



HAROLD K.L. CASTLE  
FOUNDATION

*Closing the achievement  
and preparation gaps  
in public education*

*Restoring nearshore  
marine ecosystems*

*Strengthening Windward  
Oahu communities*

## NEWS RELEASE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **HAROLD K.L. CASTLE FOUNDATION AWARDS \$2.9 MILLION IN GRANTS TARGETING WINDWARD OAHU NEAR-SHORE FISHERIES, PUBLIC EDUCATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

*Grants Include \$1.5 Million to Organization That Provides Core Support to  
Foundation's Marine Conservation Goals*

**KAILUA, Hawaii** — The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation approved nearly \$3 million in grants at its May meeting to further its primary goals of restoring near-shore marine ecosystems, strengthening Windward Oahu communities, and closing the achievement and preparation gaps in public education.

More than half of the May grant total went to Kua'aina Ulu Auamo (KUA) to use over a three-year period in partnership with other marine conservation initiatives. KUA is a community-based initiative that advances locally based natural resources management in Hawaii, and protects and restores Hawaii communities' traditional role as caretakers of their lands and waters. The Foundation's approved \$1,504,000 grant will aid KUA's programs and provide technical support for three networks totaling 45 communities that are working to restore the health and vitality of near-shore fisheries in Hawaii for generations to come.

"We need partners like KUA who can represent with fidelity the marine resource needs and concerns of dozens of communities statewide, and assist in addressing them through broad-based collaboration and meaningful action" said Eric Co, the Foundation's senior program officer for marine conservation. "The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation's support of KUA is essential to building a social movement with community partners statewide that will encourage effective environmental stewardship."

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(more)

KUA plays a central role in working with the state Department of Land and Natural Resources to improve management capacity and increase the number of community-driven marine management areas. The Foundation's grant acts as a springboard for KUA to increase its scope and impact over the next three years.

The Foundation board of directors also approved support to the following organizations:

### **Marine Conservation**

- **Conservation International** (\$225,340 over two years), to work collaboratively with all fishing and ocean user sectors to lay the foundation for more effective resource governance and management through improved enforcement, better stock assessments to inform sound decision making, and increased education and outreach.
- **Matariki Group** (\$170,000 over 18 months), to develop and pilot "indigenous business plans" with a cohort of Hawaiian fishponds (Loko I'a). This grant explores the financial feasibility of three fishponds in Hawaii and will provide a blueprint for others who are currently restoring fishponds throughout the state. Eric Co said fishponds present an opportunity to increase local food security and self-sufficiency while preserving cultural values, improving livelihoods for fishpond operators and communities, and educating youth.

### **Education**

- **Hawaii Department of Education** (\$517,000), for continued support of student achievement and to close achievement gaps through school-level "Instructional Leadership Teams" in 80 public schools across six Islands.
- **Teach for America** (\$185,000), to extend Teach for America support for alumni teachers by providing a pathway to school leadership, increasing alumni teacher retention and extending alumni teachers' influence.
- **Hawaii Department of Education's Windward District Office** (\$40,000), to provide education for beginning and new-to-Hawaii Windward District teachers.
- **Hawaii Department of Education** (\$16,300), to extend the Education Leadership Institute for a second day so that up to 60 educational leaders are provided transformative experiences in place-based education in Windward Oahu.

(more)

### **Windward Oahu Community Strengthening**

- **Kualoa-He'eia Ecumenical Youth (KEY) Project** (\$150,000), to nurture and promote the cultural, environmental, social, economic and recreational well-being of the Kualoa-He'eia area.
- **Hawaiian Islands Land Trust** (\$50,000), to increase the pace of Windward Oahu land conservation projects.
- **Deborah Ching Consulting** (\$45,000), to increase the number of high-achieving, low-income high school students' acceptance into need-blind colleges and award full-ride financial aid.

To learn more about recipients of the Castle Foundation's recent grants or for more information on the Foundation's grant giving, visit [www.castlefoundation.org](http://www.castlefoundation.org).

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*The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation, the largest private foundation headquartered in Hawaii, is committed to closing the achievement and preparation gaps in public education so that all Hawaii children have access to high-quality pre-K through 12 education that prepares them for success in college, career and citizenship. Its grants also focus on restoring near-shore marine ecosystems and strengthening Windward Oahu communities.*