

NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT
MARCH 2024



Mission: To support successful community projects that benefit North Kohala

A message from our Board President, Nathan Trump

As we review the past year, we take joy in all the ways our community has grown closer together through the events, community groups, and service projects that have taken place under the banner of the North Kohala Community Resource Center. In 2023, NKCRC continued to serve as a beacon of support and collaboration, nurturing projects that have enriched our community.

On any given day you can drive through Kohala and see the impact projects of NKCRC are making on our youth, kupuna, and families. Archery, youth volleyball, kupuna hula, fresh coconuts, and a grooving radio station are just a few highlights of the ways we've seen projects bring Kohala together and meet our community needs.

As you review our annual report, let's celebrate the bonds we've forged and the successes we've achieved in 2023. Together, we've proven that when we come together as a community, there's no limit to what can be accomplished.



NKCRC Board of Directors and Staff, January 2024



Opi'o, Kupuna Kakou



KES Tennis



Kohala Unupa'a



Health as a Priority



Remember Through Music



KES Garden

2023 SPONSORED PROJECTS

We are pleased to welcome these meaningful community initiatives as newly sponsored projects of NKCRC in 2023. We look forward to working with them to meet their goals as they serve our North Kohala community.

- Kohala Oral History Project
- Kohala Resilience Hub

2023 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Bond Library Project: Is 75% complete with a goal to finish the work between March and May 2024.

The Kohala Oral History Project: PBS "This is Hawai'i" will broadcast the film on 3/28/24 and will host a panel discussion.

Kohala Resilience Hub: Distributed 8400 Meals during the Kaukau for Keiki food distribution program in partnership with Vibrant Hawai'i.

North Kohala Student Cultural Exchange Program: The NKSCEP gave \$3044 to 17-20 individual teachers in Kohala Elementary and Middle schools. They gave \$1500 for transportation and admission fees for field trips to about 600 students.

Friends of the Kohala Pool: Raised enough funds to reopen the pool.

Kohala Community Plan: Interviewed 191 participants in 23 Talk Story sessions, generating 724 ideas. Those ideas were circulated to the focus groups. They also sponsored and supported the creation of three missing groups: Health and Wellness; Agriculture; Culture and History.

The Affordable Housing Group: Funded a subgroup to explore creating a Kohala Community Land Trust. They also engaged with potential housing developers: Mark Lester/Hawi Nani and HICDC/Self Help. They presented their survey and other key data points to the Kohala Large Landholders group.

Kohala Unupa'a: Held a free weekly after-school program for youth of Kohala. They were able to serve 340 students sharing the importance of our mauka to makai resources here in Kohala and how they can steward and make pono choices when they are in these areas of our homeland. Kohala Unupa'a also held a free Summer and Leadership Camp during the summer for 40 youth of North and South Kohala, immersing students in Hawaiian culture and the rich history of Kohala.

North Kohala Golf Park: Successfully increased the park usage for seniors and students. A High School golf team was created and uses the course for practices.

Health as a Priority: Expanded its reach in both geography and scope. In 2023 and continuing into 2024 this non-profit free health and welfare operation is reaching uninsured people and providing important clinical care. The scope of the work has included building out a new clinic footprint in Kea'au, Hawai'i. Funding to complete the clinic on Auli'i Drive has stalled after our initial \$117,000 investment. We are hopeful for donor support in 2024.

2023 COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Tool Library
- Suits & Seats
- Kohala 'Ohana Wellness
- Malama o Kohala-Preserving Kohala's Cultural Resources
- Waste Stream Recycling



Kohala Ride Wild Club



Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Kohala

MAHALO TO OUR INDIVIDUAL DONORS FOR 2023

He 'ōpū hālau A house-like stomach

A heart as big as a house. Said of a person who is kind, gracious, and hospitable.
*'Ōlelo No'eau (869) Pukui, Mary Kawena, 'Ōlelo No'eau Hawai'ian Proverbs and Poetical Sayings,
Bishop Museum Press 2004*

A. Claire Forehand	Dena Soares	Joelle Laszlo	Molly Harris
Adam Huttler	Dennis and Barbara Green	John & Rose Mae Watterson	Moses and Liz Bautista
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Ahren Estabrooks			Nathan Trump
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MAHALO TO OUR INDIVIDUAL DONORS FOR 2023

Sue Schmidt	Cynthia Roher	Toni Withington	Yamamoto
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Terry and Joyce Hamada	Trinidad De Luz	Wesley Yamamoto Sr	Xinyi Zhang
Thomas Kapp and	Ty Knudson and	William and Laura	Yae Murai

IN 2023 THE NKCRC RAISED
\$365,476
FOR 44 COMMUNITY PROJECTS.
GREAT WORK TEAM!

Your support makes the valuable work of the Resource Center in our North Kohala community possible, to donate head over to www.northkohala.org/donate or write a check to the NKCRC, P.O. Box 519, Hawi, HI 96719



MAHALO TO OUR BUSINESS & FOUNDATION DONORS FOR 2023

100 Women Who Care
AmazonSmile Foundation
American Indian Youth Running Strong, Inc
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Touching The Earth Land Co.
University of Hawai'i Foundation - Performing Arts
Vanguard Charitable
Vibrant Hawai'i
Watterson Painting
West Hawai'i Concrete

SUMMER GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

This summer we're offering a five-part series including Project Planning, Building Budgets, Finding Funders, Writing Successful Proposals, and a Master Proposal Review. Workshops are free to organizers of sponsored projects and will be held during the month of June at the Center. For more information or to register for classes, please call us on 808 889 5523 or email us at info@northkohala.org.

SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS PRACTICES WORKSHOP SERIES

Commencing in July 2024, NKCRC will be launching a Successful Business Practices Workshop Series for our project partners aimed at enhancing the sustainability of their endeavors. Each month, the program will cover a different topic, providing valuable insights and strategies. The series is set to continue until December 2024, offering a comprehensive resource for project success.

More details to be announced.

NEW DIRECTORS



Kenneth Matsuda - Youth Director.
Kenneth is a current Academy of Sustainability Student Ambassador at Kohala High School and the current Hawaii State FFA President. He is an active participant within the community and has a strong connection to this place called Kohala.



Jay Vega - New Board Director
Being a fourth generation Kohala boy, my heart is for the elevation of Kohala youth. I've spent most of my adult life volunteering and participating in events and programs that aim to encourage and empower youth to see that they have gifts and talents to contribute to our community and our world.

A word from our Executive Director Leelen Park



Aloha Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with a sense of immense gratitude and excitement. It has been a journey of self-discovery, personally and professionally, as I stepped into the role of Executive Director for the North Kohala Community Resource Center.

Returning to North Kohala after 21 years away has been a homecoming in the truest sense. Being home has reminded me of the vibrant community that shaped me into who I am today.

Growing up here, I was surrounded by a diverse tapestry of individuals who taught me the values of compassion, resilience, and service.

The lessons I learned from this community have stayed with me throughout my life, guiding me through various challenges and opportunities. They instilled a deep sense of responsibility to give back to the place that gave me so much. And now, as I step into this new role, I am more committed than ever to making a meaningful difference in the lives of those who call North Kohala home.

Our community is rich in history, culture, and natural beauty. Yet, like any community, it faces its own set of challenges. But challenges are simply opportunities in disguise – opportunities for growth, innovation, and positive change.

I am filled with excitement for the journey that lies ahead. Together, we can create a future where North Kohala thrives in every sense of the word – economically, socially, and environmentally. It will require dedication, collaboration, and a shared vision for a brighter tomorrow.

As we move forward, I invite each one of you to join me on this journey. Whether you are a longtime resident, a newcomer, or a supporter from afar, your voice, your ideas, and your passion are invaluable.

Let us harness the spirit of community that defines North Kohala and work together to build a future we can all be proud of. Together, we can make our community not just a place to live but a place to thrive.

With deepest gratitude and warmest aloha,

Leelen Park
Executive Director
North Kohala Community Resource Center

DIRECTORS

Beth Bohn - Secretary
Small Business Owner

Cherie Carvalho
KMS Teacher

Denni Keyes - Treasurer
Small Business Owner

Vicky Kometani - Vice President
Public Relations Consultant

Wendy Nickl
Kohala Teacher

Ross Pagat
PIDF Manager

Jay Vega
Community Member

Nathan Trump - President
General Manager

YOUTH DIRECTORS

Jensel Merice Jose
KHS student

Kenneth Matsuda
KHS student

Honorary Directors

Alida Adamek
Kelly Ah Hee
Gino Amar
Lani Bowman
Christopher Brown
Jessica Brown
Joe Carvalho
David Gomes
Chris Helmuth
Bob Martin
Dennis Matsuda
Kathleen Matsuda
Desiree Medeiros
Amy Meyer-Sullivan
Nani Svendsen
Kim Takata

NKCRC Staff

Executive Director
Leelen Park

Director of Projects
Ekela Kahuanui

Director of Operations
Michelle Kawai

Projects Coordinator
Annalene Williams

NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Providing Local Support, Bridges to Funding and
Education for Projects that Benefit the Community

P.O.Box 519
Hawi, Hawaii 96719

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NORTH KOHALA
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

PLANNED
GIVING

KA LĀLĀ ULU

Your support of the Center's operations through our Planned Giving endowment program will help ensure that future generations can benefit from our enduring model of community support.

Planned Giving offers donors the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy - a gift that is planned in the present and allocated in the future. Please contact the Center to learn more about how you can make a lasting contribution.



The branches grow because of the trunk.
A Great Way to Love Kohala Forever

DON'T MISS OUR 7TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT APRIL 6, 2024 at Hapuna Golf Course

Our 2024 tournament offers multiple opportunities to compete for numerous prizes including a HOLE-IN-ONE prize valued at \$20,000 cash; \$10,000 to the player and \$10,000 to NKCRC!!



Register on northkohala.org/golf
Call us: 808 889 5523
or email: info@northkohala.org