



BROADENING BRIDGES

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are in the middle of violent struggles over health, housing, land and water, and belonging. We are splitting into smaller and smaller tribes, distancing ourselves from those who don't agree with us, or who are not like us. In this crisis, we need connection. Our 2024 annual report reminds us of the power of the public humanities to broaden bridges, expand our understanding, and build a stronger community.

Our vision of a strong civic community is where many many stories, histories, ideas, and voices flow strongly and freely, in strong relationship with each other and with 'āina, our home. The humanitie gives us ways to care for this ecosystem of connection. The humanities invite us to ask questions, explore, learn, risk, come together, share. These deep experiences transform us as individuals and as a collective. The reality is that we are already connected. The humanities help us center that truth, so we can become the best version of humanity.

The best role of Hawai'i Council for the Humanities is to steward our local humanities ecosystem—by resourcing community leadership, amplifying and connecting community brilliance, and advocating for the resources needed to nourish this work. We are proud to have served in this role for over 50 years. We are grateful for each of you, bringing your unique gifts to this work of broadening and strengthening the bridges, so we can find each other again.



Kehaulani Costa, Board Chair



Aiko Yamashiro, Executive Director

Cover photo by: Puali'ili'imaikalani Rossi-Fukino of Kapaia Swinging Bridge in the ahupua'a of Hanamā'ulu

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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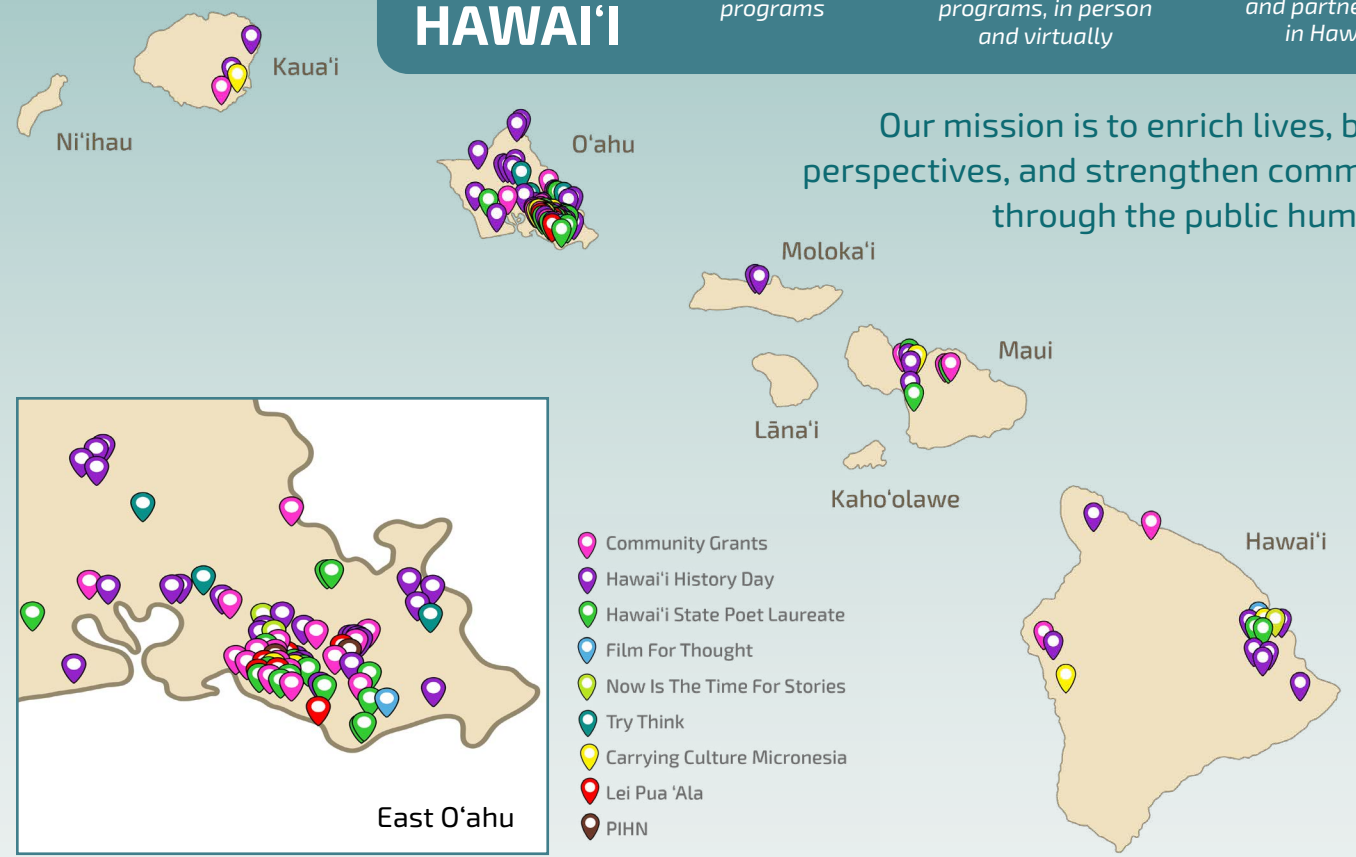
Dorian Langi
Volunteer Hawai'i History Day Program and Curriculum Specialist

2024
IMPACT
ACROSS
HAWAI'I

33,531
People Engaged
by our grantees
and through our
programs

209
Activities Held
by our grantees
and through our
programs, in person
and virtually

\$905,846
Dollars Spent
directly through
grants, programs
and partnerships
in Hawai'i



Our mission is to enrich lives, broaden perspectives, and strengthen communities through the public humanities.

CONNECTING
NATIONAL
NETWORKS &
RESOURCES TO
HAWAI'I



Federation of
State Humanities
Councils

A network that connects, shares resources and expertise, and advocates for 56 state and territory humanities councils.



A world leader in history and civics education that connects local teachers and students with its national history competition, teacher professional development programs, and curriculum tools through Hawai'i History Day.



"Inside & Out," comprising 22 humanities councils and their partners, strengthens the public humanities in correctional facilities. At left, Rob Chang, Try Think Director, leads a conference session.

COMMUNITY GRANTS AWARDED IN FY2024

Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, we fund projects that are engaging and innovative for diverse Hawai'i communities, that strengthen and celebrate our history, culture, and other humanities in Hawai'i, that help us connect over deep questions and relevant issues.

ORGANIZATION NAME	GRANT	PROJECT NAME
HAWAI'I		
Donkey Mill Art Center	\$10,000	Hānau Ka Mo'olelo Exhibition & Programs
Enlivened Cooperative	\$10,000	Lauhala Weaving Knowledges/Practices
North Kohala Community Resource Center	\$10,000	Kohala Voices: Youth Documentary Film
University of Hawaii System	\$10,000	Korean Art & History Across the Pacific
O'AHU		
Bamboo Ridge Press	\$9,000	Bamboo Ridge Oral History Project
East-West Center	\$10,000	Celebrating Micronesian Voices
George and Marguerite Simson Biographical Research Center	\$10,000	Funding for Travel--the 1898 Project
Hawaii Book & Music Festival	\$10,000	AI Impact on the Humanities
Hawaiian Historical Society	\$10,000	Hawai'i Ma Kahaone Beaches of Hawai'i
Honolulu Biennial Foundation dba Hawai'i Contemporary	\$10,000	2025 Hawai'i Triennial 2025 Docent Program
Honolulu Printmakers	\$10,000	Printer Lei Project - Risography
Mālama Learning Center	\$9,680	Limuhinaula
Obama Hawaiian Africana Museum	\$10,000	Hawai'i's Untold Africana Experiences
Palama Settlement	\$10,000	Annual Reports & Newsletters, 1907-2006
The Outdoor Circle	\$10,000	Outdoor Circle at Hawaii State Archives
University of Hawaii System	\$10,000	Asia Pacific Dance Festival 2024
MAUI		
Hui No'eau	\$9,050	Ka Ulana 'Ana I Ka Piko
Maui Academy of Performing Arts	\$10,000	Pigs from the Sea
Maui Arts & Cultural Center	\$10,000	Sense of Place / Place of Sense

MULTI-ISLAND		
Filipino Association of University Women	\$10,000	Filipino Voices in Hawai'i

total amount awarded **\$197,730**

SENSE OF PLACE / PLACE OF SENSE



At a critical moment of change for Maui, this exhibition at Maui Arts & Cultural Center, which ran January through March 2024, explored the multi-faceted meaning of community. Looking at who we are in the present and the promise we hold for the future, this gallery explored themes of history, water, land, spirituality, and people. This community grant project created a gathering place for awareness, dialogue, and connection, and encouraged a deeper level of engagement with Maui and the people who who have made the island home.

BROADENING THROUGH INVESTMENT

PRESERVE AND SHARE HILO'S PHARMACY PAST



The Lyman House Memorial Museum, a Community Grants project awarded funding in 2023, built bridges across time through their "Preserve and Share Hilo's Pharmacy Past" project. They successfully documented 13 pharmacy ledgers from 1896-1950, of approximately 400-600 pages each. These ledgers bring the history of Hilo to life, documenting demographics, health, medicine, pandemics, and daily life. The grant also trained UH-Hilo students Victoria Andrade and Lehua Waianuhe, a new generation of archivists and historians.



The Lyman House Museum also funded to public access to two presentations on the project shared the results back with the Hilo community. In the photo on the left, Dr. Kerri Inglis presents the findings from the ledgers with the Hilo community.

Seeing the ledgers I wondered if I would come across any of my family and I had a moment of curiosity about their day-to-day lives. What afflictions were suffered? Was there equity in access to medicines? A little scrap of paper taped to a ledger was be a point of connection between people of the same era and also a point of connection between people 50 years apart.

– Kehaulani Costa, HCH Board Chair

CARRYING CULTURES MICRONESIA WORKSHOPS



As part of the national United We Stand: Connecting through Culture initiative to bridge societal divides and address hate-based violence, we partnered with the Pacific Islands Development Program and the Center for Pacific Islands Studies to support an expansion of their successful Carrying Culture Micronesia workshops, on Kaua'i, Maui, Hawai'i Island, O'ahu, and online. These events center Micronesian expertise, history, and cultural production, and can help those in education, healthcare, social service, law enforcement, and policy better understand and support people from the region of Micronesia.

Learn more or request a workshop at tinyurl.com/CCMicronesia or the QR code.

The interpretation of different cultural concepts will help a lot with patient care to understand patients actions and body languages.

– Workshop Participant

HAWAI'I HISTORY DAY

A state affiliate of National History Day since 1990, **Hawai'i History Day** (HHD) is a year-long academic program focused on historical research, interpretation, and creative expression for 4th- to 12-grade students at public, private, charter, and home schools.

Students become writers, filmmakers, web designers, playwrights, and artists as they create unique expressions of history. They then present their projects at district-, state-, and national level competitions.

Youth practice skills that prepare them for life, work, and citizenship by devising their own analytical questions and thesis, analyzing information, working with primary and secondary sources, developing annotated bibliographies, and presenting them.



2024 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

901 students and **84** teachers from **39** schools on **5** islands submitted **599** projects.

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

43 students submitted projects in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i

\$7,134 in Community Awards presented to teachers and students.

\$18,288 in travel support for students and chaperones for State Competitions.

\$61,933 to students, teachers, and chaperones to participate in National Competitions.

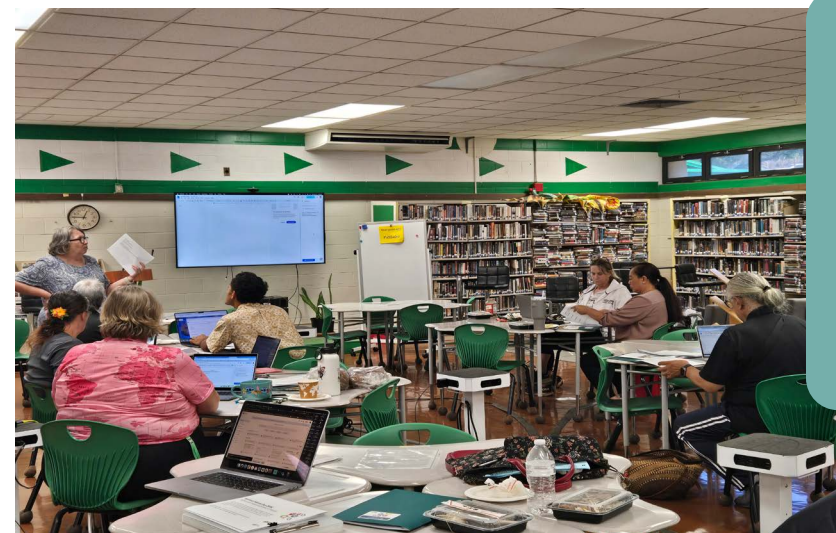
"I learned that learning about history is critical to ensure that mistakes in the past don't repeat themselves." – Student

"One important skill I gained is making connections to provide solid evidence that supports a thesis. My research skills also drastically improved from doing a project." – Student

"HHD gives you the freedom to explore, choices, and reasons for you to learn a topic that catches your interest, which motivates you to be proactive." – Student

"This program exposes so much talent from our young Americans. They gather around ideas that made our society great, grapple with faults that our country needs to fix – they are growing into sensational, informed citizens." – Parent

BROADENING
THROUGH EDUCATION



"History Day projects cover all standards relevant to historical thinking and presentations. The access to high quality resources is very helpful, and the combined years of experiences with the [training] presenters and participants enriches the learning."
– Teacher from Moloka'i

Volunteer Curriculum & Program Specialist Dorian Langi leads a teacher workshop on Moloka'i.

TEACHER DEVELOPMENT & SUCCESS

Visionary and passionate teachers power this program. HHD, together with National History Day, provides a wealth of resources online, in English and 'ōlelo Hawai'i, that supports a range of topics, including curriculum development, resources on the annual theme, project evaluation guidelines, and online workshops. HHD staff provide ongoing support through e-newsletters, teacher training, and individual consultations. The program was featured in Humanities and ICT (Indian Country Today) publications.



'ŌLELO HAWAI'I PROGRAM

The 'Ōlelo Hawai'i program continued to grow, including participation from schools on Maui and Kaua'i for the first time. The only National History Day affiliate with an indigenous language program, HHD students have presented at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., and National Hawaiian History Month on O'ahu, and the program was featured in *Humanities* and *Indian Country Today* magazines.

CONTINUING IMPACT 25 YEARS LATER



"History Day continues to shape me because I still seek truth. There can be different perspectives, but we need to have the same foundational understanding of what is real." – Brennan Takayama, HHD alumnus and volunteer judge

TRY THINK

Try Think takes a humanities approach to create safe and stimulating spaces for deep sharing, listening, and connection; the nurturing of humanity and voice; and the reduction of stigma.

In 2024, 66 sessions at were held at 3 correctional facilities on O'ahu (Women's Community Correctional Center, Hālawā Correctional Facility, and Waiawa Correctional Facility).



759 attendees
36 community guests

In Try Think, the community ball is a tool for the group to listen and lead together. There is a collective agreement that whoever has the ball has the right to speak, decide how long to speak, and who to pass it to next —these decisions feel small, but self-direction is big.

“I am aware of the many privileges I have, but I had not considered the privilege I have of ignoring my past if I choose to.”
– Chris Kirk-Kuwaye, HCH Board Member (purple shirt in photo)



LISTEN TO THE
FULL INTERVIEW

Scan QR code or visit:
tinyurl.com/TryThink24

“[Try Think is] a chance for me to stay in touch with what is happening outside of these walls, what is happening outside in the world. Gives me a chance to really discuss, especially with my peers, those ideas, my thoughts, my emotions, my feelings, on the topic, on the event, as opposed to having my own perspective. To see from another person’s point of view really has helped me to grow.”

– Andrew, Hālawā Correctional Facility Try Think

BROADENING

THROUGH STORIES

HAWAI'I STATE POET LAUREATE



3,406
people attended 25 events

In 2024, our **Hawai'i State Poet Laureate** Brandy Nālani McDougall conducted events for people, on O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i Island. Poetry has proven to be a powerful, accessible, and fun way to explore social issues, express your unique voice, and connect to others in your community in a deeper way.

It allows me to look at issues of conflict in a more productive way. I will not shy away from it but dissect it and move forward in a more impactful way. Writing poetry helped me understand my feelings that I haven't always vocalized and even understood the heaviness that I was experiencing. I believe in collective dreaming and the power of shared vision and the power of art that could play a part in bringing things together.

— Workshop Participant

LEI PUA 'ALA QUEER HISTORIES OF HAWAI'I



3,430
audience members in Lei Pua 'Ala
live events

We are in the middle of a 3-year partnership project with Qwaves / Kanaka Pakipika to uplift Māhū and LGBTQ+ stories and voices throughout Hawai'i. This project is funded by a \$943,700 grant from the Mellon Foundation and their national Monuments Project aimed at transforming the nation's commemorative landscape to ensure our collective histories are more completely and accurately represented—to create a more just, welcoming, and vibrant present and future. We gather and uplift these stories as a “lei pua 'ala” — a lei of fragrant flowers that honors many voices of our community.

Sites and stories commemorated have included The Glade Nightclub, the 1985 Miss Gay Moloka'i Pageant, the first Kaua'i Pride Parade in 2019, and the Baehr v. Lewin Hawai'i court case that lay the foundation for legalizing same-sex marriage nationally.

To access the public educational website and contribute your own story, visit:
queerhistoriesofhawaii.org

WATER MAKES THE LAND LIVE

Our vision statement is “nā mana wai pio ‘ole e ho‘ōla ana i ka ‘āina,” or “the many inextinguishable sources of water make the land live.” We are grateful for your partnership and gifts that give life to the public humanities in Hawai‘i. Donors are listed at the level of their cumulative giving for gifts received during the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2024.

ORGANIZATIONS

GIFTS OF \$5,000 AND ABOVE

Atherton Family Foundation
Bendon Family Foundation Inc
Daniel K. Inouye Institute Fund
Henry Luce Foundation
Kamehameha Publishing
Matson
National Endowment for the Humanities
State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

GIFTS OF UP TO \$4,999

Associated Chinese University Women
East Hawai‘i Fund
George and Marguerite Simson
Biographical Research Center
Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
Hawai‘i Association of School Librarians
Hawai‘i Labor Heritage Council
IT Reuse Hawai‘i
League of Women Voters of Hawai‘i County
League of Women Voters of Hawaii
National History Day
Pacific Pictures

Qwaves LLC - Joe Wilson & Dean Hamer
Tony Quagliano International Poetry Fund
Wurst Family Foundation

INDIVIDUALS

Carol Abe
Leigh Adams
Lea Albert
Nancy Aleck

Anonymous (5)

Karen E. Aoki
Dorothy Aragaki
Esther Kwon Arinaga
Teresa Bill
Hannah Bloch
Marlene Booth & Avi Soifer
Philip J. Bossert
Bob & Adella Buss
Jason Chee
Brenda Ching
Sue Ann Chun
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Melissa Nakashima
Noreen Naughton
Marilyn L. Nicholson
Warren Nishimoto & Michiko

WITH GRATITUDE

Kodama-Nishimoto
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Janice Nuckols
Mark & Rie Ombrello
Rodney & Ardis Ono
Loretta Pang
Bernice Peller
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Daniel Vekhter
Gina S. Vergara-Bautista
Mitch Yamasaki
Aiko Yamashiro
Darcie Yukimura

MONTHLY SUPPORTERS

Claire Gearen
Maja Grajski
Vincent Linares
Dawn Sueoka
Ben Treviño

IN MEMORY OF

M. Gay Conklin
Kai'opua Fyfe
Daniel W.Y. Kwok

IN HONOR OF

Bob Buss
Annette Lew
Aiko Yamashiro

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum
Capital Modern
Chaminade University
East-West Center
Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture
Hālawa Correctional Facility
Hawai'i International Film Festival
Hawaii National Bank
Hawai'i Pono'i Coalition
Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i
Kaimuki Public Library
Kaua'i Community College
Lahaina Restoration Foundation
Makawao Public Library
Mililani High School
Moloka'i Middle School

Pacific Islands Development Program
Qwaves LLC / Kanaka Pakipika
Rie Ombrello, Mishō-ryū School of Ikebana
Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Culture & Design
Smithsonian Asian American Pacific Center
Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian
University of Hawai'i - Hilo
University of Hawai'i - Maui College
Waiawa Correctional Facility
Washington Place
Windward Community College
Women's Community Correctional Center

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

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](mailto:Michele.Mitsumori@mmitsumori@hihumanities.org).



Support Public Humanities in Hawai‘i through an online donation at tinyurl.com/hihumanitiesgive or the QR code to the left.

A SPECIAL MAHALO TO THESE PARTNERS



FINANCES

Fiscal Year 2024: November 1, 2023 - October 31, 2024.
These figures are not yet audited.

REVENUE

Grants	\$1,284,429
Contributions	\$48,055
Contracts	\$15,525
Other Revenue	\$27,731
Total	\$1,375,740
In-kind contributions	\$1,085,487

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$643,637
Community Grants	\$262,209
Management	\$357,561
Fundraising	\$95,598
Total	\$1,359,005

We are grateful for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for grants totalling \$1,208,076.



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BROADENING BRIDGES

All across our state, bridges bring two sides together across an otherwise difficult or impossible divide. Our 2024 annual report looks back on ways the public humanities resourced and expanded the bridges that strengthen our communities.