

NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Empowering a thriving North Kohala

NKCRC
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2025 ANNUAL REPORT



More than 13,000 volunteer hours reported by 18 projects represent enormous economic value. Across NKCR's 69 projects, volunteers represent significant community investment, time given freely by people who simply care about North Kohala.

Want to add your support?
Make your donation to NKCR at www.northkohala.org/donate or send a check to NKCR, P.O. Box 519, Hawi, HI 96719. Please specify "operations support" or the project(s) you would like to support.



Photo courtesy of Keith Uehara

MAHALO TO OUR INDIVIDUAL DONORS FOR 2025

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

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NKCRC PROGRAM



1200

Kaukau-4-Keiki Bags distributed

67

Students trained in food preservation

1000

Doses of Naloxone distributed

22wks

DOE food distribution initiative



*Revitalized NKCERT, growing the team to 22 members

*Developed a Disaster Action Plan serving as a model for other resilience hubs

*Organized workshops including a Ham Radio exam and a Chainsaw team workday



*Kaukau-4-Keiki: Distributed 1200 bags of food

*Assisted a 22-week DOE & Good Food Alliance food distribution initiative

*Launched Ono Food Hui canning group — trained teachers and 67 students



*Distributed 1,000 doses of Naloxone in the free food pantries

*Coordinated monthly NKCDP Health & Wellness meetings

*Hosted 'Ohana Day, Keiki Summer Camp, Kupuna Day, Christmas Keiki Toy Drive & monthly Kohala Night Markets

NKCRC PARTNERSHIP



The Office of Indigenous Knowledge at the University of Hawai'i, aims to utilize ancestral sciences to advance modern innovation, restore Hawai'i's ecosystems and foster indigenous-led research. In a partnership with NKCRC, OIKI serves as a catalyst for connecting community knowledge with technology, promoting sustainability, and developing the next generation of researchers to support and perpetuate a vibrant community of practitioners.

NORTH KOHALA INDIGENOUS DATA HUB PILOT PROGRAM PILLARS:

Data Hub Development & Maintenance

Co-developed data products with community practitioners, researchers & student fellows

Student Fellowships & Community Partnerships

Reshaping the educational experience through real-world impact and co-design

Technology Sharing & Data Stewardship

Building lasting research and technical capacity within Kohala's moku

40+

Students in grades 3-12 leading data research

95%

Students identify as Native Hawaiian

94%

2ndary students with prior research experience

70%

Define success as helping their community

CHALLENGES WE ARE ADDRESSING:

Computer literacy gap: Navigation and typing are no longer formally taught in schools — students belong to the “iPad generation” with uneven home tech access.

Economic pressure: High schoolers weigh staying in their community against fear of limited local opportunity or being funneled into hospitality.

Digital divide: Program actively pivoted to teach computer literacy alongside data science methods, using peer-learning and praxis.

College access: Program bridges place-based identity with STEM pathways — students don't have to choose between roots and career mobility.

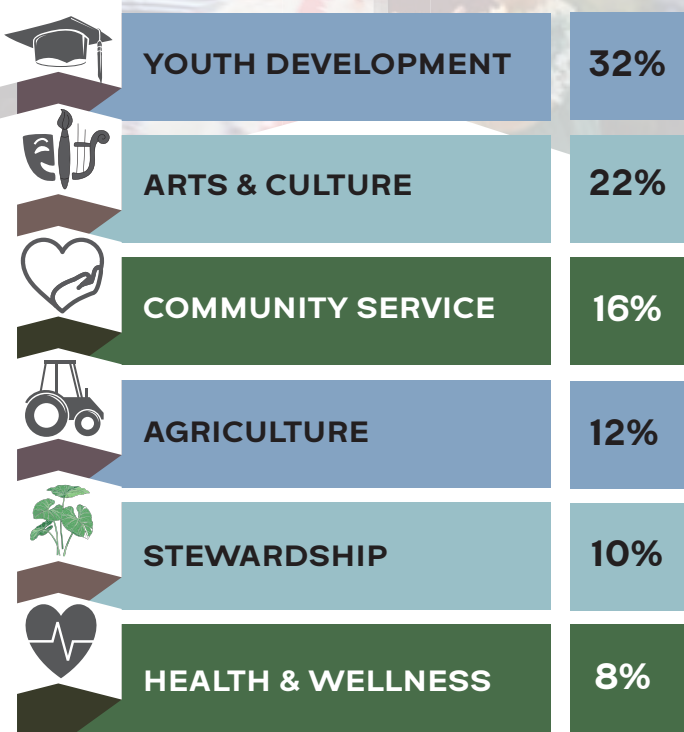


NKCRC PROJECTS

NUMBER OF PROJECTS:

69

PROJECT CATEGORIES



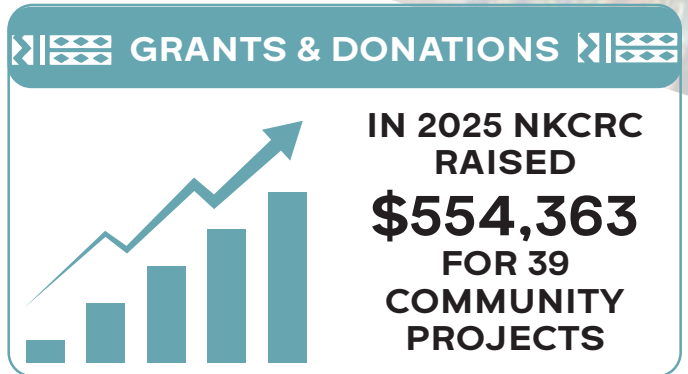
VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT



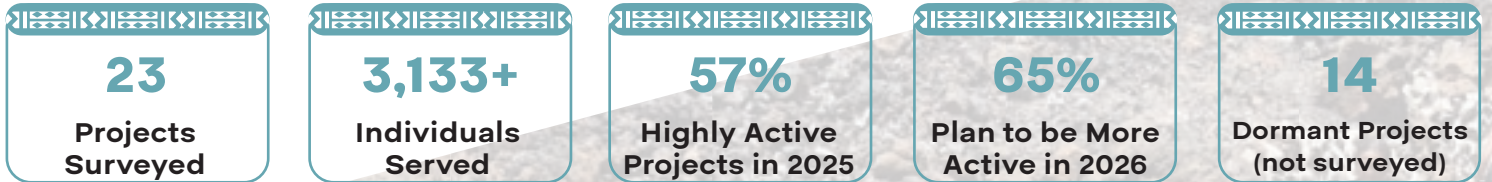
\$320,000: FUNDING PROJECTS LOST DUE TO FEDERAL FUNDING CUTS



IN 2025 NKCRC & PROJECTS SUBMITTED 46 GRANT PROPOSALS.

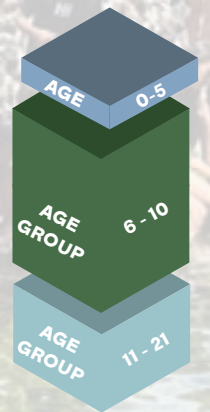


ANNUAL PROJECT SURVEY

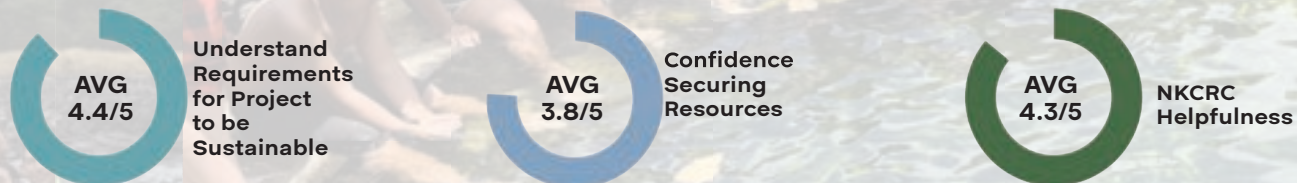


EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

NKCRC remains a cornerstone of regional youth development, with 70% of our surveyed projects dedicated to primary and secondary school-aged youth (ages 6–21). While our portfolio spans all generations, this focus ensures a vibrant future for our community. Despite systemic challenges like rising operational costs and complex funding landscapes, our project leaders describe NKCRC as a vital lifeline—a place where staff are “always there” to help the community realize their dreams.



PROJECT CONFIDENCE



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Health as Priority Kohala: Served 200+ perinatal women across the island after losing DOH funding, raising \$38K internally to keep the program growing.

Kohala Culture & History Advisory Group: Hosted talk story sessions at the Kohala Reunion, gave away free song books, and built a reusable stage set.

E Ulu Pu Ana Educational Resources: Grew from 5 students to 30, with rising enrollment from Kānaka 'Ōiwi families.

Kohala Oral History Project: Captured 51 interviews and 36+ hours of community history in a single weekend at the Kohala Reunion.

KES Mālama Pono Garden: Harvested 500 lbs of Kalo, replanted 22 varieties, and launched a community Ku'i Club workshop.

Kohala Kamehameha Day Celebration Committee: Held a spirited, well-attended celebration with a Sunrise Ceremony, parade, and full Ho'olaulea.

Hula Halau O Kukui Aloha O Kohala: Bounced back from inactivity to perform a full 30-minute show at a major Honokaa festival with all-new handmade attire.

Kohala Reunion: Pulled off a 3-day community reunion on the 4th of July, reconnecting families and educating youth about their heritage.

Affordable Housing Group: Helped launch the Kohala Community Land Trust (KCLT) as a lasting solution to local housing needs.

Kohala Independent Film Project: Wrapped up production and is preparing to screen the finished film for the Kohala community.

Experiential Learning through Travel: Enrolled 12 students for the 2027 Japan trip and won a \$1,000 scholarship for one student.

Kohala Fitness Center: Re-opened post-pandemic with new stewards and regular hours, successfully transitioning leadership.

Kohala Radio: Celebrated 10 years on the air.

Hula Halau O Mana'olana O Kohala: Performed at the Outrigger Resort with Kumu Hina, was recorded for TV, and attended the Native Hawaiian Convention.

Kohala Artists LLC: Landed a paid art class with a Kona tour group, opening a promising new revenue partnership.

Ohana Niu: Conducted 12 food giveaways and taught community members how to grow their own produce.

Lavaroots: Returned to Kohala Elementary School, continuing a relationship going back to 2007.

KCAA: Kept Kohala youth active and engaged throughout the year.

Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Kohala: Still performing strong after 17 years of cultural dedication.

Kohala Unupa'a: Completed the final BWET funding year with a full activity report documenting year-round programming.

Give & Grow Discovery School: Successfully introduced a new theatre curriculum for students.

Lio Lapaau: Grew its client base, expanding the program's reach in the community.

North Kohala Student Cultural Enrichment Program: Supplied students and teachers with much needed classroom equipment & supplies.

2025 NEW PROJECTS

We are pleased to welcome these meaningful community initiatives as newly sponsored projects of NKCRC in 2025. We look forward to working with them to meet their goals as they serve our North Kohala community.

Kohala Baseball League	Kohala Alpacha Wranglers	Beginner Fishing Workshop	KHS 100 year Celebration	West Kohala Wildfire Alliance	Rhythm Sanctuary
1	2	3	4	5	6

Kohala Cares

Kohala Cares was founded during the COVID-19 pandemic by former restaurant owner Peter Pomeranze to address food insecurity in North Kohala, later becoming a project of NKCRC. Following Peter's recent unexpected passing, his mission lives on through St. Augustine's Food Pantry, which distributes food every Wednesday afternoon.