

**Kukulu ‘ana i ke Kaiaulu**

BUILDING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

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## Kukulu ‘ana i ke Kaiaulu

### BUILDING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Inspired by the imagery of many hands coming together to build a traditional Hawaiian hale, this theme reflects the shared effort, care, and connection that define our work.

At Hale Kipa, we believe every young person deserves a safe place to grow, to heal, and to envision a future filled with possibility. For more than five decades, we have stood alongside Hawai'i's youth and families, adapting to their needs with compassion and commitment. Just as a hale is carefully constructed with intention and unity, so too are the foundations of strong, thriving communities.

This year's theme honors the idea that lasting change is never built alone. It is created through collective effort, by youth, 'ohana, staff, partners, and supporters, each contributing their strength and mana'o. Together, we are shaping spaces where young people feel valued, empowered, and connected.

As you explore our 2025 Annual Report, we invite you to reflect on the stories of resilience, growth, and collaboration that bring this theme to life. Together, we continue to kūkulu, to build with purpose, with heart, and with community.



## Venus Kau'iokawēkiu Rosete-Medeiros

President and Chief Executive Officer

I witnessed extraordinary acts of kindness and commitment from our staff, partners, volunteers, donors, and supporters. I saw shelter staff comforting youth in crisis in the middle of the night. I saw outreach workers meeting young people where they are with patience and compassion. I saw clinicians, mentors, educators, and advocates walking beside our youth as they navigated complex challenges and began to rediscover hope within themselves.

Because of all of you, Hale Kipa continues to grow as a place of healing, belonging, and opportunity. Together, we are not only providing services, we are building pathways toward wellness, stability, leadership, and brighter futures for generations to come.

The work is not easy, but it is sacred work. It calls upon all of us to continue building communities rooted in aloha, equity, cultural connection, and shared responsibility for one another.

From the bottom of my heart, mahalo nui loa for believing in our mission and for standing with Hale Kipa.

**Me ke aloha nui,**

### **Aloha mai kākou,**

This past year, our Hale Kipa 'ohana embraced the theme Kūkulu 'Ana i ke Kaiaulu, Building Communities Together. These words became more than a theme; they became a reflection of who we are, what we believe, and how we continue to walk alongside Hawai'i's most vulnerable youth and families with compassion, dignity, and hope.

Every young person who comes through our doors carries a story. Some arrive burdened by trauma, instability, loss, loneliness, or fear. Yet within each of them lives incredible strength, resilience, promise, and mana waiting to be recognized, nurtured, and restored. At Hale Kipa, we believe healing happens in community through safe relationships, caring adults, cultural connection, and people willing to show up with aloha, consistency, and belief in our youth, especially during their most difficult moments.



## Michael Magaoay

Board of Directors, Board Chair

Over the past year, I have been continually inspired by the resilience and determination of the youth we serve. I have also been deeply grateful for the individuals and organizations who contribute their time, talents, and resources to ensure Hale Kipa can continue providing programs rooted in compassion, connection, and healing. Each contribution strengthens the foundation of our communities and helps open doors to new opportunities for our young people.

The work of building stronger communities is ongoing. It requires patience, collaboration, and a shared belief that every young person deserves the opportunity to thrive. Hale Kipa's ability to adapt to changing needs while remaining grounded in aloha, respect, and service is a testament to the strength of this organization and the people behind it.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, mahalo for your continued support of Hale Kipa and the mission we share. Your partnership helps create pathways of hope and possibility for Hawai'i's youth and families. Together, we continue to build a stronger, more connected future for our communities.

**Mahalo nui loa,**

### **Aloha e,**

This year's annual report theme, Kūkulu 'Ana i ke Kaiaulu – Building Communities Together, serves as a powerful reminder that thriving communities are built through unity, shared purpose, and mutual care. The image of many hands coming together to build a hale reflects the very heart of Hale Kipa's mission and the partnerships that make our work possible.

As someone who grew up in a close-knit community in Waiialua, I learned early in life the importance of looking after one another. Those lessons continue to resonate with me today as I witness the dedication of Hale Kipa's staff, leadership, community partners, and supporters who work tirelessly to uplift Hawai'i's youth and families. Together, they create environments where young people are not only supported, but truly seen, heard, and valued.

# Growing More Than Greens

How Mahi'ai Aloha Took Root and is Thriving

**H**ale Kipa's Mahi'ai Aloha Program continues to grow as a model of innovation and community impact through hydroponic container farming. In 2025, the program

reached a major milestone—evolving from a newly launched freight farm into a stable, productive system under the leadership of Farm Manager Melissa Zogopoulos.

Melissa describes the year as one of “building, learning, and adjusting.” What began as a startup phase quickly developed into a deeper understanding of how to operate effectively within Hawai'i's unique environment. Through her hands-on approach, the farm has achieved consistent production and one of its core goals: reliable, sustainable yields.

Key milestones included establishing regular harvest cycles and distributing fresh produce through both sales and donations—demonstrating a system designed to serve both people and purpose.

Operationally, the farm saw significant refinement. Improvements included optimizing nutrient management with a transition to a more effective nutrient set,



HALE KIPA

## Mahi'ai Aloha

CULTIVATING OPPORTUNITY, PURPOSE, AND HEALING

strengthening cleaning and maintenance routines, and fine-tuning lighting and irrigation systems. These changes led to more consistent and efficient production.

Crop variety also expanded beyond staple greens to include herbs, Swiss chard, and specialty items like purple shiso and violas. Trials with extended growing cycles for herbs provided valuable insight into both the potential and complexity of hydroponic systems.

Managing the farm in Hawai'i came with challenges. Maintaining stable pH and dissolved nutrient levels, along with troubleshooting equipment issues that required constant attention. At times, system readings conflicted with actual conditions, requiring manual testing, recalibration, and careful system resets. These experiences reinforced a key lesson: while technology supports the system, success depends on active, informed management.

At its heart, Mahi'ai Aloha is about more than food production — it's about people. The farm provides hands-on learning opportunities for youth and young adults, helping build confidence and practical skills. It also supports community food access by supplying fresh produce to local families, kūpuna care homes, and partners.

This year, the program engaged 30 volunteers and reached over 200 community members through outreach and events. Growing interest from schools and partners continues to position the farm as a valuable educational and workforce development resource.

Production gains reflect this progress. Harvests increased from about 40 pounds per cycle early in the year to over 58 pounds later, with a recent peak of approximately 92 pounds — signaling greater consistency and system stability.

For Melissa, success goes beyond output. It is measured through consistency, community impact, and the growth of the youth involved. “Seeing someone learn something new or gain confidence through hands-on work is huge,” she shares. Watching produce move from seed to harvest and into the community—especially through donations—has been among her most rewarding experiences.

Much of this success happens behind the scenes through daily monitoring, cleaning, troubleshooting, and adjustments—essential work that keeps the system running and improving.

### Looking Ahead

The program's next phase will focus on increasing production, improving system reliability, and expanding educational programming. Strengthening partnerships and creating more structured learning opportunities are key priorities.

“This year was all about learning the system, building consistency, and laying the foundation for growth,” Melissa reflects.

The Mahi'ai Aloha Program demonstrates how hydroponic container farming can support food security, education, and community development in Hawai'i. With strong leadership and a clear vision, it continues to grow not just food, but opportunity and resilience. ■



## Safe Place

Expanding Access to Safety and Support

**O**n January 1, 2024, Hale Kipa proudly launched the Safe Place program, marking a significant step forward in our ongoing commitment to ensuring that every young person has access to immediate safety and support in times of crisis. Rooted in the belief that no youth should feel alone or without options, Safe Place creates visible, accessible entry points for help throughout the community.

In its inaugural year, Hale Kipa successfully established a network of fully trained Safe Place sites, each serving as a trusted refuge for youth in need. These locations — recognized by their clear signage and community presence — offer more than just a place to pause; they represent a promise that help is always within reach. When a young person seeks assistance at a Safe Place site, trained professionals respond quickly, providing immediate care and connection to critical resources.

“Safe Place is about removing barriers,” shared Phillip Humphrey, program manager. “It gives youth a simple, direct way to say, ‘I need help,’ and know someone will respond.”

Through coordinated response efforts, youth are connected to support systems that may include shelter, counseling, case management, or other essential services. Just as importantly, they are met with



compassion, understanding, and respect — key elements in building trust and fostering a sense of safety.

The success of Safe Place in its first year reflects the strength of collaboration across the community. Partner organizations, local businesses, and dedicated staff have come together to ensure that these sites are not only operational, but welcoming and effective. Each Safe Place location strengthens a broader network of care, reinforcing the idea that safety is a shared responsibility.

As Hale Kipa continues to grow this initiative, the vision remains clear: to expand the reach of Safe Place so that more youth know where to turn, and feel empowered to seek help when they need it most. By creating these safe, supportive spaces, we are building a stronger, more responsive community — one where every young person is seen, supported, and protected. ■

## Facilities

Maintaining Safe and Welcoming Spaces

**A**t Hale Kipa, the environments where youth and families receive services are an important part of the care and support we provide. Safe, clean, and welcoming facilities help create a sense of stability, dignity, and comfort for the young people and communities we serve every day. From routine maintenance and safety improvements to long-term facility planning, the upkeep of our buildings plays a vital role in supporting our mission.

Well-maintained spaces allow programs to operate smoothly, provide staff with functional work environments, and ensure that youth have places where they can feel secure and supported. Investing in our facilities is an investment in the wellbeing of everyone who walks through our doors.

We are pleased to welcome Jeremy Jenkins as Hale Kipa’s new Facilities Manager. Since joining Hale Kipa, Jeremy has brought a strong sense of purpose, dedication, and steady leadership to the role. His work supports the organization’s mission by ensuring that our environments remain safe, functional, and welcoming for both staff and the youth and families we serve.

Jeremy approaches his responsibilities with a commitment to continuous improvement and teamwork, always looking for practical ways to strengthen operations and contribute to the bigger picture. His focus extends beyond maintaining facilities — he



is passionate about creating spaces where meaningful work can happen every day.

What stands out most to Jeremy is the culture at Hale Kipa. After many years in previous roles, he shares that this is the first time in over a decade that he has genuinely felt he loves where he works. That strong sense of alignment with the mission and the people around him continues to motivate his contributions and dedication each day.

Outside of work, Jeremy enjoys spending quality time with his family, staying active at the gym, and reading books across a variety of genres that help him grow personally and expand his knowledge. He also has a passion for traveling and exploring different parts of the world, always looking for new experiences and perspectives.

Jeremy is grateful to be part of the Hale Kipa team and appreciates the opportunity to contribute his dedication and positive energy every day. We are excited to have him on board and look forward to the leadership and expertise he will bring as we continue creating spaces that foster healing, growth, and opportunity for the youth and families we serve. ■

# Kaulana Kahauolopua-Nakamura

A Journey of Resilience and New Beginnings

**K**aulana Kahauolopua-Nakamura's journey is a powerful reflection of resilience, transformation, and the enduring impact of compassionate support. His story embodies the

mission of Hale Kipa: empowering youth to overcome adversity and build meaningful, independent futures.

When Kaulana first entered Hale Kipa's Transitional Living Program, he was facing significant challenges. Experiencing homelessness and lacking essential legal documents including a Social Security card, state ID, and birth certificate. As he was navigating instability on multiple fronts, he struggled with self-esteem and trust, often withdrawing from others and questioning his place in the world.

Through the structure of Hale Kipa's Transitional Living Program and the steady guidance of his Program Coordinator, Tammy Aiwohi, whom he warmly calls "Aunty Tammy," Kaulana began the difficult work of rebuilding his life. With patience, encouragement, and consistency, he took meaningful steps forward: securing vital documents, developing life skills, and gradually restoring his confidence and sense of self-worth.



**"When I first came to Hale Kipa, I was facing challenges that felt impossible... But with consistent support and encouragement, I began taking life one step at a time. Slowly, I rebuilt my life and learned to believe in myself and my worth."**

Over time, Kaulana's transformation became evident. Once quiet and uncertain, he grew into a young man who carries himself with confidence and purpose. He began engaging more openly, building connections, and embracing opportunities for growth. A major milestone in his journey was earning his GED, marking a significant step toward independence and long-term success.

Today, Kaulana continues to move forward with determination and hope. He has recently sworn into the military and is preparing to leave for the mainland to begin basic training, an achievement that reflects both discipline and commitment to his future. At the same time, he is stepping into a new and meaningful role as a father, with his growing 'ohana expecting a baby in August 2026.

"This next chapter is both exciting and humbling," Kaulana shared. "It represents the power of second chances, hard work, and the incredible support I've received."

While his journey has not been without its challenges, and growth has not always been linear, Kaulana's perseverance stands as a testament to his strength and determination. His story reminds us that success is not defined by a single moment, but by the courage to continue moving forward despite obstacles.

Kaulana exemplifies the transformative impact of Hale Kipa's programs and the importance of mentorship, stability, and belief. His journey inspires hope, not only for himself, but for other young people navigating similar challenges.

As Kaulana steps into this new chapter, we celebrate his accomplishments and honor the resilience that has brought him this far. His future is bright, and his story is a powerful reminder that with support, determination, and opportunity, lasting change is possible. ■



# Tehaine Mae Gabay-Sula

A Story of Survival, Healing, and Hope

**T**ehaine Mae Gabay-Sula's journey is one of extraordinary resilience, courage, and transformation. At just 20 years old, she has faced profound challenges within her family, her community, and through systemic barriers, yet continues to move forward with strength and determination.

Tehaine first connected with Hale Kipa in 2021 through the Hale Lanipolua Assessment Center (now Hale Ho'opakele). At the time, she was navigating deep emotional pain and instability after being asked to leave a foster home. During this difficult period, she experienced a traumatic incident that resulted in severe physical injuries, including two broken heel bones, and was later identified as a victim of sex trafficking and exploitation.

Arriving at Hale Kipa in a wheelchair, Tehaine faced not only the challenge of healing physically, but also adapting to a new environment and rebuilding her sense of safety and trust. Through the compassion and coordinated care of Hale Kipa staff and community partners, including support from specialized programs, she began a long journey toward recovery. Over time, she progressed from a wheelchair to crutches, regaining both mobility and independence.



Tehaine was one of four inspiring young individuals who were honored at the recent Pā'ina Fundraising Dinner, where they shared their remarkable story of resilience and perseverance.

Tehaine continued to face complex trauma and was again subjected to exploitation as an adult, both in Hawai'i and on the mainland. With unwavering determination, and the support of law enforcement and victim advocates, she ultimately broke free from that cycle and returned home to O'ahu to begin healing once more. In November 2024, she successfully completed services through Hale Kipa's trafficking victim support programming, marking a significant milestone in her journey.

Throughout her time with Hale Kipa, Tehaine engaged in a range of programs, including shelters, therapeutic foster homes, transitional housing, and survivor advocacy services, that provided stability, guidance, and care during critical moments in her life. Reflecting on her experience, she shared:

**“There was a time in my life when things were really hard, and I didn't always know where I was headed... But today, I stand here as a survivor. Not just someone who went through hard times, but someone who kept going, grew stronger, and found people who believed in me.”**

Tehaine continues to build a future grounded in hope and purpose. She is employed, actively strengthening relationships with loved ones, and embracing meaningful roles in her life as a proud auntie and devoted dog mom. She is also engaged to her high school partner and looking ahead to her upcoming wedding, a joyful milestone that reflects both stability and new beginnings.

With the guidance of her mentor, Tehaine is actively planning for her future. Her goals

include traveling to places she has long dreamed of visiting, such as Bali and Thailand, achieving financial wellness, and one day purchasing a home and starting her own family.

“Hale Kipa didn't just help me get through a chapter of my life, they helped me see that I have a future,” she shared. “They guided me, supported me, and reminded me that my story is still being written.”

Tehaine's journey is a powerful reminder that healing is possible, even after profound adversity. Her story reflects not only the strength it takes to survive, but the courage to rebuild, dream, and move forward. At Hale Kipa, we are honored to have been part of her journey and remain inspired by the resilience and hope she carries into the future. ■



# Lisalia Leilua-Valoaga

Navigating Resilience, Growth,  
and Leadership

**A**t just 21 years old, Lisalia Leilua-Valoaga represents the powerful impact of Hale Kipa’s mission in action. Her journey is one defined not only by overcoming adversity, but by a deep and intentional commitment to personal growth, healing, and service to others.

Lisalia’s story reflects the realities many of our youth face—navigating housing instability, financial hardship, and uncertainty about the future. Prior to entering Hale Kipa’s Haloa Independent Living Program, she experienced the strain of making ends meet while working part-time, often unable to afford basic necessities and facing the very real possibility of homelessness. Despite these challenges, Lisalia held onto a belief that her circumstances were temporary and that greater opportunities lay ahead.

During her 18 months at Haloa House, Lisalia transformed her life in meaningful and measurable ways. She secured full-time employment, earned her driver’s permit along with a scholarship for driver’s education, and successfully moved into her first independent apartment. Alongside these milestones, she built financial stability, developed an understanding of credit, learned her rights within systems of employment and government,



Lisalia shared her incredible story at the recent Pā’ina Fundraising Dinner.

and gained the confidence to establish healthy personal boundaries. Most importantly, she began the deeply personal work of healing and reconnecting with her sense of purpose and faith.

Lisalia describes Hale Kipa as her “crutches” during a time when she was learning to navigate adulthood while also tending to her inner healing. The program provided more than just resources, it offered safety, trust, and a supportive community. Through consistent guidance from dedicated staff, including Joslyn, Nalani, Tammy, and Brandy, Lisalia found encouragement, accountability, and the belief that she could succeed.

Her growth is a clear example of resilience in action. As defined in research, resilience is the ability to adapt positively in the face of adversity. Lisalia embodies this definition through her willingness to reflect, take accountability, and step outside her comfort zone in pursuit of a better future. She approaches life with curiosity and courage, embracing both the challenges and the joy that come with transformation.

Today, Lisalia stands as one of many “breathing testaments” to Hale Kipa’s impact. She is confident in her employability, prepared for independent living, and actively working toward obtaining her driver’s license and vehicle. Beyond her personal achievements, she carries a strong sense of kuleana (responsibility) to give back. ■

Grounded in the Samoan value, “O le ala i le pule o le tautua” —“The path to leadership is service” —Lisalia is committed to paying forward the support she has received. She shares her story with her community to inspire others and demonstrate what is possible when young people are given the opportunity, resources, and care they deserve.



Lisalia Leilua-Valoaga’s journey is more than a success story, it is a reflection of resilience, the power of supportive relationships, and the life-changing work happening every day at Hale Kipa.

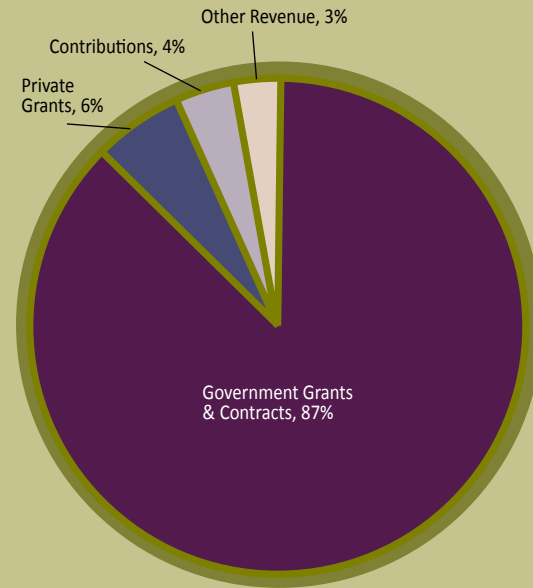
# Financial Statement

Hale Kipa remains committed to responsible stewardship and transparency in managing the resources entrusted to us. The following financial statements reflect our continued investment in programs and services that supported Hawai'i's youth and young adults during fiscal year 2025 (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025).

## FY 2025 Total Revenue and Support

Government Grants & Contracts	\$7,824,515
Private Grants	\$525,510
Contributions	\$343,167
Other Revenue	\$247,568

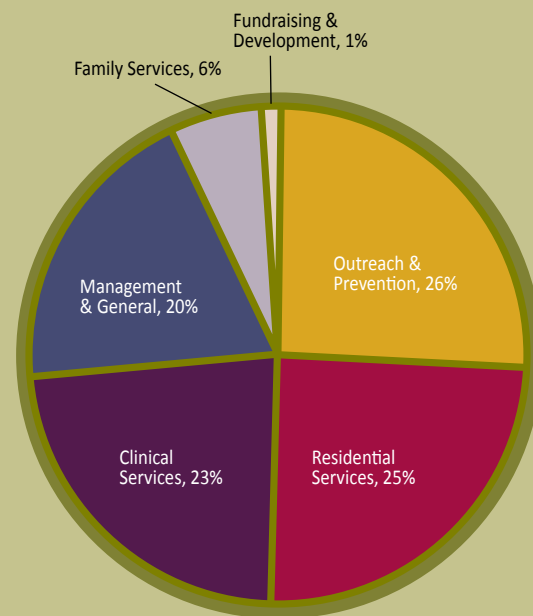
**Total Revenue & Support \$8,940,760**



## FY 2025 Expenses

Outreach & Prevention	\$2,180,449
Residential Services	\$2,090,313
Clinical Services	\$1,987,224
Management & General	\$1,666,014
Family Services	\$512,689
Fundraising & Development	\$87,883

**Subtotal Expenses \$8,524,572**



A copy of the independent auditor's report is available upon request.

# What's Next

As we move into the coming fiscal year, Hale Kipa remains committed to meeting the evolving needs of youth and young adults through innovative programs and services. We are excited to introduce new initiatives that expand opportunities, strengthen support systems, and help young people thrive.



**Ho'oulu 'Ohana Wellness Center** - As Hale Kipa continues to expand its continuum of care, the soon-to-open Ho'oulu 'Ohana Wellness Center represents a significant step forward in providing accessible, culturally grounded behavioral health services for Hawai'i's individuals and families. Rooted in trauma-informed, client-centered, and strength-based practices, the center will offer therapy, counseling, assessments, and group

services designed to promote healing, resilience, and family wellness. Guided by the values of safety, empowerment, community, and belonging, Ho'oulu 'Ohana Wellness Center will serve as a place where individuals and families can find support, connection, and hope for a healthier future.

**PIKO** (People Imparting Kindness Outreach) is the reimaging of our youth outreach program (previously know as YO!), as a more responsive, youth-centered model built around two core components: the "Hub" and the "Bridge."

The Hub (in development at our Kalihi location) represents the program's new drop-in space; a consistent, safe, and welcoming environment where all youth and young adults are welcome and can gather, build relationships, and access supportive services, activities, and resources.

Complementing this is the Bridge component, which focuses on street outreach; meeting unhoused youth and young adults where they are in the community, building trust, and creating pathways that connect them back to the Hub and other supports. Together, these components strengthen continuity of care by ensuring that youth who may not initially seek services still have a point of connection and engagement.

As PIKO moves forward, the program is emphasizing accessibility, relationship-building, and holistic support, integrating mentorship, life skills development, and community partnerships to better reflect and respond to the realities and needs of the unhoused youth and young adult populations it serves.



# Contributions & Collaborations

We extend our deepest mahalo to the individuals and organizations who supported Hawai'i's youth through their generous contributions during fiscal year 2025 (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025). Your support helps sustain the essential services and opportunities for youth and young adults that Hale Kipa has provided for the past 55 years. We gratefully recognize the following supporters and donors:

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**No task is too great  
 when done together.**

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Hawaiian Host Group	Paul Myung	Whole Foods - Kahala Mall
Hikari Shiatsu / Tod Fujiwara	Arma Oana	Anonymous
Hilton Grand Vacations	Michele Oda	
	Jean Odo	
	Dana Okano	

## Collaborations

Hale Kipa's work is strengthened through the support and partnership of organizations and agencies who share our commitment to Hawai'i's youth and young adults. We gratefully recognize the following collaborators for their dedication and support this fiscal year:

Alu Like, Inc.	Kukui Center
BISAC	Lanakila Pacific
Blueprint For Change	Lili'uokalani Trust
Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii	Ma'i Project
Catholic Charities Hawaii	Maui Parents And Children Together
Central Pacific Bank	Maui YMCA
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Division	Mental Health America of Hawaii Taskforce
Child & Family Service	Neighborhood Place
Children's Justice Center	Office of Wellness and Resilience
'Ekolu Mea Nui	'Ōlelo
Epic 'Ohana	Papa 'Ola Lōkahi
The Food Basket	Parents And Children Together
Friends of the Children's Justice Center	Piha Wellness & Healing
Goodwill Ola I Ka Hana	Planned Parenthood
Goodwill Industries International Inc.	Project Vision
H3RC	Pū'ā Foundation
Hawaii Department of Education	Quest
Hawaii Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	Rainbow Friend's Sanctuary Lokahi
Hawai'i Foodbank Inc.	RYSE
Hawai'i Farmers Union United	Salvation Army Family Intervention Services
Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility	Spill The Tea
Hawaii Youth Services Network	Susannah Wesley Community Center
Hawaiian Building Supplies	Teen Clinic
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawai'i	Trafficking Victim Assistance Program
Hilo Benioff Medical Center	Trauma-Informed Care Task Force
Ho'ola Na Pua Star Fish Program	Tūta Ma Wāhine o Taranaki
Ho'omalulu Safe Haven	Univesity of Hawai'i at Hilo
Honolulu Police Department	Waikiki Health
Iluna Palani	Waipahu Community School for Adults
Kinai 'Eha	Workforce Development
Kūia Agricultural Education Center	Youth Challenge
	YWCA – Patsy Mink Leadership Center





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