

## Hawaii Institute for Music Enrichment and Learning Experiences (HIMELE) Summary

**Mission:** To support music education and enrichment for people of all ages.

**Category:** Arts & History

**Contact:** Addison Ching, Vice Chairman

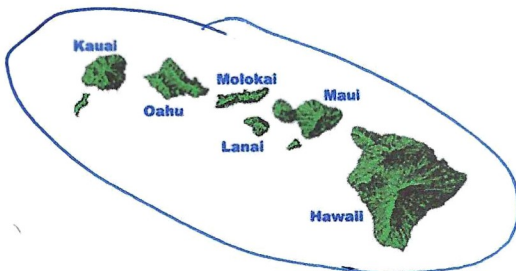
**Address:** 1296 Auwaiku Street, Kailua, HI 96734

**Grant History:** 2020: \$10,000  
2022: \$10,000  
2023: \$15,000  
2024: \$20,000  
**TOTAL GRANTS TO DATE: \$55,000**

<b>2025 Request:</b> \$25,000 for general operating support.
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**Notes:**

- Promotes Hawaiian music, culture, and musical instruments.
  - Sponsors nine annual music festivals and learning experiences featuring Hawaiian steel guitar.
  - 2023: Expanding festivals to include Hawaiian steel guitar artists from Japan and another festival near Keauhou-Kona on the Big Island.
  - All events available for online streaming.
  - Responsible for all steel drum festivals on islands.
  - Provide free festivals and learning opportunities at shopping centers and resorts.
- 2025: Partnership with Outrigger Resorts.
- No paid staff.
  - Funding through primary funder Hawaii Tourism Authority was made questionable due to HTA management/communication issues. Seeking to rebuild this funding source.



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January 21, 2025

Laurence H. Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation  
Attn: Tammy Davis Crownie  
81 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 125  
St. Paul, MN 55101

To Whom It May Concern:

HIMELE is very appreciative of the Laurence H. Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation for its continuing generous support of our programs.

The Hawaii Institute for Music Enrichment and Learning Experiences, Inc., (HIMELE) is a Hawai'i 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that supports music education and enrichment for people of all ages. Our mission is to educate, promote and perpetuate Hawaiian music, Hawaiian culture and Hawaiian musical instruments. We organize and sponsor annual free Hawaiian music festivals throughout the State of Hawai'i and livestream broadcast the concert portions of our festivals. We do this to showcase the Hawaiian steel guitar, an instrument which almost became extinct due to past practices of Hawaiian steel guitar masters. All festivals include a "hands-on" experience for guests to become acquainted with and try out a Hawaiian steel guitar under the guidance of a specialist. In addition, we also offer paid training seminars for Hawaiian music and the Hawaiian steel guitar.

Our primary way of accomplishing our mission is through the production and presentation of live, in-person Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festivals. We select venues that can provide large public exposure to both tourists and the local community such as resort properties and public shopping destinations. HIMELE has produced all the Hawaiian steel guitar festivals held in Hawai'i each year since its incorporation in 2015. Prior to that, Hawaiian steel guitar festivals were produced independently by Alan Akaka, HIMELE's chairman of the board, as early as 2009. To supplement and enhance the steel guitar exposure, we livestream concert portions of our festivals that enable the sounds of the steel guitar to reach audiences all over the world.

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All of our festivals include the Next Generation of steel guitar players. These "NextGen" steel guitarists are school-aged students of the Ke Kula Mele School of Hawaiian Music who excel in their craft and can attract younger audiences, today's youth who may become tomorrow's steel guitar experts as musicians and/or educators.

All festivals present a steel guitar concert featuring many popular steel guitarists and groups. These festivals also include a "hands-on" experience opportunity for festival participants to try out the instrument and get simple playing tips from a trained specialist.

Comprehensive festivals on the outer island resort venues also include a steel guitar exhibit, workshops, public "kanikapila" jam sessions, and opportunities for amateur and other steel guitarists not included in the main program to perform uncompensated in an Open Stage program to gain performance experience and develop stage presence. Outer island festivals also include classroom presentations to local area schools. These presentations comprise a discussion of the history and importance of Hawaiian steel guitar in Hawaiian music and culture, a mini concert presentation featuring youth steel guitarists and musicians, and "hands-on" opportunities where classroom students can learn more about the instrument and actually try out the instrument under the guidance of youth steel guitar mentors. Recently HIMELE has begun donating a custom-created acoustic steel guitar, similar to one that Hawaiian steel guitar originator Joseph Kekuku played, to each visited classroom.

HIMELE now produces nine Hawaiian steel guitar festivals throughout Hawai'i. Due to resort venue expenses, HIMELE has been forced to scale down Maui and Kaua'i festivals to one-day concert events that do not require overnight lodging. HIMELE hopes to expand negotiations with its resort partner (Outrigger Resorts) to allow comprehensive festivals to be resumed at their Maui and Kaua'i properties if lodging rates can be made more affordable or donated in-kind to HIMELE.

Our 2025 event schedule is:

February 15 – Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festival at Ka Makana Ali'i Shopping Center, Kapolei (livestreamed)

February 27-March 1 – Kona Steel Guitar Festival, Outrigger Kona Resort and Spa (concert livestreamed)

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May 4 – Kaua‘i Steel Guitar Festival, Kukui Grove Shopping Center, Lihue  
June 7 – Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festival at Windward Mall, Kāne‘ohe (livestreamed)  
July 7-12 – Waikīkī Steel Guitar Week, Royal Hawaiian Center, Waikīkī  
July 7-10 – Monday-Thursday evening concerts  
July 11 – Japan-Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festival, Royal Hawaiian Center, Waikīkī (livestreamed)  
July 12 - Waikīkī Steel Guitar Festival, Royal Hawaiian Center, Waikīkī (livestreamed)  
August 16 – Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festival Keiki Kine at Kahala Mall, Waialae-Kāhala (proposed)  
(livestreamed)  
October 18 – Maui Steel Guitar Festival, The Shops At Wailea  
November 20-23 – Hawai‘i Island Steel Guitar Festival, Mauna Lani, Auberge Resorts Collection  
(proposed) (concert livestreamed)

All our events are offered to the public at no cost. We do this to maximize the exposure of Hawaiian music, culture, and the Hawaiian steel guitar. Our broadcasts have reached audiences all over the world, including viewers in Japan, India, Germany, and Australia. Each festival has its own website and Facebook page where we publicize our events. Our online newsletter Steel Trappings, which is designed as a resource for Hawaiian steel guitarists, also promotes the steel guitar and lists all our events and activities. Our Hawaiian Steel Guitar Symposium offers free and tuition-based steel guitar seminars and workshops in Hawai‘i, California, and Japan.

We have found that many of today’s youth may be unaware of the Hawaiian steel guitar or why it is important in Hawaiian music and culture. HIMELE focuses on youth education, and our plan is to publicize and promote the instrument as best as we can to as many people as we can so that it becomes as familiar as the ‘ukulele or slack key guitar.

HIMELE board members are responsible for all festival planning, production, and coordination. Our efforts are supplemented by parents and volunteers. HIMELE has no paid staff and relies upon and appreciates the support we get from our venue partners, private donations, Hawai‘i State agencies, and the Dorcy Foundation to support production costs.

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the stewardship of the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority, HIMELE was not made aware of grant award opportunities offered by the HTA but now continues to investigate potential opportunities. Prior to this, the HTA under its previous stewardship was

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one of HIMELE's major funding sources. Because of the confusion surrounding the HTA's leadership and grants, HIMELE has had to regroup and scale down some festivals.

For the 2025 year, we respectfully request that the Dorcy Foundation consider a grant support amount of \$25,000 to HIMELE. HIMELE appreciates any consideration the Dorcy Foundation can give to us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Addison Ching', written in a cursive style.

Addison Ching  
Vice Chairman, HIMELE  
addison@himele.org

01/20/25

HIMELE  
Balance Sheet Standard  
As of December 31, 2024

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	<u>Dec 31, '24</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
GET	471.56
HSGShowcase	
Refreshments Reimbursement	1,555.75
HSGShowcase - Other	<u>43,418.48</u>
Total HSGShowcase	44,974.23
BOH 0279	<u>14,097.63</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>59,543.42</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>59,543.42</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>59,543.42</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Reimbursement	-14,492.77
Loans from Officers, Direct...	<u>1,500.00</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>-12,992.77</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>-12,992.77</u>
Total Liabilities	-12,992.77
Equity	
Retained Earnings	75,954.12
Net Income	<u>-3,417.93</u>
Total Equity	<u>72,536.19</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>59,543.42</u></u>

01/20/25

HIMELE  
 Profit and Loss Standard  
 January through December 2024

	Jan - Dec '24
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Grants	15,000.00
Program Income	11,700.00
Direct Public Support	
Individ, Business Contributi...	34,872.09
Total Direct Public Support	34,872.09
 Total Income	 61,572.09
 Gross Profit	 61,572.09
Expense	
KONASGF	21,844.13
Donation	1,925.00
HSGF KAHALA	1,780.33
HSGF WWM	1,550.00
HISGF	14,866.30
WSGF	
Meals	78.68
WSGF - Other	7,874.92
Total WSGF	7,953.60
HSGF KAPOLEI	1,373.96
MSGF	
Meals	269.00
Travel	1,292.40
MSGF - Other	2,390.45
Total MSGF	3,951.85
KSGF	
Postage	9.95
KSGF - Other	2,421.04
Total KSGF	2,430.99
Other Types of Expenses	
Insurance - Liability, D and O	230.00
Other Types of Expenses - O...	148.87
Total Other Types of Expenses	378.87
Contract Services	

01/20/25

HIMELE  
Profit and Loss Standard  
January through December 2024

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	<u>Jan - Dec '24</u>
Accounting Fees	<u>371.73</u>
Total Contract Services	371.73
Business Expenses	
Business Registration Fees	15.50
Business Expenses - Other	<u>85.10</u>
Total Business Expenses	100.60
Operations	
Printing and Copying	438.16
Books, Subscriptions, Refere...	119.88
Postage, Mailing Service	<u>80.25</u>
Total Operations	638.29
Travel and Meetings	<u>5,824.37</u>
Total Expense	<u>64,990.02</u>
Net Ordinary Income	-3,417.93
Other Income/Expense	
Other Expense	
Ask My Accountant	<u>0.00</u>
Total Other Expense	<u>0.00</u>
Net Other Income	<u>0.00</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-3,417.93</u></u>



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## **HIMELE 2024 Major Income Sources**

Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) - \$15,000

Laurence H. Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation - \$20,000

Greenspan Foundation - \$3,000

Private Donations - \$10,500