



'A'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia





Build on our Strengths

Strong connection to place. Close-knit communities. Seasoned and emerging community leaders. Social innovations and collaboration among agencies.

The Hawaii Rise Foundation builds on these strengths, which were cited as particular qualities of the Big Island (Islander Institute, 2018). By partnering with local leaders and businesses, we apply the resources and expertise of community members to offer educational services, programs, and support.

We listen to the needs of our most vulnerable populations and respond with creative, community-based solutions. Because of your contributions, we've been able to support our community in 2019 with...

- **60 workshops led by local experts with over 1,400 participants.**

Connecting all members of the community, from our keiki to our kupuna, these workshops support traditional Hawaiian values and practices. We demonstrate a healthy Hawaiian culture as well as learn about it through hands-on learning with one another, and from one another. In 2019, we broke the stereotype of “teacher” with intergenerational instructors aged 15 to 78 years old. We also offered practical courses from local professionals. Topics such as financial literacy and basic auto repair are essential to our community.

- **Education and mentorship built for at-risk youth on topics such as healthy relationships, resume writing, and job interviewing.**

This has been an essential component of Hawaii Rise since its inception. When store manager of the island's general store, Breeani Sumera-Lee caught a teenager stealing, she asked him why he didn't apply for a job instead. “I don't know how,” he said. When she told him to start with a resume, again he replied, “I don't know how.” Listening to this teenager gave Breeani the idea for Hawaii Rise and set the groundwork for what has now become a robust program of courses and mentorship serving youth in local high schools as well as Youth Challenge Academy. In 2019, we continued to expand this program by matching youth with professionals in the community who represent the students' future employment interests. These interview coaches provide further positive role models and networking resources for young people who desperately need them.

- **Support for the whole health of our low-income families.**

Working closely with Hilo Medical Center, Department of Health and Hawaii



Affordable Properties Inc., we've been able to offer vision screenings, and dental and stroke awareness workshops. 500 youth have earned CPR certification through our program. Health means more than just physical well-being, so we also offered "Technology for Our Kupuna," which helped seniors to maintain healthy internet practices and connect with their families. Additionally, we offered Driver's Education to low-income youth, which is essential given our island's transportation issues. We also became the first organization in Hawaii to offer Safe Sitter certification to youth ages 11-14, which teaches them safety skills when caring for others as well as business skills and general life skills.

- **Celebrations of our cultural heritage**

Our 2019 community festival celebrated local and indigenous art, music, crafts, dance, and food. Over 700 people attended, and people from the community offered their expertise and knowledge regarding all things Hawaiian.

Listen to the Need

"We love what you're doing. Let's go further." This is the common refrain that Hawaii Rise organizers hear from their contributors. And we do need to go further.

Roughly half of all households in Hawaii are living lives conducive to poor health because of financial constraints (Islander Institute, 2018). Over 190,000 Hawaiians were living below the poverty level last year (Hawaii News Now, 2019). Before the pandemic. Unfortunately, the pandemic and its economic repercussions have hit vulnerable populations the hardest.

With your support, we're responding in 2020:

- When elderly were trying to make their way to the grocery stores only to come home with nothing, we coordinated 600 Kupuna Packs, basic food and supplies delivered to our elderly.
- When parents struggled to keep their kids engaged, we created Kaki Packs; supplies for helping families work with their children.
- When there was a mask shortage, we employed a local seamstress who was struggling to make ends meet while caring for her special needs child. Together we made and delivered 2000 cloth masks to 83 organizations island-wide to support rural health clinics, essential workers, and vulnerable community members.
- When people began to feel isolated as a result of social distancing, we moved more of our classes online. Our first Zoom class had over 360 participants.



As the needs of our community are changing, we are listening, but we need your help.

Make an Impact

[Your contribution](#) will help us continue our mission to create opportunities for our vulnerable populations through personal relationships and partnerships with businesses and organizations.

Social distancing, isolation, and the economic downturn have challenged us, but we're renewing our focus on our biggest assets--relationships. Your gift will also ensure that we continue to respond to the needs of our community:

- Our elders and those with health conditions should not suffer because they can't access resources to technology or transportation. We're working on several projects to help these populations access community resources.
- Our people want to continue teaching and learning together. We're launching a new series of online classes driven by local people sharing their expertise.

With your generosity, we're able to respond to our community and create new opportunities. Every contribution, large, small, monetary, or through sharing your local expertise helps us make a direct impact for our people who need it most. [Partner with us](#), and together we will rise.

Why Hawaii Rise

Despite the increasing challenges, Hawaii Rise remains committed to responding to the needs of our community.

Programming like ours, which addresses an array of skills and interventions, maintains lasting relationships, and is community-based, has been shown to promote positive outcomes (Hale et al., 2014; Tkatch et al., 2016):

- Decreases risk behaviors such as substance use and aggression in adolescents, which lead to premature death, addiction, poor physical and mental health, and lower economic achievement in adulthood.
- Increases overall health and well-being of older adults.
- Decreases the strain on physical and mental healthcare services.



References

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