

5 PROOF POSITIVE

Funding Programs To Uplift, Advance Women

By Elisabeth Case, executive director of Women's Fund of Hawai'i



At Women's Fund of Hawai'i, our mission is to support innovative, grassroots programs that empower women and girls statewide. Since 2005, we have awarded nearly \$2.2 million in grants to more than 400 programs across Hawai'i.

We also provide education on women's and girls' philanthropy, shine a light on critical issues and elevate the voices of our grantees. We have shared findings from our reports on the status of women in Hawai'i, including health and well-being and other barriers to success.

Women's Fund of Hawai'i will host its 21st annual Tea

& Champagne fundraiser on May 8 at the Sheraton Waikiki. This signature event brings together more than 300 community leaders and supporters to celebrate and invest in the future of women and girls in Hawai'i.

To celebrate 20 years of impact, we partnered with artist Jana Ireijo to create a limited edition print, *Facing the Future*, a piece that reflects our vision of progress, possibility and collective strength. The work is grounded in the values that guide us: ho'ohanohano – valuing the dignity of every woman and girl; lōkahi and kōkua – unity and reciprocity; honoring the cultures, stories, and lived experienc-

es of women and girls; the right to self-determination; and a shared commitment to Hawai'i nei, the home that sustains us all. Together, these values affirm our belief in women as powerful forces of connection and resilience.

We are honored to recognize Leela Bilmes Goldstein, former executive director of Women's Fund of Hawai'i and founder of Girls Talk Back, for her leadership and dedication to advancing gender equity. The evening will also feature a powerful story from a grantee whose work not only transforms individual lives, but ripples outward to strengthen families and communities.



Guests celebrate the evening together at a previous Women's Fund of Hawai'i Tea & Champagne fundraiser.

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Coming up on April 26, at Honolulu Museum of Arts, we are proud to sponsor one of our grantee's award-winning documentaries, *Before*

the Moon Falls produced by Making Waves Films LLC, which explores a simple but powerful truth: When one woman in a community suf-

fers, the entire community is affected.

To learn more or support Women's Fund of Hawai'i, visit womensfundhawaii.org.