



Island Community Report: O‘ahu

Executive Summary

Current Native Hawaiian Conditions on O‘ahu



Educational Pathways Data

- Based on available data, roughly 19% (21,282) of the 112,177 O‘ahu public high school graduates are Native Hawaiian (SY23-24).¹
- There are six Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools and ten Hawaiian-medium programs/ schools on O‘ahu (SY23-24).²



Health Outcomes Data

- O‘ahu had 93 primary care providers per 100,000 population, compared to 89 per 100,000 population in the State of Hawai‘i (2021).³
- 22% of Native Hawaiians on O‘ahu reported an ability to converse in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i at a beginner level or higher (2023).⁴



Quality Housing Data

- 43% (8,777 of 20,567) of Native Hawaiian renters on O‘ahu paid affordable rent (<30% of household income toward housing costs) (2017-2021).⁵
- 56% (26,253 of 46,820) of Native Hawaiian households on O‘ahu owned their home (2017-2021).⁶
- 44% (4,440) of all Department of Hawaiian Homelands leases statewide (10,048) are on O‘ahu (2024).⁷



Economic Stability Data

- Native Hawaiian median household income on O‘ahu was \$90,868, 98% of the median income of all O‘ahu residents (\$92,600) (2017-2021).⁸
- There are 5,401 Native Hawaiian entrepreneurs on O‘ahu. This is 53% of the Native Hawaiian entrepreneurs statewide (10,193) (2021).⁹

Current Opportunities and Challenges

Native Hawaiian Cultural Appropriateness

House Resolution 21 (HR 21) and House Concurrent Resolution 32 (HCR32) were passed by the Legislature in 2024, calling on the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to define what constitutes cultural appropriateness for addressing disparities faced by Native Hawaiians. This initiative aims to tackle longstanding issues in health, education, housing, and economic stability through culturally informed solutions that respect Native Hawaiian values and traditions.

The resolutions were viewed positively by Native Hawaiian organizations and advocates, who see them as a step toward justice and equity. They emphasize the importance of ensuring that the process is led by Native Hawaiians and includes diverse community input, with a focus on achieving concrete outcomes rather than symbolic gestures. OHA supported the resolutions and plans to work closely with Native Hawaiian communities to develop a framework for cultural appropriateness. The goal is to create actionable strategies that address disparities effectively and improve the wellbeing of Native Hawaiians while integrating their cultural perspectives.

Kaiapuni Education

House Bill 2074 (HB 2074) represents a major legislative milestone by allocating funds to the Department of Education for Kaiapuni programs, which focus on Hawaiian language immersion. The bill creates three curriculum specialist positions and 10 classroom teacher positions to address the historical issues of underfunding and staffing shortages in these programs.

Kaiapuni education is essential for the preservation and growth of Native Hawaiian culture and language. Despite increasing demand, these programs have faced resource challenges. HB 2074 aims to support and sustain Kaiapuni schools, fulfilling the state's constitutional obligation to promote Hawaiian culture and language.

The bill was positively received by Native Hawaiian communities and educators, though there were concerns about ensuring that qualified individuals are hired for the new positions. OHA supported HB 2074 and is working with the Department of Education to ensure the effective implementation of the bill and the proper filling of the new roles.

Lalo (French Frigate Shoals) Workshop on Moku'ume'ume (Ford Island)

OHA serves as a co-trustee and co-manager of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, focusing on addressing the effects of climate change, particularly sea level rise impacting Lalo (French Frigate Shoals). Lalo is crucial for various marine species, including green sea turtles and Hawaiian monk seals, which are threatened by rising sea levels.

A Lalo workshop was held from March 6 to March 8, 2023, and attended by co-trustees and managers to discuss how to handle these threats. Opinions varied: some advocated for a natural course of events, while others suggested proactive measures like relocating green sea turtles to ensure their survival. The workshop aimed to review different strategies and understand community perspectives.

OHA is actively involved in managing Papahānaumokuākea, attending meetings and workshops organized by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State of Hawai'i's Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). OHA is also developing an Ocean Policy to guide its management role and has funded the Cultural Working Group, which advises on cultural and environmental matters. OHA's public policy staff are engaged in ongoing discussions to ensure effective stewardship of the Monument.

OHA Funding Activities for O‘ahu

- 32 active grantees provide services on O‘ahu; \$22,038,277 total funds awarded.
 - 14 of these 32 active grantees are exclusive to O‘ahu; \$2,673,286 total funds awarded.
- 226 active Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund/Consumer Micro Loan Program loans were provided on O‘ahu.
 - \$7,159,055 total dollars disbursed, of which there were 76 new loans funded for \$2,669,838.

EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS

GRANTING ACTIVITIES

O‘ahu Only

- Boys & Girls Club of Hawai‘i: Ka Ulu A‘e o ka Na‘auao (\$205,000)^a
- Infinite Reach [dba ‘Apoākea Native Hawaiian Innovation Institute]: Grant Writing, Accounting, and Insurance (\$25,000)^b
- Hawaiian Historical Society: Back of Office Resources and Program Implementation/Evaluation (\$25,000)^b
- Papahana Kuaola: Nā Leo Makamae (\$84,757)^c

Multi-Island/Statewide, including O‘ahu

- Kanu o ka ‘Āina Learning ‘Ohana (KALO) (FB24-25): 24-25 Charter School Fund Administration (per pupil) (\$2,709,614)
- Kanu o ka ‘Āina Learning ‘Ohana (FB24-25): KALO: Hawaiian-Focused Public Charter School Fund Administration - Phase II (facilities) (\$2,850,000)^a
- Kanu o ka ‘Āina Learning ‘Ohana (FB24-25): KALO: Hawaiian-Focused Public Charter School Fund Administration - Phase III (federal advocacy) (\$500,000)^a
- EA Ecoversty: Basic Hawaiian (\$183,210)^a
- Keiki O Ka ‘Āina Family Learning Centers: Board and Stone, Strengthening Families and Equipping for the Future (\$205,000)^a
- ‘Aha Pūnana Leo, Inc.: Kahena (\$25,000)
- Purple Mai‘a Foundation: Waiw.AI: Building a Flourishing Future for Kanaka with AI (\$200,000)
- Educational Services Hawai‘i Foundation: ‘Imi ‘Ike Learning Centers (\$180,000)
- Kanu o ka ‘Āina Learning ‘Ohana (KALO): KALO: Hawaiian-Focused Public Charter School Fund Administration - Phase II (facilities) (\$2,850,000)

LOAN ACTIVITIES

Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund (NHRLF) Mālama Education Loan Activity on O‘ahu

- Open Education Loans as of 6/30/24: four loans, total disbursed \$46,427
- No New Education Loans in FY24, 07/01/23 to 06/30/24

HEALTH OUTCOMES

GRANTING ACTIVITIES

O'ahu Only

- Papahana Kuaola: Kupu A Lau (\$200,000)^a
- Infinite Reach [dba 'Apoākea Native Hawaiian Innovation Institute]: Grant Writing, Accounting, and Insurance (\$25,000)^d
- Kalaeloa Heritage & Legacy Foundation: Grant Writing (\$15,000)
- Hawaiian Historical Society: Back of Office Resources and Program Implementation/Evaluation (\$25,000)^d
- Papakōlea Community Development Corporation: Pūowaina Research and Education Project (\$100,000)
- Hui Mālama O Ke Kai Foundation: Papahana Kālai Papa Me Pōhaku Ku'i 'Ai (\$99,840)
- Papahana Kuaola: Nā Kama 'Āina (\$100,000)

Multi-Island/Statewide, including O'ahu

- 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Inc.: Noi'i OHA (\$79,514)^d
- The Hawaiian Church of Hawai'i Nei: E Ho'omau O Na Malama I Na Iwi Kupuna (\$50,000)
- Alu Like, Inc.: KOHOPONO (\$250,000)

LOAN ACTIVITIES

OHA Consumer Micro Loan Program Loan Activity on O'ahu (for funeral and emergency health purposes)

- Open Funeral and Health Consumer Micro Loans as of 06/30/24: Eight loans, total disbursed \$47,025
- New Funeral and Health Consumer Micro Loans in FY24, 07/01/23 to 06/30/24: Two loans, total disbursed \$13,525

QUALITY HOUSING

GRANTING ACTIVITIES

O'ahu Only

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

Multi-Island/Statewide, including O'ahu

- Hawaiian Community Assets, Inc.: Native Hawaiian Occupancy Ready Project (\$1,500,000)
- Homestead Community Development Corporation: Homestead Policy Advocacy for the Waitlist (HPAW) (\$40,000)^e

LOAN ACTIVITIES

NHRLF Mālama Home Improvement Loans on O'ahu

- Open Mālama Home Improvement Loans as of 06/30/24: 67 loans, total disbursed \$2,315,589
- New Mālama Home Improvement Loans in FY24, 07/01/23 to 06/30/24: 19 loans, total disbursed \$792,080

NHRLF OHA Consumer Micro Loans for unexpected home repair purposes on O‘ahu

- Open Consumer Home Repair Micro Loans as of 06/30/24: Three loans, total disbursed \$13,175
- No new Consumer Home Repair Micro Loans in FY24, 07/01/23 to 06/30/24

ECONOMIC STABILITY

GRANTING ACTIVITIES

O‘ahu Only

- Infinite Reach [dba ‘Apoākea Native Hawaiian Innovation Institute]: Grant Writing, Accounting, and Insurance (\$25,000)^f
- Hawaiian Historical Society: Back of Office Resources and Program Implementation/Evaluation (\$25,000)^f

Multi-Island/Statewide, including O‘ahu

- Homestead Community Development Corporation: Residential Employment Living Improvement Program (\$500,000)
- Alu Like, Inc.: Kūlia Like (\$830,000)
- Homestead Community Development Corporation: Homestead Policy Advocacy for the Waitlist (HPAW) (\$40,000)^g
- Purple Mai‘a Foundation: Mālama Design Studio (\$498,660)

LOAN ACTIVITIES

NHRLF Debt Consolidation Loans on O‘ahu

- Open Debt Consolidation Loans as of 06/30//24: 95 loans, total disbursed \$1,654,419
- New Debt Consolidation Loans in FY24, 07/01/23 to 06/30/24: 42 loans, total disbursed \$819,213

NHRLF OHA Consumer Micro Loans on O‘ahu (for auto repair, CDL, apprenticeship program, or career development course purposes)

- Open Consumer Economic Stability Micro Loans as of 6/30/24: Nine loans, total disbursed \$51,325
- No new Consumer Economic Stability Micro Loans in FY24, 07/01/23 to 06/30/24

NHRLF Mālama Business Loans on O‘ahu (Loan amounts from \$2,500 to \$100,000)

- Open Mālama Business Loans as of 06/30/24: 38 loans, total disbursed \$2,281,095
- New Mālama Business Loans in FY24, 07/01/23 to 06/30/24: 13 loans, total disbursed \$1,045,020

NHRLF Hua Kanu Loans on O‘ahu (Loan amounts from \$150,000 to \$1,000,000)

- Open Hua Kanu Loans as of 06/31/24: 2 loans, total disbursed \$750,000
- No new Hua Kanu Loans in FY24, 07/01/23 to 06/30/24

GRANTING ACTIVITIES ENDNOTES

- ^a Grant awarded, contract execution in progress
- ^b Project also aligns with Economic Stability and Health Outcomes
- ^c Grantee is a subrecipient of ACF/ANA Office of Discretionary Grants, 93.612, Native American Programs, for which OHA is the pass-through entity
- ^d Project also aligns with Educational Pathways and Economic Stability
- ^e Project also aligns with Economic Stability
- ^f Project also aligns with Educational Pathways and Health Outcomes
- ^g Project also aligns with Quality Housing

SOURCES

- ¹ Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education. (2023). Data provided by the Hawai'i Data eXchange Partnership (DXP ID773B). <https://www.hawaiiexchange.org/>
- ² State of Hawai'i State Department of Education. (n.d.). *Kaipuni Schools - Hawaiian Language Immersion*. Accessed June 25, 2024. <https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/StudentLearning/HawaiianEducation/Pages/Hawaiian-language-immersion-schools.aspx>; Hawai'i State Department of Education. (n.d.). *Hawai'i State Department of Education Longitudinal Education Information (LEI) System*. [Islands: Hawai'i, Kaipuni (Language Immersion)]. Accessed on August 12, 2024. <https://essa.hidoedata.org/schools>; Office of Hawaiian Affairs. (2023, July 28). *OHA trustees approve \$6 million for charter schools*. Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Accessed August 19, 2024. <https://www.oha.org/news/oha-trustees-approve-6-million-charter-schools/>
- ³ Hawai'i Health Matters, Community Dashboard. Chart: Primary Care Provider Rate, County = Honolulu, Year = 2021. Accessed August 14, 2024. <https://www.hawaiihealthmatters.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=385&localeId=599&comparisonId=7145>
- ⁴ Kamehameha Schools' Strategy & Transformation Group, Lili'uokalani Trust, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Papa Ola Lokahi. (2023). *'Imi Pono Hawai'i Wellbeing Survey Dashboard*. 2022 Topics: Family and Beliefs, Hawaiian Language and Culture; 2023 Topics: About Your Community, Hawaiian Language and Culture, Civic Beliefs, Quality of Life. Accessed June 15, 2024. https://marzanoresearch.shinyapps.io/ks_version4/
- ⁵ U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *2021 5-Year Estimates American Community Survey Selected Population Tables. B25070: Tenure*. Accessed August 2, 2024. https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5YSPT2021.B25070?q=B25070:%20GROSS%20RENT%20AS%20A%20PERCENTAGE%20OF%20HOUSEHOLD%20INCOME%20IN%20THE%20PAST%2012%20MONTHS&t=062&g=040XX00US15_050XX00US15009
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- ⁷ Hawai'i State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. (2022). *Annual report (p. 47)*. Accessed August 12, 2024. <https://dhhl.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/DHHL-FY22-Annual-Report.pdf>
- ⁸ 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 June 16, 2024. [https://data.census.gov/table?q=B19013:%20MEDIAN%20HOUSEHOLD%20INCOME%20IN%20THE%20PAST%2012%20MONTHS%20\(IN%202021%20INFLATION-ADJUSTED%20DOLLARS\)&t=001:062:3925&g=040XX00US15,15\\$0500000](https://data.census.gov/table?q=B19013:%20MEDIAN%20HOUSEHOLD%20INCOME%20IN%20THE%20PAST%2012%20MONTHS%20(IN%202021%20INFLATION-ADJUSTED%20DOLLARS)&t=001:062:3925&g=040XX00US15,15$0500000)
- ⁹ State of Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism). *Hawaii's Native Hawaiian Entrepreneurs*. Accessed August 11, 2024. https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/Hawaii_Native_Hawaiian_Entrepreneurs.pdf