

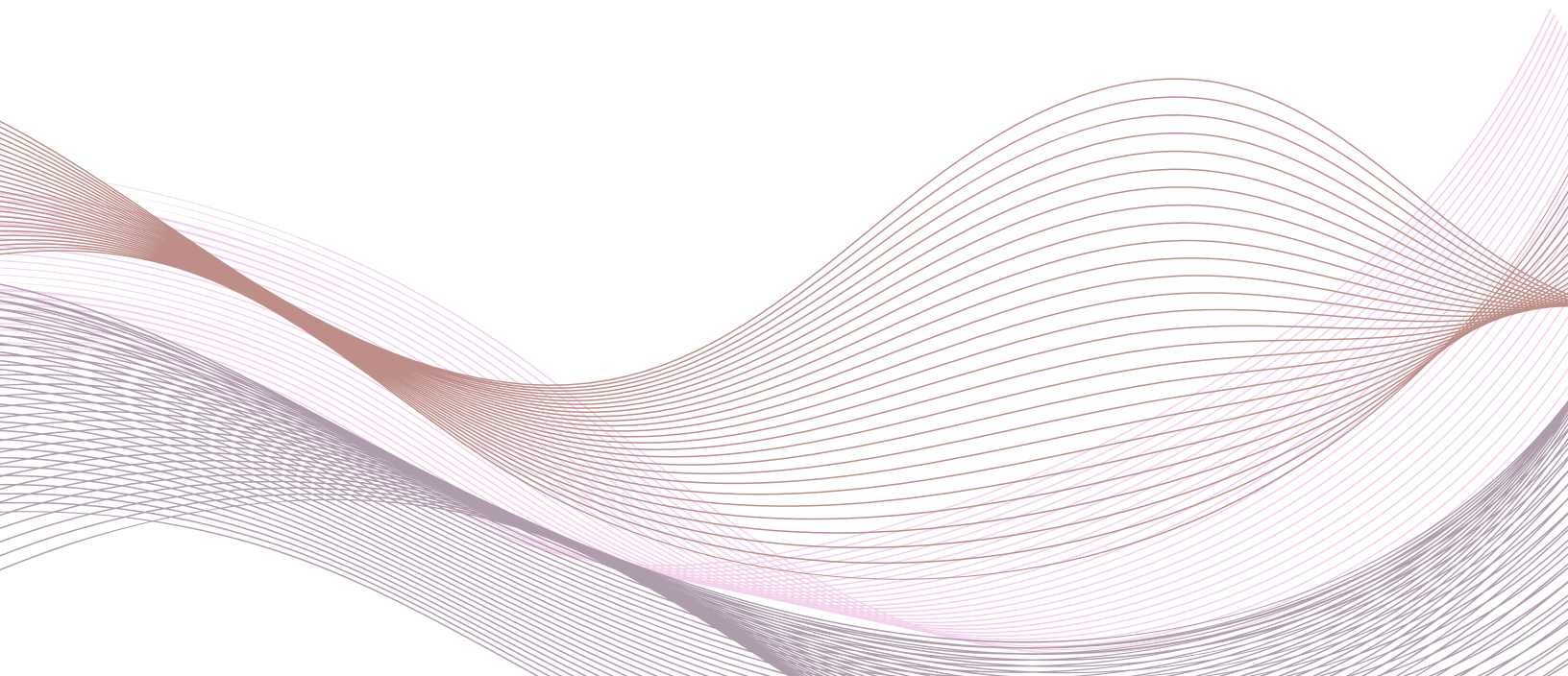


INSTITUTE FOR  
CLIMATE & PEACE

*Spring 2024*

# IMPACT REPORT

**Ka'a I Ka Wiwo'ole:  
Brave Enough From the  
Frontlines of Our Climate  
Resilient Futures**





# Table of Contents

ABOUT ICP	1
PROGRAM OVERVIEW	2
PROGRAM OBJECTIVES + FOCUS AREAS	3
TIMELINE	4
WAIMĀNALO LIMU HUI	5
WAIMĀNALO RESEARCH STATION	7
VIRTUAL TOUCHPOINTS	9
IMPACT METRICS	10
OUTCOMES & ACHIEVEMENTS	17
OUR DONORS	19
INDIVIDUAL DONORS	22
MENTOR-AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS	23
COMMUNITY-BASED PARTNERS	24
LOOKING AHEAD	25
OUR FACILITATION TEAM	27
MAHALO NUI + CONTACT US	29

# The Institute for Climate and Peace

*Our mission is to advance peaceful, climate-resilient futures by elevating the inherent wisdom, power, ingenuity, and voices of the communities that we serve.*

The Institute for Climate and Peace (ICP) is a 501(c)(3) climate justice organization that understands the data and advances positive peace to build equity and climate resiliency for communities most affected by climate change.

## Our Theory of Change

If peacebuilding problem-solving methods are applied in parallel with rigorous research on the changing climate, then decision makers at all scales are better equipped to respond to climate crises, reduce friction, and build social cohesion through locally-based and culturally-appropriate responses.

We implement programming across and between the methodologies of **Information and Education, Collaboration,** and **Policy Transformation** to advance tailored, community-grounded solutions towards climate-resilient and peaceful futures.



Through leadership training and workshops, policy guidance and planning, and community partnership development, we foster dialogue, test methods, and develop integrated solution sets that effectively address the significant concerns at the intersection of peace and environmental crisis.

ICP remains rooted in Indigenous and regenerative practices. We are re-envisioning how we relate to ourselves, each other, and our environment by investing deeply in transformative strategies that effectively center the human experience and support the vision of communities at the frontlines of climate change.

# Ka'a I Ka Wiwo'ole: Brave Enough From the Frontlines of Our Climate Resilient Futures

*Uplifting women and girl-led climate justice in Hawai'i.*

Ka'a I Ka Wiwo'ole: Brave Enough From the Frontlines of Our Climate Resilient Futures is a multigenerational training and networking program that uplifts adolescent BIPOC girls and women leaders to co-create and contribute to their community's resilience and build the skills, networks, and passion to champion climate justice together. Additionally, this project elevates the power of adolescent BIPOC girls to better prevent, adapt to, and recover from the negative impacts of climate change by centering Indigenous wisdom and values of environmental reverence.

Our first cohort in Spring 2024 brought together 9 girls and 13 women leaders from across the Hawaiian Islands supporting their full power in culturally-responsive ways that honors identity, creativity, and energy to create the most just futures we can imagine.

Our program joined a Waimānalo community organization, Ke Kula Nui O Waimānalo, in environmental and ocean stewardship, immersion, and deep learning. Participants engaged in learning about local, Indigenous, and ancient knowledge systems that uphold values of mālama 'āina that perpetuate the well-being of our lands and our people from mauka (mountainside) and makai (oceanside). Additionally, participants engaged in a climate and gender roundtable and discourse on leadership, goal setting, and futures-thinking while connecting deeper with the environment, each other, and the wider community.

Convenings took place during the first three months of 2024 with one in-person 'aina-based day, two open virtual office hours, and two virtual training days. We reached a total of 35 direct touchpoints and 135 indirect touchpoints, and worked alongside 3 community-based organizations and 6 mentor-affiliated organizations.

Our intention is to continue this program with the next phase of programming in Spring 2025 to strengthen our relationships with the girls, their mentors, and the community, and to begin the first girl-led climate emergency response toolkit for Hawai'i.



**Check out our Program Video:**

<https://youtu.be/N4C8u2fBaDY>

*Video produced by: Wakeful State*

# Program Objectives

## Wiwo'ole

Begin the first girl-led climate emergency response toolkit for Hawai'i.

## Kānaka Wāhine

Provide leadership development and scaling opportunities to kaikamahine and their wāhine mentors through culture-based solutioning.

## 'Āina

Amplify community resilience through Hawai'i-serving organizations to address climate change, environmental injustices, legacy pollution, and disaster risk reduction.

## Pilina

Identify and craft climate resilience and peace-building policy solutions that help communities thrive amid uncertainty.

## Focus Areas

Food &  
Agriculture

Health &  
Well-Being

Water &  
Waste

Disaster Risk  
& Recovery



# Timeline

## TOUCHPOINT 1

February 27, 2024  
6pm - 7:30pm HST  
Virtual, [Zoom](#)

Girls gained a foundational understanding of climate change, its impact on the Hawaiian Islands, and opportunities and solutions led by girls, youth, and women. This inaugural session facilitated through roundtable discussions and breakout rooms, encouraged active participation from both girls, mentors, and the ICP team. Discussions emphasized the significance of youth, girls, and women leadership in environmental and climate action, reflecting on the importance of building up youth and girls to become changemakers and leaders in their community.

## TOUCHPOINT 2

March 2, 2024  
7:45am - 4 pm HST  
In-Person, Waimānalo

We partnered and were hosted by Ke Kula Nui O Waimānalo, a Waimānalo-based non-profit, who provided a primary site with rotational kīpuka, or learning exchange centers, that resonate with the goals and themes of rootedness, place, wisdom, resilience, and revitalization from Mauka (ocean) to Makai (mountain). Participants joined the Waimānalo community in restoring the Pāhonu fishpond at Kaiona Beach Park, learned about traditional agriculture practices at the Waimānalo Research Station Farm, engaged in a climate and gender roundtable, and more. The rich experiential group learning at the ocean site and the farm site, allowed our group to learn from a local organization deeply embedded in the community.

## TOUCHPOINT 3

March 19, 2024  
6pm - 7:30pm HST  
Virtual, [Zoom](#)

Marking the culmination of our program, the final touchpoint provided an opportunity to revisit themes explored from the past two touchpoints. Participants reflected on their experiences at the farm and ocean sites, recognizing the significance of these efforts in shaping climate-resilient futures. Discussions centered on participants' personal observations of environmental changes, engagement in futures-thinking, and deepening their comprehension of climate change on our islands. Concluding with exploring ways participants can actively lead and contribute to fostering climate resilience within their communities beyond the program.



Photos by: Elyse Butler

## Waimānalo Limu Hui

At our Makai (oceanside) rotational kīpuka, we joined [Waimānalo Limu Hui](#) alongside 125 members of the Waimānalo community, for a community-based restoration day. We started the day with cultural protocol and together, our cohort and community members worked to restore Pāhonu (an ancient Hawaiian stone enclosure that was previously an active fishpond) and the life surrounding it by collecting and relocating rocks and weaving together limu lei for sealife living in the water.

Together, we learned traditional, Hawaiian cultural practices like rock formation in efforts to rebuild the fishpond and rockwall, while also mitigating the impacts of sea level rise for surrounding homes near the ocean. Participants were able to learn from community members of the historical and cultural significance of traditional fishponds like Pāhonu to Native Hawaiians.

Participants also learned how to use cordage made from the hala root, to weave limu lei (seaweed garland) that are tied to small rocks that are then placed within the bay where its spores get broadcasted into the current. Here the fish and turtles feed on these ancient nutrients still available in our oceans, but threatened and highly depleted. Furthermore thinking beyond food security for ourselves, but rather, food for the entire ecosystem as sea-reliant peoples.





Photos by: Elyse Butler







Photo by: Elyse Butler

## Waimānalo Research Station

During our Mauka (mountainside) rotational kīpuka, our cohort gathered at the Waimanalo Research Station Farm site where participants took part in a Climate and Gender Roundtable, learned about traditional regenerative agriculture practices and biodiversity to better sustain and feed the community, land and water management, and practices of lā'au lapa'au (meaning vegetation and treat, heal, or cure) where this practice involved using native plants, herbs, and spirituality to treat ailments and injuries.

Water was an area participants learned more about as it relates to the access, regulation, and cost differences in designated and re-zoned agriculture land prevalent within the Waimanālo area. Furthermore, the significance of regenerative agriculture and native biodiversity was explored to better sustain and feed communities amidst the challenges of monocropping, invasive species, and infrastructure changes.

Together, we engaged in thoughtful discussions about the agency of women and girls in climate justice work, the significance of community-building, food sovereignty, and the ingenuity of traditional values and practices to create and sustain peaceful and sustainable societies. This was an important opportunity to meaningfully connect with each other and the environment over shared goals, and with curiosity and an eagerness to learn.





Photos by: Elyse Butler





## Virtual Touchpoints

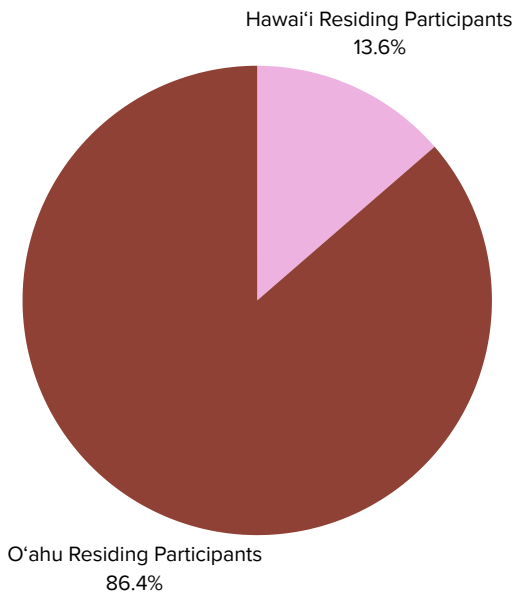
Virtually, participants engaged in discussions on leadership, goal setting, and futures-thinking. Girls gained a foundational understanding of climate change, its impact on the Hawaiian Islands, and opportunities and solutions led by girls, youth, and women. This inaugural session facilitated roundtable discussions and breakout rooms, encouraging active participation from both girls and mentors. These discussions emphasized the significance of youth, girls, and women leadership in environmental and climate action and the importance of building up youth and girls to become changemakers and leaders in their community.

Participants concluded the program by engaging in reflection on their experiences contributing to the restoration of Pāhōnu and agricultural practices, community-building, dialogue, and mentorship, recognizing the significance of these efforts in shaping climate-resilient futures. Discussions centered on participants' personal observations of environmental changes, deepening their comprehension of climate change on our islands, and exploring ways they can actively lead and contribute to fostering climate-resilience within their communities beyond the program.





# Impact Metrics

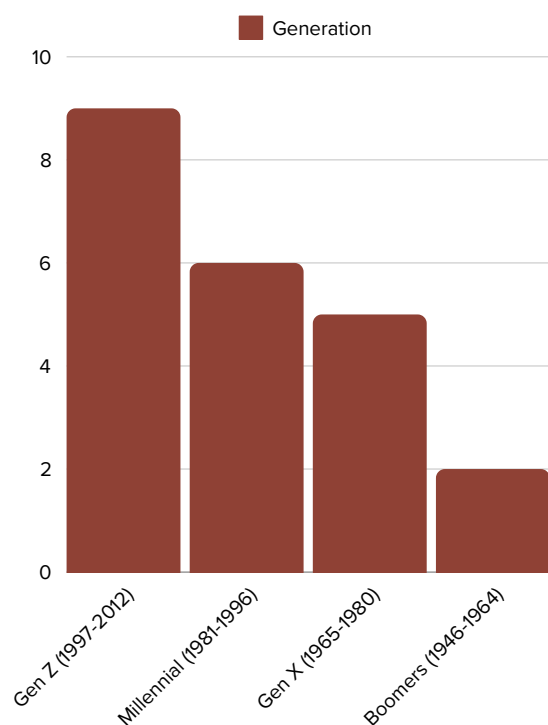


All (100.00%) of mentors identified as belonging to a group that has historically faced discrimination in the U.S. based on race, immigration status, country of national origin, disability status, religion, language, or ethnic group. The ethnic backgrounds of our mentors included: Indigenous/Native/First Person, White, Asian, and Native Hawaiian. Our girl participants all reside among the Hawaiian Islands with 2 of the girls residing on Hawai'i Island and 7 residing on O'ahu. The ethnic backgrounds of our girl participants included: Indigenous/Native/First Person, White, Black or African American, Asian, and Native Hawaiian.

# Our Intergenerational Cohort

This program was intentionally designed to be intergenerational for girls and women to amplify solutions that prevent further environmental violence against them and their natural resources. An intergenerational cohort is an important component of this program because climate justice work should not occur in silos. Young people are often tokenized and siloed in their activism. We aim to actively center the agency of these young girls while providing them with necessary support. We also understand that assessing intergenerational dynamics and working to increase intergenerational equity and solidarity are crucial ways to respond to the climate crisis, and to the disproportionate climate-related challenges youth and future generations will shoulder in the long-term.

Multi-generational learnings are core values to ICP’s work. One of the main facets of the program is to provide support and leadership to our girl participants by connecting them with women mentors. Mentors emphasized the importance of amplifying the voices of young women: “We want to hear from the next generation. We believe that it is important for us to help the next generation feel empowered to voice their opinions.” — Brytni K-Aloha (Mentor). In addition to offering guidance within the program, mentors also had the opportunity to support participant’s guidance for recommendations, referrals, and assistance related to their education pursuits, job searches, scholarship and fellowship applications, and other areas beyond program completion. This was an important part of the program to ensure the support they received is perpetuated beyond the program. Having an intergenerational cohort helped girls feel a greater sense of community and belonging while nurturing greater sources of support. “Places like these where women can share and collaborate openly and without judgment is important.” — Olive (Girl Participant). Creating a safe space for girls to actively engage and participate within an intergenerational community of practice was important to uplift their agency and to advance climate action and greater collaboration among the wider community.



There were 4 generations of women present during this program, which made the cohort even more meaningful in that it demonstrated how a large part of climate justice work is for future generations based on the past rights and wrongs. Generational groups weren’t limited to mentor and girl participants, but also familial ones. As Jamee Miller (Program Mentor) describes: “I’m here with my daughter and grandchildren, and doing this activity at Pāhōnu... putting our *‘ohana* (family) *mana* (power/energy) into all of this was really important. It’s life-giving. This was a highlight for us and will be memorable and will be something that our *‘ohana* will always remember when we drive by, when we come and visit, we know that a part of us is here.”

The influence young people have on other generations and vice versa, was not lost on us. We saw this program as an opportunity for us to foster greater intergenerational learning and solidarity. We recognized the interdependent and interconnected nature between generations, as we saw how vital they are to nurture the passing of knowledge, creating multi-generational solidarity, and fostering greater collaborative actions to respond to climate change.



# One Word Takeaways describing Touchpoint 2 (In-Person Day).

Uplifting	'Aina	Girls	Mālama 'Aina	Aloha
		Empowering	Alaka'i	
	Friendship	Connection	Inspiring	
Spark	Love	Hopeful	Momona	Wāhine
	Joyful	Kākou		
	Grow	Learn		
			Aloha 'Aina	Waiwai

Results from Mentimeter



# What qualities that make a Good Leader?





Photo by: Elyse Butler

## In a girl-led future, more things will improve in Hawai'i.

79% Strongly Agree



21% Somewhat Agree

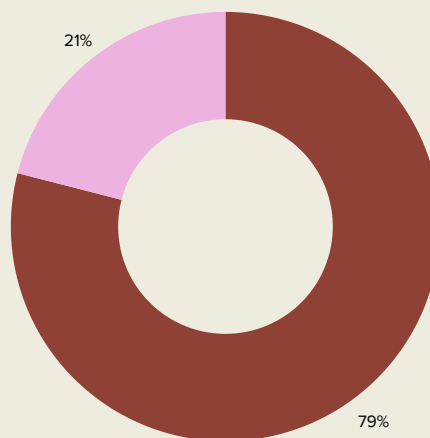
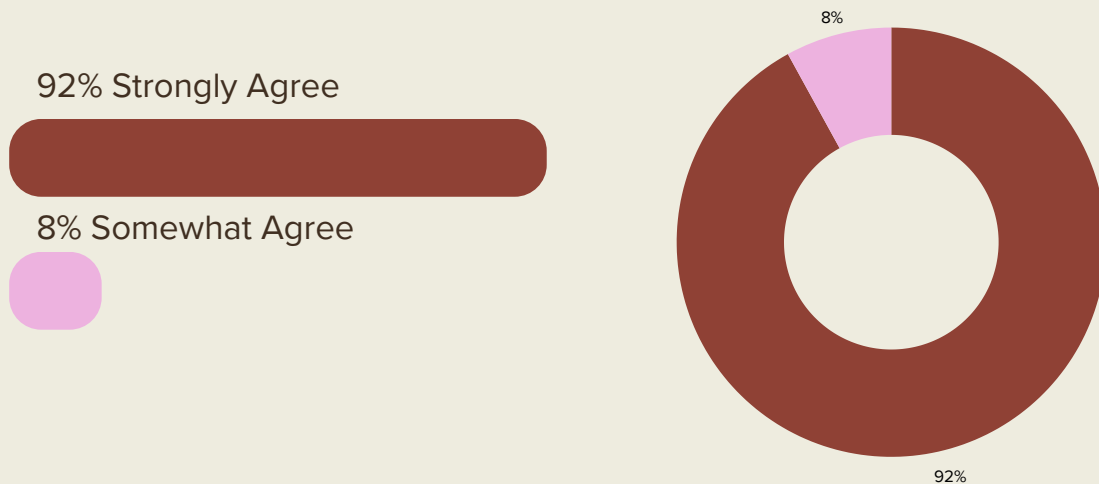






Photo by: Elyse Butler

## Do you know wāhine (women+) in the Hawai'i-Pacific region who make the world a better, more peaceful place?





Why wahine?  
girls have minds of their own.  
a positive foresight. a mindset to be strong.  
the courage to solve problems. women  
are our future and to ensure we build  
them with courage in their Curiosity  
they have the power to do greatness

Journal reflection from a Ka'a I Ka Wiwo'ole program participant on why wahine are important leaders and changemakers in climate action.



# Outcomes & Achievements

The Ka'a I Ka Wiwo'ole training and networking program brought together nine girls and thirteen women leaders to uplift their community's resilience and build the skills, networks, and passion to champion climate justice together. We partnered and were hosted by Ke Kula Nui O Waimānalo who provided a primary site with rotational kīpuka, or learning exchange centers, that resonate with the goals and themes of rootedness, place, wisdom, resilience, and revitalization. At one of our rotational kīpuka, we joined with over 75 members of the Waimānalo community for a community-based experience while connecting to the Ko'olau/Windward side of the island of O'ahu. Together, our team and community members worked to strengthen the goal of restoring Pāhonu by collecting and relocating rocks and weaving together limu lei for life living in the water. Partnering with Ke Kula Nui O Waimānalo, not only provided rich experiential group learning with principles of social cohesion, but allowed our group to learn from a local organization who is deeply embedded in the community and understands the gaps that are making it challenging for girls from these frontline communities to lead. Participants from the program have shared their interest in participating in the next phase of programming with future opportunities to partner with other local organizations on the island of O'ahu.

ICP's program: Ka'a I Ka Wiwo'ole: Brave Enough From the Frontlines of Our Climate Resilient Futures, and the funding from individual donors and several local and national organizations (see \_\_\_ below) , served as a catalyst for support to elevate the power of adolescent BIPOC girls to better prevent, adapt to, and recover from the negative impacts of climate change centering Indigenous wisdom and values of environmental reverence. We brought together nine girls and thirteen women leaders to provide leadership development through in-person and virtual touchpoints of spirits to champion climate justice by girls in their own Indigenous frontline communities. Our program also joined a Waimānalo community organization in environmental and ocean stewardship, immersion, and deep learning. Convenings took place during the first three months of 2024 with one in-person day, two open virtual office hours, and three virtual training days. Our intention is to continue this program with the next phase of programming in Spring 2025 to strengthen our relationships with the girls, their mentors, and the community, and to begin the first girl-led climate emergency response toolkit for Hawai'i.



## What did you enjoy most about this program?

“Being able to hear other voices of young women but mostly feeling like I have a voice and being able to see a different perspective on issues we face today.”

– Aubree, Girl Participant



## What is something that gives you hope for the future?

“We are not alone! there are plenty of institutions much like icp that are holding the same or similar conversations as we are. community is becoming increasingly important in the USA and small, collaborative groups are exactly what we need right now.”

– Kau’i, Girl Participant

# Our Donors

*Mahalo nui loa to our generous donors!*

Programs like this one would not be possible without the support of our donors. The Institute for Climate and Peace extends our gratitude to our donors who are dedicated to centering the leadership and agency of women and girls to amplify peace and climate justice in our communities.

[The Climate Reality Project](#)

[Harold K.L. Castle Foundation](#)

[Hawaiian Electric Industries Charitable Foundation](#)

[The Solutions Project](#)

[Humanity United](#)

[Susan M. Kosasa Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation](#)



HAROLD K.L. CASTLE  
FOUNDATION



The Climate  
Reality Project



HUMANITY  
UNITED



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION





## The Climate Reality Project - Justice for All Grant

The Climate Reality Project is a 501(c)(3) organization founded by former Vice President Al Gore, seeking to build a just and sustainable true net zero future through its global 3.5 million network. Climate Reality recruits, trains, and mobilizes people of all ages and walks of life to become world-changing advocates, equipped with the skills, resources, and network to lead the fight for just climate solutions and open the door to a better true net-zero future for all.

**The Institute for Climate and Peace is honored to be the The Climate Reality Project's first grantee in Hawai'i. ICP has been selected as one of 10 recipients across the U.S. and Puerto Rico to receive a Climate Justice for All Grant to implement local projects in communities that are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis and environmental injustice.** We are excited to be working alongside Climate Reality to advance climate justice through the leadership of women and girls in communities in Hawai'i and beyond.

## Harold K.L Castle Foundation – Pilina Fund

The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation works to build resources for Hawaii's future by investing in promising initiatives and organizations through grantmaking, using our convening power, and introducing and spreading new ideas and approaches to help solve some of Hawaii's most pressing problems. This program is partially funded by the Castle Foundation's **Ko'olau Pilina Fund** which aims to build community resilience and to support trusted community-based organizations to build well-connected, safe, and strong communities in Ko'olau, O'ahu. We are grateful and eager to work alongside Hawaii-based foundations like the Castle Foundation to advance grassroots efforts and build capacity through the region.

## Susan M. Kosasa Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation

The Kosasa family's multi-generational legacy of giving has benefited many causes in Hawai'i through the Hawai'i Community Foundation, envisioning and investing in an equitable and vibrant Hawai'i where all of our island communities thrive.

The Institute for Climate and Peace is grateful for the the Susan M. Kosasa Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation for their support in empowering girls and young women as leaders and changemakers in Hawai'i, the Pacific-Asia region, and beyond. Our alignment on investing in Hawai'i future, uplifting our community's resilience, and ensuring multigenerational legacies of change are nurtured, are goals that make this program even more necessary and meaningful. Their generous giving made it possible for our organization to operate, facilitate, and carry out this program to it's full potential.



## Hawaiian Electric Industries (HEI) Charitable Foundation

Hawaiian Electric Industries Charitable Foundation focuses specifically on community programs that promote environmental sustainability, community resilience, economic strength, and educational excellence through collaboration, partnerships and neighbors helping neighbors.

The HEI Charitable Foundation's continued support of ICP has been instrumental in the development and facilitation of our Ka'a I Ka Wiwo'ole Girls Program. Through their generous funding, the HEI Charitable Foundation has enabled us to create a dynamic, multi-generational program that uplifts Indigenous knowledge and fosters leadership among adolescent girls and women in Hawai'i. This partnership has been vital in ensuring that our youth have the resources, mentorship, and tools to become climate justice advocates and peacebuilders in their communities. We are deeply grateful for the Hei Foundation's unwavering commitment to empowering the next generation of female leaders and helping them shape a more resilient future.

## The Solutions Project

The Solutions Project (TSP) is a national non-profit organization that funds and amplifies climate justice solutions created by frontline communities building power for an equitable and regenerative economy. The Solutions Project accelerates a just transition to a regenerative economy by funding and amplifying climate justice solutions created by Black, Indigenous, immigrant, women and communities of color.

Through the vital and continued support of The Solutions Project, ICP is able to create and implement programs by our Indigenous-led all-women team to elevate our communities resilience and ensure the agency of BIPOC girls is nurtured and activated. Our shared commitment to centering BIPOC, frontline, and marginalized groups in our work to advance justice, peace, and equality is at the heart of this program and our organization's missions. ICP proud to work alongside The Solutions Project and are honored to be one of TSP's Grantee Partners. As part of our beloved community, The Solutions Project's support of ICP and our mission has been paramount to our impact and success and we are grateful for their support!

## Humanity United

Humanity United is a philanthropic organization that takes a trust-based approach, honoring the lived experience and agency of those closest to the issues we focus on to cultivate conditions that transform human exploitation and violent conflict into enduring peace and freedom.

Humanity United has been a long-time supporter of ICP's mission and continues to uplift our institute's capacity, agency, and ability to thrive. Our shared goals of collaborative peacebuilding to being about systemic and meaningful change is what drives our commitment to building beloved communities of practice that are able to work on the world's toughest challenges together.



# Individual Donors

*Mahalo nui loa to our generous donors!*

Donations from our beloved community support our mission in empowering girls and women leaders across the Hawaiian islands. Together, we are co-creating opportunities for the next generation of courageous and inspiring women to lead with collaborative intention and purpose. We deeply appreciate your commitment to this transformative journey!

Andi Vaida

Suzan Craig

Jacqueline Akana



# Mentor-Affiliated Organizations

*Mahalo nui to our women mentors!*

The Institute for Climate and Peace offers our gratitude to the brilliant women mentors who took part in our program and contributed their expertise, time, and support to our girl participants. We are grateful for your energy in uplifting the agency of the next generations and your presence in our beloved community!

[EPIC 'Ohana](#)

[University of Hawai'i at Mānoa](#)

[Waipahu Community School for Adults](#)

[Pa'i Foundation](#)

[Our Beloved Futures](#)

['Ekolu Mea Nui](#)



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII'  
MĀNOA



 PA'I  
FOUNDATION

EPIC  
'OHANA



# Community- Based Partners

*Mahalo nui to our wonderful community-based partners!*

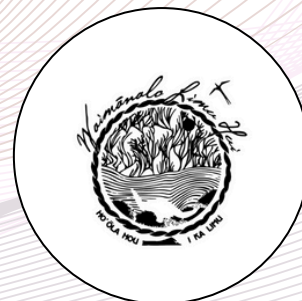
The Institute for Climate and Peace is grateful to form deep relationships with organizations working in our community who help us support our mission and are dedicated to the well-being of our communities. Our program would not be possible without our wonderful community-based partners!

[Ke Kula Nui O Waimānalo](#)

[Waimānalo Limu Hui](#)

[Wakeful State](#)

[Elyse Butler Photography](#)



# Looking Ahead...

This first phase of the Ka'a I Ka Wiwo'ole Program was focused on building trust, community, and *pilina* (relationship, connection, trust) for a topic and population which has never been convened before in Hawai'i—girls, women, and climate justice. Climate nexus topics included food and agriculture, water and waste, health and well-being support, and disaster risk and recovery. Through place-based and culture-based educational materials and experts, we succeeded in fostering meaningful relationships to people and place to further community resilience, education, and collaboration to mitigate and respond to climate change, environmental injustices and legacy pollution in Hawai'i. Through roundtable discussions, breakout rooms, community restoration activities, place-based learning opportunities, guest speakers, and more, this project was able to enhance and catalyze girls' leadership development, hands-on 'aina (earth) stewardship practices, and deepen connections between girls, women mentors, and the wider community. We see the vital component of relationship-building and trust-building to be one of the biggest takeaways from this program to further collaborative, uplifting, and supportive networks for girls and between community-based organizations to deepen the impact, scope, and audience of climate justice led by women and girls in Hawai'i.

Participants had a basic understanding of climate justice and actions, but were keen to explore the topic more as it relates to their interests and goals to broaden the impact they could make in their own communities. All of the girls reported they are not learning about climate justice in their schools, therefore, the learning gaps were larger than we anticipated. With this understanding for our next phase of programming, we recognize there is still a need to create linkages and deeper learning, keeping in mind each of the girls' knowledge levels, with regard to age gaps or familiarity with the topics.

Nonetheless, ICP was able to provide and engage a holistic approach—from academic, educational, collaborative discussions virtually, futures-thinking and leadership development, to integrating their curiosity, openness to learn, and hands-on experience in-person.

ICP is committed to sustaining this project through lessons learned and takeaways from this first iteration. We hope to continue to build connections and trust within the group and beyond to expand our reach to different parts of the island and neighboring islands. Beyond the structure of the project, we intend to uplift and organize opportunities for community engagement and collaboration. We have activities planned that not only center climate justice through land-based actions, but through art, classroom education, policy change, and more. Our team is committed to ensuring that girls' are supported in their full holistic growth. We are dedicated to providing more and deeper opportunities for capacity-building, community-building, hands-on experiences, mentorship, and well-being initiatives that also include college planning, public speaking, and community engagement opportunities.

Our team has received great feedback from participants, leaders, and community members, especially interested in keeping the program going with more girls, more sites, and more learning. We have already started to plan another iteration of the program and intend to re-engage this cohort with the hopes of expanding our reach. Our team left feeling inspired, hopeful, and excited to continue this work with this group as a part of our beloved community.



“Women and Girls have the power to empower each other. We want to hear from the next generation. We believe that it is important for us to help the next generation feel empowered to voice their opinions.”

– Brytni K-Aloha, Mentor



“Places like these where women can share and collaborate openly and without judgment is important.”

— Olive, Girl Participant

# Our Facilitation Team

*Founded and operated by Indigenous and Pacific-Asia based women, our team is made up of international peace practitioners, climate change and sustainability experts, law and policy advisors, women and gender inclusion experts, young people, students, professors, and Indigenous knowledge experts from the Pacific and beyond.*



## **Maya Soetoro, Ph.D., Co-Founder & Board Chair**

Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng is a Faculty Specialist in the College of Social Sciences at the [University of Hawai'i at Mānoa](#). She also serves as the University's liaison to the [Obama Foundation](#) and works with the Foundation's [Leaders program](#) and [Global Girls Alliance](#) on initiatives in Hawai'i and the Asia-Pacific region. Previously, she was the Director of the [Matsunaga Institute for Peace](#) at the University of Hawai'i, where, in addition to leading outreach and development initiatives, she also taught Leadership for Social Change, Peace Movements, Peace Education, and Conflict Management. For many years, she worked at the [College of Education](#) at the University, where she taught Multicultural Education, Social Studies Methods, and Peace Education at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Maya sits on several voluntary boards and is the Co-Founder of the non-profits Ceeds of Peace, The Peace Studio, and the Institute for Climate and Peace. In 2021, Maya launched a podcast entitled "The Bravethrough Series: Courageous Conversations on Community" in partnership with KTUH Honolulu.



## **Kealoha Fox, Ph.D., President**

Dr. Kealoha Fox applies Indigenous innovation for collaborative solutions in business, science, and policy and is a Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) advocate based in Hawai'i. She is President to the [Institute for Climate & Peace](#) recognizing climate and peace as integrated collaborative fields helping to advance just and sustainable peace for thriving, cohesive communities. Dr. Fox is a co-chair of the [American Academy of Arts & Sciences Climate Commission](#); an [Obama Leader Asia Pacific](#) with the Obama Foundation; a [Goalkeeper](#) with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; a Technical Contributor to the [5th National Climate Assessment](#) with the U.S. Global Change Research Program; and member of the [Embassy of Tribal Nations Climate Action Task Force](#). As a Native Hawaiian woman, Kealoha has been deeply and purposefully trained by esteemed community elders in traditional and ancient Native Hawaiian practices and protocol such as ho'oponopono, hāhā, and lā'au lapa'au.



## **Patricia Halagao, Board Member**

Dr. Patricia Espiritu Halagao is Professor and Chair of the Department of Curriculum Studies at the [University of Hawai'i at Mānoa \(UHM\)](#). Her scholarship focuses on culturally sustaining pedagogy and policy. She received her B.A. in Anthropology from [Occidental College](#) and Ph.D. in Curriculum; Instruction from the [University of Washington](#). A former Teach for America corps member ('92) and Oakland Public School teacher, she taught at all K-12 levels of education. She developed nationally recognized curricula for the [Smithsonian Institution](#) and received several federal and state grants. She was on the education advisory team for [Hökūle'a's Worldwide Voyage](#) to foster educational transformation and to mālama honua – care for our earth. Dr. Halagao served on the [Hawai'i State Board of Education](#), leading the adoption of two Board policies establishing multilingualism and the Seal of Biliteracy in schools. She is the recipient of the [UH Board of Regent's Medal for Excellence in Teaching](#) and Filipina Women's Network 100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the World Award. Her greatest joy is uplifting youth to be curriculum designers and policy advocates.



### **Jacqueline Akana, Operations Manager**

Jacqueline Akana has spent much of her career uplifting clean energy initiatives in Hawai'i. As a lifelong learner, Jacqueline is passionate and driven by contributing to the health and well-being of our families across Oceania, Te Moana-nui-a-kiwa. Originally from Phoenix, Arizona, she now resides in Honolulu. Jacqueline enjoys connecting to the Polynesian culture through song and dance when not working towards climate justice and positive peacebuilding efforts. Jacqueline holds a B.A. in Public Health from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.



### **Bridget Kelly, Associate**

Bridget is enthusiastic about leveraging data analytics in marketing and communications strategies to bolster messaging for environmental justice and climate change mitigation initiatives. A Los Angeles resident who grew up in Boston, she is particularly passionate about environmental justice initiatives focused on green spaces in urban settings, and she volunteers with LA Compost supporting urban communities by creating spaces for local compost access. Bridget holds a B.S. in Communications from Syracuse University and an MBA with a Marketing concentration from Jacksonville University.



### **Healani Goo, Associate**

Healani hails from Honolulu, Hawai'i, and holds a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Additionally, she earned a Certificate in Peace and Conflict Studies from the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace and was named a Youth Changemaker by The Shawn Mendes Foundation. She is currently a Graduate Student at The New School pursuing a M.A in International Affairs. As a young Native Hawaiian woman, Healani aims to continue to support climate justice, peacebuilding efforts, and Indigenous resilience within the Pacific-Asia region and beyond. She is particularly passionate about the interrelated

dimensions of peace, gender, and the environment. Her work at ICP revolves around advocating for gender equity, positive peacebuilding, well-being, and other forms of intersectional justice. In all of her work, she champions the adoption of inclusive, equitable, and intersectional approaches to enhance the understanding, progress, and sustainability of climate solutions and peaceful societies.

*[To learn more about our full team, click here.](#)*



Photo by: Elyse Butler

## Mahalo Nui Loa

to our inaugural Spring 2024 cohort. Thank you for your courage, dedication, and willingness to embrace this journey with us. ICP is honored to work alongside you through our shared goals of honoring identity, creativity, and energy to create the most just futures we can imagine. We are looking forward to seeing the incredible impact you will make in your communities and beyond!

*To learn more about this program,  
contact us at [info@climateandpeace.org](mailto:info@climateandpeace.org)*

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