We come from water.
Even our bones keep it close,
so we carry our beginnings everywhere. Wai—fresh water full of our stories. When you drink, you swallow the rain of your grandparents. When you stand beneath a sky let loose, clouds bursting with wealth, you know the water of your grandchildren. The waters for their food, for their thirst, for their land, the waters carried in their bones full of our love for them today.
In January 2022, we hosted a community Try Think discussion and poetry workshop to reflect and share about the ongoing water crisis at the Red Hill fuel storage facility on O’ahu. People of different ages and backgrounds joined together to think and talk about our connection to wai, to fresh water and its biological, environmental, cultural, spiritual, political, and personal meanings. At that event, we learned that it takes one to two generations for water to filter through the strata and enter our aquifer. In other words, the clear sweet water we drink today was the mist and rain that kept our parents and grandparents company.

We wrote a group poem together that day, and here are some lines from it:

Wai connects me to those I can no longer see, can no longer hear. Wai connects me to tomorrow—to hope for the future. Wai connects me to you, to us.

People entered that event feeling angry, worried, and tired, and left still feeling those things, but also feeling connected and inspired by the stories, hopes, and feelings we shared together. The humanities offer another way into the really hard things—environmental degradation, racism and colonialism, poverty and incarceration, violence. They can help us think more deeply, broadly, and compassionately.

The challenges of 2021 were an opportunity to learn even more about how the humanities can strengthen the connections that make our communities more resilient and our lives more meaningful. We are very proud of the new growth of our programs and very proud to support such a vibrant and necessary statewide humanities community.

Thank you for your stories, your enduring support, for being the many sources of water that make the land live.

Aiko Yamashiro, Executive Director
Mary Therese Perez Hattori, Board Chair

506,243 people attended/viewed 280 public humanities programs in fiscal year 2021

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

$586,166 Programs and Program Services (52%)
$317,707 Subawards (Regrants) (28%)
$145,000 General Management (14%)
$71,209 Fundraising (6%)

$1,120,082 Total Functional Expenses

OTHER REVENUE

$84,200 Foundations (43%)
$46,690 Individuals (24%)
$32,897 Other (17%)
$16,300 Corporations (8%)
$14,000 State (8%)

$194,087 Total Non-NEH Revenue

$960,111 NEH Revenue (83%)

TOTAL REVENUE: $1,154,198

$520,159 volunteer time and other in-kind support

*All figures are unaudited and represent fiscal year November 1, 2020 - October 31, 2021.
COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

We featured youth leaders and felt galvanized by the clarity and strength of young people. Poetry and music taught us how to bring our whole selves into community work.

MAHALO TO OUR 2021 COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

Center for Oral History at UH Mānoa
Chaminade History Center
Children’s Literature Hawai‘i
Hawaii International Film Festival
Kokua Hawai‘i Foundation
Tony Quagliano International Poetry Fund

In 2021 we worked with organizations to put on exciting and meaningful oral history events, literature events, discussion and film events. Check out our website and newsletter for more on all these projects.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

SHARP General Operating Costs Grantees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bishop Museum</td>
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<td>Hawaii Asian Press</td>
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<td>Ho‘o Nā Wai</td>
<td>Makawao</td>
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<tr>
<td>King Kamehameha V Judiciary History Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ku‘i‘ihi ‘O Naʻi</td>
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<td>La‘a ‘O Kamehameha</td>
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<tr>
<td>Le‘elele ‘O Na‘i</td>
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<td>Lipoa‘alii</td>
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<td>Kupuna Hawai‘i Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Lehuānui Foundation</td>
<td>Lihue</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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</tbody>
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243,030 attendees, viewers, listeners of grantee humanities programs in fiscal year 2021.

See our website for our complete list of public programs and preservation grants.

SUSTAINING THE HUMANITIES THROUGH THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (SHARP)

In Fall 2021, we did our largest community grantmaking in recent history, and distributed $629,140 of American Rescue Plan federal aid funds to 35 organizations throughout the state.

243,030 attendees, viewers, listeners of grantee humanities programs in fiscal year 2021.

This pandemic has emphasized efforts to communicate, promote, and perpetuate our cultural heritage through innovative paths that include pivoting to digitally archiving our histories so that our stories and experiences can be preserved for future generations to appreciate.*

– Hawai‘i United Okinawa Association

Remembering the 2019 Okinawan Festival. We look forward to returning to in person celebrations in 2022.

“...There are so many youth out there who are so excited about taking on these issues and so excited about participating in a political process... [By the end of the youth summit we organized] they had confidence in being able to talk to their state legislators and say ‘hey, we have these issues, you said that you promised to be willing to listen to us, this is our voice, let’s put this into action.’”

– Peyton Gillespie, Maui High School Senior and Just Futures Youth Summit Co-organizer

“...This pandemic has emphasized efforts to communicate, promote, and perpetuate our cultural heritage through innovative paths that include pivoting to digitally archiving our histories so that our stories and experiences can be preserved for future generations to appreciate."
HAWAI‘I HISTORY DAY & K-12 HUMANITIES PROGRAMS

Keilani Kajiyama Tinkham: The Rhythm of Resilience: Communication through the Bon Dance, Performance

A reminder of times before the COVID pandemic: Hawai‘i History Day youth take a leap at the National Fair.

HAWAI‘I HISTORY DAY YOUTH COUNCIL

In 2021, we piloted our first Youth Council—bringing together Hawai‘i History Day students to create their own community events for their peers, inspiring leadership and youth voice.

HAWAI‘I HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

Keilani Kajiyama Tinkham (Lā‘ie Elementary) took home the National History Day gold medal. Students from Mililani High School and Kalākaua Middle School were featured in the Smithsonian African American History Museum and the National Museum of American History.

Visit our website for stories about our 2021 Hawai‘i History Day Honoree, Mary Kawena Pukui, and a short documentary tribute by filmmaker Sancia Shiba Nash. We are honored to share here photographs of Mary Kawena Pukui’s grandson, La‘akea Suganuma with his family—all wearing Hawai‘i History Day pins!

Our K-12 Humanities Teacher Workshops focused on equity in the classroom and powerful histories not often told.

Growing up, I didn’t have many opportunities to learn about my people’s history in classrooms, which made it seem like our histories weren’t as important as the ones in textbooks. Nakem! is so important to me, because it can help teachers bring Filipino history into the classroom. Our stories are part of Hawai‘i’s history and they connect us to each other.”

—Shannon Cristobal,
Director of Hawai‘i History Day and K-12 Humanities Programs

MAHALO TO OUR 2021 HAWAI‘I HISTORY DAY COMMUNITY SPONSORS OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

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Anonymous donors
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Bendon Family Foundation
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Hawai‘i Association of School Librarians
Hawai‘i Heritage Center
Hawai‘i Labor Heritage Council
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Qwaves
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League of Women Voters of Hawai‘i County
Matson Giving
Pacific Pictures
Pacific Tsunami Museum
Robert G. Buss
The Hawai‘i Nikkei History Editorial Board
Wurst Family Foundation

Our Nakem! Teacher Workshop series was the inspired work of our very own Shannon Cristobal.

My three sons went to high school and did Hawai‘i History Day and learned a lot. They really didn’t like social studies. But working with the HHD teachers changed their way of thinking. My son, who hated social studies, really got into it and his brothers followed his example. And they are all in the natural science field now that they are grown up: one is an engineer, one is in vet school. They all said HHD helped. They have become socially aware scientists!”

—Fumiko Yamada, HHD parent and Mililani Librarian.

Our Nakem! Teacher Workshop series was the inspired work of our very own Shannon Cristobal.
Strengthening community through genuine conversation
Each voice matters

TRY THINK: HULIHA

In 2021, we came together in thirty-four Try Think community conversations with thirteen new facilitators exploring and envisioning what our future here in Hawai‘i could be. Using essays collected in the The Value of Hawai‘i: Hulihia, the Turning as Jumping off Points, as a community, we challenged the future of education and criminal justice, we considered the limitations of our natural resources, we emphasized the need to innovate, and to connect this innovation with our ancestors, with our cultures, with our art, and with our stories.

March 2021 - Oct 2021
550+ attendees

Feedback from TRY THINK Events:

“I really appreciated each person who shared their story—really felt everyone’s commitment to community and uplifting each other.”

“Thank you so much for such an exhilarating conversation. I enjoyed listening to other people’s opinions and perspectives on various questions.”

“Start in your community first, find your passion and do whatever and whenever you can. You will find that each of our ahupua’a have something that is the same and different. How can the manaloha from another’s ahupua’a be a solution for your ahupua’a?”
Dorothy Fusae Aragaki
Grant Yoshikami
Heuionalani Wyeth
Jean Toyama
Dawn Sueoka
David Raney and Eileen Tamura*
Patricia Polansky*
National History Day
Manuel Kuloloio
Trixy ʻIwalani Koide
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Lisa Yamamoto
*for the benefit of the Robert G. Buss Fund
**for the benefit of the Annette Lew Fund

We are grateful for the 3-year gift from Matson Giving for Hawai’i History Day. Matson is a historic, kama’āina company, having served Hawai’i continuously since 1882, for six generations. Matson supports the communities in which their employees live and work and values the unique history education of Hawai’i History Day and our History Day teachers.

Welcome to our new sponsor the Hawaiian Electric Industries Charitable Foundation. Through collaboration, partnerships and neighbors helping neighbors, HEI strengthens our Hawai’i communities and strives to serve as a catalyst for a better Hawai’i. Their giving is inspired by Nelson Mandela’s words “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Quote on Cover:
This quote is from “Aia i hea ka wai a Kāne?” We had the gift of learning more about this oli from Shelley Muneoka in a Try Think discussion and poetry workshop reflecting on the Red Hill water crisis.

Nathaniel Emerson collected this chant and it can be found in Unwritten Literature of Hawai’i, the Sacred Songs of the Hula.
E ul aku ana au iā 'oe,
Aia i hea ka Wai a Kāne?
Aia i lalo, i ka honua, i ka Wai hū,
I ka wai kau a Kāne me Kanaloa—
He waipuna, he wai e inu,
He wai e mana, he wai e ola,
E ola nō, ea!

One question I ask of you:
Where flows the water of Kāne?
Deep in the ground, in the gushing spring.
In the ducts of Kāne and Loa,
A well spring of water, to quaff,
A water of magic power—The water of life!
Life! O give us this life!