



Island Community Report: Moloka'i

Executive Summary

Current Conditions



Educational Pathways Data

- 31% of all Moloka'i Island Native Hawaiian public high school graduates enrolled in colleges across the nation, compared to 33% of all Moloka'i Island public high school graduates (SY22-23).
- There is one Hawaiian Focused Charter School and two Hawaiian-medium programs on Moloka'i (SY23-24).



Health Outcomes Data

- Maui County had 80 primary care providers per 100,000 people, compared to 93 per 100,000 people in the State of Hawai'i (2020).
- 49% of Native Hawaiians in Maui County reported an ability to converse in 'ōlelo Hawai'i at a beginner level or higher (2022).



Quality Housing Data

- 19% (95 of 512) of Native Hawaiian renters on Moloka'i (excluding Kalawao County) paid affordable (<30% of household income toward rent) compared to 42% (13,778 of 32,538) of all Native Hawaiian renters statewide (2021).
- 8% (837) of all Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) leases statewide (10,048) were on Moloka'i (2024).
- 37% of former Maui County Native Hawaiian residents reported moving due to the high cost of living (2022).



Economic Stability Data

- Native Hawaiian median household income in East Moloka'i was \$30,603, 65% of the median income of all East Moloka'i residents (\$56,111). Native Hawaiian median household income in West Moloka'i was \$41,813, 95% of the median income of all West Moloka'i residents (\$44,028) (2021).
- 172 Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander-owned employer firms were in Maui County, which comprise 13% of all Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander-owned employer firms in the state of Hawai'i (1,358) and 5% of total firms in Maui County (3,557) (2017).

Current Issues

Kalawao County - Kalaupapa

Department of Health (DOH) operations in Kalaupapa National Historical Park are phasing out. Agencies involved include DOH, Dept. of Land and Natural Resources, Dept. of Hawaiian Home Lands, and the National Park Service. There is a new transition plan in development. (See Full Report pg #7)

Moloka'i Residents Struggle with one Airline and Access to Medical Care

With the shortage of doctors and the lack of specialized treatments on Moloka'i, residents are required to seek treatment on O'ahu. The lone air carrier on island, Mokulele Airlines, has become unreliable with multiple cancellations without notice causing residents to either pay for non-refundable transportation and lodging, or choose to forego treatment altogether. (See Full Report pg #8)

Destructive Analysis of Human Bone Fishhooks from Moloka'i

A destructive analysis of human bone fishhooks from Kaiehu Point is being investigated. (See Full Report pg #8)

University of Hawai'i West O'ahu Unmarked Burials at Moloka'i Cemetery Research: St. Joseph's Church

Although UH West O'ahu was sought out by the St. Joseph's Kamalō Cemetery Board, the identification and documenting of unmarked burials and identification of future burials processes and research is being questioned. Moloka'i Island Burial Council chair is inquiring whether any state permits and National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 compliance was required for work. (See Full Report pg #10)

Current Grantees Serving Moloka'i (Amount awarded)

Serving Moloka'i Only

- Ka Ipu Makani Cultural Heritage Center (\$100,000)
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Serving Multiple Islands, including Moloka'i

- Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning 'Ohana: Charter School Fund Administration (\$5,914,893)
- 'Aha Pūnana Leo (\$20,000)
- Moanalua Culture Project (\$100,000)
- Bishop Museum (\$49,999)
- Educational Services Hawaii Foundation (\$180,000)
- Ho'okāko'o Corporation (\$220,000)
- Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning 'Ohana: 16 Hawaiian-Focused Public Charter Schools, FB22-23 (\$2,850,000)

- Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning 'Ohana: 16 Hawaiian-Focused Public Charter Schools, FB24-25 (\$2,850,000)
- The Hawaiian Church of Hawai'i Nei (\$50,000)
- 'Aha Pūnana Leo (\$79,514)
- Purple Mai'a Foundation (\$498,660)
- Hawai'i Community Lending: Native Hawaiian Owner-Builder Project (\$398,000)
- Homestead Community Development Corporation: Homestead Policy Advocacy for the Waitlist (HPAW) (\$40,000)
- Alu Like, Inc. (\$830,000)
- Hawaiian Community Assets, Inc. (\$1,500,000)
- Homestead Community Development Corporation: Residential Employment Living Improvement Program (\$500,000)

Current Moloka'i Lending

27 active Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund/Consumer Micro Loan Program loans; \$536,889 total dollars disbursed.