

# 2025 Native Hawaiian Funding Snapshot

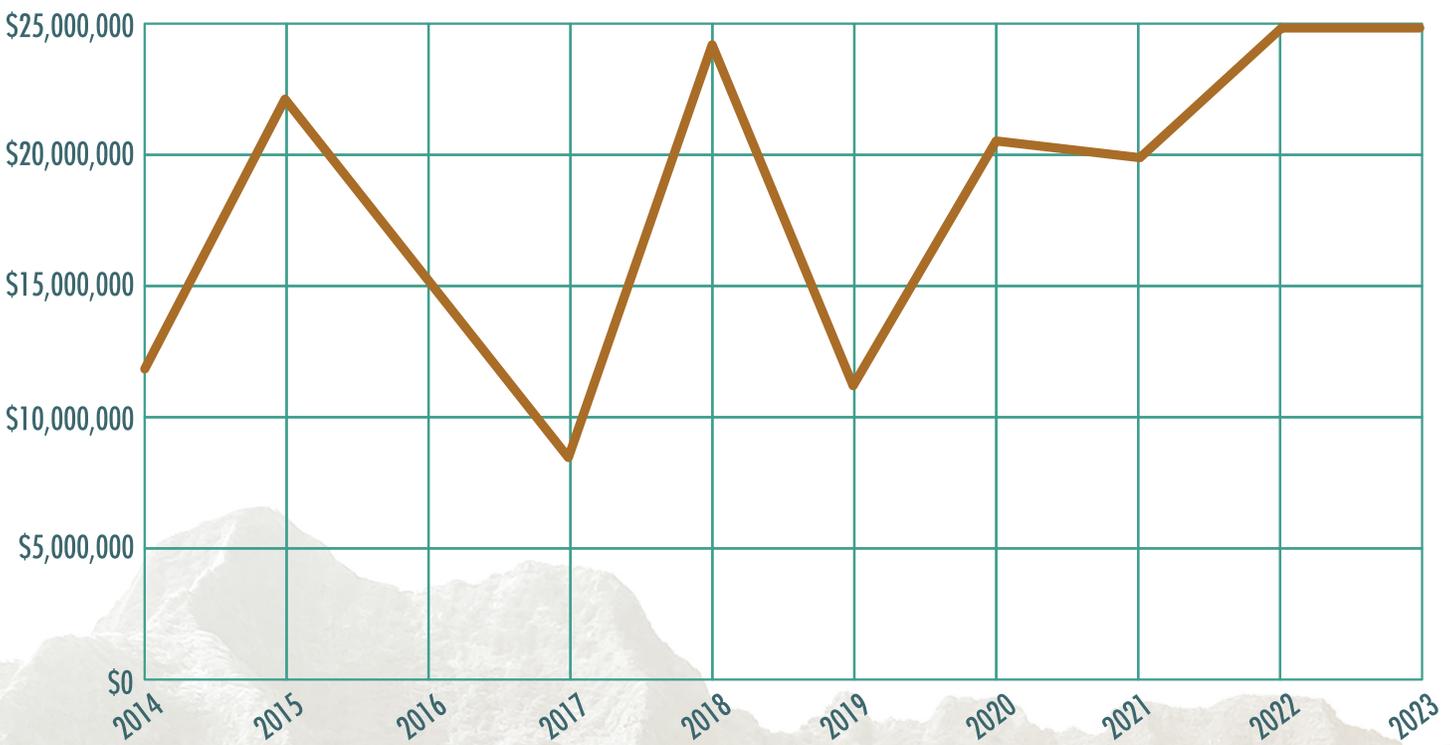
AAPIP



# 2025 Native Hawaiian Funding Snapshot

Between 2014 and 2023, US funders have not invested more than \$25 million a year in Native Hawaiian communities. In the context of US funders awarding \$140.1 billion in 2023, Native Hawaiians are receiving pennies. For every \$100 awarded by US funders, Native Hawaiians receive less than two pennies.

## U.S. Foundation and Corporate Funding for Native Hawaiian Communities, 2014 - 2023



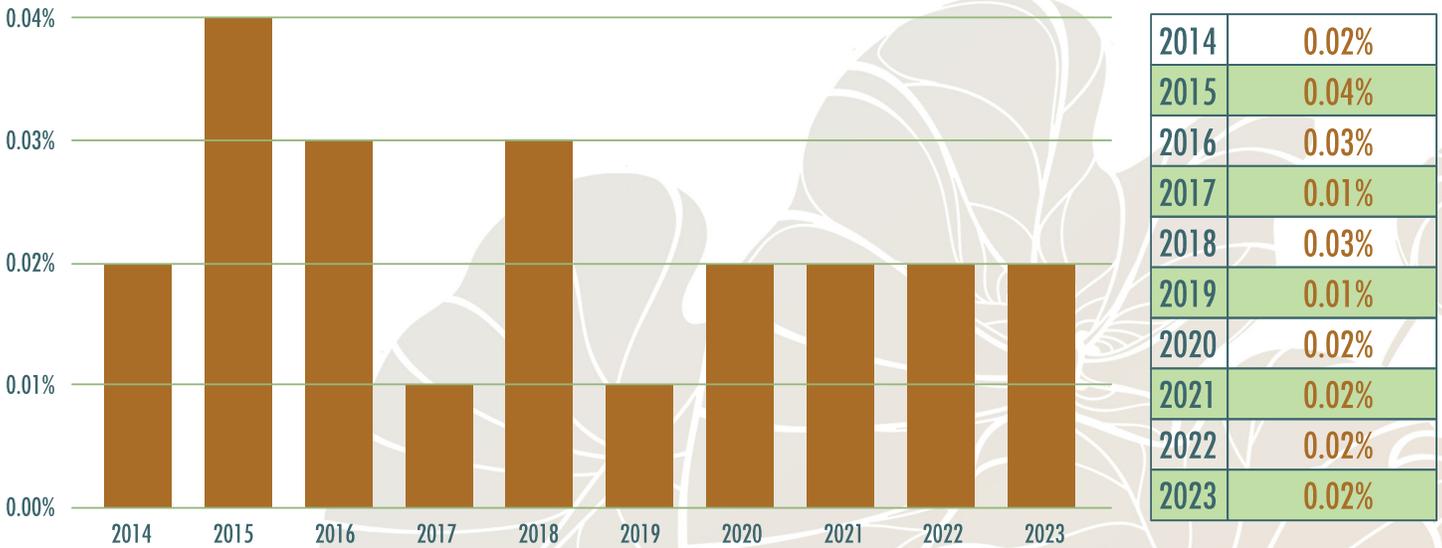
## U.S. Foundation and Corporate Funding for Native Hawaiians, 2014 - 2023

While funding peaked in 2023 at \$24.8 million, as a percentage of all philanthropic dollars, funding for Native Hawaiian communities has never exceeded 0.04%. In recent years it has only amounted to 0.02% of all funding awarded by U.S. funders.

\* These numbers come from AAPIP's Seeking to Soar: Foundation Funding for Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities. That report rounded these numbers to the millions by one decimal point. As such, the figures are not as complete as those coming from the 2025 AANHPI Funding Snapshot: US Institutional Support for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Communities.

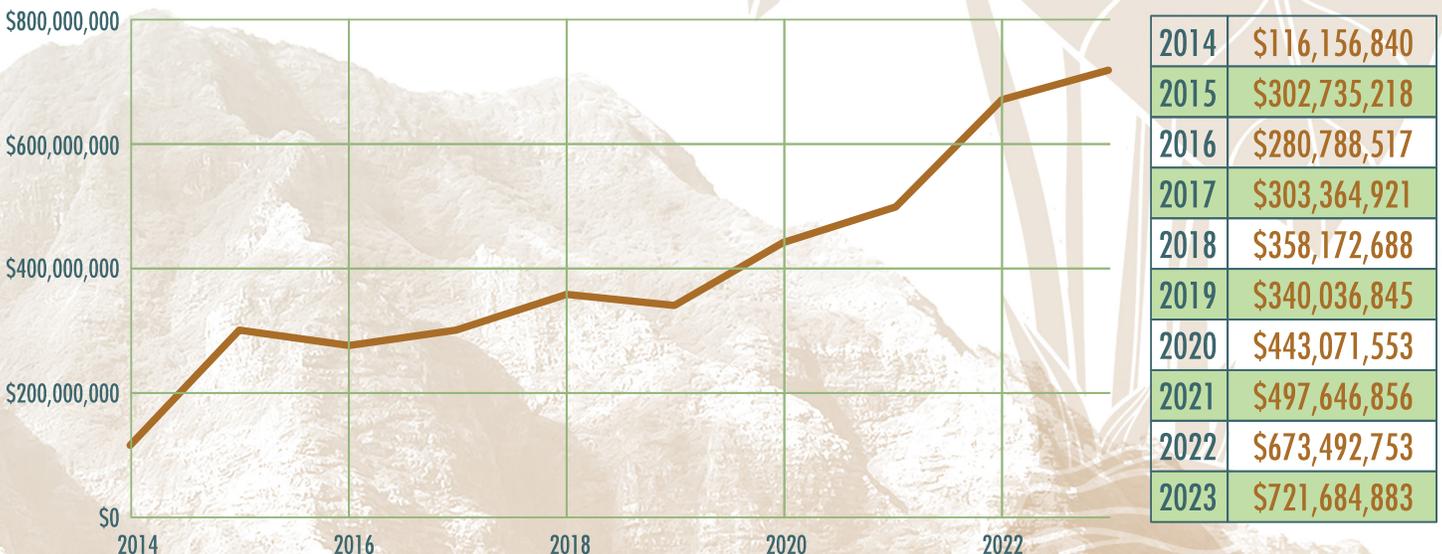
2014	\$12,000,000*
2015	\$22,100,000*
2016	\$15,000,000*
2017	\$8,500,000*
2018	\$24,100,000*
2019	\$11,258,196
2020	\$20,497,507
2021	\$19,842,760
2022	\$24,822,956
2023	\$24,829,422

## Percentage of U.S. International Grant Dollars Awarded to Native Hawaiian Communities, 2014-2023



Funding for Hawai'i totaled \$721.7 million in 2023, meaning that Native Hawaiians only received 3.4% of funding for the state.

## U.S. Foundation and Corporate Funding to Organizations Based in Hawai'i, 2014-2023



## Did You Know?

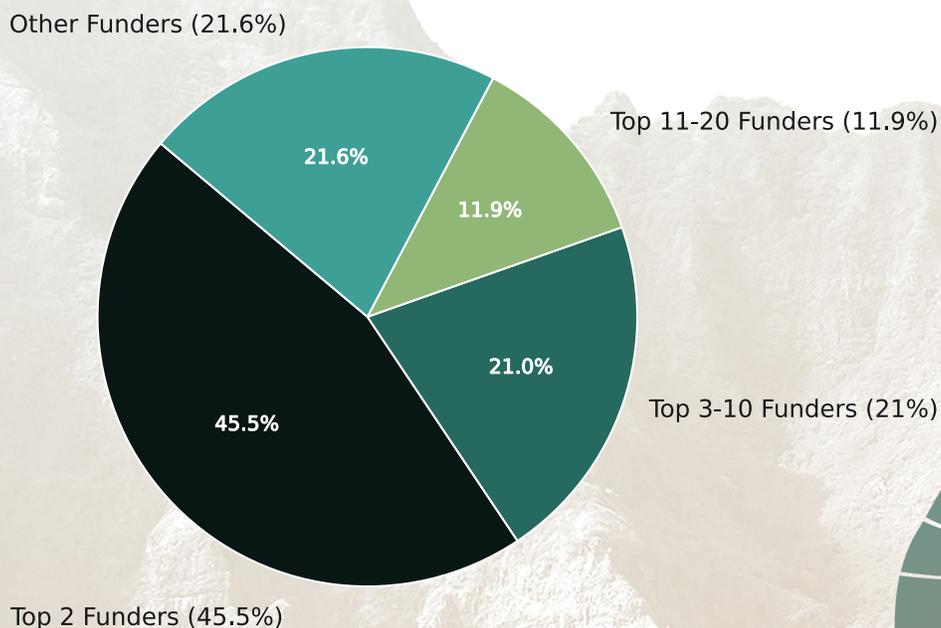
Only 17.8% of funding for Native Hawaiian communities is awarded as general operating support.

For the five year period covering 2019 to 2023, we identified funding for Native Hawaiian communities from 360 foundations and corporations. However, during that period the bulk of funding for Native Hawaiian communities came from a much smaller group of funders. Between 2019 and 2023, the top two funders alone accounted for 45.5% of all funding for Native Hawaiian communities, with the top 10 funders accounting for two-thirds or 66.5% of all funding for Native Hawaiian communities, and the top 20 funders accounting for 78.4% of all funding for Native Hawaiian communities.

Of the top 20 funders, twelve were private foundations, six are public foundations, and two are community foundations. Five of them, or a quarter, are headquartered in Hawai‘i.

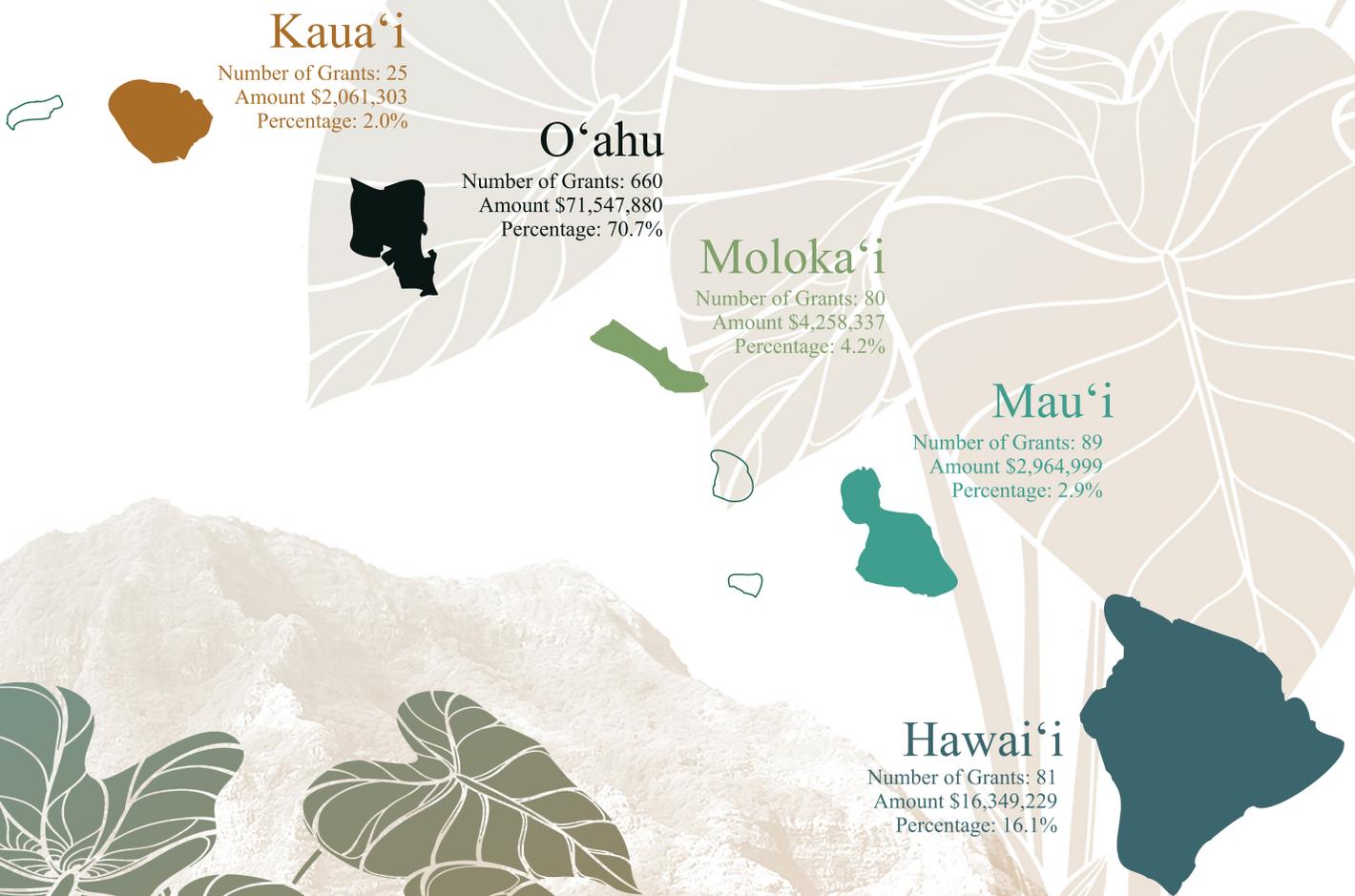
*Note, grantmakers featured in our lists do not exclusively focus on Native Hawaiian communities nor do they use race as a sole consideration for funding. Most support a wide range of communities and use a range of criteria in deciding grant awards.*

## Funding for Native Hawaiian communities, 2019-2023



## Geographic Focus of Funding for Native Hawaiians, 2019-2023

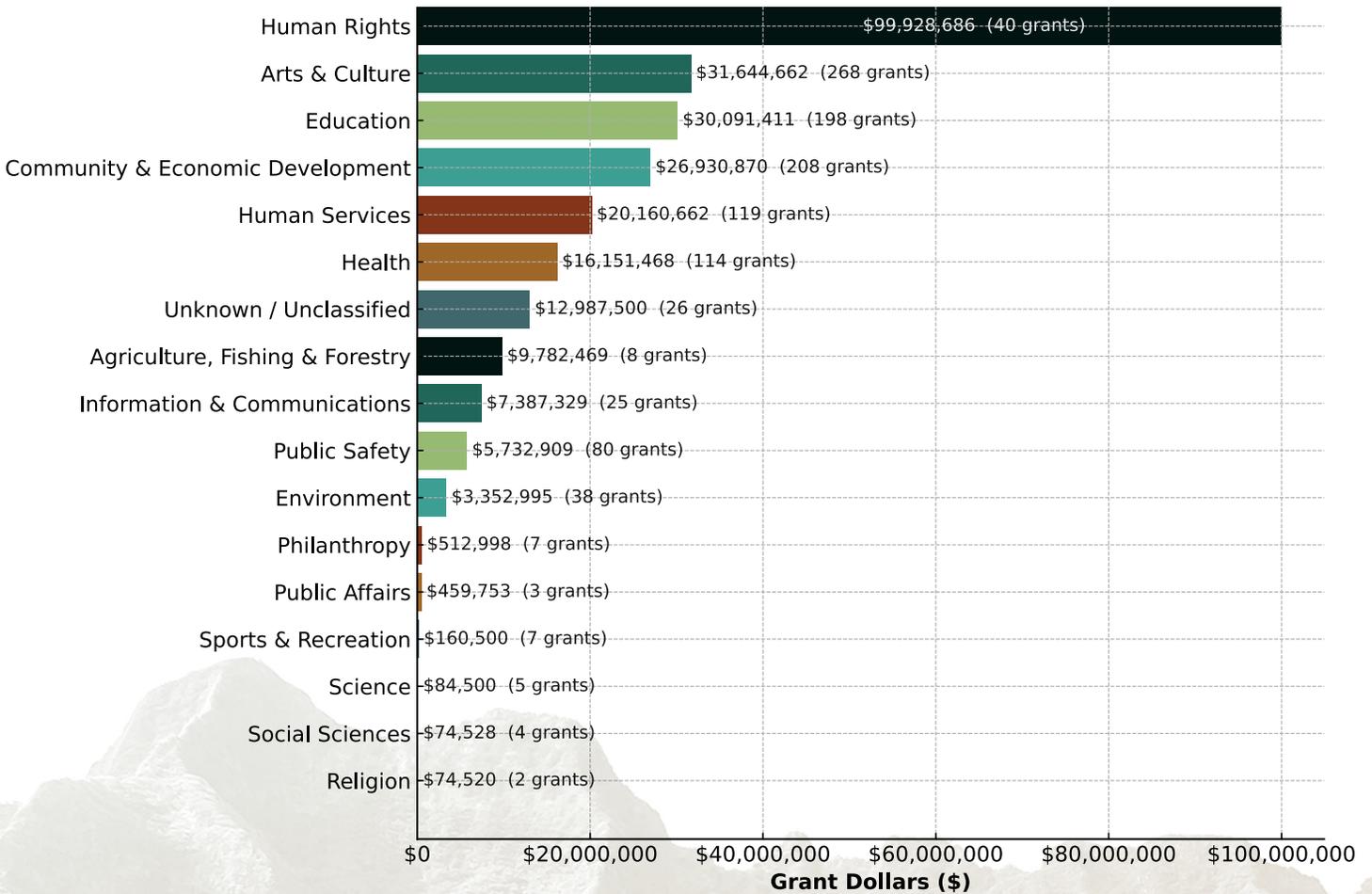
While funding for Native Hawaiian communities spread across the islands even spilled over into the mainland, approximately 70% of the grants awarded and the total dollars awarded to support Native Hawaiian communities are awarded to organizations on O‘ahu.



# 2025 Native Hawaiian Funding Snapshot

Between 2019 and 2023, most funding for Native Hawaiians was awarded to support Human Rights. The second most funded issue area was Arts and Culture, followed closely by Education.

## Funding by Issue Area (2019-2023)



## Methodology

The analysis in this funding snapshot draws on research conducted by AAPIP staff and consultants for the 2025 AANHPI Funding Snapshot: US Institutional Giving for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Communities. Findings for that report and this snapshot draw on grants-level data from Candid, an organization that gathers data about nonprofits and philanthropic grantmaking in the U.S. and around the globe. Candid collects data from private foundations of all

sizes, public charities that award grants to other nonprofits (sometimes called public foundations or intermediaries), and corporations.

In more recent years, Candid has also begun to collect data from high-net-worth individuals and government grants, but grants from these sources are excluded from the analysis for this report, which seeks to provide a comprehensive snapshot of foundation and corporate funding focused on Native Hawaiian communities.

Data is from Candid's transactions database as of August 2, 2024 (for data on grants awarded in calendar years 2019-2022) and as of May 19, 2025 (for data on calendar year 2023). The data is sourced from publicly available data sources, including IRS Forms 990 and 990-PF, grantmaker websites, as well as funders that report their grantmaking directly to Candid. For U.S. community foundations, discretionary grants are included as well as donor-advised grants when provided by the foundation or found on 990s.

This data focuses on grants from foundations and corporations and excludes giving from individuals and the government as well as pledges (announced intentions to award a monetary or in-kind contribution), in-kind contributions, or social-impact bonds awarded by foundations and corporations.

Grants data are coded according to Candid's Philanthropy Classification System (PCS), which consists of several facets: subject, population served, support strategy, transaction type, organization type, and geographic area served. Candid uses various "autocoding" methods and some manual review to assign codes to organizations and grants. Most grants are coded for multiple subjects (otherwise known as issue areas). Ku'uleinani Maunupau from Native Hawaiian Philanthropy assisted in identifying the geographic focus by islands based on the information Candid collects by city. For more detailed information about these methods, see <https://candid.org/use-our-data/about-our-data/grants-data-fact-sheet>.

#### **Criteria included for the data:**

- Location: United States
- Population Served - Ethnic and Racial Groups equals: Native Hawaiians
- Grant Years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
- Excludes Federal Funders
- Excludes grants that are coded with a Geographic Focus that is International or focused on any country or region outside the U.S.

After receiving data from Candid, AAPIP's research team conducted several rounds of quality control to assure the overall quality and consistency of the dataset. Researchers identified grants that had been erroneously coded as focused on AANHPI and removed them from the dataset. In some cases, missing data was also added. The most common reasons for miscoding were grants that primarily focused on international aid for Asian countries, rather than AANHPI communities in the U.S.; grants that focused on supporting Asian art, Asian animals, or Asian academic studies, but not AANHPI communities in the U.S.; and grants that had been "overcoded" for multiple populations but had no specific focus on AANHPI communities.

To avoid double counting, the AAPIP research team marked grants intended for re-granting as such. These grants were excluded from the overall tallies so as to avoid doublecounting, but are included in totals for top funders and funder type so as to reflect the full amount of funding being channeled by or through each funder and type of funder.

The AAPIP research team conducted additional quality control to assure that coding for specific categories was accurate and consistent - particularly for sub-population. All identified errors were shared back with Candid to assist with the ongoing strengthening of the coding system and the autocoder's algorithm.

This snapshot is produced as a part of Power in Solidarity: Hawai‘i. Power in Solidarity: Hawai‘i is an effort to highlight Native Hawaiian priorities and assets and encourage grantmakers to increase philanthropic investments in Hawai‘i. The initiative is a partnership between Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP), Native Americans in Philanthropy (NAP), and Native Hawaiian Philanthropy (NHP).

# AAPIP

About Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy:

Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP) expands and mobilizes resources for AANHPI communities to build a more just and equitable society.



## NATIVE AMERICANS IN PHILANTHROPY

About Native Americans in Philanthropy:

Native Americans in Philanthropy (NAP) advocates, educates, convenes and innovates to dramatically increase philanthropic investments in Native communities and transform the philanthropic sector’s relationship with Indigenous communities.



About Native Hawaiian Philanthropy:

Native Hawaiian Philanthropy (NHP) is dedicated to improving socio-economic conditions in Native Hawaiian communities by fostering collaborative relationships between Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs) and the philanthropic sector, advocating for social justice, and providing sustainable funding solutions that uplift Native Hawaiian voices, cultural programs, and innovative projects while addressing the unique challenges faced by our communities.

### REPORT CREDITS

Author: Lyle Matthew Kan  
Designer: The Kālaïmoku Group

### SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to Ben Francisco Maulbeck and Tyler Armeý who led research and quality control efforts on AAPIP’s 2025 AANHPI Funding Snapshot: US Institutional Giving for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Communities. This report draws from that data set, which would not be possible without our friends at Candid.\* We are incredibly grateful to Candid for their ongoing partnership, in particular Ann Mei Chang and Brian Schultz. We’re also incredibly grateful to Marisa Castuera Hayase (The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation), Micky Huihui (Hawaii Peoples Fund), Michelle Ka’uhane (Hawaii Community Foundation), Ashley Lukins (Funder Hui), and Kehau Meyer (Hawaii Community Foundation) for their contributions to this effort - including supplying additional data.

© SEPTEMBER 2025, ASIAN AMERICANS/PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN PHILANTHROPY (AAPIP) Permission is granted to reproduce this document in part or in its entirety provided that Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP) is cited as the source for all reproduced material.