

2025

Annual report



Empowering our local community
through partnerships to create a
brighter **more sustainable future**

President's message

Chelsie Noh



Aloha welina,

In 2025, the AES Hawai'i Foundation continued to strengthen its role as a [trusted partner to communities](#) across the islands moving toward a [more intentional](#), [strategic](#), and [community centered](#) approach to social impact.

This year marked a pivotal chapter in the Foundation's evolution, defined by the launch of our first structured grant program, expanded investments across Hawai'i, and the continued build out of governance systems that will support long term impact.

A major milestone in 2025 was the successful launch of the [Kaiāulu Fund](#), the Foundation's first Board overseen pilot grant program, designed to address gaps across our impact pillars, particularly [Community Health & Resilience](#) and [Social Justice & Energy Equity](#). Grounded in local input with the support of our Kaiāulu Advisory Council, and modeled after community driven best practices, the Kaiāulu Fund reinforced our belief that the most effective solutions are led by the communities themselves.

In its inaugural year, the Kaiāulu Fund awarded [\\$85,000 to three community based organizations](#) serving [Maui](#), [O'ahu](#), [Hawai'i Island](#), and [Kaua'i](#). Grants supported initiatives ranging from youth resilience and climate preparedness to energy equity and capacity building for grassroots organizations. Beyond the dollars deployed,

the pilot year established replicable systems and partnerships that will inform future grantmaking and scale as our grantmaking programs expand.

In parallel with annual grantmaking, the Foundation continued to steward major long term community investments, most notably in [Kahuku and Ko'olauloa](#). In partnership with the City and County of Honolulu, AES Hawai'i, and local stakeholders, the Foundation advanced a [\\$5 million commitment](#) toward the redevelopment of [Kahuku District Park](#), including design and construction of a covered playcourt and future community amenities. This investment represents one of the Foundation's largest and most visible community partnerships to date and is one of the Foundation's anchor commitments, guided by deep community engagement.

As we reflect on 2025, we are proud of the Foundation's progress—from piloting innovative grant programs to deepening partnerships. The lessons learned this year position the AES Hawai'i Foundation to scale its impact thoughtfully, remain grounded in community voice, and continue serving as a trusted steward of social investment across Hawai'i.

Mahalo,



Chelsie Noh

AES Hawai'i Foundation
President

MISSION STATEMENT:

∞ Empowering our local community through partnerships to create a brighter, more sustainable future. 

Impact pillars



Social justice & energy equity



Education & workforce development



Mālama 'Āina:
Environmental stewardship
& native species conservation

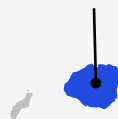


Community health & resilience

Geographic focus areas

Kaua'i:

- West Kaua'i
- South Kaua'i



Maui:

- Central Maui
- West Maui



O'ahu:

- Wai'anae
- Kahuku & Ko'olauloa
- Central O'ahu
- Kapolei



Hawai'i Island:

- South Kohala
- Waikōloa



2025 highlights



The Kaiāulu Fund

We believe the strength of a community lies in its people and their shared values. That's why we launched the Kaiāulu Fund, a pilot grant program focused on building a more sustainable and resilient future for Hawai'i. We invited local stakeholders to join the Kaiāulu Advisory Council where their recommendations and guidance played a key role into the selection of the grantees. This special fund awarded \$85,000 to empower community-based organizations to lead initiatives that drive positive change on O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i Island, and Kaua'i.



Mālama Kaua'i

Strengthening Kaua'i's local food system

Mālama Kaua'i is expanding food systems infrastructure by installing a walk-in cold storage unit at the new Olohena 'ĀINA Center agricultural park. This project will help over 100 local farmers safely store and distribute fresh, healthy food to underserved rural communities, reduce food waste, and improve food security for families across the island. By supporting small farmers and increasing access to local produce, Mālama Kaua'i is building a more resilient and equitable food system for Kaua'i.



Hawaiian Council

Building Resilient Hawaiian Communities:

The Kalāhiki Initiative, led by Hawaiian Council, is a one-stop program helping low-income households across Hawai'i access free home energy audits, efficiency upgrades, solar + battery backup, and disaster resilience retrofits. By reducing utility bills and strengthening homes against natural disasters, Kalāhiki empowers families, protects the environment, and creates "mini resilience hubs" in neighborhoods on O'ahu and Maui.



Vibrant Hawai'i

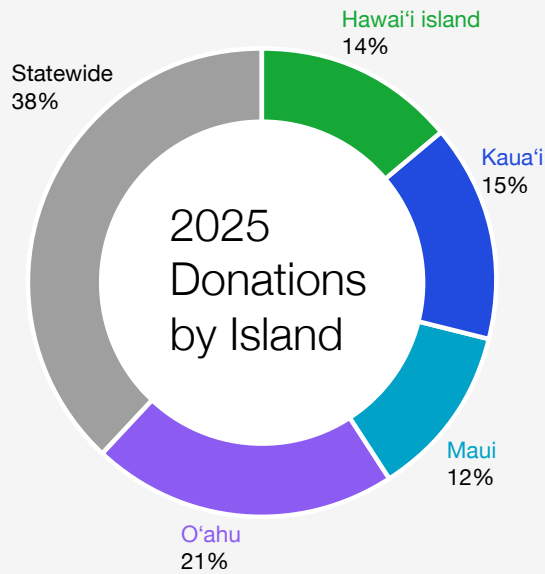
Empowering Hawaii Island's Next Generation:

The Youth Resilience Academy is a dynamic summer workshop series that equips local youth with life-saving skills and leadership tools. Through hands-on training in CPR, wilderness survival, emergency preparedness, and teamwork, participants gain the confidence and knowledge to support their families and communities in times of crisis. Grounded in Hawaiian values, the Academy builds a new generation of leaders ready to strengthen resilience across Hawai'i Island.

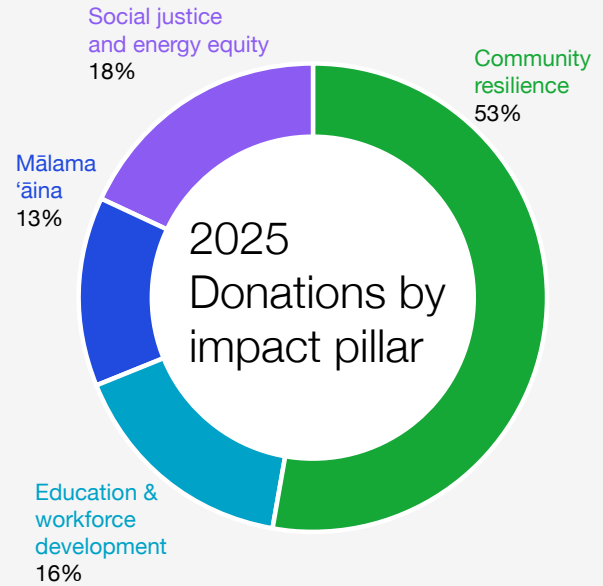


Our Impact

Investments by Island



Investments by impact pillar



Notable partnerships



Waikōloa Dry Forest Initiative: Future foresters program

In 2025, the AES Hawai'i Foundation supported the Waikōloa Dry Forest Initiative's Future Foresters program in recognition of its strong alignment with the Foundation's Mālama 'Āina and Education and Workforce Development impact pillars. Through this place based, after school program, elementary students engage directly with Hawai'i's unique dryland ecosystem, learning environmental science alongside Hawaiian culture and mo'olelo (storytelling) in an immersive outdoor classroom. The Foundation's donation supported essential program costs, including transportation, supplies, and instruction, expanding access to culturally grounded environmental education and early stewardship opportunities for students. This investment reflects the Foundation's commitment to nurturing the next generation of land stewards and supporting learning experiences that connect students to place, culture, and community.



Energy Crisis Intervention Programs

The AES Hawai'i Foundation made a targeted, statewide effort to address Hawai'i's growing affordability crisis by supporting utility assistance programs aligned with the Foundation's Social Justice and Energy Equity impact pillar. Recognizing that access to essential water and energy services is foundational to household stability, the Foundation prioritized investments in programs serving families at risk of utility disconnection.

The Foundation supported Energy Crisis Intervention Programs through Maui Economic Opportunity and the Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council. On Kaua'i, the Foundation provided a grant to Kaua'i Economic Opportunity to launch a new utility assistance program, serving as the sole funder of this effort. This program helps low income households maintain or restore access to essential water and utility services by covering past due balances, final notices, or required deposits to initiate service. By making payments directly to utility providers, these investments prevent service interruptions, promote housing stability, and reduce the disproportionate burden of utility insecurity on vulnerable communities—advancing equity, dignity, and long term resilience across the islands.



Maui Community College: Ka'uluwehi Biocultural Garden

The AES Hawai'i Foundation supported the Maui Community College to advance workforce development and education through the Ka'uluwehi Biocultural Garden initiative. This investment strengthens pathways for Maui youth into STEM and green careers by combining hands on, 'āina based learning with workforce training focused on environmental stewardship, climate resilience, and native species protection. In response to the Maui wildfires, the program expanded support for underrepresented students and fire impacted communities through 'Āina Data Stewards programming, community agriculture training, and the development of the Solar Hale—an outdoor classroom designed to provide a safe, powered space for learning, skill building, and community education. This support reflects the Foundation's commitment to preparing Hawai'i's future workforce while creating equitable access to education rooted in place, culture, and sustainability.

Notable partnerships



Kahuku District Park improvements

AES Hawai'i Foundation is advancing one of its most significant place based investments through a \$5 million pledge for improvements to the Kahuku District Park, made in partnership with the City and County of Honolulu. This public private partnership reflects the Foundation's long-term commitment to the Kahuku and Ko'olaupua communities and supports a shared vision for a modern, inclusive recreation and gathering space shaped directly by community input.

Guided by a robust community listening campaign conducted between 2021-2023, the project design and programming were informed by residents, youth, and local stakeholders. Community feedback played a central role in shaping the park's amenities, which will include covered play courts for sports like, basketball or pickleball, an eight lane swimming pool, gathering spaces, ADA accessible features, and expanded parking. Kahuku District Park will significantly improve access to recreational facilities for North Shore residents who currently travel 30 minutes to an hour to reach similar amenities. The Park is designed to promote health, connection, and access-creating safe spaces for physical activity, youth programming and community events.

From the Foundation's perspective, this project is about community well-being, equity, and long-term resilience, not just infrastructure.

As the largest investment in the Foundation's history, the Kahuku District Park improvements stand as its anchor commitment. This exceptional, place-based investment goes beyond the Foundation's traditional host-community funding model in size and scale but reflects the Foundation's commitment to community-driven partnerships built through sustained engagement and trust.

AES Hawai'i Foundation

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