

## Ala Kukui Summary

**Mission:** Retreat center for personal and community inspiration and growth.

**Category:** Community support services

**Contact:** Kau'i Kanaka'ole, Executive Director

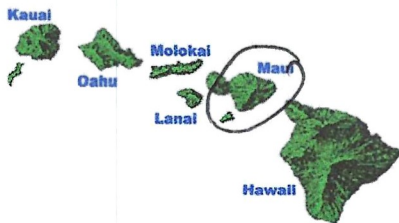
**Address:** P.O. Box 489, Hana, HI 96713

**Grant History:** N/A

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

- A retreat center located in Hana providing programming for sharing values and practices for food gathering, women's retreats, and leadership and peer support for area business leaders.
- Revenue based on retreat facility fees and grants.





## Laurence H. Dorcy Hawaii Foundation Proposal

**Contact Name:** Kau'i Kanaka'ole, (808) 248-7677

**Organization Information:** Hana Retreat dba Ala Kukui, PO Box 489, Hāna, HI 96713

**Requested Amount:** \$25,000

### **Organization Background:**

On a sloping hillside in Hāna, Maui, kukui trees cast the light of their distinctive green foliage on the tranquil grounds of Ala Kukui, a place of healing, education and celebration. Literally translated as "Path of Enlightenment," Ala Kukui is a community-based non-profit utilizing its retreat property and facilities to create place-based opportunities that inspire community, ignite potential and empower the human condition within our Hāna community and beyond. We believe that when we intentionally cultivate space and opportunities for growth, meaningful transformation can happen.

Ala Kukui is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded on a community-based model. Retreats support Ala Kukui's weekly and year-round cultural programs, workshops and events hosted for the local community. In turn, retreat participants are offered a rare opportunity to engage with the local community and learn traditional and cultural practices of celebration, healing and communication. In this way, Ala Kukui has been building a bridge between visitors and East Maui residents for nearly a decade!

Ala Kukui implements 3 main programs including: (1) Hāna Kū; (2) Noenoe Nights, and (3) Wāhine Pō'ai. Hāna Kū places emphasis on focusing the refined practices of the kua'āina and to celebrate them in a way that helps to inspire their practice to reach another level. Hāna Kū encapsulates the fundamental values of our native practitioners who are traditional hunters/fishermen/farmers/gatherers of Hāna. They are the experts of this land and sea. They know our organic food sources, when to gather them and how to gather and maintain them. Although a big part of this expertise is a result of being able to survive and feed your family, the passing on of traditional knowledge of place from generation to generation is the real beauty that we want to highlight. It is that reciprocal relationship between kanaka and 'āina that continues to feed, teach and allow both to thrive.

Noenoe Nights is a quarterly program that celebrates the wāhine as a reflection of our environment. In an evening of learning and creating, our community's collective of wāhine are able to connect with themselves and others in a safe space. Noenoe Ua Kea is the name of the light misty rain that moistens the skin and makes supple the fallen lauhala. It floats in on the Mālualua breeze and clings to Pu'u o Ka'uiki, regenerating the waters of Kapueokahi and rejuvenating all of its life forms. Native to Hāna, Noenoe Ua Kea exudes regeneration, grace, beauty and perseverance; qualities we acknowledge and know to be innate in all wāhine.

Wāhine Pō'ai is a community-rooted and culturally-grounded leadership and peer support program offered through Ala Kukui. Pō'ai will convene cohorts of 6 women nonprofit executives for a 9-month series (January to September) of sessions that blend peer support and participant-driven learning opportunities.



Ala Kukui's Executive Director Kau'i Kanaka'ole is a kumu hula trained in the renowned Hālau o Kekuhi with more than 20 years of experience in cultural advocacy. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education and has 14 years of teaching experience, including 11 years at Hāna School. She was born and raised in Hāna and maintains extensive ties to the community.

### **Need Being Addressed**

The profound intimacy *kānaka maoli* shared with the natural world extended to plant life as the material basis from which Hawaiian culture evolved. Almost all Native Hawaiian practices are reliant on specific plants and/or animal species. These species and their associated traditional practices have a co-evolutionary relationship that puts them on joint trajectories of well-being. This is especially evident in the cultivation of 'awa (*Piper methysticum*) and the many ceremonial, cultural, and spiritual practices associated with 'awa.

Traditionally, 'awa (*Piper methysticum*), also known as "kava," was consumed as a ceremonial drink, not only in Hawai'i, but throughout the Pacific. It was also essential in almost all aspects of life including religious, medicinal, social, and political. 'Awa was brought to Hawai'i by early Polynesians and was considered one of Hawai'i's most important non-food crops.

When Captain James Cook encountered Hawai'i in 1778 he found a highly evolved society with a complex political and religious structure; numerous refined art forms and disciplines; sophisticated resource management which resulted in an abundance of natural resources; and a people possessing robust health.

This encounter heralded a time of great change for *kānaka maoli* which included: the unification of the eight main Hawaiian Islands under a single ruler (Kamehameha Nui) by 1810; the introduction of commercial agricultural industries (sugar, coffee, pineapple) in the early 1800s; the decimation of the native population to one-tenth its size due to foreign diseases; the arrival of missionaries in 1820; the privatization of land ownership through the Great Mahele of 1848; the stripping of political power through the Bayonet Constitution in 1887; the enactment of policies barring the use of the Hawaiian language in schools in the 1890s; the overthrow of the Hawaiian Monarchy in 1893; and Hawai'i's eventual annexation to the United States of America in 1898, followed by statehood in 1959.

The arrival and influence of Christian missionaries brought the decline of Hawaiian cultural practices including the use of 'awa and its many associated practices. 'Awa was vilified as an alcohol equivalent with the generational transmission of 'awa production and practices all but extinct by the 1940s (id). The 1970s, an era of cultural rebirth often referred to as the Hawaiian renaissance, was driven by young people and guided by elders. During this time, *kānaka maoli* reclaimed cornerstone cultural practices including traditional navigation and open ocean voyaging, indigenous medicine, ancestral foods and food systems, as well as the Hawaiian language. From the 70s through the present day 'awa cultivation, and the cultural practices associated with 'awa, have been steadily growing throughout Hawai'i (Johnston & Rogers, 2006).

**How Ala Kukui is Meeting This Need:** Ala Kukui is in the early stages of launching a new initiative. The *Kanu 'Awa* project seeks to restore the environmental, agricultural,



cultural/spiritual, social, and economic importance of ‘awa and its associated cultural practices in the rural Hawaiian community of Hāna in Maui Hikina (East Maui), Hawai‘i. We recognize the significance of this work to forge place-based, culturally-rooted informal learning environments for cultural and subsistence practitioners as well as the Native Hawaiian community—building a critical bridge between ancestral knowledge and modern science.

*Kanu ‘Awa* is well positioned to have broad and long-lasting impacts on the Hāna community as well as the greater Maui Hikina community. This proposed project is in the early phases of this work, subsequent phases will branch out to include residents of all ages. The project invites the participation of underrepresented indigenous rural Hawaiian communities that have limited learning opportunities. The project also builds a bridge between local residents and Native Hawaiian agricultural and cultural practices.

The project has high potential to benefit our community and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired social and cultural outcomes. Namely, the project will establish three informal learning environments at Ala Kukui, Mahele Farm and Kahanu Garden. These ‘awa cultivation sites collectively serve thousands of East Maui and Maui residents annually. Kahanu Garden is open to the public and serves visitors as well. ‘Awa practices, including ‘awa ceremonies for Makahiki and other important occasions, are an essential aspect of Hawaiian culture and spirituality.

The restoration of ‘awa production and ‘awa practices has the capacity to revitalize Hawaiian values, knowledge, skills, cultural competencies, and practices for the Hāna community. This work has far-reaching impacts that restores our rich cultural heritage.

### **Clientele and Numbers of Individuals Served by Ala Kukui’s Programs:**

Across all programs, Ala Kukui serves approximately 600 community members and participants each year.

The proposed ‘Awa project serves an informal cohort of subsistence, agricultural, and cultural practitioners that are at the forefront of a grassroots community-based movement to revitalize ‘Awa culture in Hana. Namely this cohort includes four core groups: (1) **Ala Kukui**, a culturally rooted nonprofit that will be establishing ‘awa production at its 12-acre site; (2) **Mahele Farm**, a 10-acre community farm run by nonprofit Ma Ka Hana Ka ‘Ike; (3) **Kahanu Garden/National Tropical Botanical Garden**; and (4) **Hui ‘Aha ‘Awa o Hāna**, a cultural group dedicated to the cultural, ceremonial, and spiritual restoration of ‘awa practices in Hāna. The learning cohort will include two or more participants from each group.

Audience: The learning products to be created through this project will primarily be oriented to the communities of Maui Hikina (East Maui) from Ko‘olau to Kaupō. This work will also be shared out with others in Hawai‘i who are engaged in ‘awa production and/or practices.

### **Geographic Region Covered**

Ala Kukui primarily serves the Hāna community. The majority of Maui Hikina's population reside in or near Hāna Town and the gentle misty Uakea rains and Māluhua wind makes this a favorite spot for many Maui Hikina residents. Hāna's landscape is verdant with gentle rolling hills along the upper regions of Haleakalā that gradually turn into kula lands. Much of the northeastern coastline is bordered by sheer cliffs and rimmed by protected bays and



coastal villages. The subdivisions near Hāna town is the most densely populated area in Maui Hikina.

Hāna has a single school serving all English and Hawaiian Language immersion learners from preK-12 at its campus in Wākiu. More than 80% of the student body population is Native Hawaiian while many students qualify for free or reduced lunch. Several nonprofits are located on campus and Hāna school is a vibrant social and educational hub for Maui Hikina.

Hāna houses East Maui's only fire station, police station, school, gas station, grocery stores, medical centers, landfill, adult day care, and post office. Major employers include Hāna School, Maui County and State of Hawai'i (road crews), and Hotel Hāna Maui. Many of Maui Hikina's larger community events are held in Hāna including Taro Festival and Aloha Week.

Hāna remains as it was for our ancestors, a stronghold for the people of Maui Hikina as we work to *mālama* (steward, retain) one of Hawai'i's last *kīpuka* (cultural oasis) where communities comprised primarily of generational Native Hawaiian residents who continue to embrace cultural and subsistence lifestyles reminiscent of the Hawai'i of our grandparents and great grandparents.

#### **Impact of Funds on Ala Kukui and the Hāna Community:**

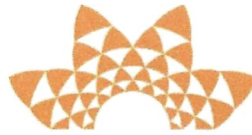
Ala Kukui is seeking grant funding to help expand our 'Awa project. Executive Director Kau'i Kanaka'ole provides foundational cultural training and support to a growing collective of collaborating East Maui organizations. Ala Kukui has become the primary hub for this group to gather and work together on various shared initiatives including Makahiki, *Mālama Maui Hikina*, *Kūhohonu*, *Kāhea a Ka'uiki* and most recent *Kūkaulani*. These initiatives have involved 13 core Native Hawaiian and community-based organizations across five moku of Maui Hikina (Ko'olau, Hāna, Kīpahulu, Kaupō, and Kahikinui).

Funding from the Laurence H. Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation will provide much needed support for our core positions and programs as well as our planning and groundwork for our new *Kanu 'Awa* project.

#### **Information about our Funding Sources:**

\$202,445 (30%) of our projected income for 2025 will come from mission-driven earned revenue through facility rental, events, workshops, and retreats; \$35,000 (5%) from donations; and \$438,000 (65%) from private and federal grants. Private and federal grants include:

1. \$50,000 Geist Foundation (awarded, unrestricted)
2. \$50,000 Kamehameha Schools 'Oiwi Leadership (awarded, Hāna Kū)
3. \$20,000 Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation (awarded, 2-year contract, Wāhine Pō'ai)
4. \$25,000 Hauoli Mauiloa Foundation (awarded, Wāhine Pō'ai)
5. \$10,000 Stupski Foundation (awarded, Wāhine Pō'ai)
6. \$25,000 Hawai'i Community Foundation (awarded, Wāhine Pō'ai)
7. \$30,000 Kaiser Foundation (pending, Wāhine Pō'ai)
8. \$100,000 National Science Foundation (pending, 3-year grant, Kanu 'Awa project)
9. \$50,000 National Science Foundation, Kūkaulani (pending, multi-year sub-award, Capital/Kanu 'Awa project)



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10. \$10,000 Administration for Native Americans (pending, 3-year grant, consultation)
11. \$5,000 Fred Baldwin (pending, Wāhine Pō'ai)
12. \$38,000 Atherton Foundation (need to apply, opens in July, Hāna Kū)
13. \$25,000 Weinberg Foundation (need to apply, Wāhine Pō'ai)

We also hope to explore other local and national funding opportunities.

**Attachments:**

IRS tax exemption 501(c)(3) determination letter  
FY2024 Financial Statements

**Ala Kukui**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of December 31, 2024

	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1100 Cash in bank - operating	148,345.92
1110 Petty cash	472.79
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$148,818.71</b>
Accounts Receivable	
1200 Accounts receivable	7,347.84
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>\$7,347.84</b>
Other Current Assets	
1300 Security Deposit	500.00
1400 Inventory - DVDs	0.00
1500 Undeposited Funds	62,096.50
Advance for Retreat Supplies	0.00
Prepaid expenses (deleted)	0.00
D&O Insurance	0.00
Prepaid auto insurance	0.00
Prepaid health insurance	0.00
Workers compensation insurance	0.00
<b>Total Prepaid expenses (deleted)</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$62,596.50</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$218,763.05</b>
Fixed Assets	
1610 Vehicle	0.00
1620 Furniture, fixtures, equip	0.00
1621 Equipment	28,684.76
1622 Furniture and fixtures	0.00
1625 Accum deprec FF&E	-20,829.29
<b>Total 1620 Furniture, fixtures, equip</b>	<b>7,855.47</b>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$7,855.47</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$226,618.52</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
2000 Accounts payable	-1,061.79
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>\$-1,061.79</b>
Other Current Liabilities	
2100 Direct Deposit Liabilities	0.00
2200 Payroll Liabilities	0.00
2210 -Fed W/H	1,428.00
2220 Medicare/Social Security	4,024.70
2240 -HI W/H	4,262.13

	TOTAL
2250 SUI Payable	1,533.51
<b>Total 2200 Payroll Liabilities</b>	<b>11,248.34</b>
2300 Security Deposits Payable	3,550.00
Due to Customer	0.00
Hawaii Department of Taxation Payable	0.00
Out Of Scope Agency Payable	0.00
Undistributed Tips	0.00
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$14,798.34</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$13,736.55</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$13,736.55</b>
Equity	
3000 Temp Restricted Net Assets	45,000.00
3100 Unrestricted net assets	-69,161.57
Unrestrict (retained earnings)	364,387.51
Net Income	-127,343.97
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$212,881.97</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$226,618.52</b>



**Ala Kukui**  
**Profit and Loss**  
 January - December 2024

	TOTAL
<b>Income</b>	
4200 Grants	
4220 Restricted Grants	135,850.00
4230 Unrestricted Grants	72,695.40
<b>Total 4200 Grants</b>	<b>208,545.40</b>
4300 Earned Income	0.00
4310 Retreat Income	125,985.50
4340 Events & Workshops	10,527.25
4350 Merchandise Sales	13,712.96
<b>Total 4300 Earned Income</b>	<b>150,225.71</b>
4400 Donations	47,664.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$406,435.11</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$406,435.11</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
5100 PERSONNEL EXPENSES	
5110 Salaries & Wages	
Administrative Assistant*	48,576.00
Bonus	3,485.13
Executive Director / CEO	79,222.59
Housekeeping	90,733.29
Program Assistant	27,315.66
Temporary Inflation Bonus	7,365.47
<b>Total 5110 Salaries &amp; Wages</b>	<b>256,698.14</b>
5120 Payroll Taxes and Expense	27,336.43
5140 Worker's Comp Insurance	6,532.00
5150 TDI Insurance (PGL)	1,496.24
5170 Payroll Fees	-23.54
5190 Contractual	75.00
Housekeeping	303.75
<b>Total 5190 Contractual</b>	<b>378.75</b>
<b>Total 5100 PERSONNEL EXPENSES</b>	<b>292,418.02</b>
5200 CONTRACTUAL	
5205 Accounting & Finance	9,192.33
5220 Marketing & Communications	3,445.43
5250 Planning & Organizational	20,000.00
5426 Professional Services	385.00
<b>Total 5200 CONTRACTUAL</b>	<b>33,022.76</b>
5300 PROPERTY & GROUNDS	
5223 Fuel / Gas / Diesel	576.41
5224 Pest Control	1,614.65
5310 Property Lease	120.00
5311 Permits	300.00
5319 New Construction/Upgrades	4,474.19

	TOTAL
5320 Repairs & Maintenance	14,200.53
5321 Grounds Maintenance	68,613.92
5322 Household Supplies	9,805.85
5323 Grounds Supplies	1,044.08
5330 Utilities	9,991.95
<b>Total 5300 PROPERTY &amp; GROUNDS</b>	<b>110,741.58</b>
5400 PROGRAM & OPERATING	
5405 Food & Beverage	19,013.68
5410 Honorarium	3,700.00
5415 Stipend / Talent Fee	3,175.00
5420 Supplies	6,564.69
5425 Rentals	5,299.07
5430 Retreat Expense	1,110.00
5440 Merchandise	8,127.94
<b>Total 5400 PROGRAM &amp; OPERATING</b>	<b>46,990.38</b>
5500 TRAVEL	
5510 Airfare	11,612.82
5520 Accomodations	7,419.52
5530 Parking & Ground Transport	4,171.54
5550 Mileage	1,774.68
<b>Total 5500 TRAVEL</b>	<b>24,978.56</b>
5600 GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE	0.00
5601 Merchant Fees	-51.08
5603 Computers and IT	12.48
5604 Dues/Memberships/Seminars	5,747.27
5605 GE Tax	456.85
5610 Insurance	3,836.46
5615 Marketing & Publicity	1,531.86
5625 Office Supplies & Expense	704.79
5630 Postage & Delivery	971.80
5635 Professional Development	1,200.00
5640 Meals & Entertainment	2,926.51
5645 Telephone	2,579.31
5650 Internet	2,307.53
5655 Cellphone Reimbursement	2,160.00
5660 Gifts/Charitable Donations	200.00
<b>Total 5600 GENERAL &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<b>24,583.78</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$532,735.08</b>
NET OPERATING INCOME	<b>\$-126,299.97</b>
Other Expenses	
Depreciation Expense	1,044.00
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,044.00</b>
NET OTHER INCOME	<b>\$-1,044.00</b>
NET INCOME	<b>\$-127,343.97</b>