

## Hawaii Animal Kuleana Alliance Summary

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

**Category:** Animal Protection

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

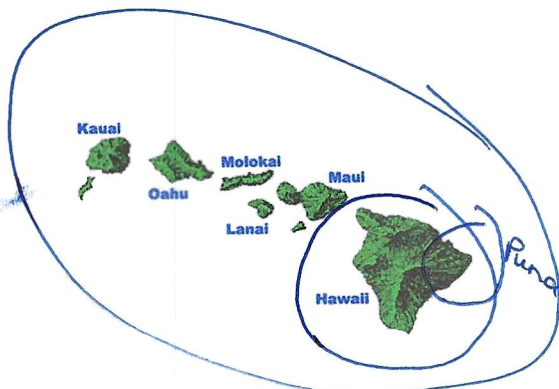
**Address:** P.O. Box 737, Keaau, HI 96749

**Grant History:** 2024: \$10,000  
**TOTAL GRANTS TO DATE: \$10,000**

<b>2025 Request:</b> <b>\$25,000 for general operating support</b>
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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.
- 2025:** Emphasis on community disaster preparedness, recovery, etc.
- Partner with Civil Defense.
  - Based in Puna on Big Island of Hawaii, but mobilizes volunteers across entire State in times of emergency.
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## 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 beginnings 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 and community preparedness and resilience education for the whole 'ohana before, during, and after disasters and emergencies.

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 2025 Goals

HAKA continues to place a focus on both specialized animal rescue and general nonprofit training and skill building for our core team and volunteers. We are excited to share that HAKA will be hosting its very first animal search and rescue training this spring. Through this training program we will be able to prepare 20+ volunteers from Hawai'i Island, Maui, and O'ahu in animal search and rescue techniques, skills, and best practices. After this training our volunteers will have the skills and equipment necessary to conduct animal search and rescue operations.

After the ASAR training in February, we are headed to the Animal Expo conference in Las Vegas where we will have the opportunity to learn from and network with our peers in areas including animals in disasters, volunteer management, fundraising, and other subjects that will help to strengthen our capacity. As we did in 2024, we also hope to attend the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement conference in the fall. Additionally, throughout the year our team will continue to develop its knowledge and skills by participating in a variety of online and in-person coursework

Launching our community education programs is also a big focus for 2025. Through these programs we will teach the community about disasters, preparedness, recovery, and other important topics. We will be utilizing a variety of mediums including in-person workshops for teens, in-person workshops for multigenerational families, social media messaging, a series of online videos, and more.

Continuing to develop partnerships with other organizations and agencies is also a top priority for 2025. We recently accomplished a big goal this year by committing to an official partnership with Civil Defense. This partnership gives HAKA a seat at the table during disaster events and ensures that a high priority is placed on community members who may need services for their pets and animals during disasters and emergencies. We will also continue our collaborations with County of Hawai'i, the Hawaiian Volcano Education and Resilience Institute (HVERI), Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, and Department of Human Services while we work on growing additional partnerships.

After spring trainings and conferences are complete we also plan to focus on bringing free microchip services to the community. This includes giving microchips to animals who do not currently have them and checking current microchips to ensure that contact information is up to date. Additionally, we will be registering these new chips on-site, thus closing a huge gap in the microchipping process and making it more effective.

## 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:** As a remote archipelago, Hawai'i's isolation delays external disaster relief, necessitating well-prepared local resources for immediate animal rescue.
2. **Volcanic Threats:** Active volcanoes like Kīlauea pose constant risks, making swift animal rescue essential during eruptions.
3. **Increasing Natural Disasters:** The frequency of federally declared disasters has risen to more than two per year, requiring urgent animal rescue efforts.
4. **Resource Limitations:** Hawai'i's remoteness results in limited manpower and equipment for rescue, demanding an efficient response system.
5. **Cultural Significance:** Animals are integral to Hawaiian culture, and protecting them during disasters is vital for cultural preservation.
6. **Public Health and Safety:** Lost animals can pose public health risks post-disaster, making effective rescue operations crucial for community safety.

Given these factors, Hawai'i requires a robust and specialized disaster and emergency animal search and rescue system that can respond swiftly to various types of natural calamities while safeguarding the welfare of both animals and residents.

## 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, HVERI, 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 3000 animals and 2,121 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 15,000 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 based, 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 needed.

## Funding Sources 2025

HAKA has received funding commitments for operations and programs in 2025 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 fourth year as a Puna Strong cohort member, and this year will see us continuing to build organizational capacity, developing community programs, and create a guiding document for the state and counties to use regarding animals in disasters.
- **Puna Strong Collaboration Grant:** As the Puna Strong program wraps up, this last grant encourages organizations to build capacity by collaborating with other organizations. We are partnering with HVERI to create a series of community education events that will be recorded and hosted on our social media platforms.
- **Kīlauea Recovery Grant:** In 2024 HAKA received an 18-month grant 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.
- **Atherton Family Foundation:** This is our first year receiving support from Atherton Family Foundation. These funds will support community education through a variety of mediums including workshops, outreach tabling at community events, and programming for youth.
- **East Hawai'i Community Foundation:** This is HAKA's first year receiving a grant from the East Hawai'i Community Foundation. This will allow us to conduct multigenerational disaster preparedness classes in the Puna and Hilo areas.

Additionally, we have begun to have some success with fundraising from the community through targeted giving campaigns. We hope to use some operating funds to help increase these efforts in 2025, helping to increase our funding streams, making our operations more sustainable.

## Laurence H. Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation Impact 2025

HAKA greatly appreciates the opportunity that we've had to develop our organization as a Dorcy Foundation grant recipient. We hope that our partnership can continue to grow each year. The \$5,000 grant that was issued in 2024 was invaluable to helping cover overhead costs including insurance, software programs, cell phone, professional memberships, professional trainings, and more.

For 2025 we are asking for general operating support in the amount of \$25,000. Though we have had much success in securing funds for our programs, and continue to fundraise and apply for grants regularly, securing operating support is always a challenge. We are extremely grateful that Dorcy Foundation supports this critical element of nonprofit enterprises.

Our most critical funding need now lies in being able to pay some of our core team a regular income. As we continue to grow, the time and effort expectations of our team grow as well. In order for us to provide services and be a part of these critical conversations, we need to have dedicated staff. Funding these roles is key to our success and sustainability.

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.

Overall, the Laurence H. Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation grant has the potential to significantly bolster the Hawai'i Animal Kuleana Alliance's ability to serve animals and their families, 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, 2024

	Dec 31, 2024
<b>ACCOUNTS</b>	
<b>Assets</b>	
Total Cash and Bank	\$5,871.67
Total Other Current Assets	\$0.00
Total Long-term Assets	\$0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$5,871.67</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Total Current Liabilities	\$200.00
Total Long-term Liabilities	\$0.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Total Other Equity	\$0.00
Total Retained Earnings	\$5,671.67
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$5,671.67</b>

# Profit and Loss

## Hawai'i Animal Kuleana Alliance

Date Range: Jan 01, 2024 to Aug 23, 2024

ACCOUNTS	Jan 01, 2024 to Aug 23, 2024
Income	\$87,608.22
Cost of Goods Sold	\$0.00
<b>Gross Profit</b> As a percentage of Total Income	<b>\$87,608.22</b> 100.00%
Operating Expenses	\$110,464.78
<b>Net Profit</b> As a percentage of Total Income	<b>-\$22,856.56</b> -26.09%