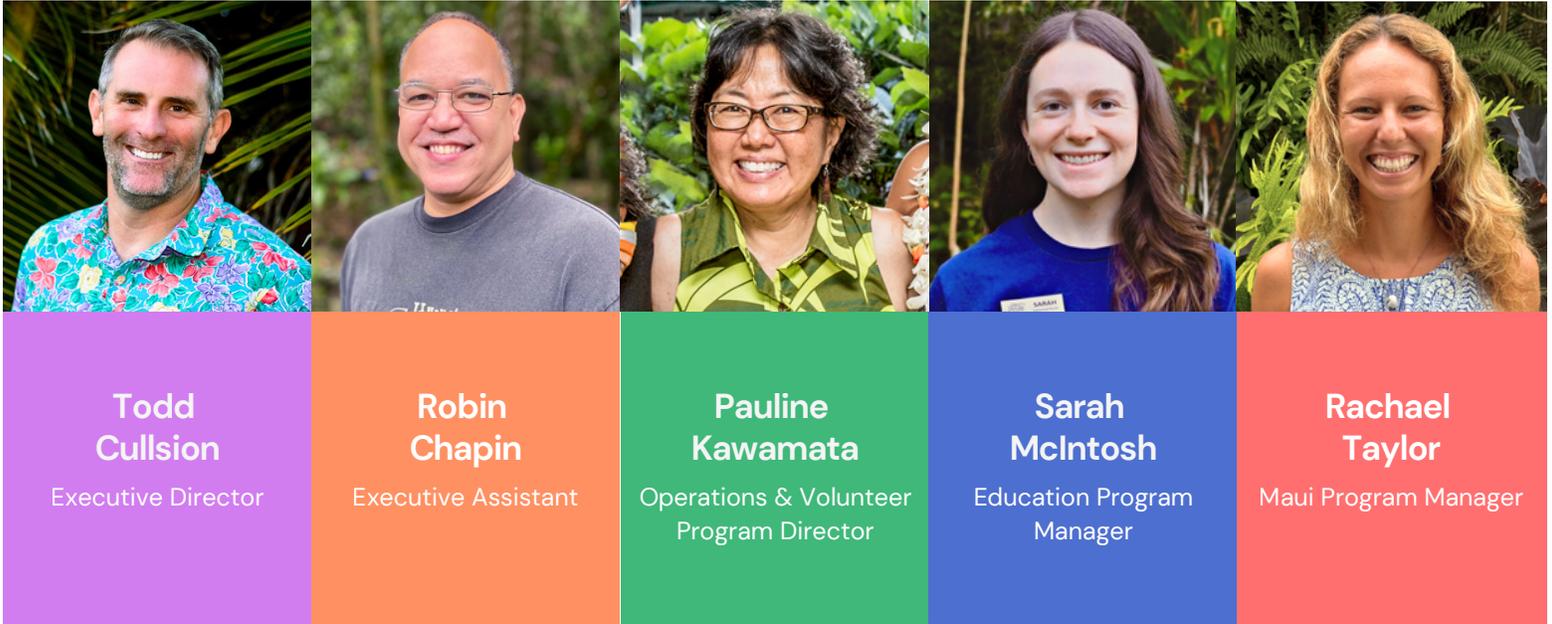




2024 IMPACT REPORT

Hawai'i Nature Center

2024 Leadership Team



2024 Board of Directors

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Hawaiian Electric

Vice President

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AHL

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Caitlin Moon, Esq.
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Bank of Hawai'i

James "Jimmy" Davis
Real Estate Development

Hawai'i Nature Center is supported by a dedicated team of 12 long-tenured educators and administrators with experience that ranges from 6 to 30 years in environmental education. Our impact is strengthened by a diverse and committed Board of Directors that ensures fiscal responsibility, upholds best practices as well as drives strategic growth and program excellence.

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Making an impact

Our Mission

At Hawai'i Nature Center (HNC), we believe that by connecting children and families with the natural world, we strengthen communities, inspire meaningful change, and help shape a more sustainable future for Hawai'i and beyond.

Pathways

We serve our community through a wide range of offerings, including:

- Nature Adventure Camps
- School & Homeschool Programs
- Community & Weekend Activities
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Corporate Programs
- Special Events, Meetings & Retreats
- Internships & Mentorship

Together, these programs provide pathways for people of all ages to connect with nature, learn through experience, and become advocates for the unique environments in Hawai'i.

Our Impact

Through hands-on, immersive experiences in nature, we cultivate critical thinking, self-confidence, autonomy, and leadership. Our programs promote academic achievement, foster civic engagement, and encourage lasting environmental stewardship.

9,681

Total people reached in 2024



\$66,000

In individual NAC scholarships and schools bus subsidies to access environmental education.

59,489 HOURS

total time spent outdoors

7,967 KEIKI

engaged in programs

1,714 ADULTS

connected to nature in 2024

352

members

Growing a sustainable future

Aloha 'ohana & friends,

Why is it so beneficial we connect to nature? It makes us feel better.

E.O. Wilson, a preeminent American Naturalist, developed the *biophilia hypothesis*. The hypothesis is the belief humans are genetically predisposed to be attracted to nature. Simply stated, all humans inherently love the natural world.

HNC fully subscribes to this idea, since 1981 working to connect over one million children and adults to nature to foster that love.

How does being outside manifest a positive relationship with nature? Research suggests that spending time in nature lowers cortisol levels, reducing the feeling of stress and tension, activates the parasympathetic nervous system, leading to a feeling of calm and relaxation, and increases serotonin and dopamine, linked to happiness. This is why we all feel better after taking a walk outside. Known as the *biophilia effect*, this is why the keiki that attend HNC leave happy.

Besides simply observing happier and healthier keiki, how does HNC measure impact? How do we count the rings of growth to determine progress?

In this report you will find data about how many keiki we connected to nature, how many hours they spent outdoors, and how HNC supports underserved communities with individual scholarships and subsidies. These are all very important measures of our impact, but don't capture the entire story.

What you won't read about in this report is the qualitative impacts. In the past year, at least four parents approached me, enthusiastically noting they attended camp at HNC as youngsters and now their keiki are attending. Each one sharing unique memories—but all with a common thread—they wanted the same experience for their child.

During a school field trip, I had a meaningful conversation with a public-school teacher who has engaged her students at HNC for nearly 30 years. She expressed that HNC's approach, outside, surrounded by nature allows students to connect the dots to the classroom lessons.

But perhaps most impactful are the examples of HNC staff that first experienced nature through us as a keiki. For the past few summers, we have had Environmental Educators that were first enrolled in Nature Adventure Camp as keiki, became Junior Leaders as teens and now are paid summer staff.

Hearing these stories from community partners and witnessing the impacts of nature day in and day out, underscores the impact of our approach—and supports the *biophilia hypothesis*. HNC provides teachers a way to bring classroom learning to life, creates programs for keiki to connect with nature and provides a pathway to participate and educate the next generation of environmental stewards—while creating happy, nature loving citizens.

Mahalo for your continued support of HNC and connecting children to nature.



Todd Cullison
Executive Director

School Programs

School Programs, a core Hawai'i Nature Center offering, connects thousands of students to nature and integrates State of Hawai'i adopted Next Generation Science Standards. A total of 6,383 keiki were educated through this program of which 47 percent attended Title 1 schools. Title I schools are defined as schools that have a minimum of 47.2% student population that qualify for the Free & Reduced Lunch Program.



6,383

keiki educated of
which 3,011
attended 36 Title 1
& in-need schools

70

school
partners

147

total
field trips

59,489

total hours
in nature

The center provided \$36,000 in subsidies to Title I schools for bus transportation and enrollment for students who otherwise may not be able to attend environmental education programs.



801
campers

26,950
total hours in nature

Nature Adventure Camps

Nature Adventure Camps (NAC) are 100 percent outdoor day camps held spring, summer, fall and winter school breaks. Each week features ecological themed programs such as Hawaiiana, Wayfinding, Ahupua'a Stewardship and Nature Inspiration. Students explored different Hawaiian habitats while hiking, learning about various ecosystems, sustainability and field trips to other natural resource locations. Through community support, \$30,000 in scholarships were awarded to eligible families for their children to attend NAC.





Designed for homeschool students ages 6 to 11, this semester long program offers weekly, six-hour sessions led by a team of Environmental Educators. Held at our Makiki Field Site, each week the program builds on previous lessons and investigations. The curriculum covers a wide range of environmental topics. These include climate change, native and invasive species, oceanic resources, sustainability and more—providing students with hands-on, place-based learning experiences that cultivate curiosity and environmental stewardship.

Homeschool Science Series

45
students

4,020
hours in nature

6

'Ohana Programs

In 2024, weekend programs engaged keiki, ages 3 to 5, and their 'ohana through hands-on, nature-based learning. Families explored local ecosystems and environmental science through themed sessions such as Stream 'Splorations, Daring Decomposers and Incredible Insects. As part of our ongoing commitment to early childhood education, these interactive programs fostered early curiosity in science and the natural world, while providing meaningful opportunities for families to learn and connect together.



369
keiki

432
adults

2,888
total hours
in nature

Birthday Parties

Birthday parties bring nature experiences to a child's community of family and friends with guided hikes, outdoor exploration and lessons in sustainability. All are led by Environmental Educators at Hawai'i Nature Center's Makiki Field Site.



Volunteers



A total of 157 volunteers expanded the organization's impact across O'ahu. They contributed 3,685 hours of support. Volunteers serve as junior leaders, perform administrative functions, help with maintenance, and conduct field work. Volunteers helped at the O'ahu campus and in the community including caring for protected areas such as wetlands and educational sites.

GROUPS

American Savings Bank
Boy Scout Troop 1
Boy Scout Troop 11
Eco Rotary Club of Kaka'ako
Kaiser High School Key Club
PBR HAWAII & ASSOCIATES, INC.
Prince Waikiki Hotel
Spike and Serve Volleyball Club
Troop 11 (BSA All Girls)

PARTNERS

Chaminade University of Honolulu
Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation
Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project
Prince Waikiki
Patagonia Honolulu
State of Hawai'i Department of Land & Natural Resources:
State Parks and Division of Forestry & Wildlife
Susannah Wesley Community Center
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
University of Hawai'i: College of Tropical Agriculture &
Human Resources Human Development and Family Studies Program
Center

\$123,373
of in-kind contributions

157
volunteers

3,685
hours

'Ohana of Donors

Mahalo for your support.
We can't thank you enough.

Hawai'i Nature Center donors provide sustaining support that has helped it grow in 2024. HNC is an independent nonprofit, homegrown in Makiki Valley in 1981. HNC relies on friends like you for support.

Koa

\$100,000 +

Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation

Wiliwili

\$10,000 to \$99,999

Anonymous
Benjamin Parker Fischlowitz Fund
First Hawaiian Bank Foundation
Par Hawai'i Refining
Sishi Yang RVC. Trust Ltd.

'Ōhi'a

\$2,500 to \$9,999

Alexander & Baldwin, INC
ALTRES, INC.
Driscoll's
Guy Churchill
Hawai'i Gas
Jhamandas Watumull Fund
Kalaeloa Partners, L.P.
Simple Generosity (Target Circle)
Steve & Stephanie Tom
The Cades Foundation
The RMR Group LLC

Hala

\$1,000 to \$2,499

AHL
Amy Takahashi
Bob Johnston
Eric & Jill Wright
George R. Norcross
HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union Foundation
International Market Place
James Geiger
Jerry & Cheri Rauckhorst
Lacey Nakaguma
Madhu Lundquist & Chelsea Jackson
Patrick & Kyeng McGuirk
PBR Hawaii & Associates, Inc.
Phillip & Nathalie Bacchus
Prince Waikī

'Ohana of Donors

Ti

\$250 to \$999

Alexander & Baldwin, INC
Aloha United Way – Anonymous
Beau Leyvand
Benjamin Godsey
C. Gavin Moffat
Caitlin Moon
Cheryl Wilson
Clint Churchill
Enviroservices & Training Center
Hawai'i Community Foundation –
Hawai'i Nature Center Fund
Ina Wong
Jason Sunahara
Jeff & Kimberly Case
Josh Hargrove
Kenneth & Patty Kupchak
Molly Neitzel
Sara Marie Riley
Shashi Kumara
Sheree Moffat
Tannis Thorlakson Sullivan
Teri Young
Todd & Cate Cullison
Tom Buttweiler
Tran Chinery
Vincent R. Shigekuni
Wes and Suanne Nagata



Pili

Up to \$249

Alexander Shor
Andrea Miyashita
Ann Castelfranco
Barbara J. Smith
Bonnie Pang
Carolynn Bell-Tuttle
Celeste Yonamine
Dean K. Akimseu
Emeline Umezu
Erin Mitsuyoshi

FCH Enterprises, Inc./Zippy's Restaurants
Hawai'i Community Foundation –
The Hawai'i Nature Center Fund
Jennifer Bustard
Jodie Cordero
John Wright
Justina Acevedo-Cross
Lea and H. John Heide
Mark Heckman
Mike & Geri Twedt

Mrs. Sumako Kumabe
Naomi Iwabuchi
Nicholas Paslay
Nina Epton
Sara Mullen
Sara Sakamoto
Sonja Hirasuna
Tim Anderson
Vanessa Yanagawa
Zack Reinig

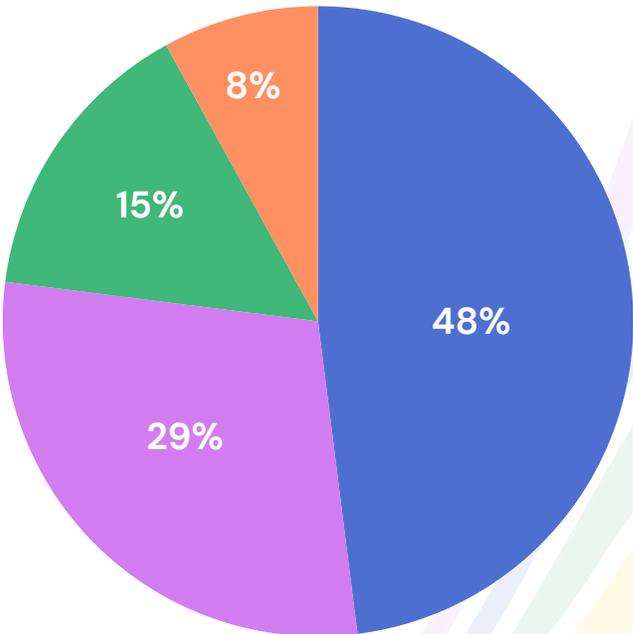
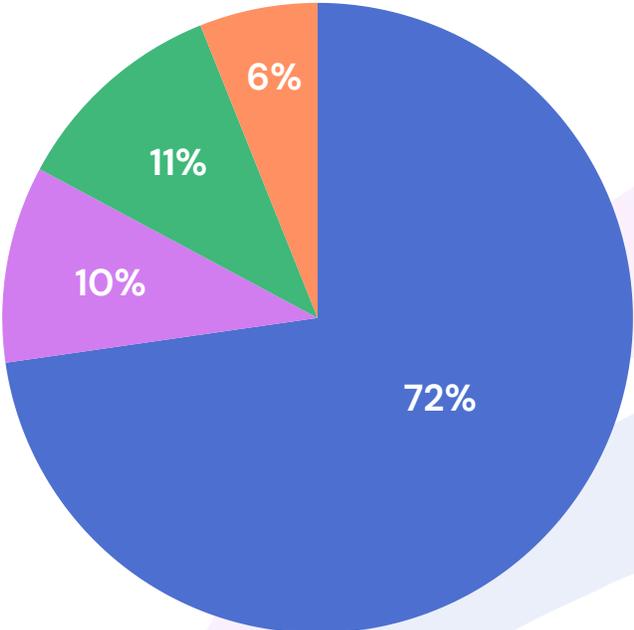
Hawai'i Nature Center

2024 Annual Operating Financial Report

January 1 to December 31, 2024

Operating Costs

- Salaries & Related Expenses
- Purchased Services
- Office & Administration
- Other Program Expenses



Funds Received

- Program Revenue
- Private Grants
- Donations & Contributions
- Other Revenue



HAWAII NATURE CENTER
Connecting children and families to nature



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