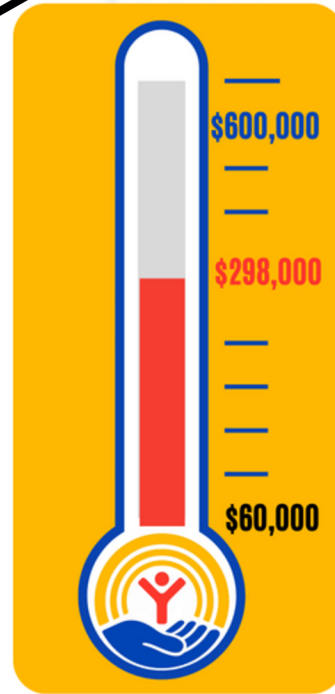


April 2025

By June 30, 2025 **\$650K**



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# PUPUKAHI

## UNITING FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE ON HAWAI'I ISLAND

We are not going to sugarcoat this. We need to raise \$350,000 in the next three months. This funding will help grow community grants, volunteer programs, and our nonprofit network. Every contribution, big or small, brings us closer to this goal and helps us continue making a difference.

A big mahalo to everyone who has already donated—we truly appreciate your support! Together, we can make a lasting impact.

**25**  
Nonprofit Partners  
Supported This Year

**300+**  
Businesses Participate  
in the HIUW Annual  
Workplace Campaign

**\$500+**  
Total Raised for  
Hawai'i Island  
in FY 2023-4

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PRESIDENT & CPO, JESS THOMPSON



Aloha Friends,

I began serving as your President and CPO at Hawai'i Island United Way on December 3, 2024, and I began drafting this message to you on March 3, 2025. I'm excited to share the insights I've gathered during the past three months. I've had the privilege of speaking with over 100 current and former staff, volunteers, board members, community partners, and donors, and I want to highlight some key takeaways.

The future is uncertain. No matter their political affiliation or life experience, people shared that the rapid pace of change leaves many unsure of what lies ahead. In light of this uncertainty, the importance of Hawai'i Island United Way's mission—to unite people, organizations, and resources—has never been clearer.

Our mission stands strong after 6 decades, and as I heard time and again from those I spoke with, it's vital now more than ever to bring people together. Our work is appreciated, and many expressed a desire to contribute more—whether it's time, funds, or insights. People shared that they would like to see growth in our volunteer base, board, staff, community impact grant programs, and nonprofit convenings. More than anything, people stated HIUW was uniquely positioned to uplift the successes -- and challenges -- of Hawai'i Island nonprofit staff and organizations who work tirelessly to meet the needs of our community members who call Hawai'i Island home..

These conversations have been invaluable as we enter the early stages of developing our strategic plan, or success plan as we call it, which we will share in the second half of 2025. Here's how you can connect with us today:

- Volunteer to join a committee. Email me for more information: [cpo@hiuw.org](mailto:cpo@hiuw.org).
- Donate to Hawai'i Island United Way. In April, we'll launch a monthly donor campaign. Our goal is to double our current 7 monthly donors, and the first 7 new monthly donors will receive a Yeti cup!
- Join us at an event: Participate in the Hawai'i Island United Way Charity Walk on May 10th!

Mahalo for your continued support as we work together to strengthen our community.

With gratitude,

*Jess Thompson*



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



46th Annual Visitor Industry  
**CHARITY WALK**  
MAY 10, 2025  
WAIKOLOA BEACH RESORT\* WAIKOLOA BOWL

6:45 AM - RUN  
7:30 AM - WALK

Join our team or help us reach our goal of \$10,000



We are thrilled to invite YOU to the 46th Annual Charity Walk! Join our HIUW team, donate or volunteer at our aid station! A great walk for a great cause.

Register at: <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/HawaiiIsland/team/HIUW>

## UNITE FOR A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY THROUGH MONTHLY GIVING!

Help us reach our goal of signing up 7 new monthly donors to Hawai'i Island United Way! Maria Veronica Sy-Rondaris is our newest member of the Sustaining Circle.

The first 7 Sustaining Circle Members receive an HIUW Yeti! To become a Sustaining Circle Member, go to: <https://hiuw.org/how-to-help/give.html> or email [info@hiuw.org](mailto:info@hiuw.org) if you would like help signing up!



*"I give to Hawai'i Island United Way every month because I know they support so many different organizations doing important work for our community, and I know this money stays on Hawai'i Island."*

**Maria Veronica**

# COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Your investment in Hawai'i Island United Way is an investment in community health.



**American Red Cross**  
Hawaii

In August 2024, a family of five in Pahoehoe experienced a home fire that deemed their home destroyed as a result. The family was immediately given \$875 in financial assistance. They unfortunately lost many personal items and worked with Red Cross caseworkers to gain access to critical resources, such as eyeglass prescription vouchers. They also worked with caseworkers to identify agencies to contact, like the social security office, DMV and how to retain a new passport. The consistent reassurance and support from caseworkers enabled the family to quickly begin their road to recovery despite the tragic home fire.

**If you or someone you know needs help from the American Red Cross, please call 808.734.2101, or visit <https://www.redcross.org/local/hawaii.html>**

**This month's story shines a light on the incredible work of the American Red Cross, and their continued support of our island communities not only during disasters but also everyday.**



**FRIENDS  
OF THE  
CHILDREN'S  
JUSTICE CENTER  
OF EAST HAWAII**

*...positively impacting the lives of abused and neglected children*

## CHILDREN DESERVE THE RIGHT TO AN APPROPRIATE STANDARD OF LIVING, HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION.

Lily A. (name changed for privacy) is a 6-year-old girl who lives with her mother. Lily's family was referred to Parents, Inc. services to prevent Child Welfare intervention. After the home assessment, it was noted that Lily lacked essential hygiene items that would improve her overall physical health. Her Parents, Inc. case manager requested funds (\$50.00) to purchase hygiene items. The Friends was able to provide the funding (\$50.00). The case manager reported that Lily used the products to keep herself clean and healthy. She also noted a positive impact on Lily's self-esteem and social behavior.



Helping abused children today, breaking the cycle of abuse tomorrow. **visit <https://www.https://fcjceasthawaii.org/>**

# Luck of the Irish Golf Tournament 2025 Recap

Mahalo to everyone who came out for our 22nd Annual Luck of the Irish Golf Tournament on March 16th, 2025. Your registrations, sponsorships, donations, and good cheer helped us raise just over (drum roll...)

# \$40,000



# Mahalo to Our Sponsors!



MAUNA LANI  
AUBERGE RESORTS COL  
ISLAND OF HAWAII



BIG ISLAND *Delights*



JACK'S DIVING LOCKER

Amphenol



RH CARBIDE



ChallengerCableSales  
Competitive Dependable Direct

ACI®



CANDIES  
BIG ISLAND®



HAWAII DAS



Spectrum



TEAM PROJECTS, INC.