

JANUARY 2025



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PUPUKAHI

UNITING FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE ON HAWAI'I ISLAND

We have made great progress in supporting our community and ensuring essential resources reach those in need.

As we enter a new year, we are excited to introduce initiatives focused on resilience and sustainable change across Hawai'i Island. Our efforts will address key issues like education, health, and financial stability through collaboration and innovation. This image represents a recent UWW conference bringing together all the local United Way chapters to collaborate and share information.

Don't miss our upcoming events, including the Luck of the Irish Golf Tournament and volunteer opportunities, where you can help us achieve a brighter future.

Together, we can overcome challenges and foster an inclusive community. Thank you for being part of this journey. **Let's make 2025 a year of unity and hope.**

25
Nonprofit Partners Supported This Year

300+
Businesses Participate in the HIUW Annual Workplace Campaign

500K+
Total Raised for Hawai'i Island in FY 2023-2024

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

NEW PRESIDENT & CPO, JESS THOMPSON



Aloha mai kākou,

It is an honor to serve as Hawai'i Island United Way's (HIUW) President and CPO. For nearly six decades, HIUW has united people, organizations, and resources to build a healthier, stronger community. Our founders, a group of visionary leaders, created this organization nearly fifty years ago with a new model of charitable giving rooted in collective care. I am deeply grateful to them for their foresight in establishing HIUW, which partners with nonprofits and agencies across Hawai'i Island to provide critical housing, education, and economic development services.

I also want to thank our outgoing president and CPO, Karen Davis, as well as our staff, board, and volunteers, for their exceptional leadership and stewardship of HIUW. Your dedication has guided this organization through many challenges and successes.

If the past decade has taught us anything, it is the power of collective action in the face of adversity. From the Kīlauea eruption in 2018 to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maui wildfires, and the ongoing rise in Hawai'i's cost of living, HIUW has remained a pillar of support during times of uncertainty.

Today, HIUW supports 25 nonprofit partners who deliver essential services to our community. We also lead FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program, which extends our impact even further. HIUW continues to demonstrate that we are stronger together.

As we move forward, we invite you to join us in supporting our Annual Fundraising Campaign: The Power of Giving. Your donation empowers our work and enables us to reach even more people in need. Every gift, large or small, strengthens our collective impact and helps build a more resilient, caring community. Together, we can create lasting change—one generous act at a time.

Thank you for supporting Hawai'i Island United Way. Your commitment to our mission makes a profound difference, and we are deeply grateful for your partnership. Together, we will continue to build a brighter future for all.

Jess Thompson





THE POWER OF GIVING: CREATING HAPPINESS & POSITIVE CHANGE



In our fast-paced world, it's easy to underestimate the significant impact of giving. However, whether through time, resources, or acts of kindness, giving creates positive ripples that strengthen communities and nurture a sense of belonging. Each gesture of generosity contributes to building a more compassionate and resilient society.

The advantages of giving reach far beyond just the recipients. Research indicates that those who engage in giving experience an increase in happiness and fulfillment. For businesses, contributing to the community boosts employee morale, cultivates customer loyalty, and enhances reputation. By giving back, companies foster a positive environment that encourages economic growth and stability.

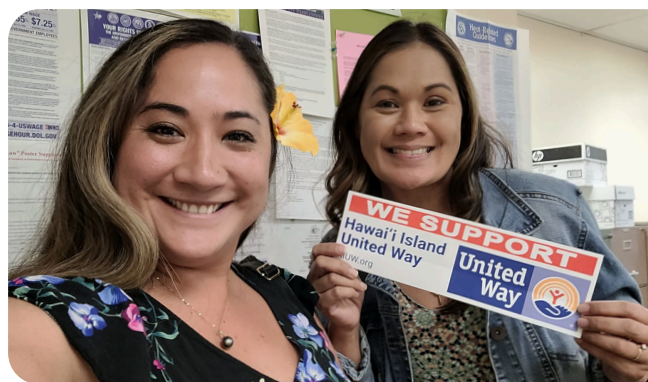
Join Us for the Hawai'i Island United Way Annual Campaign

Become part of the Hawaii Island United Way's 2024-2025 "Power of Giving" Campaign. Your support will aid essential programs that benefit our community, helping to create a stronger, healthier, and more resilient Hawaii Island. Whether you are an individual or a business, your participation can make a meaningful impact.

For more information on how to get involved, please visit hiuw.org or call (808) 935-6393.

United, we build a stronger Hawai'i Island.

THE POWER OF GIVING



UNITED, WE CAN CREATE A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERY CHILD FEELS SAFE AND VALUED.



A young child found a lifeline through CFS Hawai'i. Their world was a secret storm of fear and silence until they encountered the compassionate team at CFS Hawai'i. Enrolled in the child abuse prevention program, they learned to recognize the signs of abuse and, most importantly, found the courage to speak out about the abuse they were enduring at home.

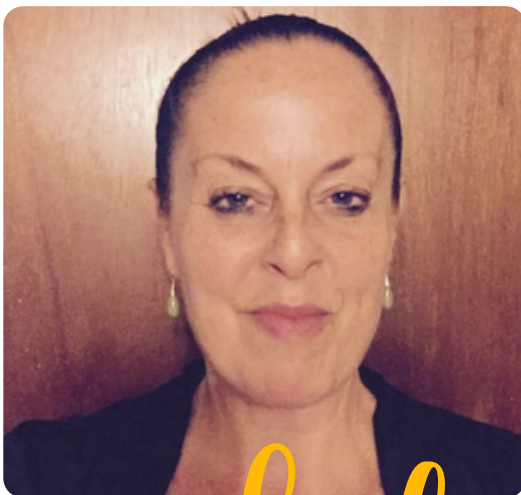
With the unwavering support of CFS Hawai'i, their journey took a transformative turn. They received the necessary emotional and psychological support to heal and thrive. This story is not just one of survival but of blossoming strength and resilience.

Mahalo to the incredible team at CFS Hawai'i for their unwavering commitment. Your work is transforming lives and building a brighter future for our keiki.

If you or someone you know needs CFS Hawaii's help through their programs, please call 808.681.3500, Monday to Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm or go to visit childandfamilyservice.org

United, we connect our neighbors to vital support. Together, we can create a community where every child feels safe and valued.

This month's story shines a light on the incredible work of CFS Hawai'i, showcasing their unwavering commitment to empowering children to find their voices.



Mahalo

ALOHA OE' KAREN

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE GREATLY ENRICHED THIS HAWAII ISLAND COMMUNITY!

We bid farewell to our esteemed President and Chief Professional Officer, Karen Davis. Her remarkable contributions have been instrumental in uplifting our community, from securing essential grants to leading the Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP) Funding and various grant initiatives. Karen's unwavering commitment to our mission and her ability to inspire those around her have left an indelible mark on our organization.

As you embark on this new chapter, know that you carry with you the gratitude and admiration of all those whose lives you've touched.

We wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Mahalo for everything, Karen!



NURTURING A GIVING CULTURE FOR OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS

At Hawaii Island United Way, we believe that giving is not merely an action but an essential aspect of our community's heartbeat. We raise awareness about the remarkable efforts of our nonprofit partners and the needs within our community. Organizations like the Salvation Army, Girl Scouts, and the Food Basket tirelessly support our residents through initiatives such as food drives, educational programs, and health services. However, there remains much to be heard and understood.

The strength of our community is rooted in the aloha spirit and a commitment to nurturing a culture of giving. By sharing the inspiring stories of these nonprofits, we can motivate others to join in and contribute. This culture of generosity creates a sense of unity and mutual support, enhancing our community's resilience and compassion.

Together, we can ensure that every individual on Hawaii Island experiences the love and support that characterize our unique lifestyle.

By fostering this spirit of giving, we not only uplift those in need today but also lay the groundwork for future generations to thrive in an environment where generosity and support are second nature. It is vital that we instill these values in our children, teaching them the importance of community, empathy, and the joy that comes from helping others. In doing so, we create a lasting legacy of kindness and compassion that will resonate through the years, ensuring that the heartbeat of our community continues to thrive.

United, we nurture a place for future generations to thrive.

63% 

of Hawai'i residents donate to nonprofits.
Hawaiicommunityfoundation.org

1 in 9 

Hawai'i County residents faces food insecurity.
Stacker.com/Feedingamerica.org

30% 

of Hawai'i Island residents volunteer.
americorps.gov



SPOTLIGHT

TANYA YAMANAKA AYNESAZIAN:
Community Leader

This month, we highlight Tanya Aiyanzzeian, our amazing HIUW Board Assistant Treasurer and Campaign Chair. With over 20 years of dedication to East Hawaii nonprofits, Tanya has been a true force for good.

- Healthcare Advocate: Leading at Bay Clinic and Hawaii Island Adult Care.
- Arts Promoter: Steering Volcano Art Center and Ke Ola Magazine.
- Community Voice: Supporting the Arc of Hilo and hosting the Ola Ka Moku podcast.

We are incredibly thankful to have Tanya on our team. Her passion and commitment inspire us every day.



MARCH 15-16

22ND LUCK OF THE IRISH
Golf Tournament

Date: March 15-16, 2025

Time: 8:00 AM

Location: Mauna Lani Golf Course

Join us for a great day on the greens at the 22nd Luck of the Irish Golf Tournament! Enjoy challenging holes, a delicious breakfast, golfer swag, on-course refreshments, and an awards lunch. All proceeds will support vital health and human service programs on the Big Island.

Let's unite to make a positive impact in our community and support those who need it the most. Become a sponsor today.

REGISTER TODAY

January **UPCOMING EVENTS**

10
JAN

HIGH-PERFORMANCE TEAMS: KU'IKAHU MEDIATION CENTER

🕒 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

📍 UH-Hilo UCB 127, 200 W. Kawili St., Hilo, AL 96720

16
JAN

"SHOW UP POWERFULLY": KU'IKAHU MEDIATION CENTER

🕒 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

📍 Via Zoom

25
JAN

OHANA FUELS CAR WASH FUNDRAISER: HAWAI'I ISLAND ADULT CARE

🕒 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

📍 Ohana Fuels Puainako- 26 Kekela St, Hilo, HI 96720

For More Details Visit: HIUW.ORG

