Interwoven for Life
Tragedies teach us that cultural practice, history, art, stories are not a luxury, but essential to life. These sources provide powerful truths about how everything is interwoven. Land, Water. Who we are. Spirit. Our past. Our possibilities. When we are solid in our connections, we make wise decisions. When we nourish our connections, we hold tight together, even when it is really hard.

The hands and leaves on our cover are photos of our Board, Staff, and families making lei. We chose lei lā’ī (ti leaf lei) as a way of reminding us of the sacredness of connection. The attention, honor, and gratitude with which we make lei is also how we need to hold each other and our world. This Annual Report shares stories of connection we are proud to have been a part of in 2023.

2024 is a powerful year to grow our capacity to support community humanities projects, leadership development, and statewide connection. We will be completing a new strategic plan, launching our Pacific Islands Humanities Network with our humanities council partners in Guåhan, Amerika Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands, working on a Queer Histories of Hawai‘i monuments project, hosting the Chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and continuing to strengthen our foundational public humanities programs—Community Grants; Try Think; Hawai‘i History Day; and the Hawai‘i State Poet Laureate. Together we plant, tend, and grow a future filled with connection.

Mahalo for being interwoven with all of this. Together let us continue to bring life to our home and each other.
“Genuinely, learning the value of history beyond the textbook was the most valuable lesson of my Hawai‘i History Day project. There is no ‘right version of history’ per se, but it’s important to see history from as many perspectives as possible. Ensuring myself not to jump to conclusions over a sensationalist headline or textbook paragraph is important to keep things in perspective.”

- Student
HAwAI‘I HISTORY DAY

For over 30 years, the Hawai‘i History Day program has helped to invigorate the teaching and learning of history in grades 4 - 12 at public, private, charter and home schools. Students choose and research their project topics based upon the yearly theme, and teachers have access to free resources and training.

INSPIRING EQUITY AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

In 2019 at the initiative of the haumāna (students) and kumu (teachers) of Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo Public Charter School on Hawai‘i Island, Hawai‘i became the first state to accept and judge projects in our Indigenous language without translation. This includes providing growing resource materials in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. Thanks to decades of cultural revitalization work of our community, we now are leading the way for other Native communities to also participate in this history education program.

2019
- First state to have Indigenous language projects compete at the History Day district and state levels.
  - 13 ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i projects submitted from 1 school.

2022
- Inspired the first Indigenous Language Showcase, hosted virtually by the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, featuring student projects from Hawai‘i.

2023
- 17 ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i projects submitted from 3 schools
- Our first delegation of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i students and teachers, from three islands, travels to Washington DC, to present their projects, music, and oli (chants) at the second Indigenous Language Showcase at the Smithsonian. (pictured at upper left).
- The National Endowment for the Humanities introduces equity grants for History Day programs to better engage Indigenous and underserved communities. HIHumanities is one of the grantees.
- HIHumanities staff continue to be asked to share our experiences with humanities organizations from other states.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

619 Students and 69 teachers from 35 schools on 5 islands submitted 425 projects.

Over 5,000 students engaged with the History Day curriculum.

$6,500 in Community Awards presented to teachers and students.

$61,138 given in 184 travel scholarships to students, teachers and chaperones to participate in State and National Fairs.
GROWING AS A GATHERING PLACE

More than just a competition, History Day Fairs are bringing together schools and local community organizations.

Rie Ombrello (right), a Grandmaster of the Mishō-ryū school of Ikebana, led students, family members, and teachers in Telling Your Story through Ikebana at the Kaua‘i District Fair. The Lahaina Restoration Foundation combined history and technology by organizing a virtual scavenger hunt for Maui District Fair participants.

“History is often misunderstood as a stagnant subject ... but it comes more alive when students realize that the long story you are sharing is tied directly to every single one of them.”

- Dr. Andrea-Bernadette Pratt
Teacher at Robert Louis Stevenson Middle School, received the 2023 Gilder Lehrman Institute State History Teacher of the Year Award, honoring exceptional American history teachers.

(left) A student performance at the 2023 National History Day competition.

HAWAI‘I HISTORY DAY NEEDS YOU!

Come and be a part of making history come alive for our students! We are looking for volunteer judges and event supporters, and community organizers to provide engaging activities or sponsor awards.

(left) National History Day Ambassador Dorian “Aunty Dorie” Langi tabulating results at the Maui District Fair.
LITERARY & CONVERSATION PROGRAMS

Sharing stories and engaging in genuine conversations enriches lives as they connect people, broaden perspectives, and strengthen communities.

TRY THINK

Led by trained facilitators, the Try Think program creates a safe space for listening and sharing about important topics, and for building community. Try Think is an ongoing program at the Women’s Community Correctional Center in Windward O‘ahu and Hālawa Correctional Facility for men.

In 2023 across both facilities, 593 attendees participated in 49 class sessions.

The majority of people who are incarcerated are going to be back in the community, so having opportunities to participate in programs like Try Think at Hālawa reminds them that they are part of the community, even if they’re in isolation at this time.

The men feel heard, they feel they have a voice while participating in Try Think. They tell me, “I love coming to this class because I feel like I’m normal, … like I’m not here [in prison].”

Roseanne Propato
Corrections Education Program Manager,
Hawai‘i State Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

FILM FOR THOUGHT

Our partnership with Hawai‘i International Film Festival continued by sharing 4 thought-provoking films attended by 2,144 viewers with discussions with local humanities scholars. Under the theme, “United We Stand,” the films explored polarization and violence in contemporary society, and ways to heal, connect and transform.

“A teen boy ‘coming of age’ film would not be my 1st choice, but I so enjoyed the movie. Humanities brings us a new perspective. I very much enjoyed the humanities scholar essay for Moustache and the handout [that] included info [on] all 4 movies.”

- A Participant
NOW IS THE TIME FOR STORIES

Now Is the Time for Stories (NITTFS) events featured local histories, community leaders, and conversations about the future. Seven events with a total of 205 participants were held on Lāna‘i, Kaua‘i, and O‘ahu.

On Lāna‘i, filmmaker Anthony Pacheco recorded historians and community members sharing about the island’s history, creating a film the community can continue to use to ground future gatherings/conversations.

In response to challenges such as rapid demographic and cost of living changes, communities shared wisdom: perhaps keeping an open mind to change and newcomers can strengthen the community, rather than weaken it; and remembering stories of our past, even painful stories, can ground and heal us.

HAWAI‘I STATE POET LAUREATE

On January 1st, 2023, Brandy Nālani McDougall began her three-year term as Hawai‘i State Poet Laureate. In 2023, she held 34 events across the state drawing 5,736 participants, including poetry readings; workshops for teachers, the public and youth; convened other local poets for readings and events; and offered public remarks to local and national media. One convening was Broke da Mout’, an all Pidgin poetry reading and talk story.

There was such a beautiful, moving and fun celebration of local poetry and community at the Broke da Mout’ reading. The Pidgin poetry all-stars—Imaikalani Kalahihele, Joe Balaz, Lee Tonouchi, ku‘ualoha ho‘omanawanui, Lisa Kanae, and Donovan Kūhiō Colleps—brought the ‘ano living up to the promise to broke da mout’! I think we all felt the power of Pidgin and poetry to bring us together in our deep aloha for Hawai‘i and the freedom to celebrate all that makes us special.

Brandy Nālani McDougall
Hawai‘i State Poet Laureate, 2023 - 2025
COMMUNITY GRANTS

Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, we fund projects that engage our diverse communities; strengthen and celebrate our history, culture, and other humanities; and help connect us over deep questions and relevant issues.

PROJECTS FUNDED IN FY2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Grant Request</th>
<th>Organization Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 Years Later: Stories of Resilience</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>North Hawai‘i Heritage Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Perspectives on Policing</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>East Hawai‘i Cultural Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dietrich Varez Legacy Program</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Volcano Art Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mai Ka Poulí Exhibition and Programming</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Donkey Mill Art Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preserve and Share Hilo’s Pharmacy Past</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
<td>Lyman House Memorial Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ku’u Home O Pā‘ulaula-Connecting Lāhui</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Friends of King Kaumualii’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Stories: Farming and Kauai Culture</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Story For All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bamboo Ridge Oral History Project</td>
<td>$9,600</td>
<td>Bamboo Ridge Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edible Tales: Ho’okupu</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Dancers Unlimited Inc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawai‘i’s Kahuli: Tiny Epics of Survival</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Mānoa Heritage Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ho’ohui Maika’i</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Krause Family Foundation: ‘Alana Ke Aloha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ko’olau pokopok Future Authors</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Stories of Cultural Practitioners</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>University of Hawai‘i System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living History of Prince Kūhiō</td>
<td>$8,112</td>
<td>Hawai‘i Pono‘ī Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mālama the Caregivers Theater Project</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>PlayBuilders of Hawaii Theater Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Banaba Public Programs</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Bishop Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Past’s Plan for Hawai‘i’s Future</td>
<td>$9,999</td>
<td>University of Hawai‘i System</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Projects in **GREEN** are in Congressional District 1, in **BLUE** are in District 2.

“The two presentations by Toni Shapira-Phim evolved into provocative comments and discussion with attendees about dance and social justice, ... and constructively ‘countering injustice and rights violations’ with dance.”

- Audience Member

With their Public Humanities grant (closed in FY2023), the University of Hawai‘i System’s 2022 Asia Pacific Dance Festival expressed fellowship in dance and created cultural understandings between people through Hawaiian, Palauan, Cambodian, and other dance workshops, community outreach, performances, a welcome ceremony, seminars, a conference, and conversations. Total audience: 2,152
We are grateful to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for a grant of $894,481.

“Guided by your values of compassion and community connection, Hawai‘i Council for the Humanities is growing in its ability to serve all of Hawai‘i. We support your good work to continue to strengthen your partnerships with the neighbor islands.”

- Susan Bendon
Executive Director
Bendon Family Foundation
With Heartfelt Thanks

Mahalo nui to our donors for the time, love, and support you share with us. Many of you make multiple gifts throughout the year in support of our public humanities programming across the state. Donors are listed at the level of their cumulative giving for gifts received during the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023.

ORGANIZATIONS

GIFTS OF $5,000 AND ABOVE

National Endowment for the Humanities
Academy of American Poets
Atherton Family Foundation
Bendon Family Foundation
Daniel K. Inouye Institute Fund
Dods Foundation
East Hawai‘i Fund
HEI Charitable Foundation
Kamehameha Publishing
Laura Jane Musser Fund
Matson Giving
McInerny Family Foundation - Bank of Hawai‘i
Sidney Stern Memorial Trust
State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

GIFTS OF UP TO $4,999

Alexander and Baldwin Kokua Giving
AmazonSmile Foundation
Associated Chinese University Women
Center for Oral History
Elsie H. Wilcox Foundation - Bank of Hawai‘i
G.N. Wilcox Trust - Bank of Hawai‘i
George and Marguerite Simson Biographical Research Center
Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
Hawai‘i Association of School Librarians
Hawai‘i Labor Heritage Council
Hui o Laulima
League of Women Voters of Hawai‘i
National History Day
Pacific Pictures
Qwaves, LLC - Joe Wilson and Dean Hamer

INDIVIDUALS

Carol Abe
Lea Albert
Nancy Aleck
Anonymous (5)
Vincent & Karen Aoki
Tisha Aragaki
Esther Kwon Arinaga
Cristina Bacchilega
Marlene Booth
Philip Bossert
Puana Burgess
Fay and Betty Buss
Bob and Adella Buss
Brenda Ching
Sue Ann Chun
Sue Cowing
Helen Cox
Shannon Cristobal
Ruth Dawson
Mary Jane Dobson
Cheryl Edelson
Deanna Espinosa
Diane Evans
Sarah Falzarano
Paul and Jane Field
Claire Gearen
Jeff Gere
Maja Grajiski
Albert Hamai
Hallett Hammatt
Mary Therese Perez Hattori
Chuck Hazama
Gregory Hazleton
Kristin Holmes
Craig Howes and Sara Collins

Carol Jackson
Aletha Kaohi
Demaney Kihie
Bert Kikuchi
Chris Kirk-Kuwaye
Sumie Kitajima-Ogata
Tom and Delmarie Motta Klobe
‘Iwalani Koide
Herb Lee
April KY Leong
Vincent Linares
Chiara Logli
Terri Madden
Robert McCaw
Marie and Bill Milks
Paul and Jessie Mizoguchi
Kirsten Møltegaard
Marcia Morse
Margaret Murchison
Larry and Marilyn Myers
Paul Nakama
Melissa Nakashima
Nanette Napoleon
Warren Nishimoto and Michiko Kodama-Nishimoto
Amy Nishimura
Rick and Barbara Nosaka
Janice Nuckols
Joe O’Mealy
Rodney and Ardis Ono
Barbara Peterson
Kathy Phillips
Patricia Polansky
Shelly Preza
Antonio Ramil
Eileen Tamura and David Raney
Gary Robert, Esq.
Pua Rossi-Fukino
Laura Ruby
Ken Ruge and Susan Harriss
Misty-Lynn Sanico
Jo Ann Schindler
Yukie Shiroma
Ned and Kamaile Shultz
Elizabeth Soto
Bill Speed
Joe Stanton
Dawn Sueoka
Susan Sugitani
Yukie Tokuyama
Charlene van der Pyl-Chee
Malia Van Heukelem
Laurie Watanabe
Barry and Patty Wurst
Mitch Yamasaki
Aiko Yamashiro
Ann Yoklavich

* Gifts of $1,000 and above are bolded.

IN MEMORY OF
Chuck Hazama, in honor of generations of the Oyakawa Family and in memory of generations of the Hazama Family
Marie and Bill Milks, in memory of Nancy Morris
Warren Nishimoto and Michiko Kodama-Nishimoto, in memory of Stephen & Jo Ann Boggs

IN HONOR OF
Vincent and Karen Aoki, in honor of Annette Lew
Marlene Booth, in honor of Aiko, who honors the humanities and brings them to our lives with such grace
Sarah Falzarano, in honor of Claire Gearen
Demaney Kihe, in honor of Richard J.K. Kihe
Chiara Logli, in honor of our Hawai’i History Day hero, Cynthia Smith
Ken Ruge and Susan Harriss, in honor of Bob Buss
Laurie Watanabe, in honor of Lorey Ishihara
Ann Yoklavich, in honor of Cynthia Smith, Paul Field, and Mitch Yamasaki, founding Hawai’i History Day historians
Mary Therese Perez Hattori and the Pacific Islands Development Program
Matson Giving
Mililani High School
Mo’okoa’i Middle School
National History Day
Pacific Pictures
Qwaves, LLC - Joe Wilson and Dean Hamer
Robert G. Buss
Sidney Stern Memorial Trust
Tinalak Education Advisory Council and the Filipino American Historical Society of Hawai’i University of Hawai’i – Hilo University of Hawai’i – Maui College Windward Community College Wurst Family Foundation

NOW IS THE TIME FOR STORIES COMMUNITY PARTNERS
Bishop Museum
Carte Blanche
Hanapēpē Public Library
ʻĀina Ho’okupu O Kīlauea
Local I’a
Mānoa Heritage Center
Mud Hen Water
The Local General Store

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. Email Michele Mitsumori at mmitsumori@hihumanities.org.

Support Public Humanities in Hawai’i through an online donation today.
Interwoven for Life