In January 2021, the Hawai‘i People ‘ohana set sail on a huaka‘i with a purpose to radically transform the way we move money to movements for real change from the roots up. The urgency for change that rose to a fever pitch during the pandemic demanded that we dig deep in our commitments, our legacy, and our current realities, and respond to what was being asked of us as an organization and as a community in this massive movement moment. It afforded us the opportunity to think BIG and expand our reach to those on the ground, closest to the solutions. HPF’s inaugural 2021 Giving Project exceeded all expectations we had for the pilot program!

The 5-month journey exploring HPF’s time-tested strategy of community doing and giving virtually engaged 18 hui members through twice a month sessions spent in deep political analysis, sharing and building together, and learning about our grantees and the work they’re doing in community. This brave hui, many new to HPF, beautifully illustrated the viability of this additional way HPF moves money to movement building in Hawai‘i by co-

Through testimony and advocacy for the magic our amazing ‘ohana makes together, the GP21 hui fundshifted over $180,000, calling in MORE than enough funds to extend grants to each of our participating 820 grantees, and also spreading the word far and wide about their work to new networks, the work HPF does, and the POWER of collective liberation. We are confident this new infusion of resources will further our grantees’ work and our shared resolve to ensure a just and equitable Hawai‘i.

"e kolo ana nō i ēwe i ke ēwe ~ the roots seek out other roots, kin finds kin. We didn’t know we had these connections, but our roots were always looking for each other, we just didn’t know it."

The grassroots huis awarded through this fundshifting magic are actively addressing the root causes of inequity impacting Hawai‘i, coming with real solutions, and are led by those most impacted by these issues. They are organizing their communities to build
creating brave space with enthusiasm and grace, moving at the speed of trust, and setting a solid foundation to meaningfully plug into organizations moving the needle on social change here at home.

"It was the first time that I felt genuinely connected to and accepted by a community of people who believe in the things and the future that I hope for and people who are doing the work."

Perhaps the most significant and immediately felt success of our journey was pilina ~ connection ~ connection between hui members, connection with our grantees and the work they do, and renewed connection to our extended networks. Our hui of participants and grantees spanned 5 islands, 3 states, and hundreds of donors from across the U.S. These deep connections, to each other and to place and to intention, manifested in the massive abundance that the GP21 hui deployed into our beloved community!

HPF’s Giving Project has been a year in the making, and we were THRILLED to host this brave space with a group of new, enthusiastic ‘ohana seeking a way to plug in. MAHALO NUI to our friends in the Giving Project Network for guiding us in readying our program for liftoff, and HUGE MAHALO to our national partners Chinook Fund (Denver) and Bread & Roses Community Fund (Philadelphia) for hosting HPF virtually in their Giving Projects, allowing us to witness the model first hand!

"It’s something that I should do, a responsibility that I felt as someone with privilege."

The success of this fledgling program is truly a testament to the impact of collective giving and doing, centering the incredible work our grassroots changemakers are doing in community, and engaging in deep and meaningful reflection on our roles as individuals to impact our beloved Hawai‘i in positive ways.

"it’s been a transformative vessel for a collective dream, a vision of a better future. If there isn’t space or room for people to learn about a better tomorrow with, how are we going to change the world?"

Hawai‘i People’s Fund giving project 2021
BIG ALOHA to all those who helped make this magic happen!

Mahalo to everyone who contributed to our inaugural sail, answering the collective kahea of our hui members, responding to the needs of our grantees, and turning up and plugging in to movement building in Hawai‘i! Over 730 individual gifts were made! This is INCREDIBLE! These gifts included generous contributions from hui members themselves, and their brave advocacy and invitations to their networks reverberated far and wide.

MAHALO NUI LOA to the Swayne Family Fund, the Robert Emens Black Fund, and the Richard Smart Fund of the Hawai‘i Community Foundation for your faith in HPF and the impact our grantees’ make in community <3

MAHALO NUI to Kim Coco Iwamoto and the Omidyar ʻohana for believing in this work! Our local philanthropic community played a major role in GP21’s success, and we are so so humbled by your generous support!

Interested in joining Giving Project ‘22?

Visit our website to learn more how you can be a part of amplifying the work of grassroots organizing in Hawai‘i, and reach out to us at peoples@lava.net.
Recruitment for GP22 will begin in October '21

Visit our website

community GIVING, community DOING

me ke aloha,
Hawai‘i People's Fund ‘ohana

Hawai‘i People’s Fund
Since 1972