



The fears Hawai'i may have are to be met by men and women who are living witnesses of what we really are in Hawai'i, of the spirit of Aloha...

For any collective anxiety, the answer is collective courage.

Rev. Abraham K. Akaka Hawaiʻi Statehood Address "Aloha ke Akua" March 13, 1959



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## **Message from Executive Director**

## AIKO YAMASHIRO



In a difficult year, the humanities helped us return to our histories and our ancestors to remember grit, creativity, and collective generosity. When feeling pain and anger, the humanities enabled us to go deeper and open more—to reach

as far as we can for each other. There is much we have learned from 2020 when we follow the wai, "the water", of our humanities council's motto, "Nā mana wai pio 'ole e ho 'ōla ana i ka 'āina."

"Nā mana wai"—the many many sources of wai are humbling to behold. Our grandparents. Our history teachers. Our museums and libraries. Our different languages. Our favorite poetry books. The special shorelines and streams we take care of. Our responsibility and privilege at the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities is to "ho'okahe wai"—to clear the waterways of blockages that prevent us from connecting our different experiences and gifts. To open up pathways so our collective wealth can flow, move, and create new and meaningful shared experiences throughout Hawai'i.

Experiences of challenge and struggle remind us again and again of "wai momona"—how sweet and deeply refreshing the humanities are to our everyday lives, our families, and the futures of our communities. I experience that sweetness every time I listen to our Hawai'i History Day youth say they want to make the world a better place. I feel that cool clean water in our Try Think conversations when someone says, "thank you for what you shared. I never thought about it that way before." That strong rushing stream is undeniable in our grantee projects and collaborative projects, in the passion our teachers and caretakers have for our rich and wonderful histories and cultures

### Message from Board Chair

## MARY THERESE PEREZ HATTORI



I irensia na'la'la' i espiritu-ta Our heritage gives life to our spirit

-A CHamoru proverb

As I ponder past experiences as a member of the Board of the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities in 2020 and look forward to assuming the role of Chairperson in 2021, I am reminded of this CHamoru saying. One of the most important lessons of 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic is the value of heritage and its essential role in recovery and resilience during times of crisis.

Our heritage indeed gives life to our spirit; it is a source of strength. The spirit behind the strategic goals of the Council is envisioned as wai (water), reflecting Hawai'i's rich spiritual, cultural, intellectual, geographic, and civic heritage. Like water, the voices, stories, and landscapes of the people and organizations that the Council supports, flow to nourish our communities, drawing the power of our pasts into the present, sustaining our heritage into the future. I have been humbled by the collective commitment to elevate voices often unheard or silenced.

Our programming, grants, and partnerships have celebrated the diverse heritages of Hawai'i nei—our seas, lands, cultures, peoples, as well as our inherited and emerging narratives, have enabled the Council to realize its mission. We are honored to be stewards of Hawai'i's humanities heritage.

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## **MISSION**

Our mission is to connect people with ideas that enrich lives, broaden perspectives, and strengthen communities.

### **VALUES**

- Our ideas of the humanities are grounded in Hawai'i's people and places
- Kuleana to our communities' histories and futures
- Courage to dive deeply into important questions and ideas
- Brave and safe space for diverse voices and experiences to actively share and listen
- Create connections that strengthen our communities' resilience and ability to change



### **PUBLIC HUMANITIES PROGRAMS STATEWIDE**

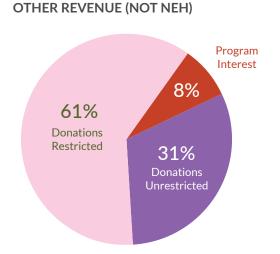
143 public program events (89 virtual)7,807 in-person participants37,255 virtual participants239, 208 viewers/listeners of new humanities content

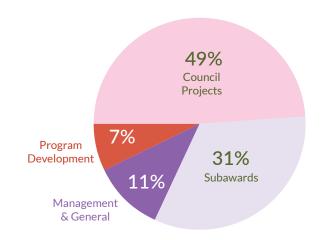


## FISCAL YEAR 2020 (Nov. 1 2019 - Oct. 31, 2020)

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Grant	\$ 788,418
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act	
(CARES Act)	\$ 474,167
Other Revenue (not NEH)	\$ 66,300
Total Revenue	\$ 1,328,884
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,289,267







# HAWAI'I COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES PROGRAMS

### **TRY THINK**

## Genuine conversation builds community

Try Think is a conversation-based program that began in the Women's Community Correctional Center in Windward Oʻahu in 2017 to provide a space for incarcerated people to share their opinions and perspectives safely and to share their stories and hopes for the communities they may be returning to someday. We expanded the Try Think program with the men at the Hālawa Correctional Facility. In 2018, Try Think grew to facilitating public conversations at various community spaces and events. Try Think remains committed to the importance of voice, the desire to feel and be heard and considered, and the need to feel and be acknowledged as a whole person and as a valuable part of the community.

### HAWAI'I HISTORY DAY & K-12 HUMANITIES PROGRAMS

### We mālama our history, we mālama each other

Running for over 30 years, Hawai'i History Day, a state affiliate of National History Day (NHD), is a year-long history education program that invigorates the teaching and learning of history in grades 4-12. We promote a theme-based, research-centered model for history and civics education. Students present their projects in an exhibit, performance, documentary, essay, or website format. Hawai'i History Day culminates in the presentation and evaluation of these projects at school, district, state, and national history days. The NHD theme for 2020 was "Breaking Barriers in History."

### **COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM**

We gather together to learn and be inspired by the richness of the humanities in Hawai'i Hawai'i Council for the Humanities awards Preservation & Access Grants and Public Humanities Grants to projects that are engaging, innovative, and strengthen and preserve our history, culture, and the humanities in Hawai'i. We also gather our grantees together to learn from each other, and strengthen our humanities community. Support for our Community Grants Program comes from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

# COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS AND AWARDS

## **PROGRAMS**



We partnered with the Honolulu Rainbow Film Festival to present Kimi Howl Lee's short film *Kama'āina*—which spurred discussion events and humanities reflection on the experiences of LGBTQ youth with houselessness and the power of making our own belonging. It felt right to create rich learning opportunities guided by leadership from communities most impacted.



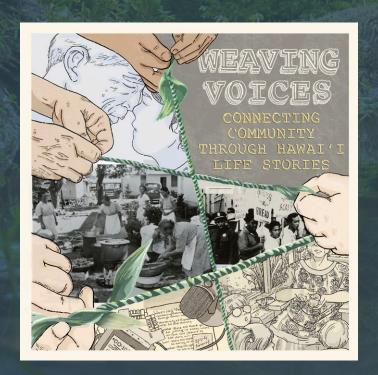
Youth Doing History - Breaking Racial Barriers in the US. During the summer, during the national Black Lives Matter protests, we created a padlet on student work on race throughout history—showing the thought of our youth across the state (ranging from fourth to twelfth grade) on this important topic. The histories of struggle, hope, and empowerment are a testament to our brave and amazing social studies teachers and youth ready to look to the past to break racist barriers today.



While our schools were shut down, we launched our new Mālama Our History community speaker series—creating online videos and materials for teachers, students, and families who were educating virtually. Thinking of the many sources of water that make the land live, we brought together many different voices to demonstrate the power and wealth of our local humanities community in our state of emergency.



"Why It Matters: Electoral Participation and Civic Engagement" This grant from the Mellon Foundation / Federation of State Humanities Councils for \$50,000 enabled us to work with three new partners: King Kamehameha V Judiciary History Center, Civic Education Council, and Kāhuli Leo Le'a, for programs continuing into 2021.



"Weaving Voices" is the outcome of a partnership with the Center for Oral History at UH Mānoa—a series of six podcasts (broadcast on Hawai'i Public Radio) and public events. Each event explores a community in transition, and celebrates the voices and memories of elders. We know that intergenerational listening and sharing strengthens our resilience and ability to shape our futures.

## **AWARDS**



The biennial Tony Quagliano International Poetry Award recognizes an accomplished poet with an outstanding body of experimental, innovative work. The 2019–2020 awardee is Margarita Serafimova, author of A Surgery of A Star and other collections in English and Bulgarian. She appears widely: LIT, Nashville Review, Agenda, Poetry South, Trafika Europe, Waxwing, Steam Ticket, and more.



Daniel Lewer from Honoka'a High and Intermediate School is the winner of the 2020 Gilder Lehrman Institute State History Teacher of the Year Award. Mr. Lewer believes in providing rich, accessible, and fun content to students and is committed to teaching excellence.



I want to share what we talked about with my family and friends."

## **Try Think Partners:**

- Blue Planet Foundation
- Honolulu Rainbow Film Festival
- Center for Oral History, Ethnic Studies Department at UH Mānoa
- Wai'anae Public Library
- Women's Community Correctional Center
- Hālawa Correction Facility
- Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Culture & Design

## 543 Total participants in our physical and virtual programs

We normally host Motheread/Fatheread parenting programs and Try Think discussion programs in three Oʻahu correctional facilities, but were prevented during the pandemic lockdown. We learn so much from our incarcerated community members and look forward to reopening these classes when we are allowed to, which serve an often overlooked and dehumanized community in our state.

During the pandemic, we pivoted our conversation program Try Think into a virtual program where our broader community could make meaningful connections during a tumultuous year. Between April and December 2020, we held 20 virtual events, with 338 total attendance from multiple islands. Our conversation topics included homeschooling, compassionate release, tourism, national protests, houselessness, pandemic ethics, and the value of kindness.

How do you even start a conversation about these kinds of difficult topics? Try Think can bring people together who normally would not have opportunity to talk ..."



This feels energizing. This kind of interaction is missing in the everyday."

## **Try Think Programs and Topics 2020**

- Try Think: Out of State (Hālawa Correctional Facility)
- Try Think: 'Ohana (Women's Community Correctional Center)
- Try Think: Out of State (Wai'anae Public Library)
- Compassionate Release
- Home Schooled—Lessons Learned and Taught While Practicing Social Distance
- Unmute Yourself—Being Connected In This COVID Crisis
- Living History Today—Capturing The COVID-19 Experience
- No Tourists, No Problem?—Opening Hawai'i Up For Business Again
- Saving The Planet from Your Home
- COVID & Climate Change
- Making Our Voices Count
- Why Is Protest A Bad Word?
- Defying and Redefining the Narrative
- Kama'āina Watch Party
- The Kindness Quality
- On Beauty
- The Moral & Ethical Codes of COVID-19
- | O| !?!
- Lotteries and Leaders—How We Choose Those Who Lead Us
- Food For Thought—A Holiday Potluck





## HAWAI'I HISTORY DAY

## **CELEBRATING OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY**

We mālama our history, we mālama each other



## **Celebrating Emma Nakuina**

Our 2020 Hawai'i History Day historical role model for "breaking barriers in history"

## 30th Anniversary Hawai'i History Day District Fairs and State Fair

District fairs on O'ahu (Windward, Central, Honolulu, Leeward) - Hawai'i Island - Kaua'i - Maui - Moloka'i



We are grateful for our Hawai'i History Day Community at the District and State Fairs:

843 students 106 teachers 165 volunteer judges 55 schools at the school-level fairs 35 community partner volunteers Countless family members, friends, and volunteers



I have been involved with the History Day program for the past fourteen years and find it to be one of the most beneficial academic pursuits for my students. It allows them to explore a topic of their interest, develop essential research skills, and hone their critical thinking talents. The district and state competitions also give my students the opportunity to practice their communication skills while presenting to a panel of judges. The experience that they gain academically and personally is unparalleled for our students."

## Hawai'i at the National Competition!



Summer Royal from 'lolani School in Honolulu, first place award for Senior Individual Documentary, The Tereshkova Effect: The Role of Propaganda in Breaking Barriers

- The Military Intelligence Service: Japanese Americans Breaking Barriers to Help End the War. Sarah Sakakihara, John Andrei Balanay, Jaelen Matsuda-Williams (Maui High School - Senior Group Website - Silver medal, Second Place)
- Breaking Barriers: How Swimwear Paved The Way for Women's Rights. Eden Smith, Annika Houghton, Auden Ho (Lā'ie Elementary School - Junior Group Performance - Bronze medal, Third Place)
- Hoʻi ka ʻŌlelo: The Revitalization of Hawaiian Language in the Education System. Liʻua Tengan (Kamehameha Schools-Kapālama - Senior Documentary - This project was showcased in the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture).
- Scott Clarke (Henry Perrine Baldwin High School). Finalist for the Hannah E. (Liz) MacGregor Teacher of the Year Award.
- David Ishii (Lā'ie Elementary), Colleen Spring (Lā'ie Elementary), Janyce Omura (Maui High School) were selected for the Naval Historical Foundation Teacher of Distinction awards.



Learning about history can be fun. And the most important thing I learned, while doing my project, was that barriers come in all forms and sizes and if we are committed, any barrier can be broken."

Mahalo to the following organizations and individuals for their generous support of our Hawai'i History Day program by funding community awards in 2020 at the District and State level that reward and encourage our students and teachers.

Alexander & Baldwin

Associated Chinese University Women

Barbara Bennett Peterson

Bendon Family Foundation

Brigham Young University

Center for Oral History, University of Hawai'i-Mānoa

Chaminade University

Sue Cowing—Cedric B. Cowing Memorial

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Matson Giving

Pacific Pictures

Pacific Tsunami Museum

Owaves

Robert G. Buss Award

George and Marguerite Simson Biographical

Research Center

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# HIHUMANITIES GRANTS AND CARES GRANTS

## **Public Humanities and Preservation Access Grants for 2020**

Inundation: Art and Climate Change in the Pacific (University of Hawaiʻi)	\$10,000
Preserving and Providing Access to the Ossipoff Snyder Architects Collection (University of Hawaiʻi)	\$ 7,000
Public Programming for 30 Americans Exhibition (Honolulu Museum of Art)	\$10,000



Joy Lehuanani Enomoto and Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner with the Waipahu Safe Haven and We are Micronesia Club in front of *Sounding* (2020). Photo credit: Chris Rohrer

## **CARES Act Grant**

Hawai'i Council for the Humanities was honored to participate in distributing Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In our CARES Act grantmaking, funding was prioritized for nonprofits working in under-resourced communities. \$474,167 was awarded to 40 humanities organizations—cultural learning centers, historical societies, museums, civic groups, and mālama 'āina nonprofits across the islands. Besides keeping these organizations open, this funding also retained 143 jobs and created 23 new jobs. **These CARES Act Grantees conducted programs for 1,110,713 participants across our state and beyond.** 

## Mahalo to our Cultural Caregivers

Hoʻolehua	Molokaʻi	\$10,000
Kailua-Kona	Hawai'i	\$10,000
Honolulu	Oʻahu	\$3,200
Honolulu	Oʻahu	\$15,000
Honolulu	Oʻahu	\$15,000
Waipahū	Oʻahu	\$10,000
Honolulu	Oʻahu	\$11,000
Honolulu	Oʻahu	\$10,000
Honolulu	Oʻahu	\$15,000
Honolulu	Oʻahu	\$15,000
Hōlualoa	Hawai'i	\$15,000
Honolulu	Oʻahu	\$15,000
Paauilo	Hawaiʻi	\$15,000
Kekaha	Kaua'i	\$12,500
Kāne'ohe	Oʻahu	\$10,000
Kapolei	Oʻahu	\$15,000
Kalaupapa	Moloka'i	\$10,000
Wai'anae	Oʻahu	\$11,385
Honolulu	Oʻahu	\$10,000
Līhu'e	Kaua'i	\$7,500
Kailua	Oʻahu	\$10,000
Kailua	Oʻahu	\$10,000
Honolulu	Oʻahu	\$15,000
Kealakekua	Hawaiʻi	\$15,000
Honolulu	Oʻahu	\$10,000
Honolulu	Oʻahu	\$4,234
Hilo	Hawaiʻi	\$15,000
Honolulu	Oʻahu	\$15,000
Honolulu	Oʻahu	\$15,000
Wailuku	Maui	\$10,000
Waipahū	Oʻahu	\$15,000
Hilo	Hawaʻi	\$10,000
Honolulu	Oʻahu	\$15,000
Honolulu	Oʻahu	\$10,000
Honolulu	Oʻahu	\$10,000
Honolulu	Oʻahu	\$15,000
Lahaina	Maui	\$15,000
Honoluu	Oʻahu	\$4,233
Haʻikū	Maui	\$15,000
Līhu'e	Kaua'i	\$10,115
	Kailua-Kona Honolulu Honolulu Waipahū Honolulu Honolulu Honolulu Honolulu Honolulu Holualoa Honolulu Paauilo Kekaha Kāne'ohe Kapolei Kalaupapa Wai'anae Honolulu Līhu'e Kailua Honolulu Kealakekua Honolulu	Kailua-Kona Hawai'i Honolulu Oʻahu Paauilo Hawai'i Kekaha Kauaʻi Kāneʻohe Oʻahu Kalaupapa Molokaʻi Waiʻanae Oʻahu Honolulu Oʻahu Līhuʻe Kauaʻi Kailua Oʻahu Kailua Oʻahu Kailua Oʻahu Honolulu Oʻahu Honolulu Oʻahu Honolulu Oʻahu Kealakekua Hawaiʻi Honolulu Oʻahu



THE MANY SOURCES OF WATER
MAKE THE LAND LIVE

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January 1 to December 31, 2020

All of the amazing things we were able to achieve in 2020 are due to the strength and belief of our community. We are so grateful for the time and love you share with us. Mahalo piha to our supporters, the many sources of water that make the land live.

(Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If we have made an error, please let us know so we can correct our records, at rjones@hihumanities.org)

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