



# PŪPŪKAHI

HAWAI'I ISLAND UNITED WAY NEWSLETTER  
MARCH 2024



Change. Here it comes, ready or not! Life has been such a roller coaster the past few years. Many are still recovering from the pandemic, yet time moves on, and we are already 3 months into 2024 ready for whatever the year has to offer.

As we look ahead down the path to our future, we think about how change affects everyone, especially our communities and our island. What does your future look like? All of us here at the Hawai'i Island United Way want a future filled with thriving communities, where keiki have full stomachs and access to great education. Where everyone has a place to call home and kupuna are kept safe and nearby for us to learn from and gather their wise advice. That future won't happen without all of us coming together to make it happen. There are so many ways that all of us can contribute to making that future a reality. How?

GET INVOLVED. Donate to organizations that you feel passionate about. Offer to volunteer at an event or offer to be part of an organization's committee. Maybe even consider a board seat with a local non-profit so you can really see the reality of what our communities are struggling with. No matter how you choose to become involved, it will bring much insight and great satisfaction!

"The future depends on what you do today." - Mahatma Gandhi

688 KINO'OLE ST. #201  
HILO, HAWAII 96720

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# A message from our President:

## A Message of Hope



Our story at Hawai'i Island United Way is over 57 years old. It's a history rich in collective work and impact within our Big Island community. It's been four and a half years since I joined HIUW and during this time, I've had the privilege to work with and learn from many people including community leaders who are invested in making Hawai'i island a better place to live and flourish. Many volunteers through the years have committed their time and energy to advancing HIUW's core values and mission to unite people, organizations, and resources to build a healthier community. Many donors have continued to believe in and support our initiatives focused on education, income, and health. If I think about what unites them, it's the connection to HIUW's values and it's their dedication to their local communities.

Given all the current challenges our community is faced with it may feel as though we are on the edge of a precipice. That is when we must reflect upon the positive differences we have made in the lives of thousands of people in our community. Our newsletter shares these successful impact stories every quarter. We feel honored to unite with our local nonprofit partners to be a part of positive change in so many people's lives despite the most challenging of times. So, when it feels like we are teetering at the edge of a cliff, take a step back and take a deep breath. We are all in this together and we are making progress, little by little. "It's not the destination, it's the journey" said the famous philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson. Would you agree?

I am excited about our continued work ahead. Kulia i ka nu'u!

In service,



**Karen Davis, President and CPO  
Hawai'i Island United Way**

Did you  
know...

## VOLUNTEERING

A study by Yeung, Zhang, and Kim, researchers from the Department of Applied Social Sciences, City University of Hong Kong, found that volunteering led to an 8.54% increase in mental health, 9.08% increase in physical health, 7.35% increase in life satisfaction, 11.11% increase in social well-being, and 4.30% decrease in depression ([BMC Public Health](#))



**Congratulations to Carol Pacheco for her promotion  
to Grants and Community Advancement Director!**

# IMPACT STORY: FULL LIFE



As a result of Hawai'i Island United Way Partnership grant a participant with developmental disabilities has been able to expand his nature photography business. He has a passion for taking underwater pictures and has been supporting himself by selling prints, cards, and other marketable items with his images. This year he created two social media groups to network with other photographers and share his work with the general public. He also earned more than \$600 in one day at the October Abled Hawaii Artist Festival in Pahoa! Lastly, this participant has been invited to participate in a 3-day immersive artist collaborative experience. He will co-learn new skills from other attendees and create work together. This will be a truly inclusive community art event!



We would like to welcome our spring intern Blaze Johnson. Happy to have you on the team!



## Volunteer Spotlight

I VOLUNTEER FOR HAWAI'I ISLAND UNITED WAY BECAUSE....



"I believe that by extending a helping hand to others we sow the seeds of resilience and unity that enables our community to thrive. Each contribution, no matter how small, contributes to a shared vision of progress and inclusivity. It is through this collaborative spirit that we forge a path towards a future where every member of our community can flourish and make meaningful contributions to the world around us."

*Mahalo*



KAI STEUER



[FOR MORE INFORMATION ON VOLUNTEERING VISIT: HIUW.ORG/VOLUNTEER/](https://hiuw.org/volunteer/)

# THE PILLARS OF HIUW

The pillars of HIUW are **education** -encouraging and nurturing positive values to develop skills in children, youth and adults; **income** -empowering families and individuals to become financially stable; increasing self-sufficiency and independence; and **health** - Providing for basic needs and a safety net of services that promote prevention and encourage healing and recovery. These pillars are addressed through HIUW's various grant programs including The Partner Agency Community Impact Grant Program, The FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Grant Program, and Disaster Recovery Grant Programs.

HIUW's grant opportunities provide much needed supplemental funding to the many local nonprofit organizations' health and human service programs in our community including food pantries and commercial kitchens serving hot meals. HIUW invested \$130,000 into providing shelter to individuals who were houseless and \$271,000 toward addressing food insecurity in Hawai'i county in the past year. HIUW invested \$300,000 into 36 local health and human service programs that address HIUW's 3 pillars. These partnerships collectively move people from crisis to stability every day. Though HIUW's main focus is supporting the people of Hawai'i island, we don't forget our neighbor islands. When the Maui Fires happened, HIUW pivoted to raise funds to support the disaster recovery programs our sister United Way (Maui United Way) created. HIUW raised over \$20,000 in a matter of days to support our island friends. Our donors, volunteers, staff and community partnerships continue to make it all happen, year after year. We are grateful for your support and together we will continue to strengthen these pillars.

# 21ST ANNUAL HIUW LUCK OF THE IRISH



 MAUNA LANI  
AUBERGE RESORTS COLLECTION  
ISLAND OF HAWAII

 United Way  
Hawaii Island United Way

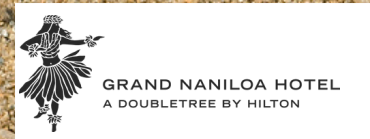
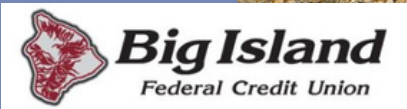
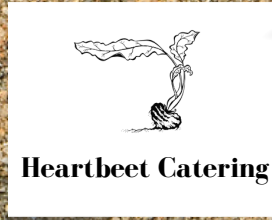
# Mahalo to our Sponsors



**TEAM PROJECTS INC.**



**HAWAII DAS LLC**



## HIUW STORE

Unable to attend our fundraisers but still want to help your community, here is a fun way, the HIUW store sells swag from our events at discounted prices. check it out!



**SALE  
SALE  
SALE**