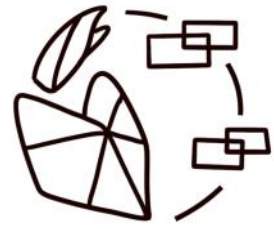


NĀ MAKAWAI

A PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY PAPA OLA LŌKAHI



APRIL NEWSLETTER

Hui Mālama



Ola Nā 'Ōiwi



Founded in 1991, Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi serves as the Native Hawaiian Health Care System for Hawai'i island, providing medical, behavioral health, and community education services with the sole objective of improving access to quality healthcare, education, and services for the people of Hawai'i County.

Kula No Nā Po'e Hawai'i is a Native Hawaiian beneficiary serving organization that exists to promote cultural, educational, environmental, and health equity for all since 1992. Kula provides the residents of the Papakōlea Hawaiian Homestead Region a multitude of programs and activities from the Papakōlea Community Center and Park.

Papa Ola Lōkahi is honored to present these organizations' accomplishments, challenges, and hopes for the future.

Dr. Sheri-Ann Daniels, Executive Director of Papa Ola Lōkahi

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Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi

Native Hawaiian Health Care System, Hawai'i Island

Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi (HMONO) has been working diligently to expand and modify its existing services and educational offerings to mitigate the spread and impact of COVID-19 across Hawai'i island. This effort involved ramping up its COVID-19 response efforts in its Family Medicine Clinic, Health Education, and Transportation programs.

In its response to COVID-19, the organization partnered with Bay Clinic, Hāmākua Health Center, and Premier Medical Group in providing points of vaccine distribution (POD) support around the island. It also provided free COVID-19 care kits to the public and community-based organizations like Lili'uokalani Trust, Hawai'i Rise Foundation, and Ka'ū Rural Health Community Association. The care kits included COVID-19 antigen test kits, KN95 masks, hand



Lehua Andrade

Executive Director at Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi

'Ōlelo No'eau
1200

**'Ike aku, 'ike mai,
kōkua aku, kōkua mai;
pēlā iholā ka nohona
'ohana.**

*Recognize and be recognized,
help and be helped; such is
family life.*

Family life requires an exchange of mutual help and recognition

sanitizer, vaccination card holders, and instructions on how to use the test kits and what to do in the event someone tests positive for COVID-19. This initiative has proven to be an effective strategy in mitigating the spread and lingering effects of COVID-19 in the communities that we, and other community-based organizations, collectively serve. Within the communities that HMONO serves, there are many people who are still strongly against the COVID-19 vaccination. Nicole Moore has observed that when a family member or loved one is affected, they will reconsider vaccination. What is interesting to point out is that the anti-vaccine sentiment tends to encompass all vaccines and not just COVID-19.

Hawai'i island has a total land area of 4,028.42 square miles. The island is vast and for this reason, access to COVID-19 testing and vaccination events can be a huge hurdle for island residents to overcome. Historically, residents living in rural areas consistently find it difficult to access primary health care services. The ones most affected by transportation issues are kūpuna, who oftentimes need the assistance of a family member to get

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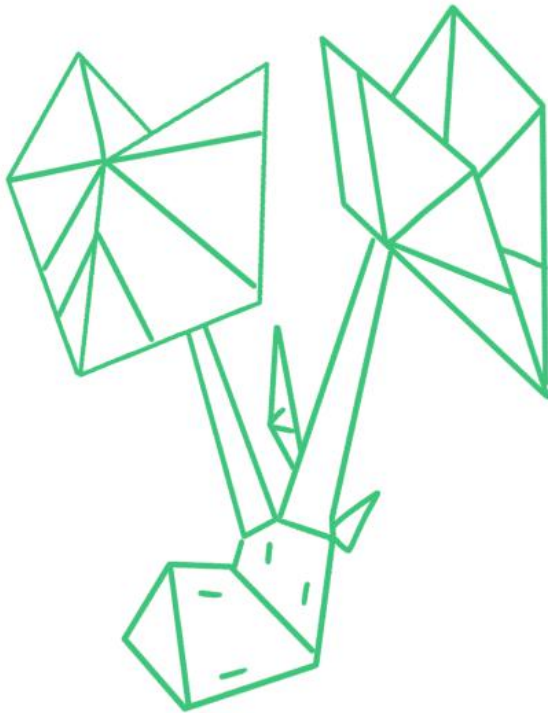
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to their appointments. Some testing and vaccination sites are in gravel lots or unpaved areas on roadsides, which make it difficult for some kūpuna to safely get tested or vaccinated even if the event is happening in their community. HMONO has since expanded its Kōkua Hali (specialty transportation program) fleet by incorporating four vehicles utilizing funding from the Nā Makawai initiative.

Kōkua Hali provides transportation, island wide, for medical services only – primary care, physical therapy, and pharmacy services are the most popular. Currently, users of the service must use durable medical equipment (DME) such as canes, walkers, or wheelchairs. Due to COVID-19 safety regulations, HMONO can only transport one person and a caregiver or two clients at a time. HMONO is working in rural communities that often get overlooked and making a difference in people getting transportation to necessary medical appointments and vaccinations.



“The kūpuna think this is great. It’s like the old days when the doctor would come to your house. It’s so much easier.”

-Marivelle "Mari" Martin, Health Education Program Manager

The Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi Family Medicine Clinic (FMC) began the home medical visit program in February 2022. The program focuses on patients who are unable to leave their homes to receive in-person primary care services. To participate in this program patients must be unable to go to the clinic due to physical limitations, mobility issues or mental health issues such as severe anxiety. In-home appointments are scheduled with a primary care physician and a community health worker. Health Education Program Manager, Marivelle "Mari" Martin explains, “The kūpuna think this is great. It’s like the old days when the doctor would come to your house. It’s so much easier.”

The Nā Makawai Program has also allowed HMONO to hire an additional dietitian tasked with providing community health education. With feedback from past participants, HMONO is updating curricula and health education delivery methods for diabetes, chronic kidney disease and hypertension self-management. HMONO was also invited to partner with Merrie Monarch to provide test kits for the competition. “It’s great that after two years, the community still knows who Hui Mālama is. It’s nice to be recognized that we are still a part of the community,” says Nicole Moore.

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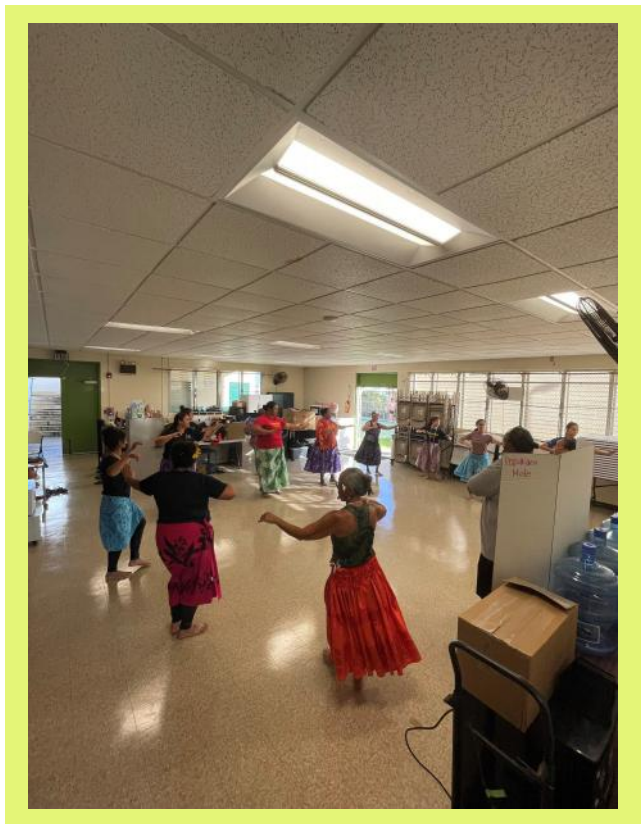
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Self-care event for KULA staff learning hula and making lei with kūpuna.

Kula No Nā Po'e Hawai'i

Native Hawaiian Beneficiary Organization, Papakōlea

Over the pandemic, Kula No Nā Po'e Hawai'i (KULA) gre and worked nonstop. They didn't shut down because they couldn't shut down. The community of Papakōlea needed the support. They are the family members, friends, and neighbors of the staff at KULA, so everyone collectively felt the weight and pressure of the pandemic. At some point, the leadership looked around and wanted to mālama their staff. "How do you take care of people who take care of people? We wanted to do it with purposeful intent. When you not only take care of community, but also live in and with it, it's hard not to have it wear on you. Hard not to take it home," executive director Dr. Adrienne Dillard said.

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KULA's goal under Nā Makawai is to care for and support staff through a program called Mālama Kula Krew. Not only do staff live in and around Papakōlea, but they also work with community beyond the Monday through Friday, 9-5. "Nā Makawai caused us to pause. Our staff did not stop working. And their entire families stood with them and next to them as we served this community. It was more than staff putting their health and well-being on the line. The community saw that," said Associate Director Puni Kekauoha. The Nā Makawai Program has allowed KULA to spend less time hunting for grants and more time forming partnerships, taking care of staff, building capacity through hiring, and implementing training courses. KULA has been able to hire coordinators from Kapolei and Wai'anae to impliment surveys within their communities with a goal to train them to someday provide services.

Thanks to the Nā Makawai Program, KULA was able to partner with I Ola Lāhui knowing that executive director Dr. Aukahi Austin Seabury and her team shared the same culturally relevant lens. I Ola Lāhui has assisted KULA to address the mental health of Papakōlea's houseless community. Dr. Dillard emphasizes the importance of a culturally relevant approach to healthcare. "We know what our community needs because we are living and breathing this community every moment of our lives."

Dr. Yvonne Yim now delivers LCSW (licensed clinical social work) training for KULA social work staff. Initially hesitant to introduce these trainings to the staff, Dr. Dillard realized the value they brought to the needs of the staff to care for the community [with a greater understanding of mental health as we move to endemic].



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What does KULA hope for the future of Nā Makawai?

What I really appreciate from Nā Makawai is the concept of “Do what you do, do what you already do, and define what that is.” What happens sometimes with health grants is that they follow trends. We’ve done a lot of grants that focused on what’s trending right now as opposed to what is affecting our community in real time. So, I appreciated the power to say, “What do we need?” For us, what was important, was tending to staff because of the last two years serving everyone during the pandemic. We said, “We’re falling apart. It’s time to take a break and pick up staff.” And Nā Makawai said, “That’s great! If that’s what you need, here’s the money to do that.” The future is hard to nail, but I appreciate the ability and the privilege to do whatever my community needs. To define what that is. Nā Makawai acknowledged that these partner organizations are all in different places. That each organization is doing very different things, but it’s all with a common goal for empowering our community and people. -Ka’apuni Kama, Director of Operations



We’ve been doing the homestead health survey. In the future, we’d love to take what we’re doing here to other homesteads because KULA hopes to be one of the models for programs and services for our homestead community. Now that Kapolei has their data, Wai’anae has their data, it sets them up for success to start their own version of KULA and take care of their people with the people in their community. -Meghan Kenney, Research Manager

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