

## Hawaii Animal Kuleana Alliance Summary

**Mission:** Animal disaster and emergency rescue services

**Category:** Animal Protection

**Contact:** Syndi Halualani Texeira, Executive Director

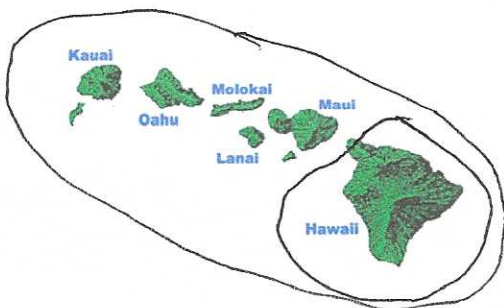
**Address:** P.O. Box 737, Keaau, HI 96749

**Grant History:** N/A

<b>2024 Request:</b> \$__,000 for general operating support
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**Notes:**

- Provides animal disaster and emergency rescue services for entire state of Hawaii.
- At least 2 disasters annually. Volcanoes, flooding, wildfires.
- No statewide plan of action for emergency animal care and support.
- Isolated from immediate care from outside. Must have local expertise and ability to respond quickly.
- Unique animals require specialized care.



## **About Hawai'i Animal Kuleana Alliance**

Hawai'i Animal Kuleana Alliance (HAKA) is the premier animal disaster and emergency rescue organization for Hawai'i Island and the state of Hawai'i. Our humble beginning as a grassroots Facebook group that eventually evolved into a nonprofit organization allowed us the opportunity to understand the needs of our community and Island. HAKA primarily focuses on providing animal rescue and recovery services before, during, and after disasters and emergencies while simultaneously addressing systemic issues, including pet overpopulation, microchip compliance, and affordable veterinary care, that are worsened during disasters.

HAKA is the only animal search and rescue (ASAR) organization that has a Native Hawaiian Executive Director leading the team. Additionally, our Field Team Leader and two board members are of Native Hawaiian descent. This cultural alignment allows us to provide services to the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities and local residents in ways other organizations and government agencies cannot. We are able to bridge the gap created by years of mistrust and discrimination towards Kānaka Maoli.

## **HAKA's 2024 Goals**

HAKA has been tirelessly working to develop expertise in animal search and rescue, disaster management, and nonprofit leadership and operations in the last few years. We are committed to continuously improving our skills for both our core team and new volunteers. Our goal for 2024 is to enhance our nonprofit operations by attending online and in-person training programs covering various topics, such as nonprofit management, grant writing, nonprofit marketing, and other relevant subjects that may emerge.

As the year progresses, we plan to prioritize education during downtime when there are no disasters to respond to, increasing the number of training hours for both our core staff and volunteers while also offering training opportunities to the community. This way, we can share our knowledge and skills with others and help build a stronger, more resilient community.

Though our organization has established strong partnerships with various organizations and agencies in Hawai'i County and the state of Hawai'i, we have yet to collaborate with our peers on the mainland. To address this, we plan to attend an in-person conference dedicated to animal welfare that will enable us to learn from and collaborate with other professionals in the field. HAKA also plans to expand partnerships with community organizations and Puna Strong organizations to include new focus areas such as youth and community education. These are just a few ways that HAKA will focus on building its operational capacity throughout the year while offering programs to the community.

## **Geographics and Community Needs**

Hawai'i is considered one of the most vulnerable places in the world regarding natural disasters. The state is threatened by various natural threats, including earthquakes, droughts, wildfires, flooding, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, and even tornadoes. Moreover, Hawai'i's geographic isolation makes it more challenging to receive assistance, supplies, and relief from external sources in case of any natural disaster.

In the last five years, Hawai'i has experienced major natural disasters, including floods on Kaua'i and O'ahu, the eruption of Kīlauea and Hurricane Lane impacting Hawai'i Island, and the Maui wildfires. These calamities have resulted in loss of life, destruction of property and businesses, and complete turmoil for the affected communities and residents. Although HAKA primarily focuses on supporting animals before, during, and after such disasters, its efforts also help the human population.

Hawai'i's unique geographic challenges significantly amplify the need for specialized disaster and emergency animal search and rescue operations. Key factors contributing to this need include:

- 1. Isolation and Limited Access:** Hawai'i, an archipelago in the central Pacific Ocean, is one of Earth's most isolated population centers. This isolation means that external assistance may take longer to arrive in the event of a disaster. Local resources must be well-equipped and prepared for immediate response, including for animal rescue.
- 2. Diverse and Sensitive Ecosystems:** Hawai'i boasts a range of ecosystems, from tropical rainforests to volcanic landscapes. Many species are endemic to Hawai'i and are not found anywhere else in the world. Disasters can threaten these unique species, making it crucial to have specialized rescue operations that understand and can navigate these diverse ecosystems.
- 3. Volcanic Activity:** The Hawaiian Islands are volcanic in origin. Active volcanoes, like Kīlauea on Hawai'i Island, pose a constant threat of eruption. Lava flows and volcanic ash can endanger both human and animal lives, necessitating swift and effective animal search and rescue operations.
- 4. Increasing Natural Disasters:** Hawaii is vulnerable to various natural calamities and has had an average of one federally declared disaster every two years between 1953 and 2003. However, this number has recently increased to more than two disasters per year. These incidents can occur abruptly and can lead to situations where animals, both domestic and wild, require urgent attention to be located and rescued.
- 5. Tourism and Human Impact:** Hawai'i's status as a major tourist destination means that there are often many visitors who are unfamiliar with the local environment and potential hazards. Pets and service animals accompanying tourists may also be at risk during disasters and require rescue efforts.
- 6. Limited Resources:** Being a remote island chain, Hawai'i may have limited resources regarding manpower, equipment, and facilities for animal rescue. This limitation necessitates a highly organized, efficient, and well-equipped response system for animal search and rescue.
- 7. Cultural Significance:** Animals hold a significant place in Hawaiian culture. Protecting and rescuing animals during disasters is not just a matter of public safety but cultural preservation.
- 8. Public Health and Safety:** Roaming or lost animals during or after a disaster can pose public health risks, including the spread of diseases. Efficient animal rescue operations help in maintaining public health and safety.

Given these challenges, Hawai'i requires a robust and specialized disaster and emergency animal search and rescue infrastructure capable of responding quickly to various types of natural disasters, understanding the unique local ecosystems, and ensuring the safety and welfare of all animals affected by such events.

## Meeting the Community's Needs

HAKA addresses the needs of the communities in Hawai'i in various ways:

- Providing access to a highly trained team of volunteers who can mobilize across Hawai'i Island and the state when needed. Training includes general disaster training like Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and FEMA courses, as well as specialized training like animal trapping, pet CPR/First Aid, animal search and rescue, and other skills needed in the field. Training is ongoing, and we practice the skills as often as possible.
- Education and preparedness are the best ways we can help our communities. HAKA works with Civil Defense,

Vibrant Hawai'i, Hawai'i County, and other entities to help prepare the community for impending disasters by teaching preparedness skills.

- Partnerships are an essential part of our work, and HAKA has the unique ability to work with other nonprofits, governmental agencies, and private interests to create positive outcomes for animals in the community. Through these partnerships, we address needs such as pet overpopulation, feral animal control, and more.
- Currently, there are no designated animal plans in case of emergency in Hawai'i. Efforts have been made in the past to create a plan, but they have yet to come to fruition. HAKA is currently working with government officials and other entities to create an overall plan of action for each county and state, establishing procedures and protocols to follow in case of emergencies and disasters.
- HAKA maintains a disaster assistance database - Disaster Animal Rescue Enrollment (DARE) - that allows residents to pre-register for assistance with their pets and farm animals. This streamlines rescue efforts giving HAKA permission to enter their property and relocate their animals and owners, if needed. This also allows HAKA to map locations virtually and print in case of loss of power and cell service.
- To address underlying community issues that become exacerbated by disasters (pet overpopulation, lost pets, etc.), HAKA provides information and referral services to help connect the community to free and low-cost spay/neuter programs, microchip services, and other information that helps keep pets safe and healthy.

## Clientele Demographics

HAKA primarily serves Puna's population, which includes many Native Hawaiians living under the federal poverty level. Puna, where much of the Big Island's subsidized, low-income housing is located, has a high poverty rate among children under the age of 5, with one in four living below the poverty line. Additionally, over a quarter of the residents rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Puna's demographics are unique and shaped by its geography, history, and culture. The following are some of the key characteristics of Puna's demographics:

**Population Size and Density:** Puna is one of the fastest-growing regions in Hawai'i. Its population has grown significantly in recent years, although it remains less densely populated than in urban areas like Honolulu. This growth is partly due to more affordable housing than other parts of Hawai'i and an influx of people seeking a more rural, laid-back lifestyle.

**Ethnic and Racial Composition:** Puna's population is ethnically diverse, reflecting the broader demographic trends of Hawai'i. It includes Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, Asians, Caucasians, Hispanics, and individuals of mixed heritage.

**Lifestyle and Community:** Puna is known for its rural character and tight-knit communities. The lifestyle here tends to be more relaxed and connected to the natural environment. There's a strong sense of local culture and community involvement.

**Economic Factors:** The economy in Puna is predominantly based on agriculture, small businesses, and tourism. The district is less commercialized than the more tourist-centric parts of Hawai'i. Many residents also commute to jobs in nearby Hilo.

**Housing and Living Conditions:** Puna has a range of living conditions, from more developed areas to very rural settings. The housing market is generally more affordable compared to other parts of Hawai'i, which attracts a diverse range of residents.

**Challenges and Resilience:** Puna has faced various challenges, including natural disasters like lava flows and hurricanes. These events have impacted the population and infrastructure and demonstrated the community's resilience and ability to come together in times of need.

**Cultural Diversity:** The district is home to a blend of cultures, with a notable presence of Native Hawaiian traditions and practices. There's also a significant influence from various Asian and Pacific Islander cultures and a growing number of mainland transplants bringing diverse cultural backgrounds.

### **Residents and Communities Served**

Since its establishment in 2018, HAKA has provided various services to over 2,800 animals and 1,960 people on Hawai'i Island, including emergency rescue, donations of food and supplies, and emergency medical care. In addition, HAKA has conducted educational outreach programs, providing information on emergency preparedness, spay & neuter services, and other related topics to over 12,000 people. HAKA also offers Disaster Animal Rescue Enrollment and community outreach programs to further its mission of serving animals and people in need.

We expect these numbers to rise steadily as the population increases and public services decline. There are approximately 208,000 people on Hawai'i Island, with over 51,000 residing in Puna.

### **Geographic Region**

The district of Puna, where HAKA is located, is one of the nine districts of Hawai'i County. Situated on the eastern side of Hawai'i Island, Puna boasts a diverse range of regions, from dense and vast areas of protected rainforests and volcanic landscapes (home to the active Kīlauea and Mauna Loa volcanoes) to agricultural farmlands, growing subdivisions, and pristine black sand beaches. To put it into perspective, the area of Puna spans 499 square miles, which is almost as big as the island of O'ahu.

Despite the natural abundance of Puna, resources such as public waterworks, public transportation, internet, and cell service are not always readily available to residents. This district also has some of the highest rates of poverty in the state. Although subdivisions have developed significantly over the years, Puna still contains various large, underdeveloped areas. Households in Puna are often secluded and are responsible for their water, waste, and sometimes even power.

Although HAKA is based in Puna, we provide services to the entire Island of Hawai'i and the State of Hawai'i as required. Last year, HAKA deployed 6 times to Maui to assist with animal search and rescue, volunteer relief, supply distribution, facilities maintenance, and more after the wildfires in Kula and Lahaina. Since much work is still needed, HAKA plans additional deployments to Maui, contingent on funding.

### **Funding Sources**

HAKA has received funding commitments for operations and programs in 2024 for the following:

- **Puna Strong:** A collaboration between Hawai'i County's Recovery Division and Hawai'i Community Foundation, the Puna Strong program offers funding, training, and collaboration opportunities to organizations that are part of Puna's post-2018 eruption recovery. This is HAKA's third year as a Puna Strong cohort member, and this year will see us focusing on in-person community education classes.
- **Kīlauea Recovery Grant:** This is HAKA's first year as a grant recipient for this program that supports long-term community resilience for those impacted by the 2018 eruption. These funds will support HAKA's extensive, specialized staff and volunteer training.
- **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Lutheran Disaster Response:** Funding to research decolonizing animal welfare and incorporating Native Hawaiian practices into our business operations.

## **Laurence H. Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation Impact**

Currently, most of HAKA's programming centers around disaster preparedness and response. Funds from the Laurence H. Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation (Dorcy Foundation) would allow the organization to respond to additional community needs outside the scope of disaster and emergency preparedness.

Additionally, funds from the Dorcy Foundation would allow our core team to explore more funding opportunities, including focusing on grant writing and expanding our donor relations efforts.

**Community Outreach and Education:** Funds allocated to community education and outreach programs would allow HAKA's core team to attend more community outreach events throughout the year and over a larger geographic region.

**Increased Staff and Training:** Additional funding would allow HAKA to hire staff and provide specialized training to existing staff and volunteers. This would enhance the quality of care for the animals and their humans.

**Strengthening Community Networks:** The grant could help HAKA build stronger networks with other animal welfare groups, veterinarians, and community leaders, enhancing overall effectiveness and reach.

**Sustainability and Long-term Planning:** Part of the grant could be allocated to develop sustainable funding strategies, ensuring HAKA's long-term viability and capacity to serve the community and its animals.

**Research and Advocacy:** The organization could engage in research to better understand local animal welfare issues and advocate for policy changes that benefit animals and their owners.

**Enhanced Visibility and Awareness:** Finally, the grant will help increase HAKA's visibility, attracting more volunteers, donors, and community support.

Overall, the Laurence H. Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation grant could significantly bolster the Hawai'i Animal Kuleana Alliance's ability to serve animals and their owners, contributing to improved animal welfare and community well-being and safety in Hawai'i.

# Balance Sheet

## Hawai'i Animal Kuleana Alliance

As of Dec 31, 2022

### ACCOUNTS

Dec 31, 2022

#### Assets

Total Cash and Bank	\$9,133.72
Total Other Current Assets	\$0.00
Total Long-term Assets	\$0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$9,133.72</b>

#### Liabilities

Total Current Liabilities	\$200.00
Total Long-term Liabilities	\$0.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>

#### Equity

Total Other Equity	\$0.00
Total Retained Earnings	\$8,933.72
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$8,933.72</b>

# Profit and Loss

## Hawai'i Animal Kuleana Alliance

Date Range: Jan 01, 2022 to Dec 31, 2022

### ACCOUNTS

Jan 01, 2022  
to Dec 31, 2022

Income	\$46,794.43
Cost of Goods Sold	\$0.00
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$46,794.43</b>
As a percentage of Total Income	100.00%
Operating Expenses	\$39,985.63
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>\$6,808.80</b>
As a percentage of Total Income	14.55%