



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Women's Fund of Hawaii Awards Nine Grants totaling \$87,000 to Non-Profits Empowering Women And Girls

HONOLULU, HAWAII —

Women's Fund of Hawaii (WFH) has announced its Fall 2025 grant awards, totaling \$87,000 in support of nine nonprofit programs uplifting and empowering women and girls in Hawai'i. WFH conducts two competitive grant cycles annually – one in Spring and the other in Fall – to identify and fund innovative programs creating meaningful impact in local communities. The next grant cycle opens March 1, 2026.

WFH accepts contributions to the Fund to be directed exclusively to programs that support women and girls in Hawai'i. It runs a community participatory process to review and select grantees. "This cycle's grantees reach wāhine statewide—on O'ahu and across the neighbor islands, addressing the full spectrum of what shapes women's lives: programs that support health, healing from violence, caring for children, building skills for work, and telling their stories," said Elisabeth Case, Executive Director.

"Women's Fund of Hawai'i has always been about local people taking care of local people, and that's true today," shared Makalika Naholowaa, 2026 Board Chair, "This grant cycle, Women's Fund of Hawai'i continues several traditions that our 25-year-old organization is proud of. One is our tradition of serving as a vehicle for local people to kōkua in the work to mālama our local communities. Women's Fund of Hawai'i is funded by the many helping hands of everyday kama'āina."

"Another tradition is our commitment to uplifting local women and girls through programs that are culturally relevant to our communities and places. It's easy to be disheartened at a time when important national institutions seem too distracted or dysfunctional to see or care for local needs. But life is lived locally. Care is given locally. Change is made locally. Women's Fund of Hawai'i invests in grassroots programs because that is where the real work happens—neighbor to neighbor, community to community. With kōkua from our Hawai'i 'ohana, we take care of our own. At this moment, that work has never mattered more. Mahalo nui to those across the community who participate in this work and to the grant recipients who are delivering the programs and services that mālama Hawai'i's women and girls," said Naholowaa.

The Fall, 2025 Hawai'i Grant Recipients:

- **"Before the Moon Falls" community engagement campaign** – Supporting island-wide screening events of the award-winning Making Waves Films documentary, *Before The Moon Falls*, about Samoan writer Sia Figiel. The film will be shown directly to women's organizations and community organizations with activities and discussions that use Sia's story to explore the unique challenges that girls and women face with mental health and sexual abuse.



- **Building Interpersonal & Self-advocacy Skills for the Workplace** – A special program serving young girls and/or their caregivers on O'ahu through I Ola Lahui that teaches effective interpersonal skills in the workplace, in order to support their own career development and financial goals.
- **EmpowerHer Full Program** – Workshops, coaching, and mentorship program on O'ahu through The Growing Ohana that teaches personal growth, life skills, financial literacy, entrepreneurship and microbusiness creation with the goal of helping women launch their own businesses.
- **Empowering Women through AI Skills and Workforce Readiness** – Workshops, webinars, and mentoring, statewide with Hawai'i Women in Tech, to build AI literacy and prepare local women with the skills needed to thrive in tech and tech-adjacent careers.
- **Farmer Navigational Coaching** – Maui Farmer Support Network's one on one coaching and peer gathering groups for women farmers in remote areas of Maui, Moloka'i, and Lana'i on business planning, record keeping, marketing, financial literacy, and access to grants and loans.
- **General Operations** – Strengthening the organizational capacity of Hawai'i Women in Filmmaking statewide to help amplify the voices, leadership, and stories of wāhine and girls through filmmaking, education, and community programs.
- **Haumana KūkāKūkā** – He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna support groups blending cultural practice with therapeutic mentorship for survivors of domestic violence, substance use, homelessness, and sexual trauma on Hawai'i Island.
- **Hui Haumea** – A new Ka Lei o Ka Lāhui culturally-rooted program for mākuahine (mothers), with an emphasis on Hawaiian mothers though open to all, who have experienced domestic, sexual, and/or family violence and have faced injustice in the legal system, including being mislabeled as abusers, losing custody of their children, or wrongful incarceration.
- **The Lactation Fast Pass Pilot 2.0** – Covering the cost for families on Hawai'i Island, Kaua'i, Maui, Moloka'i, and Lana'i to receive visits at home, virtually or in office with a Breastfeeding Hawai'i international board certified lactation consultant at no out of pocket cost.
- **Trauma Assessments** – Providing assessments for women and girls on O'ahu who have experienced sex trafficking and violent crimes so they receive individualized, trauma-informed care through Establish's programs and prevent survivor retraumatization.
- **Wahine Ag Internship Program** – Providing the next generation of young Kaua'i women farmers with hands-on agricultural training focusing on orchard planning, installation, and maintenance with experienced women farmers and mentors through Mālama Kaua'i.



For more information, contact:
Women's Fund of Hawai'i
Elisabeth Case, Executive Director
Office: (808) 439-6388
ed@womensfundhawaii.org

About Women's Fund of Hawaii

Women's Fund of Hawai'i (WFH) is the only grantmaking foundation dedicated to exclusively funding programs supporting women and girls in Hawai'i. WFH is focused on social change around a wide range of issues such as self-sufficiency, safety, health and wellness, substance abuse, homelessness, trafficking, incarceration, sexual orientation, inadequate childcare and sports inequalities, and creates positive impact statewide by giving grants to innovative, robust, grassroots programs that empower women and girls. WFH takes particular interest, all things being equal, in programs that serve Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women and girls, because these two groups fare disproportionately worse than others on many measures.

Visit Women's Fund of Hawai'i website <http://womensfundhawaii.org> for more information or follow on social at [@womensfundhawaii](https://www.facebook.com/WFHawaii) or on our Facebook, www.facebook.com/WFHawaii