



Interwoven for Life



2023 Annual Report

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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'i (tī 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.



Aiko Yamashiro,
Executive Director



Maja Grajski
Board Chair

PUBLIC HUMANITIES ACROSS HAWAI‘I

23,309

People Engaged

by our grantees and through our programs

162

Activities Held

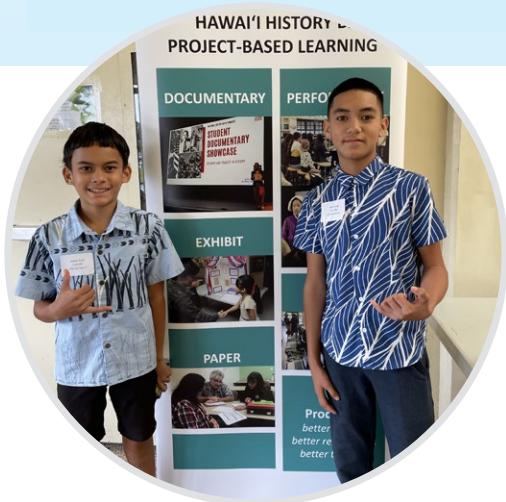
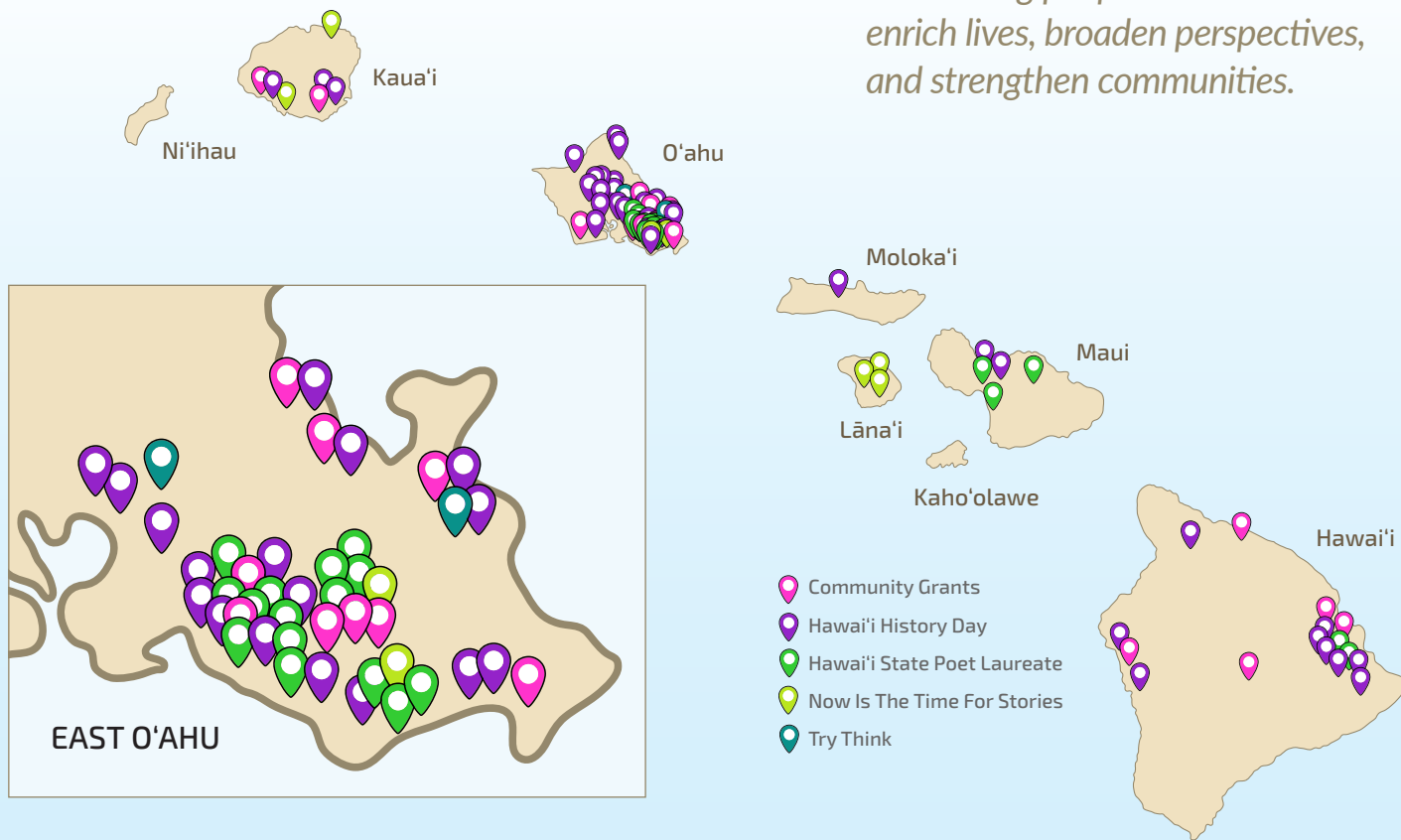
by our grantees and through our programs, in person and virtually

\$1,150,480

Dollars Spent

directly through grants, programs and partnerships in Hawai‘i

Connecting people with ideas that enrich lives, broaden perspectives, and strengthen communities.



"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.

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.

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.

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 on-going program at the Women's Community Correctional Center in Windward O'ahu and Hālawā 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 Hālawā reminds them that they are part of the community, even if they're in isolation at this time.

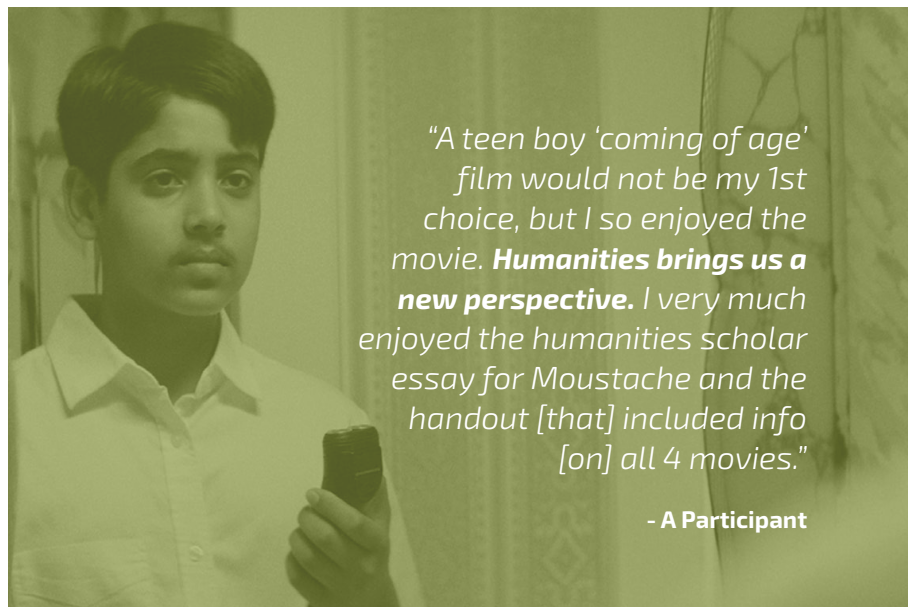
*The men feel heard, they feel they have a voice while participating in Try Think. They tell me, **"I love coming to this class because I feel like I'm normal, ... like I'm not here [in prison]."***

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 Lānaʻi, Kauaʻi, and Oʻahu.

On Lānaʻi, 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.



"Listening to stories of all the uncles that I have known my whole life, I now have a better understanding of how/why this town is so special. There should be more time/space for these events to happen so these stories don't get lost."

- Participant

Kīlauea Social Club event, Kauaʻi

HAWAII STATE POET LAUREATE

On January 1st, 2023, Brandy Nālani McDougall began her three-year term as Hawaiʻi 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 Kalahale, Joe Balaz, Lee Tonouchi, ku'ualoha ho'omanawanui, Lisa Kanae, and Donovan Kūhiō Colleps—brought the 'ono 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 Hawaiʻi and the freedom to celebrate all that makes us special.

Brandy Nālani McDougall

Hawaiʻi State Poet Laureate, 2023 - 2025

Mahalo to our
project partners



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

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

* 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

FINANCES

Fiscal Year 2023

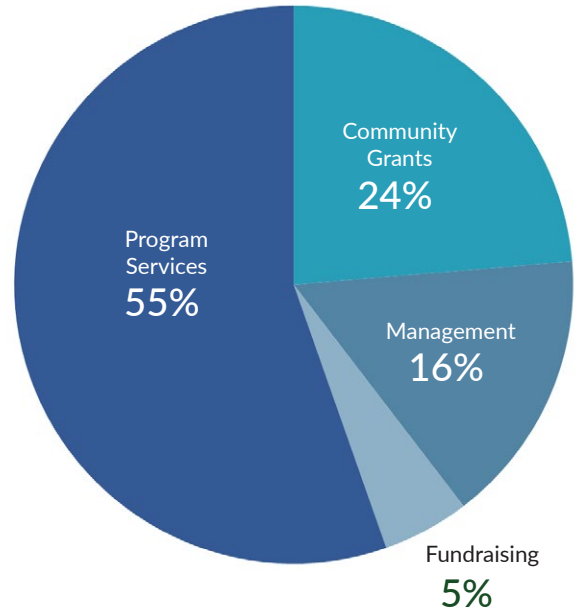
November 1, 2022 - October 31, 2023

These figures are not yet audited.

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$603,819
Community Grants	\$258,123
Management	\$173,657
Fundraising	\$54,805

Total **\$1,090,403**



REVENUE

Grants	\$1,027,494
Contributions	\$38,450
Contracts	\$6,140
Other Revenue	\$15,541

Total **\$1,086,841**

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

\$538,126

*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
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Matson Giving
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Sidney Stern Memorial Trust
State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

GIFTS OF UP TO \$4,999

Alexander and Baldwin Kokua Giving
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Hawai'i Labor Heritage Council
Hui o Laulima
League of Women Voters of Hawai'i County

League of Women Voters of Hawaii
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
Puaena 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 Espinas
Diane Evans
Sarah Falzarano
Paul and Jane Field
Claire Gearen
Jeff Gere
Maja Grajski
Albert Hamai
Hallett Hammatt
Mary Therese Perez Hattori
Chuck Hazama
Gregory Hazelton
Kristin Holmes
Craig Howes and Sara Collins

Carol Jackson
Aletha Kaohi
Demaney Kihe
Bert Kikuchi
Chris Kirk-Kuwaye
Sumie Kitajima-Ogata
Tom and Delmarie Motta Klobe
'Iwalani Koide
Herb Lee
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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

HAWAII HISTORY DAY COMMUNITY SPONSORS & PARTNERS

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Barbara Bennett Peterson and Frank Peterson
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Center for Oral History, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Chaminade University
Daniel K. Inouye Institute
George and Marguerite Simson
Gregory Hazelton
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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
'Āina 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.



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