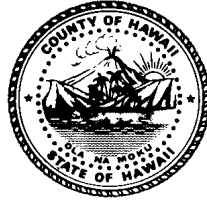


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NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY OF HAWAII'ANNOUNCES SECOND ROUND OF KĪLAUEA RECOVERY GRANT PROGRAM AWARDS

The County of Hawai'i Disaster Recovery Division is excited to announce awarding \$3.3 million to 16 organizations in the second round of the Kīlauea Recovery Grant Program. Following an overwhelming response from the community, an unprecedented 38 applications totaling \$10.6 million in requests were received.

Initially established through ordinance in 2020 to aid communities and residents directly affected by the 2018 Kīlauea eruption, the grant program aimed to support immediate recovery needs. A 2023 code amendment provided more flexibility, opening the program up to supporting long-term resilience efforts and assisting eruption impacted populations in Lower Puna.

“This program, funded by a State grant, empowers residents to drive community recovery initiatives,” said Puna Councilwoman Ashley Kierkiewicz who introduced the bills to establish and refine the grant program. “This second investment in community builds on initial program success, increasing capacity of local nonprofits and enhancing Puna’s overall resilience.”

The first round funded projects like road repairs, agriculture, restoration of farms, affordable housing construction, stewardship, community resilience, and more. In the second round of grants, a broader range of projects is being funded, including non-government road restorations, renovations of farm and agriculture facilities, cultural programs, investment in educational facilities, virtual resilience hubs, disaster preparedness training, animal rescue, and workforce development projects.

“This \$3.3 million investment in our community speaks volumes about the dedication and collaboration between the Council District 4 office and the County of Hawai'i,” said Mayor Mitch Roth. “Seeing different parts of our government work together to get funding to some truly inspiring organizations in Puna serves as a reminder of the meaningful impact we can achieve through collective efforts.”

The second round of Kīlauea Recovery grants will go to the following recipients:

- Mālama Homesteads Road Restoration, Fiscal Sponsor, Pāhoa Lava Zone Museum

- Men of Pa‘a Workforce Development Program
- Kealoha Estate Road Restoration, Fiscal Sponsor, Mālama O Puna
- Arts and Sciences Center Campus Planning Project
- Nā Maka Hāloa o Waipi‘o Hō‘a‘ā i Kanalani Project
- Nui Lani Farm greenhouse restoration Project, Fiscal Sponsor, Food Security Hawaii
- Hawai‘i Volcano Education and Resilience Institute
- Purple Mai‘a Workforce Development Project
- Pohaku Pelemaka Stewardship Project
- Holo Lio Road Restoration Project, Fiscal Sponsor, Pāhoa Lava Zone Museum
- Seaview Performing Arts Center for Education Facility Renovation Project, Fiscal Sponsor, Hawai‘i’s Volcano Circus
- Hawai‘i Animal Kuleana Alliance Training program for Animal Rescue Volunteers
- Synergistic Hawai‘i Agriculture Council Floriculture Apprenticeship Program
- Puna Flower Power Project to Complete Greenhouse restoration, Fiscal Sponsor Synergistic Hawai‘i Agriculture Council
- Ho‘oulu Lāhui Noho Pa‘a (Permanent Home) for Kua O Ka Lā
- ‘O Maku‘u Ke Kahua Community Center Māla Ho‘oulu ‘Ike Education Program and Market Access for Native Hawaiians

The recovery grant program was authorized by the County Council to allow recovery funding to be provided to individuals and private organizations through 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations. The County Council is required to approve grants above \$25,000. The resolution to award grant funds to identified community partners will be introduced at the Finance Committee on Tuesday, February 6, 2024.

For more information regarding the Kīlauea Recovery Grant Program, please visit our website at recovery.hawaiicounty.gov/resources/recovery-grants.