# ‘Aha Kukui O Molokai

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| **Project Title:** | Project Outrigger Canoe |
| **Award Amount:** | $93,308 |
| **Type of Grant:** | Social and Economic Development Strategies |
| **Project Period:** | Sept. 2007 – Sept. 2009 |
| **Grantee Type:** | Native Nonprofit |

## PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 1 job created
- 5 Native American consultant hired
- 3 elders involved
- 26 youth involved
- $60,763 in resources leveraged
- 48 individuals trained
- 5 partnerships formed

## BACKGROUND

‘Aha Kukui o Molokai is a Native Hawaiian nonprofit which focuses on the functional use of the Hawaiian outrigger canoe. ‘Aha Kukui o Molokai was founded in 2001 to bring enlightenment, health, and balance to the Molokai community and natural environment by promoting and practicing Hawaiian seafaring culture, stewardship, family building, and community service. ‘Aha Kukui o Molokai runs three programs: paddling to help build a healthy body; use of the outrigger canoe to teach ocean resource conservation, responsible food gathering and cultural values; and community service to build a healthy mind and character.

## PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the project was to develop and implement workshops to educate 64 Native Hawaiians on traditional knowledge, ocean conservation, and subsistence.

The project’s first objective was to increase by 65 percent the level of awareness of healthy marine ecosystems and responsible ocean food by holding 2 ocean conservation workshops and 2 subsistence practices workshops. During the first ocean conservation and subsistence practices workshop, 22 youth, 13 adults, and 1 elder cleaned the shoreline in front of Malama Cultural Park and learned how land use can impact the ocean, fish, and coral reefs. The next 2-day workshop had 26 youth, 12 adults, and 2 elders and included instruction on how to fish by using Hawaiian moon phases, how to set gill nets, spear fish, tie fishing lures, and how paddling a fishing canoe is different from paddling a racing canoe. The participating youth also learned subsistence practices such as *‘oki limu* (picking seaweed) without damaging the plant and how to prepare the fish they caught using traditional Hawaiian methods, such as *palai* (fried) and *lawalu* (steamed over a fire). The workshops did not include formal pre- and post-surveys, so it is

unknown whether the level of awareness of healthy marine ecosystems increased by 65 percent.

The project's second objective was to build an outrigger racing canoe from two Koa logs. Koa wood is prized in Hawaiian culture for its strength and beauty, but the process to acquire a Koa log is not an easy task. Project staff originally planned to extract the logs in the fall of 2007, but due to a lack of forest access and a qualified contractor, and consistent inclement weather, project staff was unable to enter the forest to find the logs until the summer of 2008. These delays necessitated a 12-month extension to complete the project. The Koa logs, from the Hilo Forest Reserve at Keanakolu, were acquired by using the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, State Forestry Division program which permits the removal of dead Koa logs from the forest for cultural purposes. One of the Koa logs was used to build the main body of the canoe and the second, shorter log was used for the seats, paddles, and other canoe parts.

As the drying process of the Koa wood took longer than expected, staff did not complete the canoe within the project timeframe.

### Outcomes and Community Impact

'Aha Kukui O Molokai plans to race the Koa outrigger canoe in Hawaiian competitions. The grantee hopes the use of this canoe will generate support for the club. By the end of the project, 'Aha Kukui O Molokai leveraged over $60,000 in funds, mostly through the donation of Koa logs by the State of Hawaii. Over the course of the project, youth, adults, and elders contributed 502 volunteer hours to clean two shorelines and learn about the process to carve an outrigger canoe. The project taught participating youth about the ocean they race on, including beach and coral reef preservation skills. To continue project activities after the project timeframe, 'Aha Kukui O Molokai is leasing three acres from a county park in Molokai to store the Koa Outrigger Racing Canoe. The lease is for 55 years at one dollar a year.

# Hawaiian Community Assets

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| **Project Title:** | Brokering Mortgages to Support Financial Literacy Enhancement Project |
| **Award Amount:** | $763,384 |
| **Type of Grant:** | Social and Economic Development Strategies |
| **Project Period:** | Sept. 2007 – Sept. 2009 |
| **Grantee Type:** | Native nonprofit |

## PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 7 jobs created
- 1 Native American consultant hired
- 29 elders involved
- 407 youth involved
- 1,123 individuals trained
- 28 partnerships formed

## BACKGROUND

In 1920, the United States Congress passed the Native Hawaiian Homelands Act. The act created the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and set aside over 200,000 acres in Hawaii as homelands for Native Hawaiians with 50% or more blood quantum. As of 2003, 20,416 individuals were on the waitlist while only 5,941 homestead awards had been made. At the time of a homestead award, applicants must be pre-qualified for a mortgage. Prior to this project, more than 50% of waitlisted applicants were unable to meet this requirement.

Hawaiian Community Assets (HCA) is a Native Hawaiian nonprofit organization formed in 2000 to provide homeownership education and individual case management services. HCA addresses the needs of those Native Hawaiians who qualify for residential lease awards, but have not yet met the financial requirements.

## PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the project was to provide the necessary tools and support to individuals on the homestead waitlist.

The first set of objectives was to develop the project's administrative infrastructure, implement employee training, and create a culturally appropriate curriculum companion guide. Project staff implemented a web-based database, new processes and procedures, and revised client forms. The grantee was able to hire necessary project staff, but experienced high staff turnover. Project staff attributed turnover to large case loads, a high pressure work environment due to increasing rates of foreclosure, and the need to provide social services for clients. Fourteen employees completed the national Neighborworks training and internal HCA training. HCA staff did not develop a curriculum companion guide. Instead,

project staff utilized a companion guide developed in 2002.

The second set of objectives was to market services and provide home buying training and case management services to interested Hawaiian families. Marketing efforts included updating the HCA website, partner websites, and listserv. Six months into the project, project staff realized the electronic marketing campaign was not sufficient to reach their clients and thus began holding community meetings as well as attending monthly DHHL meetings. Project staff also developed a logo and distributed various fliers and booklets in hard copy and electronically. Project staff conducted home buying training for 702 individuals and provided client management services to approximately 1,000 clients.

The third set of objectives was to identify gaps in available mortgage loan products and identify a lender for the 184A program, which permits HUD to guarantee 100% of unpaid principal and interest. Project staff was able to secure a brokerage agreement with Bank 2, based out of California and owned by the Chickasaw Nation. This agreement enabled many additional families to become pre-qualified for mortgage loans through the reduced restrictions of the 184A program.

The fourth set of objectives was to develop a financial education curriculum targeted toward youth ages 14 to 21. Project staff developed the Kahua Waiwai Training Manual and Instructor's Guide and piloted the curriculum to 40 participants in three locations. After completion, HCA conducted a train the trainers workshop for 27 groups. Currently, 16 groups are implementing the curriculum in Hawaiian communities and 407 youth have been trained. HCA plans to sell the curriculum and teacher training to ensure sustainability.

### Outcomes and Community Impact

Prior to this project, HCA served approximately 200 families per year. The integrated database and centralized management system has now enabled HCA to serve more than 1,000 families annually. The web-based database system also allowed HCA to expand their offices to include neighboring islands. HCA was able to build staff capacity through internal training and build credibility as an organization through improved capacity and infrastructure.

Before the project, no conventional loan products were being implemented on the Hawaiian homesteads. The brokerage agreement with Bank 2 opened the door for many families who were previously unable to pre-qualify for a loan. HCA empowered applicants on the waitlist to use their wait time for preparation and loan qualification. Additionally, existing homeland leasees benefited from learning new skills, such as budgeting and foreclosure prevention.

Youth who participated in the financial training have been empowered to begin saving with an understanding of long-term planning and the power and danger of managing credit accounts. Youth can relate to the curriculum because they were involved in its development; HCA partnered with YouthVision a Hawaiian non-profit who worked with youth to provide the graphics and layout of the manual.

> *"It is important to follow the community need. When the foreclosure crisis happened, we had to alter our program to respond to the demand of the community."*
>
> Michelle Kauhane,
>
> HCA Executive Director

# Ho'oulu Lahui

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| **Project Title:** | Ke Ala o ka Alaka'ina |
| **Award Amount:** | $625,250 |
| **Type of Grant:** | Social and Economic Development Strategies |
| **Project Period:** | Sept. 2005 – Sept. 2009 |
| **Grantee Type:** | Native nonprofit |

## PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 3 jobs created
- 1 business created
- 3 Native American consultants hired
- 141 elders involved
- 1,648 youth involved
- $2,700 in revenue generated
- $424,622 in resources leveraged
- 17 individuals trained
- 14 partnerships formed

## BACKGROUND

Ho'oulu Lāhui is a nonprofit organization formed in 1995 with the mission to use a culturally-appropriate approach to meet the needs of at-risk Native Hawaiian youth and families. To implement the Ke Ala o ka Alaka'ina project, Ho'oulu Lahui partnered with the Kuao Ka La Public Charter School located in the extremely rural district of Puna on the easternmost portion of the island of Hawaii.

## PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The project's purpose was to provide youth with the training necessary to develop leadership and financial skills in entrepreneurship through practical experience in new agriculture technologies and cultural agro-forestry resource management.

The first set of objectives was to draft, pilot, finalize, and implement an entrepreneurship curriculum. Project staff developed the curriculum which consisted of four modules: mentoring, financial skills, leadership, and entrepreneurship. The 17 students who participated in the entrepreneurship program opened bank accounts, took field trips to the farmer's market, and sold handicrafts at a local store. Upon completion of the training, one student opened a tree trimming business. Additionally, project staff hosted a youth empowerment seminar for all students. The charter school was unable to implement the mentoring program as originally envisioned due to an unanticipated and unmet staffing need. However, project staff modified the mentoring program to pair younger students with older students. The remaining three modules will continue to be sustained by the charter school after the conclusion of the project timeframe.

The second set of objectives was to construct and install the infrastructure for two greenhouses, one modern and one traditional, at the charter school site. Due to the rocky lava ground, project staff implemented a vertigro system in the modern greenhouse, which uses vertical growing and vertical gardening techniques to more efficiently utilize space and energy. Project staff devoted the second greenhouse structure to traditional plants. Students distributed 1,000 trees at festivals and Arbor Day and Earth Day celebrations. The students were unable to sell agricultural products, as was originally planned, as the majority of the vegetables grown were consumed at the school or given away to community members in accordance with the hospitality aspect of Hawaiian culture. Generating income was not the core value for project staff.

The third set of objectives was to ensure all evaluations, fiscal management, and reporting was completed and submitted. Project staff completed this objective as planned.

### Outcomes and Community Impact

The original project idea was generated from the charter school students, who expressed a desire to grow their food locally. Students were empowered through their involvement in the project design phase and also through participation in the culturally-based trainings.

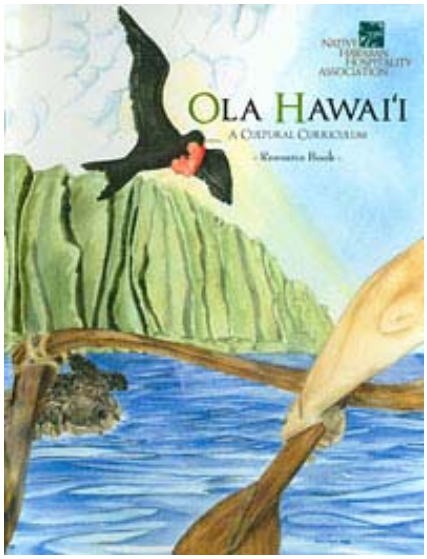
The Puna community benefited through the youth contributions and increased intergenerational interaction. Elders imparted traditional knowledge to students and acquired food from the project's greenhouse activities. Community members have greater access to food and gained a better understanding of the benefits of healthy food. Additionally, the project served as a model for growing organic food at home.

The charter school teachers improved competency in practice-based teaching, networking with local partners, and public speaking skills. The entrepreneurship curriculum and greenhouse infrastructure provided additional teaching resources. In class, students classified plants and trees, collected seeds, uprooted transplantings, and learned how to make traditional handicrafts from invasive species. The forest resource management teacher stated, "We followed our traditions and used everything; nothing is trash."

Project staff created 14 partnerships during project implementation. Partners demonstrated an increased interest in agricultural possibilities and the health benefits of eating organically. The curriculum was shared with other Hawaiian charter schools.

> *"The students have been trained to care for the environment, live off the land, and make traditional products and homes."*
>
> Susie Osborne, Principal

# Native Hawaiian Tourism and Hospitality Association

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| **Project Title:** | Shaping the Future of Tourism: Expanding Economic Opportunities for Native Hawaiians |
| **Award Amount:** | $841,978 |
| **Type of Grant:** | Social and Economic Development Strategies |
| **Project Period:** | Sept. 2006 – Sept. 2009 |
| **Grantee Type:** | Native Nonprofit |

- 6 jobs created
- 7 Native American consultants hired
- 19 elders involved
- $339,545 in resources leveraged
- $11,928 in revenue generated
- 64 individuals trained
- 51 partnerships formed

## BACKGROUND

The tourism industry, Hawaii's leading economic sector, attributes much of its success to the islands' natural beauty and moderate climate. The industry also owes much to Hawaii's rich island culture including the history, traditions, and practices of Native Hawaiians. Social and economic indicators, however, show the Native Hawaiian community has derived minimal social and economic benefit from tourism.

Founded in 1997, the Native Hawaiian Tourism and Hospitality Association (NaHHA) works to address concerns about how Native Hawaiian culture is perceived and represented in tourism. NaHHA partners with hotels, private businesses, tourism associations, artists, and cultural practitioners to increase the opportunities for Native Hawaiians to shape the future of Hawaiian tourism.

## PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the project was to give Native Hawaiian cultural consultants the skills to offer Hawaiian culture programs to the tourism industry.

The project's first objective was to develop a professional curriculum for the cultural consultants. At the end of the first year, project staff created a cultural certification curriculum for hotel operations staff and a cultural immersion curriculum for hotel executive management staff. Project staff developed the curricula by bringing together technical experts and holding discussions with advisory committees.

The project's second objective was to train the cultural consultants. NaHHA recruited Native Hawaiians to become trainers and 21 successfully completed training to become

Alaka'i, or guides. The Alaka'i used the curricula developed by NaHHA to train themselves in cultural certification and then used the curriculum as a teaching tool for the tourism industry. NaHHA staff partnered with Outrigger Hotels and Resorts and the University of Hawaii Tourism Industry Management College to provide opportunities for the Alaka'i to test the curricula and hone their presentation skills.

The third objective was to pilot and finalize the curriculum and training. Staff from the Outrigger Hotels participated in the pilot sessions. Based on feedback from these pilot sessions, NaHHA staff redesigned the curriculum into the Ola Hawai'i curriculum with two modules: 1) Chiefly Leadership-Leading with the Knowledge of Hawaiian Culture; and 2) Applied Leadership-Cultivating a Hawaiian Sense of Place. NaHHA advertised Ola Hawai'i as an educational program for the hospitality industry designed for managers and employees who seek a better understanding of the Hawaiian culture.

### Outcomes and Community Impact

A challenge encountered by the grantee occurred in the third year when a partner decreased their commitment due to the economic crisis. In response, NaHHA staff opened the workshops and trainings to members from other hotels on the island of Oahu.

In recognition of the strength of the curriculum, NaHHA generated $12,000 in income from those in the the tourism industry that paid to participate in Ola Hawai'i program. NaHHA is using this income to help pay for future training costs. Additionally, in 2009, NaHHA was awarded an Adrian Awards gold medal by the Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association for the Ola Hawai'i Workbook and Manual.

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> *"The curriculum speaks to the notion of being invited and trying to recognize the invitation."*
>
> Ramsey Tuam, NaHHA President

# The Neighborhood Place of Wailuku, Inc.

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| **Project Title:** | Wailuku Ho'onui Mana 'Ohana Initiative Family Strengthening Program |
| **Award Amount:** | $1,254,226 |
| **Type of Grant:** | Social and Economic Development Strategies |
| **Project Period:** | Sept. 2006 – Sept. 2009 |
| **Grantee Type:** | Native Nonprofit |

## Project Snapshot

- 7 jobs created
- 5 businesses created
- 10 Native American consultants hired
- 80 elders involved
- 150 youth involved
- $540,815 in resources leveraged
- 200 individuals trained
- 50 partnerships formed

## Background

The Neighborhood Place of Wailuku (NPW) is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting healthy, positive development of Hawaiian children and families. NPW began in 2005 as a community resource center focused on the empowerment of "at-risk" Hawaiian families.

## Purpose and Objectives

The project's purpose was to empower Hawaiian families by providing opportunities to build positive life skills through an integrated, holistic training program.

The first objective was to develop and implement a parenting and healthy relationships training program. To complete the objective, project staff implemented two separate trainings: a parenting course and a series of healthy relationship retreats. Male and female co-facilitators taught the parenting curriculum to 100 participants. In the first year, project staff encountered difficulties recruiting participants for the healthy relationship training, and thus transformed the curriculum to a retreat setting. A total of 45 individuals participated in three healthy relationship retreats held at a local hotel.

The second objective was to implement a culture-based experiential learning opportunity (CELO) program at the Ka'ehu Field Site. Project staff partnered with the Trust for Public Land to secure an eight-acre land base where CELO activities were held one Saturday each month throughout project implementation. CELO cultural and family activities included campouts on the beach, traditional emus, creation of an amphitheater, development of a greenhouse,

restoration of traditional plants, and a beach clean-up. Project staff also incorporated CELO activities into the parenting training and healthy relationships retreats. Sunnie He'eu, project director, expressed the importance of the Ka'ehu Field Site, sharing, "families can go there and feel safe. There are no drugs and alcohol allowed on the property."

The third objective was to develop and implement a culturally-based leadership training/small business and community development program. Project staff developed the curriculum and lesson plans, partnered with the Wailuku Small Business Center and conducted three training classes. Fifty five participants completed the training and five individuals went on to begin businesses. The new businesses included a moving company, party planning company, entertainment company, retail clothing store, and banana bread stand.

### Outcomes and Community Impact

The spirit of community involvement was incorporated throughout the programs offered by NPW and as a result the organization has earned respect within the Hawaiian community. The project spread largely through word of mouth and expanded to serve Hawaiian families outside Wailuku. The parenting classes and CELO activities have been successfully blended into existing NPW services.

Adults who completed NPW training often return to volunteer in organizational fundraising efforts, or other CELO projects. Many parents have become proactive volunteers in the community, advocating for prevention of child abuse and substance abuse.

The Ka'ehu Field Site provided Wailuku community members a shared land base and experiential learning environment in which they take pride and ownership. The NPW parenting classes have engaged children of participants in CELO activities and have encouraged continued involvement in NPW youth programs.

The five new businesses owners who completed the NPW business training program serve as role models to the entire community. To continue the business services, NPW plans to train community members to conduct the business training.

Throughout project implementation, NPW developed 50 partnerships, including strong networks with other human service agencies. NPW cited the successful development of partnerships as key to the successful implementation of this project. These networks will serve to strengthen future NPW programs.

> *"Since the project began, NPW has become a name synonymous to a place of learning and healing. Our clients remain our friends and can come talk story at anytime."*
>
> Iokepa Naeole,
> Director of Educational Programs

# Wai'anae Coast Coalition for Human Services

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| **Project Title:** | Wai'anae Coast Family Center |
| **Award Amount:** | $542,064 |
| **Type of Grant:** | Social and Economic Development Strategies |
| **Project Period:** | Sept. 2007 – Sept. 2009 |
| **Grantee Type:** | Native Nonprofit |

## Project Snapshot

- 4 jobs created
- 9 elders involved
- $10,847 in resources leveraged
- 59 individuals trained
- 21 partnerships formed

## Background

The Wai'anae Coast Coalition for Human Services (WCCHS) was formed in 1983 and serves as a community planning and development organization in Wai'anae. Wai'anae is a rural community on the island of O'ahu with a population of 43,000, 51% of which are Native Hawaiians.

WCCHS works with residents to: conduct community-based planning; facilitate partnerships and alliances to meet community need; provide research and tracking functions; communicate with the community; and develop leadership to build community capacity. In 2006, WCCHS opened the Wai'anae Coast Family Center to encourage and increase the use of Native Hawaiian cultural practices and values that result in strong families able to meet their basic needs.

## Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the project was to reduce the number of children that are removed from their families by the State of Hawaii Child Protection Services.

The project's first objective was to provide a comprehensive, culturally-based family intervention and strengthening model to support families in need. The model used by the Wai'anae Coast Family Center is a family conferencing program, using Native Hawaiian cultural practices such as ho'oponopono. Ho'oponopono, translated as "to make things right," is a traditional Native Hawaiian process of conflict resolution among family members. Using ho'oponopono to address the conflicts, family conferencing brings together family members and people connected to the family to reach consensus on a safety plan for the protection of a child. The meetings are moderated by a trained facilitator.

The project's second objective was to build the community's capacity to deliver and sustain the support system. Project staff accomplished this by training community members to facilitate family conferencing sessions and by developing two training

manuals. To ensure the training materials were culturally appropriate, project staff presented the material to the Cultural Advisory Council, made up of six elders. 59 people were trained in family conferencing skills by the end of the project period.

The project's third objective was to implement a sustainability plan for the Wai'anae Coast Family Center, renamed as Ka Po`e Hale, or the People's House. To ensure sustainability, the grantee worked with a consultant to develop a business plan to continue providing family conferencing trainings. The business plan detailed goals to accomplish by 2012, including training additional native Hawaiians to become certified in ho'oponopono, redesigning the human services system to utilize Hawaiian cultural values and practices, and promoting Native Hawaiian health education. In order to implement the plan, project staff applied for and received 501(c)(3) status as a new non-profit called Pa a Hola.

### OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

Hawaiian children benefited from this project because it has helped families understand the impact of family problems on children and has empowered children to speak out about how issues impact them. Hawaiian families have benefited because they have used the family conferencing services to address serious family issues. During the course of the project, 292 individuals benefited from family conferencing. At the beginning of the project, the grantee hoped to have 20 children avoid CPS involvement; by the end of the project, 43 children avoided CPS involvement. Ka Po`e Hale is currently seeking additional funding to continue the family conferencing program.

*"A family conference is an opportunity for individual families to take control of their own destiny and to stay focused as a whole. Families learn of their own strengths and goals and work together and depend on each other. If help is needed, families know they are not alone, a support system is there for them."*

Nettie Armitage-Lapilio
Project Assistant