

September 2025

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**UNITING FOR  
A BRIGHTER  
FUTURE ON  
HAWAII  
ISLAND**



To Infinity and Beyond Go Getter Award  
**Nicole Chase**  
Executive Assistant  
Friends of the Children's Justice Center



Good Trouble Social Justice Award  
**Pua Case**  
Program Director  
Mauna Kea Education and Awareness



North Star Visionary Award  
**Ian Kow**  
Direct Service Provider  
Full Life



Loud and Proud Advocacy Award  
**Zahava "Zee" Zaidoff**  
Continuing Care Coordinator  
Bridge House



Spark Plug Go Getter Award  
**Charis Higginson**  
Founder and Executive Director  
Humanity Hale



Glue Stick Anchor Award  
**Daylynn Kyles**  
President and Founder  
Aloha 'Ilio Rescue

# Announcing our 2025 Ripple Effect Awardees!





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PRESIDENT & CPO, JESS THOMPSON

Aloha Friends,

As we welcome September, I'm filled with gratitude and excitement for all the momentum we're building together. Behind every program, every partnership, and every act of giving is a network of **Hawai'i Island based nonprofits** working tirelessly to serve our community.

One of the reasons we are working so hard to build momentum is because this sector is too often overlooked – especially on neighbor islands. Across the islands of Hawai'i, nonprofits represent nearly 12% of all employment, reflecting the sectors deep contribution to our collective social and economic wellbeing.<sup>1</sup> That's why we're proud to be building the **Hawai'i Island Nonprofit Network**, a new initiative designed to strengthen collaboration, share resources, and elevate the voices of nonprofit leaders right here at home. One of the cornerstones of Hawai'i Island Nonprofit Network is our Community Impact Grant Program, which currently funds 25 nonprofit organizations and over 30 programs serving communities across Hawai'i Island.

This work is only possible because of the generosity of donors and the strength of our annual **Workplace Campaign**. This month, we officially launch the campaign, and we're inviting businesses and organizations across the island to join us in celebrating this year's theme: The Power of Giving. You can learn more about how to get involved in **Development Manager Al Santos' message on page 5**.

And speaking of celebration... we're counting down to the first ever **Givers Gala, happening on October 24th at the Arc of Hilo!** This special evening will honor nonprofit volunteers and employees who are recipients of our **Ripple Effect Awards**.

Here are three ways you can help us strengthen the nonprofit network:

- volunteer your time with our furniture bank or campaign (page 6 and 7)
- donate to our furniture bank or campaign (page 6 and 7)
- purchasing tickets or sponsoring the Givers Gala (page 4)

1) <https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2025/article/nonprofit-organizations-state-and-regional-employment-trends.htm>

*With gratitude,*  
*Jess Thompson*

PS: We are on the hunt for the data regarding the number of nonprofit employees on Hawai'i Island specifically!  
Email me at [cpo@hiuw.org](mailto:cpo@hiuw.org) if you have information!



# Announcing Our 2025 Group Ripple Effect Awardees!



Dream Team We Rock Award  
**Peanut Butter Ministry**  
At Hilo United Methodist Church

## Bold Moves Game Changer Award **KōCreate**

Breeani Kobayashi-Kūali'i,  
Ashley Kierkiewicz, Misty Pacheco,  
Rayann Dangaran, and Janice Ikeda  
Vibrant Hawai'i Program



Mission Mastery Award  
**West Hawai'i Mediation**  
Eric Paul and Team



# Celebrate the Ripple Effect Awardees

# 2025 Givers Gala

Hawai'i Island United Way is proud to present the first annual Givers Gala! Join us as we honor nonprofit employees and volunteers who work passionately to make our island a better place for all.

- Catalyst Cocktail Hour
- Ripple Effect Awards Ceremony recognizing outstanding nonprofit leaders
- Elegant gala dinner with local flavors
- Stories of impact that highlight how ripple effects create waves of change
- Networking and community building opportunities
- A very special surprise

**Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Location: The Arc of Hilo

5PM-6PM Cocktail Hour

6PM-8PM Dinner and Ripple Effect Award Celebration

8PM-9PM Dance Party

Mahalo to our Catalyst Sponsors



First Hawaiian Bank.



To purchase tickets or sponsor the Givers Gala, go to <https://giversgala.com>





# Workplace Campaign Kickoff

Aloha,

I'm Al-Eisha "Al" Santos, Development Manager at Hawai'i Island United Way – and I'm so excited to invite you to be part of something truly special. The Power of Giving is more than just a theme – it's a reminder that when we come together, even small acts of kindness can create big waves of change across our island.

Imagine the impact of your team uniting to uplift our community – one donation at a time. That's the heart of a Workplace Campaign: a chance for you and your coworkers to create real, lasting change right here at home.

How You Can Give:

- Payroll Deduction – The easiest way to give regularly.
- Employers interested in signing up can contact: [campaign@hiuw.org](mailto:campaign@hiuw.org)
- Online Donation – Visit [www.hiuw.org](http://www.hiuw.org) to make a one-time or recurring gift.
- Get Creative – Host a fundraiser, organize a giving challenge, or become a campaign ambassador.

**Every dollar stays local. Every gift makes a difference.**

Let's show what aloha looks like in action – together.

And if your workplace doesn't currently offer a campaign but you'd love to be part of the movement, don't hesitate to reach out to me directly. I'll help make the magic happen: [campaign@hiuw.org](mailto:campaign@hiuw.org) or via phone at 808-935-6393!

**PS--Check out our pledge form on next page – and the 25 nonprofits your donations support! Let me know if you would like us to drop some off at your workplace.**

*With Aloha,  
Al*



# PLEDGE FORM

The "Power of Giving" campaign symbolizes hope and unity for Hawai'i Island communities. It invites those passionate about making a positive impact to connect and celebrate the strength of giving. Beyond fundraising, the initiative seeks to unite efforts in supporting vital programs and services that affect many lives across the island.

**POWER**  
of  
**Giving**

*Mahalo for being a part of this journey!*

## STEP 1 My information

Please print boldly and legibly. Your personal information is kept confidential.

First Name	M.I.	Last Name	Suffix
<div></div>			
Home Address		City	
<div></div>			
State	Zip	Email	
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	
Phone	Employer		
<div></div>	<div></div>		

## STEP 2 About my gift

Amounts should equal total gift in Step 3.

<input type="checkbox"/> Hawai'i Island United Way (HIUW)	\$	
AND/OR HIUW Nonprofit Partner:		
<input type="radio"/> American Red Cross	\$	
<input type="radio"/> Arc of Kona	\$	
<input type="radio"/> Big Island Substance Abuse Council (BISAC)	\$	
<input type="radio"/> Bridge House	\$	
<input type="radio"/> Child and Family Services	\$	
<input type="radio"/> Family Support Services of West Hawai'i	\$	
<input type="radio"/> Friends of the Children's Justice Center	\$	
<input type="radio"/> Full Life	\$	
<input type="radio"/> Girl Scouts of Hawai'i	\$	
<input type="radio"/> Hawai'i Island Adult Care (HIAC)	\$	
<input type="radio"/> Hawai'i Literacy/ Kona Literacy Center	\$	
<input type="radio"/> Hawai'i Island Home for Recovery	\$	
<input type="radio"/> Hawai'i Care Choices/Hospice of Hilo	\$	
<input type="radio"/> Ku'ikahi Mediation Center	\$	
<input type="radio"/> Kumukahi Health & Wellness	\$	
<input type="radio"/> Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i	\$	
<input type="radio"/> Mental Health Kokua	\$	
<input type="radio"/> PATCH-People Attentive to Children	\$	
<input type="radio"/> Salvation Army of Hilo	\$	
<input type="radio"/> Salvation Army of Kona	\$	
<input type="radio"/> Special Olympics West Hawai'i	\$	
<input type="radio"/> The Food Basket	\$	
<input type="radio"/> West Hawai'i Mediation	\$	
<input type="radio"/> Island of Hawai'i YMCA	\$	
<input type="radio"/> YWCA Hawai'i Island	\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> I want to support another nonprofit through HIUW by designating my gift.*		
Agency Name		
Agency Address		
	\$	

## STEP 3 Gift amount and payment method

TOTAL ANNUAL GIFT = \$

<input type="checkbox"/> PAYROLL DEDUCTION	<input type="radio"/> Weekly (52)	<input type="radio"/> Bi-Weekly (26)	<input type="radio"/> Semi-Monthly (24)
	<input type="radio"/> Monthly (12)	<input type="radio"/> Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK AND/OR CASH	Please attach and make payable to Hawai'i Island United Way		
	Check Number Check Date		
<input type="checkbox"/> CREDIT CARD	To pledge online, scan the QR code below or go to <a href="http://hiuw.org">hiuw.org</a> .		
	<input type="radio"/> Visa	<input type="radio"/> Mastercard	<input type="radio"/> American Express
	<input type="radio"/> Discover		
	Card #		
	Exp. date		
	<input type="radio"/> Monthly payments beginning (MM/YY)		
	<input type="radio"/> One-time payments beginning (MM/YY)		
	<input type="radio"/> Quarterly payments beginning (MM/YY)		
	This authorization may be canceled at anytime by calling Hawai'i Island United Way at 808-935-6393.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to remain anonymous.			
<input type="checkbox"/> My name may be released to HIUW or the designated program/agency for possible public recognition.			

## CONNECT WITH US



Share your time & talents!  
Sign up to Volunteer: [hiuwvolunteer](http://hiuwvolunteer)



Hawai'i Island United Way  
688 Kino'ole Street, Suite 201  
Hilo, HI 96720  
808-935-6393 | [hiuw.org](http://hiuw.org)

## STEP 4 Please sign and date

Signature: X Date:

Nogoodsr serviceswere providedinexchange forthis contribution. Please keep a copy of this form for your tax records. IRS tax receipts will be sent out in January for qualifying donations of \$250 or more in a calendar year. Consult your tax advisor for more information. Please visit [hiuw.org](http://hiuw.org) for more information and frequently asked questions.

# HIUW Program Incubator: HAWAI'I ISLAND FURNITURE BANK



We need volunteers!  
HILO

Light cleaning and  
organizing of donated  
household goods for  
partner agency clients.

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Gently used small  
furniture, linens, or kitchen  
items accepted at our Hilo  
office.

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Email [info@hiuw.org](mailto:info@hiuw.org) for  
more information.

## SUPPORT HIUW BY BECOMING A MONTHLY DONOR

Join Hawai'i Island United Way Board member, Bobby Watson-Correa, in becoming a monthly donor! Help us reach our goal of signing up 7 new monthly donors to Hawai'i Island United Way! Bobby supports HIUW because he wants his donation dollars to support **Hawai'i Island based** nonprofits.

**The next four monthly donors receive a  
Hawai'i Island United Way Yeti cup!**



<https://hiuw.org/how-to-help/give.html>