native Hawaiians. For many aspiring homebuyers, the greatest barrier to homeownership is not just monthly mortgage payments, but the ability to save enough for a down payment and closing costs. OHA supported SB2552 during the 2026 legislative session to modernize Hawai'i's Individual Housing Account (IHA) program, which had not kept pace with the realities of today's housing market. Enacted as Act 217 (2026), the measure allows first-time homebuyers, beginning in tax year 2027, to deduct up to \$20,000 annually in qualifying IHA contributions, or \$40,000 for married couples filing jointly, while saving toward the purchase of a home. OHA advocated for this approach for several years as part of its broader commitment to economic self-sufficiency, asset-building, and housing security.

Empty Homes Tax

Hawai'i's housing policy must consider not only how many units are built, but whether existing housing is being used to house Hawai'i residents. The City and County of Honolulu commissioned an independent feasibility analysis of an empty homes tax, which found that such a program would be financially feasible and could incentivize residential properties to be used for owner-occupancy or long-term rental rather than remain vacant during a housing crisis. Consistent with the feasibility report, OHA testified before the Honolulu Charter Commission in support of a proposed charter amendment to dedicate revenues from an empty homes tax to addressing O'ahu's housing crisis. While the Commission did not adopt the amendment, and it will not appear on the November 2026 ballot, OHA will continue to support an empty homes tax consistent with the finding in the feasibility report.

INITIATIVES

Access to Home Ownership (AHO) Program

Native Hawaiians continue to face significant barriers to homeownership, including rising housing costs, down payment requirements, and private mortgage insurance (PMI) expenses. To address these barriers, the Economic Development team within Strategy & Implementation continued implementation of the Access to Home Ownership (AHO) Program in partnership with American Savings Bank.

AHO is a deposit-backed homeownership program designed to reduce financial barriers by lowering down payment requirements and eliminating PMI for eligible Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. In 2025, the program's first year, OHA received 724 inquiries, verified 518 beneficiaries through the Hawaiian Registry Program, and referred 424 beneficiaries to American Savings Bank. As of the reporting period, 102 beneficiaries have been

approved, and 31 Native Hawaiian families have successfully become homeowners statewide. The program leveraged approximately \$20.2 million in home financing and committed \$3 million in OHA funds to support Native Hawaiian homeownership opportunities in FY26 and FY27.

GRANTING ACTIVITIES

OHA has awarded \$16,757,826 in grants, including five active grants exclusive to O‘ahu totaling \$2,975,000 supporting the Quality Housing Outcomes Strategic Priority.

O‘ahu Only

TiLeaf Group / Homestead Neighborhood Watch Project - \$300,000

This project will train 36 Native Hawaiians and establish Neighborhood Watch initiatives in four Hawaiian homestead communities, strengthening community safety, reducing property crime, improving neighbor relationships, and fostering stronger partnerships with law enforcement. The project also aligns with OHA’s Health Outcomes direction.

Honolulu Habitat for Humanity / Affordable Homeownership for Native Hawaiian Families - \$1,500,000

This project aims to expand opportunities for affordable homeownership and long-term economic stability for Native Hawaiian families through community-centered housing programs. Through its housing initiative, HHH plans to construct nine affordable homes on O‘ahu for 36 Native Hawaiian beneficiaries, combining affordable housing development with financial education, hands-on participation in home construction, and wealth-building opportunities that promote housing security and generational well-being.

Housing Solutions Incorporated / Mohala Mai - \$180,000

This project provides permanent supportive housing and comprehensive wraparound services to help vulnerable individuals achieve stable housing, economic self-sufficiency, and successful community reintegration. Through the *Mohala Mai* project, HSI supports justice-involved Native Hawaiian women with affordable housing, rental assistance, employment and financial management resources, and family reunification services, promoting long-term stability and reducing the risk of recidivism.

Hui Mahiai ‘Āina / Waimānalo Vulnerable Populations - \$495,000

This project addresses homelessness and housing instability among Native Hawaiians through culturally grounded housing, workforce development, and community support programs through providing safe tiny home housing, job skills training, healthcare, and supportive services to 93 homeless Native Hawaiians on O‘ahu, helping participants achieve greater housing stability, educational attainment, employment readiness, and self-sufficiency.

Waimānalo Health Center / Hale Kōkua Waiwai Program - \$500,000

This project promotes housing stability and overall well-being for Native Hawaiian families through integrated housing assistance and support services. Through the Hale Kōkua Waiwai Program, the organization provides housing-related financial assistance, outreach, case management, and housing navigation services to 150 Native Hawaiian families on O‘ahu, helping to reduce housing insecurity, strengthen community connections, and improve long-term stability.

Mālama Honua Grant for Nonprofits

The OHA Mālama Honua Grant for Nonprofits (MHGN) Provides funding through nonprofit partners to administer a health- and safety-focused home repair program for income-qualified Native Hawaiian homeowners who are otherwise unable to access traditional financing. Grants of up to \$10,000 support minor and safety repairs, while grants of up to \$20,000 address critical systems such as plumbing, electrical, HVAC, kitchens, bathrooms, and septic systems.

Applications closed on August 15, 2026, and evaluation is underway, with recommendations anticipated to go to the OHA Board of Trustees in January 2027. Because partners have not yet been selected, it has not been determined whether O‘ahu will be served.

Mālama Honua Disaster Fund

The OHA Mālama Honua Disaster Fund (MHDF) grant provides funding to Native Hawaiian owner-occupant homeowners whose primary residence in O‘ahu, Maui, and Hawai‘i counties sustained major damage from the March 2026 Kona Low storms. Applications for this \$10,000 grant are still available to support repairs needed to keep homes safe and livable.

Of 25 total awards totaling \$250,000, 15 were allocated to O‘ahu. As of September 17, 2026, 40 applications have been received by O‘ahu beneficiaries with seven being approved, and four awards being distributed.

SPONSORSHIPS OPPORTUNITIES

Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship

The Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship program provides up to \$15,000 per event to nonprofit organizations for events that benefit the Native Hawaiian community, including housing education, homeownership, financial readiness, and housing resource events that connect ‘ohana with information, services, and opportunities to strengthen housing stability. The next application cycle opens October 1, 2026, with applications due November 30, 2026, for events taking place April–June 2027.

To date, OHA has awarded \$788,100 in Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorships, including 2 sponsorships totaling \$25,000 supporting the Health Outcomes Strategic Priority for the following non-profit organizations (FY26 and FY27):

- Family Promise of Hawai‘i / Brighter Futures Gala - \$10,000
- Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations / Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations Annual Convention - \$15,000

LOAN OPPORTUNITIES

NHRLF Mālama Home Improvement Loans

This OHA loan product provides financing to help Native Hawaiian homeowners make improvements, repairs, or renovations to their homes. Eligible uses may include structural repairs, home additions, accessibility improvements, fencing, driveways, appliances, and other qualified home-related expenses. Loan Amount: \$2,500–\$100,000

- Open Mālama Home Improvement Loans: 15 loans; \$758,764 disbursed
- New Mālama Home Improvement Loans as of 6/30/26: Seven loans; \$341,307 disbursed

OHA Consumer Micro Loan Program (CMLP)

This OHA loan product provides smaller loans to Native Hawaiians experiencing unexpected home repairs. Loan Amount: \$500–\$7,500

ECONOMIC STABILITY

INITIATIVES

Kūlana ‘Āina

Native Hawaiian farmers, food producers, and entrepreneurs often face barriers accessing workforce development, business support services, and opportunities to grow and scale their enterprises. To help address these challenges, the Economic Development team within Strategy & Implementation continued development and implementation of Kūlana ‘Āina, a statewide initiative aligned with OHA's Mana i Maui Ola Strategic Plan and designed to strengthen Native Hawaiian participation across Hawai‘i's food economy.

Through Board-approved investments in FY26 and FY27, Kūlana ‘Āina supports pathways in agricultural production, workforce development, business development, value-added product innovation, and market growth. The initiative was developed to create coordinated opportunities for Native Hawaiian farmers, food producers, entrepreneurs, and emerging businesses through strategic partnerships, training, technical assistance, and industry engagement.

As a statewide initiative, travel assistance and related supports are also available to help reduce participation barriers for neighbor island beneficiaries. Through this investment, OHA is expanding access to culturally grounded workforce and business development opportunities intended to increase economic self-sufficiency, strengthen Native Hawaiian participation in Hawai‘i’s food economy, and support long-term food system resilience across the pae ‘āina.

GRANTING ACTIVITIES

OHA has awarded \$16,757,826 in grants, including four active grants totaling \$2,710,000 supporting the Economic Stability Strategic Priority.

- Two active grants are exclusive to O‘ahu; \$800,000 total funds disbursed
- Two active grantees provide services statewide, including O‘ahu; \$1,910,000 total funds disbursed

O‘ahu Only

Kapolei Community Development Corporation / KCDC Homestead Night Market - \$400,000

This project promotes Native Hawaiian economic development, cultural preservation, and community engagement through initiatives that support local entrepreneurs and small businesses. Through its Sunday Night Market on O‘ahu, KCDC will provide opportunities for 30 to 40 Native Hawaiian-owned businesses to showcase their products, connect with the community, and celebrate Hawaiian culture through local food, arts, music, and cultural demonstrations.

Wai‘anae Economic Development Council / Native Hawaiian Entrepreneurship Initiative on the Wai‘anae Coast - \$400,000

This project empowers Native Hawaiian entrepreneurs and emerging business leaders through culturally grounded business development, education, and technical assistance programs. Through the Native Hawaiian Entrepreneurship Initiative, WEDC will provide business training, one-on-one counseling, networking opportunities, and startup support to 200 Native Hawaiians on O‘ahu’s Wai‘anae Coast, helping increase Native Hawaiian business ownership, leadership, and economic self-sufficiency while integrating traditional Hawaiian values with modern business practices.

Multi-Island, including O‘ahu

Hawaiian Community Assets / Kūkulu Kahua - \$1,660,000

This OHA funded project supports Native Hawaiian ‘ohana across Hawai‘i through culturally relevant, trauma-informed financial counseling and emergency assistance, supporting low- and moderate-income families in strengthening financial stability. The HUD-certified program offers personalized financial services and community partnerships to build economic capacity and resilience.

Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association / Entrepreneur Development and Capacity Building - \$250,000

This OHA funded project strengthens economic opportunities for Native Hawaiian entrepreneurs and nonprofits by providing tourism-focused training, mentorship, marketing support, and showcase opportunities. The project aims to support 40 entrepreneurs and nonprofits in developing 20 authentic Hawaiian products and experiences across Hawai‘i.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship

The Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorship program provides up to \$15,000 per event to nonprofit organizations for events that benefit the Native Hawaiian community, including workforce development, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and community resource events that strengthen economic opportunity and stability. The next application cycle opens October 1, 2026, with applications due November 30, 2026, for events taking place April–June 2027.

To date, OHA has awarded \$788,100 in Ho‘ākoakoa Lāhui Event Sponsorships, including 13 sponsorships totaling \$168,650 supporting the Economic Stability Strategic Priority for the following non-profit organizations (FY26 and FY27):

- Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce / 48th Annual ‘Ō‘ō Awards Gala - \$10,000
- Hawaiian Community Assets / Project Maka‘ala: Fraud & Scams Can Happen to Anyone - \$15,000
- Purple Maia Foundation / Hawai‘i Cooperative Hui Gathering - \$11,250
- Pakini Loan Fund / Wai‘anae Moku Made - \$14,400
- Acton Digital Inc. / ‘Ōpio Mākeke: Summer Kickoff Night Market - \$10,500
- Wai‘anae Economic Development Council / Small Business Saturday Wai‘anae, Business Resource Hub (FY26) - \$10,000
- Goodwill Industries of Hawai‘i / Goodwill Goes GLAM! - \$15,000
- Hawaiian Council (CNHA) / The Mākeke - \$15,000
- Kekelaokalani / Hawai‘i Swim Show - \$11,250
- Wai‘anae Economic Development Council / Wai‘anae Moku Made, Business Resource Hub (FY27) - \$15,000
- Acton Digital Inc / Fourth Annual Keiki Rise Showcase - \$15,000
- Hawai‘i Farmers Union Foundation / 2026 Hawai‘i Farmers Union 16th Annual State Convention: Mahi‘ai Makahiki - \$15,000
- INAMONA / Kānaka Actor’s Pū Pa‘akai - \$11,250

LOAN OPPORTUNITIES

NHRLF Debt Consolidation Loans

This OHA loan product provides financing that allows eligible borrowers to consolidate qualifying debts into a single loan. This can simplify repayment by combining multiple debts into one payment and may help borrowers manage their existing financial obligations. Loan Amount: \$2,500-\$20,000

- Open Debt Consolidation Loans: 38 loans; \$766,738 disbursed
- New Debt Consolidation Loans as of 6/30/26: Ten loans; \$253,679 disbursed

NHRLF Business Loans

This OHA loan product provides financing to eligible Native Hawaiian-owned businesses to help establish or build upon a small business. Funds may be used for working capital and other qualifying business expenses that support business development and long-term financial stability. Loan Amount: \$2,500-\$149,999

- Open Debt Consolidation Loans: Eight loans; \$594,771 disbursed
- New Debt Consolidation Loans as of 6/30/26: Two loans; \$100,000 disbursed

NHRLF Mahi ‘Ai Agricultural Loan

This OHA loan product provides financing specifically for Native Hawaiian farmers and agricultural businesses to establish or expand agricultural operations. Eligible activities can include working capital for produce and livestock and a broad range of farming methods, including in-ground, greenhouse, hydroponic, and other agricultural operations. New borrowers may receive up to a six-month payment deferment. Loan Amount: \$2,500–\$100,000

NHRLF Disaster Relief Loans

This OHA loan product provides emergency financing to eligible Native Hawaiians affected by natural disasters to help address recovery needs, including home repairs, transportation replacement, and business continuity.

Loan Amount: Up to \$20,000

OHA Consumer Micro Loan Program (CMLP)

This OHA loan product provides smaller loans to Native Hawaiians experiencing temporary financial hardship from unforeseen circumstances or seeking career advancement. Eligible uses include auto repairs, CDL licensing, apprenticeship programs, and career-development courses. Loan Amount: \$500–\$7,500

- Open Consumer Micro Loans: Two loans; \$8,456 disbursed
- New Consumer Micro Loans as of 6/30/26: Two loans; \$11,413 disbursed

SOURCES

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, B01003, Total Population*. Accessed September 9, 2026. [https://data.census.gov/table?q=040XX00US15,15\\$0500000&y=2021&d=ACS+5-Year+Estimates+Detailed+Tables](https://data.census.gov/table?q=040XX00US15,15$0500000&y=2021&d=ACS+5-Year+Estimates+Detailed+Tables) ; U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, B02019, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone or in any Combination by Selected Groups*. Accessed September 9, 2026.

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² Hawai'i Data eXchange Partnership. (n.d.). *College and Career Readiness Indicators Graduate Profile*. Accessed September 9, 2026. <https://www.hawaiidxp.org/data-products/college-and-career-readiness-indicators-graduate-profile/> ; Hawai'i Data eXchange Partnership. (n.d.). *First fall college enrollment*. Accessed September 28, 2026. <https://www.hawaiidxp.org/data-products/first-fall-college-enrollment/> ; Hawai'i Data eXchange Partnership. (n.d.). *College and career readiness indicators: Summary reports*. Accessed September 9, 2026. <https://www.hawaiidxp.org/data-products/college-and-career-readiness-indicators-summary-reports/>

³ Office of Hawaiian Affairs. (n.d.). *Hawaiian-focused charter schools*. <https://www.oha.org/hawaiian-focused-charter-schools/> ; Hawai'i State Department of Education. (n.d.). *Kaipuni Directory*. Accessed September 9, 2026. <https://hawaiipublicschools.org/kaipuni-directory/>

⁴ Annual physical checkup rate among adults reflects adults who have visited a doctor for a routine health checkup within the past year in the state of Hawai'i. Hawai'i State Department of Health, Hawai'i Health Data Warehouse, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Preventive services- checkup within the past year, Age Adjusted by Year, Adults who have visited a doctor for a routine health checkup within the past year, Filters: 2024, Honolulu County/Hawai'i State, DOH Race. Accessed September 28, 2026. https://hhdw.org/report/query/result/brfss/ChkupPastYear/ChkupPastYearAA11_.html

⁵ Kamehameha Schools, Lili'uokalani Trust, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Papa Ola Lokahi and The Queen's Health Systems. (2025). *'Imi Pono Hawaii Wellbeing Survey Dashboard*. Honolulu: Marzano Research. Accessed September 9, 2026. [Topic: 'Ōiwi; Sub-Topic: 'Ōlelo Hawai'i; Year: 2025; Primary Comparison: County, Secondary Comparison: Native Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian; "Which of the following is true for you regarding using 'Ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian language)?"]
https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/jenna.caparoso/viz/ImiPonoHawaiiWellbeingSurvey_17364560023840/ImiPonoHawaiiWellbeingSurvey?publish=yes

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *2021 5-Year Estimates American Community Survey Selected Population Tables. B25070: Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income in the Past 12 Months*. Accessed September 9, 2026. https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5YSPT2021.B25070?q=B25070&t=001:062:3925&g=040XX00US15_050XX00US15001,15003,15007,15009

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *2021 5-Year Estimates American Community Survey Selected Population Tables. B25003: Tenure*. Accessed September 9, 2026. [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5YSPT2021.B25003?q=Owner/Renter+\(Tenure\)&t=001:062:3925&g=040XX00US15,15\\$0500000_050XX00US15001,15003,15005,15007,15009,15009\\$0600000](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5YSPT2021.B25003?q=Owner/Renter+(Tenure)&t=001:062:3925&g=040XX00US15,15$0500000_050XX00US15001,15003,15005,15007,15009,15009$0600000)

⁸ Hawai'i State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. (2026, September 11). *September 11, 2026 HCC packet: Kapa'a, Kaua'i [Meeting packet, Lease Report for the Month Ending July 31, 2026, Item No. D-1, Exhibit-A, Page 3]*. Accessed September 10, 2026. <https://dhhl.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/September-11-2026-HHC-Packet-Kapaa-Kauai.pdf>

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *2021 5-Year Estimates American Community Survey Selected Population Tables. B19013: Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2021 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)*. Accessed September 28, 2026. [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5YSPT2021.B19013?t=001:062:Income+\(Households,+Families,+Individuals\)&g=040XX00US15_050XX00US15007](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5YSPT2021.B19013?t=001:062:Income+(Households,+Families,+Individuals)&g=040XX00US15_050XX00US15007)

¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *2021 5-Year Estimates American Community Survey Selected Population Detailed Tables. B24080: Sex by Class of Workers for the Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over*. Accessed September 28, 2026. [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5YSPT2021.B24080?q=b24080&t=001:3925:062&g=040XX00US15,15\\$0500000](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5YSPT2021.B24080?q=b24080&t=001:3925:062&g=040XX00US15,15$0500000)



V. Community Presenters

- A. Honoring the Contributions of Thomas “Kamaki” Awa Kanahele III and Dr. Agnes Kalaniho‘okaha Cope (Aunty Aggie Cope)
- B. Government Officials Update
- C. Wai‘anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center - Rich Bettini (CEO)
- D. Wai‘anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center - Dr. Agnes Kalaniho‘okaha Cope Center for Traditional Native Hawaiian Healing - Aunty Nalani Benioni (Healing Center Administrator) & Kaliko Chang (Director)
- E. Wai‘anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center - Ian Ross (Public Affairs Director)
- F. ‘Elepaio Social Services - Alicia Higa (Executive Director), Jesse Mikasobe-Keali'inohomoku (Indigenous Food Systems Manager), and Johnal “Nani” Estevez (Food Distribution & Pantry Manager)
- G. Nā Kama Kai - Duane DeSoto (CEO)
- H. MA‘O Organic Farm - Kau‘ilani Arce (Project Manager)
- I. Windward Community College – Ardis Eschenberg, PhD (Chancellor)

- No Material – handouts may be passed out at the table