



Residential
Youth Services
& Empowerment



Building Home. Building Hope. Building Futures.

Annual Report 2025

rysehawaii.org

Message from the Executive Director

From Crisis to Stability: Building the Future Together

As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude and optimism for what we have accomplished together.

This year marked a significant milestone in RYSE's journey. Through the dedication of our staff, the trust of the youth we serve, and the unwavering support of our community, we continued to expand opportunities for young people experiencing homelessness, housing instability, foster care involvement, mental health challenges, and justice system engagement.



Carla Houser
Executive Director

2025 was a year of growth and expansion. We broadened our reach across O'ahu, strengthened critical partnerships, and increased access to services for youth where they need them most. One of our proudest accomplishments was the opening of the Wai'anae Drop-In Center, creating a dedicated space on the Leeward Coast where youth can access basic needs, supportive services, housing navigation, employment assistance, and a safe place to connect with caring adults.

We also began an exciting new chapter through the acquisition of Hale Koko, a seven-unit housing property that will ultimately provide safe, stable housing for youth aging out of foster care, LGBTQ+ youth, and families experiencing crisis. This transformational gift represents more than additional housing, it represents hope, opportunity, and a future where more young people have a place to call home.

Throughout the year, our outreach teams met youth where they were, our behavioral health staff provided critical counseling and support, our housing programs created stability, and our employment and education programs helped youth move toward self-sufficiency.

We strengthened partnerships that are helping us build a stronger continuum of care. Through collaborations with organizations like Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies and Blue Water Mission, youth are accessing healthcare, housing, mentorship, and community support in ways that create lasting impact.

Most importantly, we witnessed incredible stories of resilience. Young people who once faced uncertainty are now graduating, securing employment, obtaining housing, reuniting with family, and pursuing futures they once believed were out of reach.

As we look toward 2026, our focus remains clear:

- Expand housing opportunities throughout O'ahu for youth and young families
- Continue investing in the Wai'anae Coast through housing and supportive services
- Open the Beretania Youth Hub, creating a centralized location for drop-in services, workforce development, housing support, and youth engagement in Honolulu's urban core
- Strengthen educational and workforce pathways
- Increase access to behavioral health and supportive services
- Ensure every youth who enters our programs has a pathway toward stability and independence

None of this would be possible without our donors, community partners, volunteers, and supporters. Thank you for believing in our youth and helping create opportunities that change lives.

Together, we are building more than programs. **We are building futures.**

Carla Houser

Executive Director

Residential Youth Services & Empowerment

2025 At A Glance

By The Numbers

250+ Youth Served Across All Programs

111 Youth Housed

844 Youth Encounters Through Outreach

786 Counseling Sessions Provided

102 Youth Participated in Employment Services

41 Youth Enrolled in Education Programs

219 Justice-Involved Youth Supported

73 Youth Gained Employment

66 Youth Connected Through Cultural Services

9 GED/HSD Graduates

A Year of Expansion

2025 was a year defined by growth, innovation, and community impact.

RYSE continued to strengthen its role as Hawai'i's leading provider of housing and supportive services for transition-aged youth by expanding housing opportunities, deepening strategic partnerships, and creating new pathways toward long-term stability.

This year, we:

- Expanded RYSE's housing continuum through new property acquisitions, housing development initiatives, and increased capacity to serve youth and young families across O'ahu.
- Enhanced education, employment, and financial empowerment programming to help youth build skills, confidence, and pathways toward self-sufficiency.
- Invested in culturally grounded programming that helps youth strengthen their connection to culture, identity, community, and place.
- Expanded outreach efforts and community-based services to reach more youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability where they are.
- Increased behavioral health capacity through new funding, staffing, clinical partnerships, and expanded access to therapeutic services.

Every statistic represents a young person whose future looks brighter because of the support of this community.

Building More Than Housing

Expanding Opportunity Across O'ahu

At RYSE, we know that housing is more than a roof overhead. It is the foundation upon which young people can pursue education, maintain employment, address health needs, strengthen relationships, and build a future.

In 2025, housing remained at the center of our mission.

As youth homelessness continues to impact communities across O'ahu, RYSE expanded its efforts to create safe, stable, and supportive housing opportunities for young people navigating some of life's most difficult transitions.

Our housing continuum serves youth experiencing homelessness, foster youth aging out of care, LGBTQ+ youth, young adults, and families seeking stability.

Through a combination of shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and community partnerships, RYSE continues to create pathways toward independence.

Featured Project: Hale Koko

One of the most significant milestones in RYSE history came through the donation of Hale Koko, a seven-unit apartment property generously gifted by Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto.

The property adds 12 new beds to RYSE's growing housing portfolio and will provide housing opportunities for foster youth, LGBTQ+ youth, and families experiencing crisis.

Throughout 2025 and into 2026, RYSE has focused on rehabilitating and preparing the property for occupancy through a phased renovation effort designed to ensure every resident enters a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment.

When fully operational, Hale Koko will provide more than housing. It will provide opportunity.



Hale Koko By The Numbers

12
New Beds

7
Residential Units

\$50,000
Secured Toward
Renovations

\$343,000
Capital Goal

Strategic Partnership Spotlight: Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies

Integrating Healthcare into Youth Housing Services

In 2025, RYSE continued to strengthen youth wellness through its long-standing partnership with Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies (HMHB). While the organization's name often leads people to associate its services with maternal health, HMHB provides comprehensive healthcare and wellness services for all youth enrolled in RYSE programs, including young men and young women.

By bringing healthcare directly into trusted youth spaces through weekly onsite visits, HMHB removes many of the barriers that prevent young people from accessing care, including transportation, cost, scheduling, and navigating complex healthcare systems. Youth receive primary care, behavioral health support, vaccinations, TB clearances, STI screening and treatment, prenatal and postpartum care, medication management, health documentation, and referrals for ongoing care.

Beyond treating immediate health needs, the partnership helps young people establish healthy routines, understand their medications, and build lifelong habits that support long-term wellness and independence.



healthy mothers
healthy babies
COALITION OF HAWAII

"Our youth deserve care that reflects the complexity of their lives. This partnership strengthens our wraparound model and ensures youth can move forward with stability."

— Carla Houser, Executive Director
Residential Youth Services & Empowerment

By embedding healthcare directly into safe, trusted spaces, RYSE and HMHB continue to build a model of coordinated, youth-centered care that strengthens individual trajectories and the broader Hawai'i community.

1,000+
Youth Encounters

Weekly
Onsite Visits

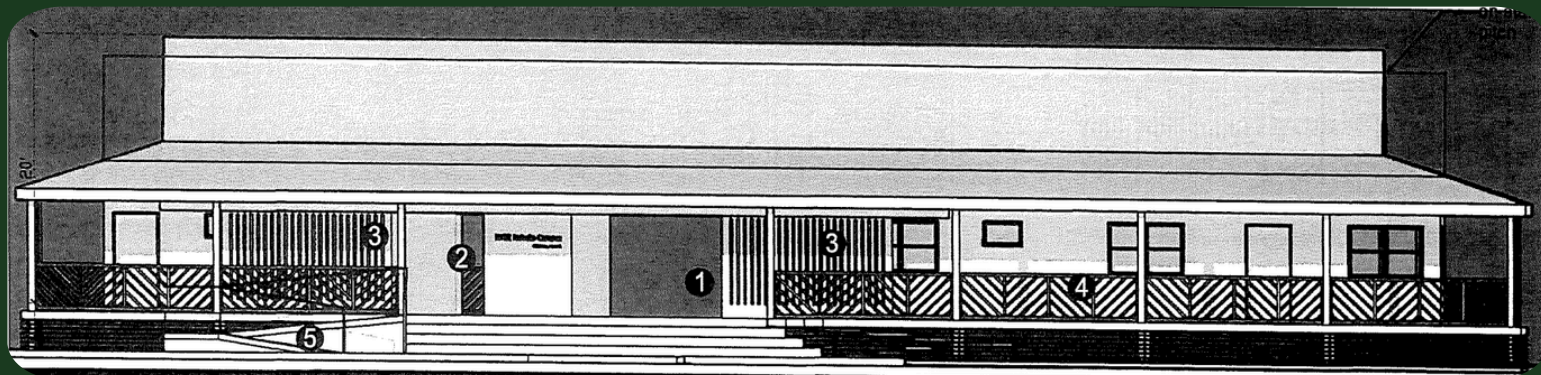
10+
Services Provided

Investing in the Leeward Community

The Waiʻanae Coast remains one of the areas most impacted by housing instability and homelessness on Oʻahu. According to the 2026 Point-in-Time Count, Region 8 reported the highest number of unsheltered youth ages 18-24 of any region on the island.

RYSE remains committed to investing in long-term solutions that allow youth to remain connected to family, culture, education, and community while accessing safe housing and supportive services. Through continued housing development efforts and community partnerships, RYSE is working to create a stronger future for youth throughout Waiʻanae, Nānākuli, Māʻili, and Makaha.

RYSE is also an active member of the Leeward Housing Coalition, working alongside community partners to help shape long-term housing solutions for the Waiʻanae Coast. The coalition is currently helping revisit the City's Housing Strategic Plan for Waiʻanae to ensure future development reflects community priorities and housing needs.



Conceptual site rendering prepared by AHL Architects.

Our Vision

Building on the success of Raphael House, RYSE's first youth shelter on the Waiʻanae Coast, Ka Lāʻi – Makaha represents the next step in creating long-term housing solutions for youth in West Oʻahu. Since opening in 2024, Raphael House has operated at full capacity, providing safe shelter, wraparound support, and pathways toward stability for youth experiencing homelessness.

For years, RYSE outreach teams have met youth where they are—on beaches, in parks, and throughout the community—often connecting them to services far from home. The vision for Puʻuhonua o ka Lāʻi – Makaha is simple: ensure young people can access housing, support, and opportunity without leaving the community where they have family, cultural ties, and support networks. Together, Raphael House and Puʻuhonua o ka Lāʻi– Makaha will strengthen RYSE's ability to provide locally rooted, trauma-informed care while expanding housing opportunities for youth on the Waiʻanae Coast.

Every housing opportunity created today becomes a foundation for a young person's future tomorrow.

Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo

Bringing Youth Services Closer to Home

In 2025, RYSE reached a major milestone with the opening of Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo, the organization's first dedicated drop-in center serving the Wai'anae Coast.

For years, RYSE outreach teams have worked throughout Wai'anae, Nānākuli, Mā'ili, and Makaha, meeting youth where they are and connecting them to housing, shelter, education, employment, and behavioral health services. Too often, however, young people were required to travel significant distances to access the support they needed.

Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo changes that.

Located in Wai'anae, the center provides a safe, welcoming space where youth can access basic needs, housing navigation, employment support, education resources, counseling, food, laundry services, and connections to long-term stability, all within their own community.

The opening of the center represents an important investment in the Leeward Coast, a region that continues to experience some of the highest rates of youth homelessness and housing instability on O'ahu. By creating a permanent presence in Wai'anae, RYSE is ensuring that youth can access services without leaving the communities where they have family ties, cultural connections, support networks, schools, and employment opportunities.

The center also reflects RYSE's belief that services should be delivered in spaces that promote dignity, belonging, and healing. One example is the Counseling Room mural created collaboratively by youth and local artist Zarian. The artwork, which features symbols of guidance, resilience, inclusion, and connection to place, serves as a daily reminder that every young person's story matters and that healing can take many forms.



A visual sanctuary created by local artist Zarian in collaboration with RYSE youth, celebrating healing, resilience, and belonging.

Opening New Doors

- First RYSE Drop-In Center on the Wai'anae Coast
- Serving Youth Ages 14-24
- Open 8am - 4pm
- Access to Housing, Employment, Education, Food, Laundry, and Supportive Services
- Expanding RYSE's Presence in One of O'ahu's Highest-Need Communities

A Home, A Community, A Future

Ending youth homelessness takes more than housing, it takes community.

For years, Bluewater Mission has been a trusted partner of RYSE, walking alongside youth through shared meals, recreational outings, mentorship, and meaningful relationships. From sailing trips and basketball games to shelter meals and volunteer support, the partnership has always been rooted in one belief: every young person deserves to know they belong.

That shared commitment grew even stronger when Bluewater Mission acquired two neighboring homes in Honolulu and partnered with RYSE to create additional housing opportunities for youth.

Just next door, Bluewater's Young Adults Community House creates opportunities for connection through weekly dinners, small groups, and gatherings that bring together current and former RYSE youth with a broader community of support.

That sense of belonging has already transformed lives.

Sebastian

Obtained his driver's license, purchased a vehicle, secured employment, and continues to thrive.

Kyle-Ann

Utilized stable housing to create a safe environment for reunification with her younger sibling, gaining custody.

Autumn

Growing in confidence and independence while building a sustainable future through stable housing and community.



Bluewater Mission Partnership

- 2 dedicated studio apartments for RYSE youth
- Transitional and long-term housing opportunities
- Weekly community meals and mentorship
- Ongoing volunteer engagement and relationship-building
- A shared commitment to creating lasting pathways to independence

These stories remind us that lasting change happens when housing is paired with community. Together, RYSE and Bluewater Mission are demonstrating that when organizations invest not only in places to live, but in places to belong, young people gain something even more valuable than a roof over their heads—they gain the support system needed to thrive.



Youth Success Story



Kyle-Ann BoBo: From RYSE Youth to RYSE Leader

Few stories capture the impact of RYSE quite like that of Kyle-Ann BoBo.

Having experienced youth homelessness herself, Kyle-Ann first came to RYSE seeking stability and support. Through determination, resilience, and the encouragement of those around her, she found a path forward—and ultimately chose to return to the organization that had helped change her life.

In 2025, Kyle-Ann served as a member of RYSE's Outreach Team, using her lived experience to connect with youth navigating many of the same challenges she once faced. Her authenticity, compassion, and unwavering belief in every young person's potential allowed her to build trust and serve as both an advocate and mentor.

Beyond her work at RYSE, Kyle-Ann also represented youth voices through Oahu Youth Action Board (OYAB), helping ensure that young people had a meaningful seat at the table in conversations affecting their future.

"RYSE has personally meant so much to me—not just as a place, but as a family that helped change the course of my life. I once lived in the very shelter that I later had the privilege of serving. Through the support, guidance, and love I found at RYSE, I was able to move from a place of survival to one of stability and purpose."

— Kyle-Ann BoBo



Kyle-Ann's journey reminds us that the impact of RYSE extends far beyond a single program or service. It is about empowering young people to overcome adversity, discover their strengths, and become leaders who inspire others to believe that transformation is possible.

RYSE Youth | Outreach Team Member | OYOV Advocate | Reunified Family Support

More Reasons to Celebrate

Scrappy's graduation from Job Corps marked an important step toward independence and future career success.



Every new lease represents more than a home—it represents stability, independence, and hope for the future.



Community in Action

Community partnerships play a vital role in creating welcoming spaces for the youth we serve. This year, First Hawaiian Bank employees generously volunteered their time and talents to help refresh RYSE's Haleiwa housing site. More than 60 volunteers spent the day painting, power washing, clearing landscaping, and beautifying the property, creating an environment where young adults can feel safe, supported, and at home.

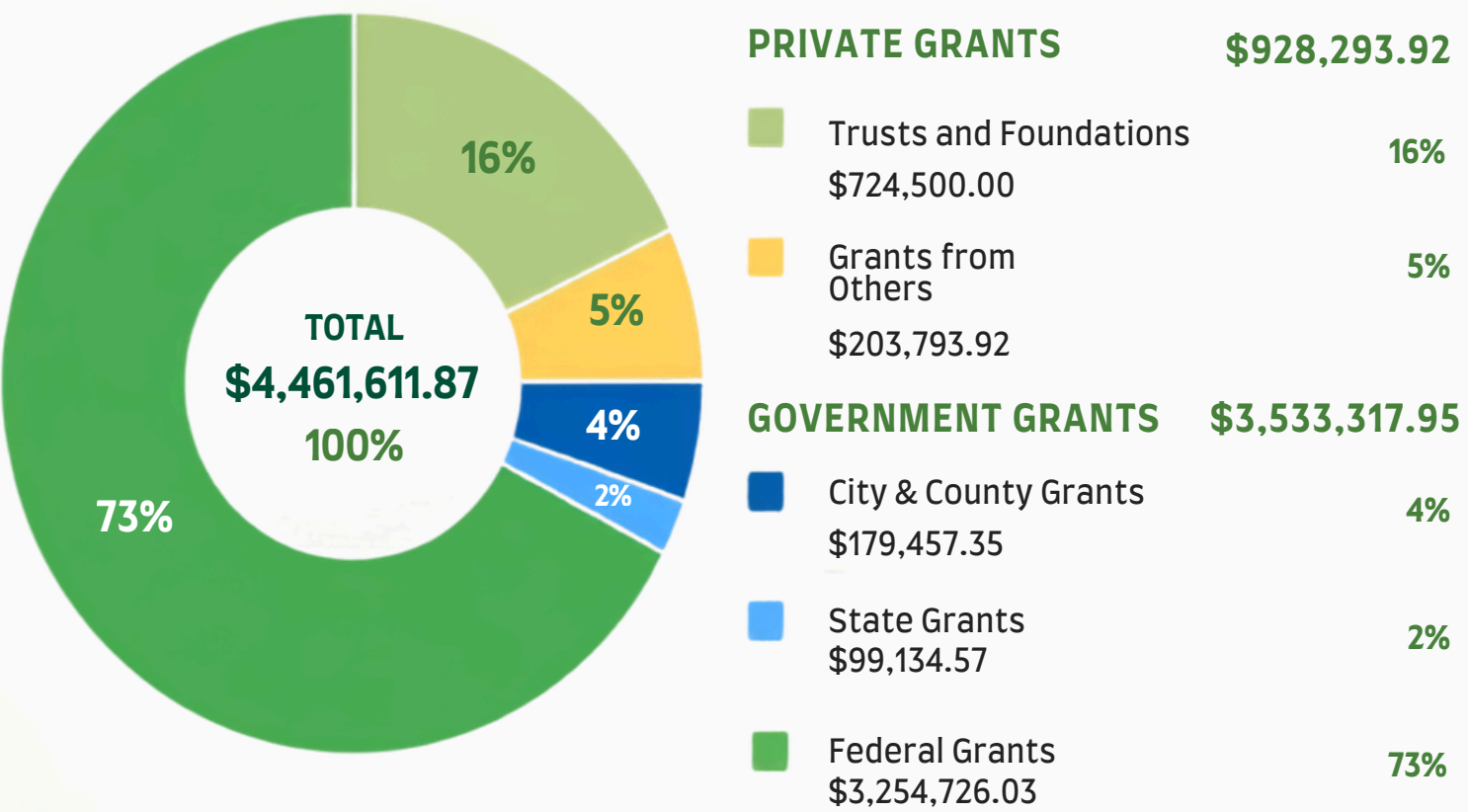
Their generosity reflects the power of community coming together to invest in brighter futures for Hawai'i's youth.



Funding Sources in 2025

Grants and government support powering RYSE's mission

Diverse funding partnerships make youth housing and support services possible.



TOTAL PRIVATE GRANTS

\$928,293.92

21% of total funding

TOTAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS

\$3,533,317.95

79% of total funding

These investments support housing, outreach, behavioral health, education, and employment —helping youth build stability and brighter futures.

Why Support Matters

**Government funding builds the foundation.
Private support helps close the gaps.**

No single funding source can meet the complex needs of youth experiencing homelessness.



1 Why public support matters

Government funding sustains the core services that young people rely on every day. These investments provide stable support for housing, outreach, behavioral health care, education, and employment services, helping youth build safety, stability, and opportunity for the future.



2 Why private support matters

At least 25% of federal grants require matching funds, making private support essential to securing and maximizing public funding. In these cases, every private dollar has the potential to help unlock additional federal resources and extend the impact of your investment even further



3 How to get involved

Every contribution, large or small, creates real change. You can donate, become a monthly supporter, volunteer your time, or partner with us to expand opportunities for youth. Together, we can ensure no young person has to face homelessness alone.



**Invest in youth. Strengthen our community.
Donate today.**

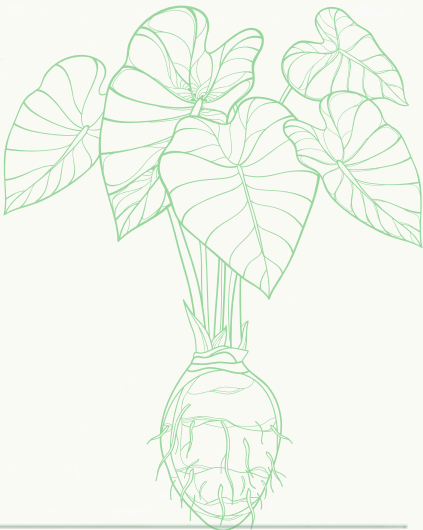


Make your impact at rysehawaii.org/donate

Rooted to RYSE

Highlights from an evening rooted in community, generosity, and hope

Annual Fundraiser • October 25, 2025 • Kāko'o 'Ōiwi, Kāne'ohe



Thank you to the supporters, partners, volunteers, and community members who helped make the evening possible.

2025 DONOR LISTING

GRATITUDE IN ACTION

With heartfelt gratitude, we thank all of our generous donors and partner organizations whose support powers the mission of Residential Youth Services & Empowerment. Your contributions make a lasting difference in the lives of the young people we serve.



\$50,000 & above

Indian River Community Foundation



\$25,000 - \$49,999

Martha & Peter Balkin
Lauran & Bunny Bromley
Jan & Kelvin Taketa



\$15,000 - \$24,999

Alex Habib & Mark Hostetter
First Hawaiian Bank
The Karena Lee Adler Foundation



\$10,000 - \$14,999

Altres
Bank of Hawaii
Deborah Berger
Lori Harrison
KAI Hawaii
Keith Steiner Family Foundation
Matson
Patricia Moore
Pali Momi Medical Center
Ryan Tanaka
Julie & JD Watumull



\$5,000 - \$9,999

AHL
Bodaiji Mission
Elite Family of Companies
Cher Foerster
Church of the Holy Nativity
Mike Curtis & Piia Aarma
Isreal/Maurer/Watson Charity Fund
Hawaiian Airlines
Michelle Ho
Honolulu Myohoji Mission
Howard Hughes Communities
Linda and Leighton Taylor Family Fund
Matsuura Family Foundation
RoAnne & Wade Matsuura
Diane Ono
Sue Palumbo
Jim Pierce
The Donald and Iris Kim Foundation
The Michael J. Marks Foundation
The Queen's Health Systems
Ruth Wooden



\$2,500 - \$4,999

Jane Anderson
Falvey Family Trust of the Hawaii Community Foundation
Valrie Griffith
Tom Higgins
Carla Houser
Raymond James
Jack Lindsay
Sasser Family Foundation
Women's League of Central Union Church
Jhamandas Watumull Fund

2025 DONOR LISTING



\$1,000 - \$2,499

Melissa Bruhl
Christ Church Uniting Disciples and
Presbyterians
H Dwight Damon
Nikki Dewitt
Susan Dik
Equal Opportunity Solar Fund
Carol Fujie
Girl Scout Troop 669
Georgina Harbinson
Miriah Holden
Seiki Ifuku
Damon Ishida
Summer Kester
Wallene Lau
Charles J Lin
Cindy Loo
Deborah Candace Love
Lorraine & Stan Luke
Jennifer Markell
McCabe, Hamilton & Renny Co., Ltd.
Nani Medeiros
Carri Morgan
Debbie Park
Kevin Penn
Michal Anne Rogondio
Josh Skeels
Keith and Judy Swayne Family
Foundation
The Junior League of Honolulu
Michelle Uchiyama
Ryan Watanabe
Jyoti Watumull
Ruthann Yamanaka



\$500 - \$999

Gloria Brooks
Padmani Brown & David Luedtke
Charitable Fund
Castle Health Group
Jeffrey Foundas
Lisa Halvorson
Hawaii Rotary District 5000
Karen Hofmann
Rick Humphreys
Susan Kowen
Arlynnna Howell Livingston
Locations Foundation
Madhu Lundquist
Dana Matlin



\$500 - \$999 cont.

Fred Nguyen
Efrain Orta
Susan Palmore
Kristin Pauker
Garrett Saikley, MD
Marlyn Santana
Robert Takamatsu
Miwa Ueno



\$100 - \$499

Abdikareem Abdalla
Kim Balisacan
Lani Bangles
Steve Barnes
Lisa Blair
Amy Bolan
Griffin Bolan
Kevin Carll
Lynn & Baron Chang
Katrin Chong
Elisabeth Chun
Russ & Veola Cornelius
Sean Cover
Nick Detor
Justine Duan
Gordon Durant
Jacquie Francisco
Marguerite Fujie
Jianna Garino
Wade Geringer
Give Lively Foundation
Boni Grimmell
L.B. Goldstein
Mary Hammond
Dona Hanaike
Lynn Hiyakumoto
Michael & Valerie Ishii
Vanessa John
Brandais Jones
Cynthia & Preston Kamikawa
Norlynn Kandler
Natalie Khan
Karen Kolonick
Dawn Krause
Rumba Kro
Sandra Maruyama
David McEwan
Lilien Min
Momilani Elementary School
Melanie Moore

2025 DONOR LISTING



\$100 - \$499 cont.

Judy Murata
Deborah Nehmad
Scott Nekoba
Thao Nguyen
Rumba Ochoa
Dean Oshiro
Kathy Pang
Piko Provisions
Mark Rosner
Brandy Ross
Danny Rudometkin
Jonathan Shimada
Scott Simon
Bobbie Slater
Douglas Smith
Steven Sperber
Karen Umemoto
Robin Uyeshiro
Shanika Velez
Madison Watanabe
Jared Watumull



\$100 - \$499 cont.

Alfred Wong
Wendy Wong
Yukie Wong
Mark Yonamine



Up to \$99

Sundari Balaraman
Blackbaud Giving Fund
Mamiko Carroll
John Casson
Christopher Edwards
Heather Gray
Hawaii Federal Credit Union
Leolani Iwaki
Elisa Kim
Sanggee Kim
Kim Nakamura
Maureen Nelson
Grace Stubbing
Joy Takaesu
Kristen Young





Residential
Youth Services
& Empowerment

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Martha Balkin
President

Greg Hackler
Vice President

Mike Curtis
Treasurer

Miriah Holden
Secretary

Griffin Kanoa Bolan
Director

Gloria Brooks
Director

Alex Habib
Director

RoAnne Matsuura
Director

Richard Lee
Director

Anthony Provenzano
Director

Janice Taketa
Director

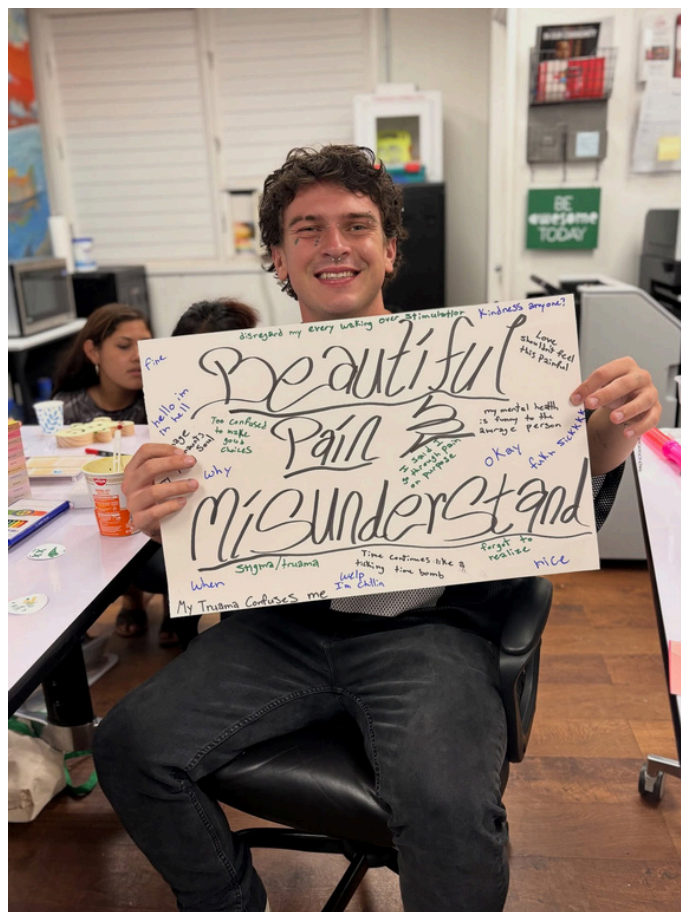
Jared Watumull
Director

Ruth Wooden
Director

As we close another year, we're reminded that lasting change is built one relationship, one opportunity, and one young person at a time.

The milestones shared throughout this report are more than accomplishments, they are stories of resilience, growth, and hope made possible by a community that refuses to give up on Hawai'i's youth. Together, we are creating pathways to stability, belonging, and brighter futures.

Thank you for believing in our mission and standing alongside the young people we serve. We look forward to continuing this work together in the year ahead.



Thank U :)
Happy 2 be
here once
again Keani



Our mission is to provide a continuum of support that empowers Hawaii's youth to move beyond homelessness. We envision a community where there is no youth homelessness.

Need Help Now?
Call or text, day or night:
808-861-6606

Residential Youth Services & Empowerment
42-470 Kalanianaʻole Highway, Building 6
Kailua, HI 96734

