

# hmsa foundation: supporting hawai'i's communities

2022



**hmsa**  
**foundation**

[hmsafoundation.org](http://hmsafoundation.org)



At the HMSA Foundation, we believe that health is more than just preventing illness. Good health involves building connections to people and places. It's creating and contributing to the communities where we live, work, and play. It's also supporting our families, friends, and neighbors.

To empower communities to work together to build a healthier Hawai'i for everyone, the HMSA Foundation nurtures relationships based on trust and reciprocity and eliminates restrictions and burdens that are often placed on nonprofit community organizations.

# table of contents

a message from the board chair . . . . .	2
investing in community . . . . .	3
investing in community financials . . . . .	4
feeding the community . . . . .	5
building learning communities . . . . .	6
supporting hands-on learning . . . . .	7
enabling home ownership . . . . .	8
board of directors . . . . .	9

# A message from the board chair



The COVID-19 pandemic created an unprecedented hit to the U.S. economy. There was a national economic downturn trending toward recession, runaway inflation, and the loss of consumer confidence. In Hawai'i, we were and continue to be impacted by all of that. Because of our geographic location and our pandemic policies, our economy and unemployment rate were one of the most affected nationwide and our recovery has been among the slowest.

But nestled among the challenges we faced were stories of perseverance. Stories of community organizations that rose to the challenge, ramped up their efforts, and leveraged their connections to meet the increased demand for food, vaccines, health care services, and more.

- The Food Basket organized 15 food drives and served 84,000 meals each month to those in need.
- Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike on Maui hosted 57 community workdays and harvested nearly 30,000 pounds of food from their Mahele Farm Program for kūpuna in Hāna.
- From February to September 2021, We Are Oceania responded to nearly 19,000 requests and provided an average of 2,000 services per month to the Pacific Islander community.

From supporting food drives and meal deliveries to helping families obtain permanent housing while addressing physical and mental health disparities, the HMSA Foundation is honored that we were able to contribute to the work that continues to be a priority for our community partners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark M. Mugiishi'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

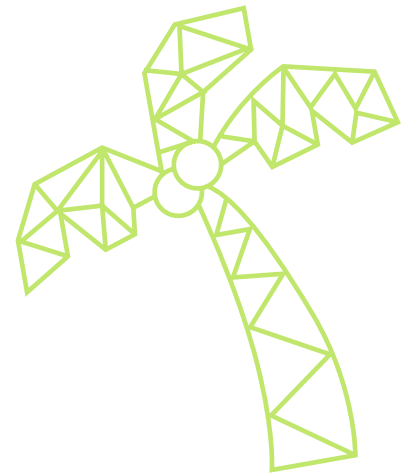
Mark M. Mugiishi, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
Board Chair  
HMSA Foundation



# investing in community

The HMSA Foundation's goal is to support community practices that have been successful in advancing the health of Hawai'i.

Following a community-based model called Pilinahā\*, the HMSA Foundation is partnering with 10 nonprofit organizations that share our view of health and the importance of building connections. The Foundation is providing unrestricted funding for six years to enable the exchange of resources and knowledge, create opportunities, and build connections to the places that we live, the communities where we grow, to our past and our future, and to a vision of our better selves all in an effort to change how we view and create health in Hawai'i.



Here are our hui partners and some of their current projects.



HMSA Foundation's hui partners visited several cultural healing sites in the Kohala area.



Hui members hiked the Kohala Coast and learned about the area's he'i'au.



Ka'iulani Odom and Puni Jackson shared their knowledge and expertise in weaving.

\* Pilinahā is a model of health and well-being created by our community partners, Kokua Kalihi Valley and Islander Institute. Odom, S.K., Jackson, P., Derauf, D., Inada, M.K., Aoki, A.H. (2019). "Pilinahā: An Indigenous Framework for Health." National Center for Biotechnology Information. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6700459/>

# investing in community financials

HMSA Foundation's mission:  
Lifting up community practices  
that build health and connection  
among people and place.

**From 2020-2022,  
the HMSA Foundation  
invested in the community:**

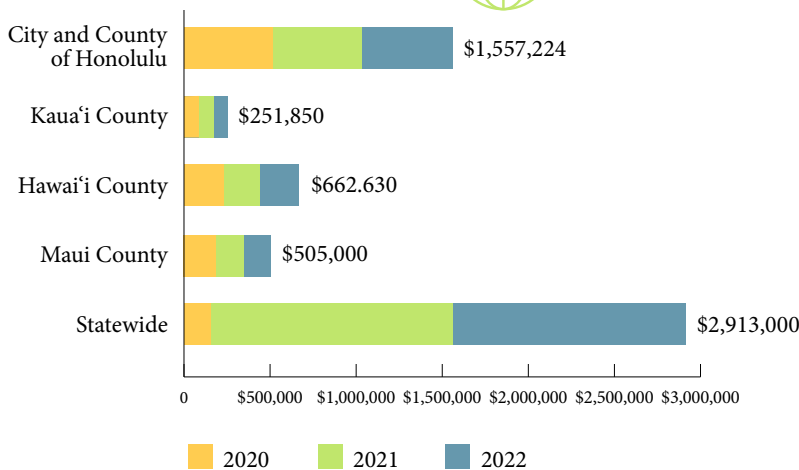


**Our community is  
stronger because of the  
many partners committed  
to strengthening health  
and well-being in Hawai'i.**

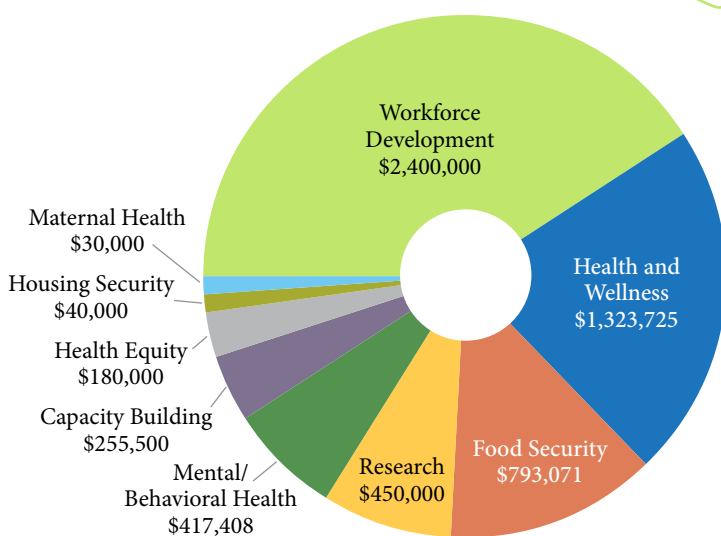
## Mahalo to our grantees:

- Aha Kāne Foundation for the Advancement of Native Hawaiian Males
- Ala Kukui • Aloha Harvest • Effective Planning Innovation Communication Inc. • Family Promise of Hawaii
- Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma • Five Mountains Hawai'i Inc.
- Hawaii Applesed Center for Law and Economic Justice • Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center • Hawaii Hotel Industry Foundation • Hawaii Immunization Coalition • Hawaii Institute of Pacific Agriculture • Hawaii VA Foundation • Hawai'i Land Trust • Hawaiian Community Assets • Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii
- Helping Hands Hawaii • Hoa Āina O Mākaha • Hoākā Mana • Hoiwai Fund
- Hui Mālama O Ke Kai Foundation
- Ho'okua'aina • Imua Family Services
- Ka'ala Farm Inc. • Kalauokekahuli
- Kaua'i Planning & Action Alliance
- Ke Kula Nui O Waimānalo • Kōkua Kalihi Valley • Kualoa He'eia Ecumenical Youth Project • Kūkulu Kumuhana O Anahola • Kūmano I Ke Ala • Lāna'i Community Health Center • Ma'i Movement Hawai'i • Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike Building Program • Maui Swim Club • Molokai Child Abuse Prevention Pathways • North Kohala Community Resource Center • Nurture Cultivate Inc. • Pacific Survivor Center • Hawai'i State Judiciary • Surfrider Spirit Sessions • The Food Basket Inc.
- The Kohala Center • The Monkey Pod
- Waipā Foundation • University of Hawai'i at Mānoa John A. Burns School of Medicine • University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing • Wai'anae Coast Community Mental Health Center • Wai'anae Community Redevelopment Corporation • Waimānalo Health Center
- We Are Oceania • YMCA of Honolulu
- YWCA of O'ahu

## Grants by Population Area



## Grants by Program Areas and Interests



# feeding the community

Christine Kaehuaea never thought she'd need to be in a drive-thru line at a food bank. But in November 2021, she relented and drove to The Food Basket's Ohana Drop in Nā'ālehu to get some help. "I was raised that you had to be homeless, with five kids and without work, to ask for help," says Kaehuaea.

With the COVID pandemic in 2019 pausing her business and her elderly mother having moved from California, Kaehuaea found herself a full-time caregiver for almost two years. "Mom passed in 2021 at 81 years, I was unemployed, over 50, applying for jobs while trying to reactivate my business. I just wanted to keep the home she purchased at 80 years old. Food was the last thing on my mind," she says. A Facebook post for The Food Basket caught her eye. She drove through and was given fresh produce, eggs, meat, and rice. There were no questions, no judgments.

Kaehuaea is stabilizing thanks to prayers, community support, and a business that's starting to flourish. In response to her experience, she's now a board member and volunteer for The Food Basket. "Hardships have no boundaries. Whatever your culture or status in life, The Food Basket is there for anyone in the community," she says.



The Food Basket's staff from Kona and Hilo gathered for a quarterly staff meeting in Hilo.

# building learning communities

With a primary goal of recruiting, training, and retaining the most capable and committed future physicians for the state of Hawai'i, the HMSA Foundation has committed \$5 million to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa John A. Burns School of Medicine. Through this endowment, JABSOM has established the Learning Community program that brings clinician mentors together with small groups of first-year medical students.

By enhancing their learning experience using active dialogue, team skill development, and the exploration of the many dimensions of care management, Hawai'i's future physicians are developing skills that go far beyond the science of medicine. Together, they're building meaningful connections to the communities they serve and maximizing their professional growth.



Nursing students (from left) Elizabeth Tan, Hannah Ocampo, and JT Kim participate in a simulated exercise with actor Joshua Tavares portraying a cancer patient in pain.





Interprofessional team training event with nursing, social work, and medical students on O'ahu collaborating with pharmacy students in Hilo.

## supporting hands-on learning

A \$1 million grant from the HMSA Foundation is helping the Hawai'i Interprofessional Education program prepare health sciences students for team-based practice. The program's goal is to teach health care students how to collaborate efficiently and get them ready to deliver patient-centered care and improve outcomes once they enter the workforce.

The program is an initiative of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing. It brings together students from various areas of study – medicine, pharmacy, nursing, social work, public health, and more – in simulated learning experiences to build connections, collaborate, and better understand how various health care providers can work as a whole.



# enabling homeownership

If someone had told Racheal Mokulehua three years ago that her family of seven could go from living paycheck to paycheck to becoming owners of their own home, she would've had a hard time believing it. But with the help of the 'ohana at Hawaiian Community Assets, that's exactly what happened.

“When I reached out to them, we were in a financial dispute with our new landlord,” says Mokulehua. “I had just given birth, my baby was less than a couple months old, my husband and I were above the threshold to be eligible for legal aid, but we were unable to afford a lawyer.”

It was during that time that Hawaiian Community Assets stepped in. With their help, Mokulehua applied for an emergency loan and together with her husband, Preston, enrolled in financial literacy classes, started a savings program, laid out their long-term and short-term goals, and set their sights on owning their own home. “Never in a million years did I think it could happen so quickly,” she says.

Three years later, the Mokulehuas were able to raise their credit scores by a combined total of 520 points, eliminated more than \$30,000 of debt, and qualified for their first home loan. “Yes, it took work on our part,” she says, “but the guidance to say ‘this is how’ and the motivation to say ‘you can do it,’ was what we needed. We need more organizations like this to help our communities.”



The Mokulehua 'ohana realized their dream of owning a home with help from Hawaiian Community Assets.

# board of directors

**Mike Broderick**

Principal, Broderick Dispute Resolution  
Honolulu, O'ahu

**Helen Cox**

Former Chancellor, Kaua'i Community College  
Lihue, Kaua'i

**Jennifer Diesman**

Senior Vice President, Government Policy and Advocacy, HMSA  
Honolulu, O'ahu

**Linda Ezuka**

Founder, CRA Today  
Honolulu, O'ahu

**Brandee Menino**

CEO, Hope Services Hawai'i Inc.  
Hilo, Hawai'i Island

**Mark M. Mugiishi, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

President and CEO, HMSA  
Honolulu, O'ahu

**Kenneth T. Nakamura, M.D.**

Professor and Chair, Dept. of Pediatrics, John A. Burns School of Medicine;  
Chief Medical Officer, Kapi'olani Medical Specialists  
Honolulu, O'ahu

**Matthew W. Sasaki**

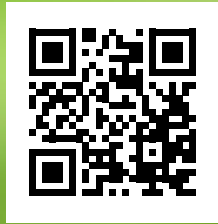
Vice President  
Hawai'i Health Partners  
Honolulu, O'ahu

**Richard J. Taaffe**

CEO, West Hawai'i Community Health Center  
Kona, Hawai'i Island

**Leslie Wilkins**

President and CEO, Maui Economic Development Board Inc.  
Wailuku, Maui



[hmsafoundation.org](http://hmsafoundation.org)



**hmsa  
foundation**