Hauʻoli Makahiki Hou!!

LONOIKAMAKAHIKI

As 2019 draws to a close, the Hawaiʻi People’s Fund ‘ohana extends a heartfelt mahalo for your aloha, commitment, and support of those in our communities who are working towards a more just and equitable Hawaiʻi. Your investment and dedication to progressive change is a gift to our future.

As the only organization in Hawai‘i specifically addressing the needs of grassroots progressive movement builders, we are so SO grateful that you choose to uplift this aim with your aloha and support.

47 years of community DOING is only possible because of the generous aloha of our beloved community, and we cannot do this work without you!

Mahalo nui for your part in making this a safe, sustainable space for change.

However you choose to celebrate this season, we wish you and your loved ones peace and abundance.

Mahalo nui!!!

Haven't had a chance to give yet? Join us!

FUND THE POWER!

What does social and economic justice in Hawai‘i look like to you? Is it affordable housing for local families? Is it about creating spaces for increased civic engagement? Is it about ensuring that our children and ‘ōhanas are safe and healthy? Is it raising awareness regarding human rights violations? Is it responsible stewardship of Hawai‘i’s precious ‘āina and resources? Is it thousands of kānaka gathering on a closed road in the middle of a lava field?
It’s all of the above, and more!

Since 1972, Hawai'i People’s Fund has given all of us an opportunity to be a part of something bigger than ourselves – to connect to a growing community plugged directly into a shared vision of a just and equitable Hawai‘i. Through its unique intersectional approach to social change, this ‘ohana has been hitting injustice in Hawai‘i from all angles. We are the only organization in Hawai‘i specifically addressing the needs of grassroots progressive movement builders by directing community-raised funds and progressive funding opportunities to those on the ground engaged in the work.

Sadly, the resource needs of our Hawai‘i social justice focused non-profits is larger than we alone can address. But we see a lot of opportunity on the horizon! Historically, large national funders have been distant from most of our grassroot causes, however, through the magic of technology, our world is smaller than before, interest is growing, and we are more and more visible to folks outside of our own community who care.

Your faith and trust in us has built community confidence both locally and abroad. When we say we couldn’t do it without you, we TOTALLY mean it! As an example, this trust has led to our ability to quickly move over $15k of critical community generosity directly to our grantees supporting the action at Mauna a Wākea.

People naturally crave authenticity, and our longevity and track record of connecting grassroots impact to needed resources is TESTAMENT to this ‘ohana’s authenticity as a movement building POWERHOUSE. For 47 years, this ‘ohana has influenced who we are, how we move, and where we place our energies and advocacy.

The huli is HERE ~ and it didn’t just happen overnight. This ‘ohana has invested time and again in the GROWTH of this movement. The slow and steady simmer of intergenerational change is what it takes, and your role in the long game has been a GAMECHANGER in our shared story.

And this movement is expanding! It NEEDS to in the face of mounting political and environmental threats to our precious island home. We need your kōkua now more than ever. We need your help connecting to social justice organizations in Hawai‘i who are doing the good work and are seeking support. We need your help in identifying friends and ‘ohana in your own networks who want to JOIN YOU in investing in social justice in Hawai‘i. And we need your help identifying resources to sustain our operations and regranting efforts.

We invite you to connect with our grantees, give generously, and invite others to do the same. All gifts are exponentially helpful to what we are attempting to achieve together in upending barriers to peace and justice in Hawai‘i.

The work continues. There’s something bigger in our future, and we look forward to facing this future together.

me ke aloha,

Micky Huihui
Executive Director

+ Hawai‘i People’s Fund Board of Directors & Grantmaking Cmte

...and every HPF-funded grantee – past, present, and future

Lawrence Harbottle Kamakawiwo‘ole
1943-2019
With so much aloha and gratitude, we lift up the precious life of a true patriot whose fire and determination propelled the movement for justice in Hawai‘i forward.

me ke aloha ‘Anakala Larry ~ e mau nō kou inoa wiwo ‘ole

butterfly effect ~ the phenomenon whereby a localized change in a complex system can have large effects elsewhere

It is said that the flutter of a butterfly’s wings can cause a storm on the other side of the world. After a grueling and uncomfortable metamorphosis, the butterfly emerges with ferocious and unbridled majesty, assembling with thousands of others, creating big shifts in conditions, attitudes, and perceptions of what IS. Uncle Larry Kamakawiwo‘ole will forever be remembered as part of the initial storm that kicked up and fueled the modern day resistance in Hawai‘i.

In candid and personal interviews, Gary Kubota’s Hawai‘i Stories of Change: Kōkua Hawai‘i Oral History Project details Uncle Larry’s amazing life and accomplishments, how he joined others in building cross-class, multi-ethnic community power and resistance during the Kalama Valley struggle in the early 70’s, his sense of kuleana to his community, and his fierce aloha ʻāina spirit. His message was simple. Strength in numbers. Power in solidarity. Unity.

In his own words:
“I know people talk of Kōkua Hawai‘i and Kalama Valley as the start of the Hawaiian Renaissance. In so many ways, it really did broaden the field for Native Hawaiian leadership...We were a coalition of local people who became community organizers fighting against evictions of poor and working people in Hawai‘i...People involved in other eviction struggles began calling us because Kōkua Hawai‘i gave the residents hope and courage in light of evictions from their homes and community. Kōkua Hawai‘i empowered the families in the valley and families across the Hawaiian Islands, to stand together in unity and solidarity!”

During the first months of settling in as Executive Director at HPF, I was met one afternoon by a stern knock on the office door. The kanaka who stood in the doorway asked to see the “boss,” and, as I was still navigating what that actually meant, I let him know that my predecessor had retired and I was the new kid trying to find my footing. “Huihui?” he asked. “Yeah, you’re who I’m looking for.”

We moved through the usual local salutations of shared relations and neighborhood and alma mater similarities. When he finally introduced himself, I was star-struck ~ I had learned about Uncle Larry and his contributions to the movement when I was an undergraduate at UH-Mānoa. And here he was, unapologetically sharing his story of Kōkua Hawai‘i and the infamous Kalama Valley struggle in his own words, unedited, and with all the enthusiasm of a true warrior.

For the next 3 hours, he shared about the roots of the organization I was blessed to lead, his aloha for its founders and membership, its purpose, and its intention to lift up justice where “government” in Hawai‘i had failed. He detailed the string of events that led to and followed the occupation at Kalama, the
foundation it laid for subsequent multi-ethnic and cross-class struggles, and the powerful movement that was built from it. In one afternoon, he articulated the connection between what we were taught at the University about loss of land, culture, and language and the importance of solidarity across all people-powered struggles for justice. And he made it very clear that the conversation about equity in Hawai‘i begins with indigenous justice.

It was the best welcome a fledgling Executive Director could hope for. Over the next 3 years, he checked in on me regularly, celebrated with the ‘ohana at each gathering, and offered sage advice regarding the intricacies of organizing and movement building at the fund.

Uncle Larry knew the huli was coming – he counted on it – and he was an integral part of its birth. And through his long career as a social justice advocate, educator, and grassroots warrior challenging the status quo, he kept his focus on the power of the humble butterfly and its ability to change the world. We are reminded of Kōkua Hawai‘i’s bravery to challenge assumptions and complex systems that perpetuate oppression in Hawai‘i, and draw strength in this present magical movement moment from those who came before.

*pc above: Ed Greevy*

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**Carry Together This Makahiki Season**

As Makahiki brings loved ones together this season, we humbly invite you to join our ‘ohana of grassroots change makers by investing in our precious community.

*community GIVING = community DOING*

...be a part of creating lasting change in Hawai‘i by donating today!

As a social-change philanthropy, the act of giving is an action equally as powerful as the work itself. Fundraising provides capital for our programs, and building our donor base is equally about growing a movement for progressive change and social justice. Our Spring Grant Awards were only possible because of the generosity and aloha of the HPF ‘ohana. Your choice to contribute a **one-time donation** or become a **recurring donor** is a commitment to the vision of a more equitable and just Hawai‘i just as much as is the work of grassroots organizations receiving grants.

*It Takes A Crowd.*

*your entire donation is tax deductible & socially responsible ~ join us!*
Small Change for You, 
GAME CHANGER For Us!

Would you be willing to join us in advancing our community GIVING = community DOING mission?

What if we told you that you could feed the movement for progressive social change in Hawai‘i by, well, investing with your change?

The HPF ‘ohana is pleased to announce a new program that makes you a giver, everyday.

By adding on a few cents to your credit or debit card purchases up to the next dollar amount and donating the difference, your spare change becomes the actual change in Hawai‘i that HPF has been growing for over 47 years.

Join us!

HPF convenes key social justice advocates and promotes solidarity across struggles. Our unique cross-class, cross-issue, intersectional approach to organizing, supported by the generosity of a community who values the critical importance of viewing the big and small pictures of social justice in Hawai‘i as one and the same, has sustained our grantmaking program and our operations for over 47 years.