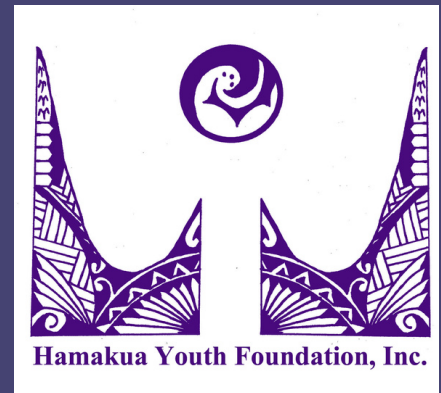


Hāmākua Youth Foundation



2022 | A Year in Review

hamakuayouthcenter.org



E K O M O M A I

Welcome

Aloha kākou,

Greetings, friends! The Hāmākua Youth Foundation is sending much aloha after a year of change and growth.

With the dedication of our community both near and far, we have continued to operate the Hāmākua Youth Center throughout the global pandemic by providing in-person support to vulnerable youth, scholarships to area teens, and direct food assistance to enrolled families and the wider community. **Mahalo nui loa!**



Now, in addition to sustaining these vital programs, we are excited to begin renovating the Okada Hospital. This historic building was purchased as the future home of the Hāmākua Youth Center on November 27, 2019. Our renovated building will ultimately triple the space available for HYF to provide youth programming to the keiki and 'ōpio (children and teens) of Hāmākua. Once complete, the Hāmākua Youth Center will feature a separate wing for our local teens from Laupahoehoe to Waimea, an arts and crafts room, professional quality music studio, multimedia and game room, and a certified community kitchen.

To make this happen, we need your help.

There are many challenges ahead as we pursue our goal of opening the renovated Okada building in July 2024. From sustaining our current programs to an unexpected need for contaminated soil removal in our Okada renovation, community support is now essential. Your contribution will give our local youth a permanent place to grow into kind, engaged, and inspired young adults. Mahalo for your support.

t.Mahealani Maiku'i & Jeannette Soon-Ludes
Program Director Director of Operations

OUR VALUES

Our **Vision** is that Hāmākua youth have access to unconditional support and guidance in life skills essential to their growth into kind, engaged, and inspired young adults. Our **Mission** is to open doorways to the world by sharing life skills rooted in the Hawaiian values of kuleana, aloha, laulima, and mahalo.

KULEANA

Mālama i kou kuleana
Take care of your responsibilities

ALOHA

Aloha kekahi i kekahi
Love one another

LAULIMA

E kuahui like i ka hana
Let everyone work together

MAHALO

Mahalo i ka mea loa'a
Be thankful for all that you have



Our programs engage these values to cultivate the awareness necessary for Hāmākua youth to thrive both here and beyond.

OUR COMMUNITY

HYC serves the high-need populations of the rural Hāmākua census district, which suffered with the disappearance of the key economic driver after the last of the sugar plantations closed in the 1990s. The 2020 American Community Survey showed that 13% of youth in Honoka‘a live below the federal poverty line, a rate that continues to be higher than the state average of 11.7% of youth living in poverty.

Long-standing residents continue to experience disproportionate barriers to economic opportunity. Based on the American Community Survey 5-Year 2011-2015 Low and Moderate Income Summary, there continues to be sizable pockets of LMI individuals and families who will benefit from HYC services.



In *The Growing Importance of Afterschool in Rural Communities*, Afterschool Alliance reports that, for rural families, afterschool programs are both “a support system for children’s academic growth, social development, and overall health and wellness” and “a critical resource for working families.” Consequently, they recommend an increased investment in afterschool programs “to ensure that all children in rural communities have the supports they need to thrive in school and beyond.”

WHO WE SERVE



HYC provides reduced-cost childcare and youth programming with a priority given to low-income families. Prior to the pandemic, HYC enrolled 41 youth in our afterschool Program. Of these, 70% were below 2019 HUD LMI thresholds based on family size and income. In AY 2021-2022 we continued to follow COVID safety procedures with reduced enrollment. This year we enrolled 34 full and part time youth, with 76% of household incomes below federal 2021 HUD LMI thresholds based on family size and income.

In response to the pandemic, HYC has expanded community service programs to increase food security for area families of enrolled youth, as well as the elderly and persons with disabilities. While addressing food security, this assistance overlaps with our multicultural and gardening curricula. We provide culturally relevant ingredients for families to prepare while simultaneously teaching our youth about local history and ethnic groups. This year our direct food assistance program enrolled 276 individuals from 65 unduplicated households and distributed 80 kokua bags of veggies, proteins, and starches each month.

WHAT WE DO

Ike aku, ike mai, kokua aku kokua mai; pela iho la ka nohona ohana.

Recognize and be recognized, help and be helped; such is family life.

- Mary Kawena Pukui

Caring for the land and our community is central to all we do. Our Keiki and 'Ōpio programs support youth from kindergarten through high school. In addition to homework assistance and leadership development, our programs establish Hawaiian wisdom and connection to place as the foundation upon which our multi-ethnic community lives and thrives.



- Our mauka to makai place-based curriculum invests in the **human capital** of Hāmākua by providing youth an understanding of Native Hawaiian environmental kinship and growing practices as part of a larger goal of imparting the skills needed to grow food in our community
- Our multicultural curriculum is an investment in **social capital** that shares with youth the many ways that Hawaiians and other ethnic groups have taken these gifts from the land and transformed them into meals that feed both families and cultures
- Direct food assistance broadens youth knowledge of the **natural capital** of Hāmākua, especially when family meal bags are shared with an understanding of the local food sources that sustain communities

Together, our programs bring youth learning full circle, empowering the next generation to see the many connections that make each of them a valuable part of the lands of Hāmākua .

OUR IMPACT

The Hāmākua Youth Center offers low cost after school alternatives and summer programs for at-risk youth from across the Hāmākua district. Our staff and volunteers take a personal approach to every youth entering the door, with an emphasis on life-long learning and building self-esteem. Since August 2021, HYC has:

- Enrolled **34 keiki** (children ages 12 and under) in our after school learning support and enrichment program
- Enrolled **22 keiki and 'ōpio** in our 2022 summer program
- Provided **personalized assessment and tutoring** in reading and math on the Let's Go Learn tutoring program
- Provided enrichment programs in **Hawaiian and multicultural education and place-based huaka'i** (field trips) from mauka to makai
- Distributed nearly **1,000 kokua bags with fresh veggies, locally-sourced proteins, and starches** to our youth, families, and local kupuna
- Partnered with the Honoka'a Business Association to provide **5 graduating Honoka'a High seniors with scholarships** to attend college or a career/technical program of their choice



KEIKI PROGRAM



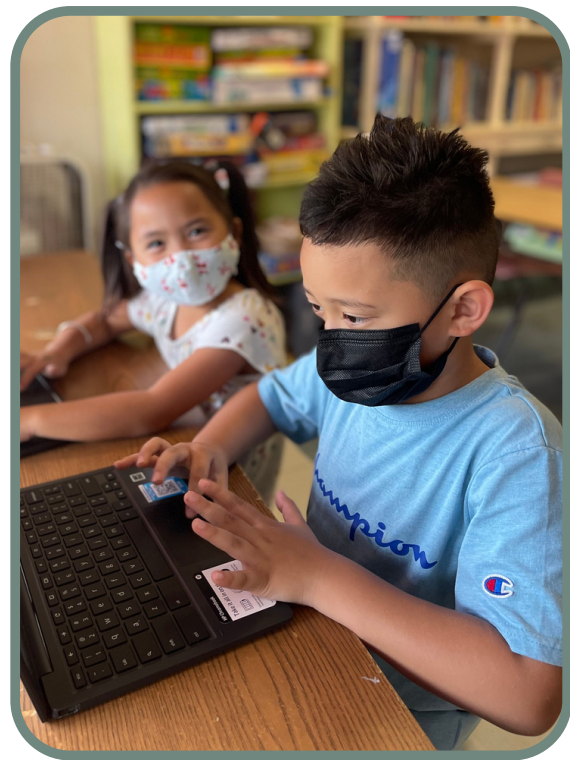
Our Keiki Program is vital to the educational success of youth and financial resilience for our families. This program is open to youth ages 12 and under, providing out-of-school care Mondays thru Fridays, personalized tutoring, enrichment programming, and twice monthly direct food assistance to enrolled and community families.

All Keiki programming is rooted in learning Hawaiian values, stories, and basic language. From this place of strength our keiki begin to explore the multicultural community of Hāmākua through food and history.

This year we set out to provide our keiki with Hawaiian and multicultural education that reflects the people, places, and foodways of our district. We began the school year with a unit on Filipino culture. Keiki learned about Filipino customs and clothing from staff and families, were taught basic phrases and numbers in Tagalog, and were introduced to pancit (stir-fried noodles) and banana lumpia (fried banana dessert). In the second half of the school year we focused on Native Hawaiian culture. We celebrated the full season of makahiki, beginning with chants, games, and mo'olelo and culminating in a week of contests.

INDIVIDUALIZED TUTORING

This year we were also excited to introduce individualized tutoring in our Keiki Program through the Let's Go Learn assessment and learning platform. At the beginning of the year each enrolled keiki took a series of adaptive assessments in reading and math, then received individualized learning plans to improve proficiency across these subjects. Every week the youth dedicate a couple hours to moving through online activities that are aligned with their individualized learning plan. Through this tool our staff are able to identify specific areas needing improvement and help keiki develop the micro-skills necessary to achieve grade level proficiency in these core subjects.



'ŌPIO PROGRAM

Our 'Ōpio Programs are open to youth ages 13 and over who attend Honoka'a High and Intermediate School or Laupahoehoe Public Charter School. We provide teens with advanced learning in Hawaiian culture and the multicultural community of Hāmākua. Alongside these opportunities, our 'ōpio programs will create space for teens to explore their identities, passions, and dreams for the future as they prepare to transition into adulthood.

- **Experiential Summer Camp:** A week-long experiential program that shares Hawaiian cultural and technological practices in the historic Waipio Valley
- **Leadership Development:** Opportunities for teens to mentor intermediate and elementary-aged youth
- **Scholarships:** HYF Big Dave, Jaquelyn McCandless, and Disney Scholarships are available annually to recent graduates of Honoka'a High school.

The Hāmākua Youth Foundation is currently undergoing a large capital improvement project that will include a teen center in the renovation of the historic Okada Hospital. This separate space just for teens will enable the expansion of the HYC 'Ōpio Programs.



2021-2022 PARTNERSHIPS



County of Hawai'i
State of Hawai'i

Atherton Family Foundation
Betsy Gordon Foundation
Hawaii Community Foundation
Hawai'i Island United Way
Historic Hawai'i Foundation
LLH/LHM Foundation
McInerny Foundation
Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Russell Family Foundation
Vibrant Hawai'i
Weinberg Foundation

Honoka'a Business Association
Honoka'a Hongwanji and Mission
Honoka'a Peace Committee
Kō Education Center
Vibrant Hawai'i Resilience Hubs

OUR LEADERS

Program Staff

Māhealani Maiku'i, Program Director
Shelbie Kaholoa'a, Activity Specialist
Summer Ah Choy, Activity Specialist
Stasha La'a, Community Liaison

Administrative Staff

Jeannette Soon-Ludes, Operations Director
Lori Beach, Financial Director

Board of Directors

Teresa R. Sugg, President
Jack Zimmerman, Vice President
Michelle Ku
Dianne Higgins
Kauakea Winston

Diane Scheurell, Board Secretary



Volunteers

Carl Simms
Ruby Augustin
Rick Sifuentes

hamakuayouthcenter.org



Visit us at the Hāmākua Youth Center
45-3396 Mamane Street | Honoka'a, HI 96727

Mailing Address: Hāmākua Youth Foundation
PO Box 381 | Honoka'a, HI 96727
(808) 775-0976