



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rev. July 15, 2026

**Women's Fund of Hawai'i Awards Eleven Grants totaling \$95,000 to
Non-Profits Empowering Women And Girls Across Hawai'i**

HONOLULU, HAWAII —

Women's Fund of Hawai'i (WFH) has announced its bi-annual grant awards, totaling \$95,000 in support of eleven nonprofit programs uplifting and empowering women and girls in Hawai'i. WFH conducts two competitive grant cycles annually to identify and fund innovative programs creating meaningful impact in local communities. The Summer Grants Period opens July 15 and closes on August 15 at midnight, more information below.

WFH accepts contributions to the Fund via www.womensfundhawaii.org 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.

"The needs are great. Women need programs that offer a connection to their culture, strengthen their community, provide skills training, and thereby lift them up," said Elisabeth Case, Executive Director, "We selected programs across the islands:

- A sacred healing retreat created for the women "who carry Moloka'i on their backs";
- We continue to believe in power of storytelling through women in filmmaking;
- We continue to believe in the power of restorative justice, including the benefits of an online bachelor's degree program while incarcerated as well as Yoga Teacher Training at the Women's Community Correctional Center, and addressing the critical gap between release and long-term stability;
- We are funding a program based on Kaua'i to support the positive birth and postpartum outcomes for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders as well as the statewide push for Native Hawaiian data for the Murdered Native Hawaiian Women, Girls, Mahu (MMNGWGM) as part of the larger Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) movement; and
- We funded sewing classes in Waipahu that also offer English and financial literacy, particularly for the Marshallese and Chuukese communities."



Board Treasurer, Gwen Pacarro, Executive Director, Elisabeth Case, Board President, Stephanie Shipton



2026 SPRING GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS

- **‘Aha Wahine: Native Hawaiian Wahine Health Conference** – Support for Wai Ola's ‘Aha Wahine Health Conference in 2027, last held in 2012. Native Hawaiian wahine from throughout the pae ‘āina will plan the infrastructure, funding strategy, and cultural protocol for 1000-participant, 3-day gathering rooted in the wisdom of our kupuna and the power of our collective identity as wahine, and honor and advance the health, well-being and cultural vitality of Native Hawaiian women entrepreneurs, healers, educators, artists, and leaders.
- **Beyond Bars Reentry Program** – A community-based initiative of Tahirih Association addressing the critical gap between release from incarceration and long-term stability and challenges, including trauma histories, substance dependency, limited employment opportunities, and fragile support systems. This structured, program builds skills communication, emotional regulation, accountability, and interpersonal effectiveness, strengthening outcomes and reducing the likelihood of recidivism.
- **General Operations for Hawai‘i Women in Filmmaking** – To support the inaugural Women of Wonders Film Festival at the historic Hilo Palace Theatre in August 2027, designed to bring in international filmmakers and build deeper community connections with our neighbor islands. And to host and facilitate the Annual Women in Film Mixer at the Hawai‘i International Film Festival in November 2026.
- **General Operations for Waipahu Safe Haven** – To support supplies and instructors for the Resource Center’s sewing and culturally empowering classes to serve migrant women, particularly from the Marshallese and Chuukese communities. Participants learn sewing skills while strengthening cultural identity, building confidence and increasing access to educational and economic opportunities.
- **He Hali‘a Aloha: Cultivating Mana and Leadership in Young Wahine** – A program serving at-risk Native Hawaiian girls, guided by Loea (experts) and mentors who are recognized keepers of Hawaiian culture, the curriculum covers cultural foundations, legal truths, technical advocacy, communication through The Queens Court, dedicated to the revitalization and empowerment of the Native Hawaiian Community.
- **Higher Education for Incarcerated Women** – Helping indigent, incarcerated women earn credits toward college degrees & certificates through accredited correspondence courses including sociology courses focused on domestic violence. The Hawai‘i Friends of Restorative Justice program is grounded in the belief that the incarcerated are capable of transformation and deserve access to the tools that make it possible.
- **Ka La‘i o Hauola Program** – To support Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander trained birth workers (ko‘okua) to provide culturally-rooted birth work services to pregnant Kānaka ‘Ōiwi and Pasifika ‘ohana from Kalauokekahuli. Services include home visits, education, ‘apuhala (birthing plant medicine) preparation, medical advocacy, resource connections and referrals, labor and delivery support, ‘ai pono (cultural food) meal preparation, etc.
- **Makuahine Program** – Adult women on Moloka‘i, particularly mothers and caregivers, face structural barriers that limit consistent training and competitive outrigger canoe paddling



participation. This program through Friends of Wa'a will subsidize childcare, escort boats, equipment and supplies to remove barriers to participation.

- **Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women, Girls, Mahu Mapping Project** – To help to create and expand data on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) in Hawai'i to address a need for data on the larger movement. Kamawaelualani Corp, based in Lihue, Kaua'i, will work with a grassroots hui (group) of Kānaka 'Ōiwi wāhine (Native Hawaiian women) survivors to engage the community to use the GIS mapping tool that maps Hawai'i's missing and murdered feminine people and supports the push for policy changes.
- **Molokai Nui A Hina: Cultural Healing Retreat** – To support a sacred healing retreat created for women "who carry Moloka'i on their backs." The trauma-informed facilitation and culturally grounded activities are rooted in 'ike kupuna through KHM International. This investment ensures a safe, restorative healing space where women can reconnect to 'āina, culture, and one another, strengthening wellbeing, leadership, and long-term resilience within the Moloka'i community.
- **Women's Community Correctional Center Yoga Teacher Certification** – A 200-hour yoga teacher training certification program in partnership with the Women's Community Correctional Center and Hawai'i Yoga Institute. Participants engage in structured modules including yoga philosophy, anatomy, trauma-informed teaching, meditation, and practicum teaching hours to build leadership, job readiness, and reentry pathways through comprehensive, skills-based training.

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THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN OUR GRANTS PERIODS.

Our Summer Grants Period opens Jul 15 and closes on Aug 15 at midnight.

Our Winter Grants Period opens Jan 1 and closes on Jan 31 at midnight.

Women's Fund of Hawai'i issues Requests for Proposals twice a year, in the summer and in the winter, with awards given in April and October. Before applying for a grant online during an open grant period, please consult our [Grant Guidelines](#) to be sure you and your program are eligible.

See our [Grant Guidelines](#) to access our online application portal.

Please contact us at grants@womensfundhawaii.org with any questions.

For more information, contact:

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About Women's Fund of Hawai'i

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 or on our Facebook, www.facebook.com/WFHawaii