



KAUKAU 4 KEIKI

IMPACT REPORT | 2023



PROJECT SUMMARY

SUMMER FOOD ACCESS

Kaukau 4 Keiki was established in the summer of 2021 as a result of the strong advocacy of former First Lady Dawn Ige to address the gap in food access for keiki in Hawai'i. This program is supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer School Food Services, the Hawai'i Child Nutrition Program, and a team of private and public partners, including Vibrant Hawai'i. Kaukau 4 Keiki provided free weekly meal kits for breakfasts and lunches during the summer months with a focus on reaching children (Ages 0-18) in rural communities statewide.

During the regular academic year, thousands of students receive free or reduced-priced meals, but during the summer, many schools are unable to continue their meal program due to staffing and logistical challenges. For students living in rural areas, transportation challenges or conflicting family work schedules make picking up Department of Education Grab and Go meals difficult.

In an economy that already imports 90% of its food, the Kaukau 4 Keiki project provided keiki and teens access to healthy meals, especially in low-income, rural areas across the state. In-state service providers include Mālama Kaua'i on Kaua'i, Kahumana Food Hub & Organic Farms on O'ahu, Maui United Way on Maui and Lāna'i, and Vibrant Hawai'i on Hawai'i island.

Vibrant Hawai'i, in partnership with local businesses and 35 community groups, led Kaukau 4 Keiki on Hawai'i Island for six weeks from June 19 through July 28, 2023. Registrations exceeded expectations, and numerous sites reached their maximum capacity within the first hour, underscoring the need in our Hawai'i Island communities.

4,000 keiki picked up weekly meal kits, which were designed according to USDA food guidelines and included over 5 pounds of locally sourced fruits and vegetables, bread, shelf-stable milk, and protein. There was a purposeful emphasis on incorporating local produce as part of the Summer Food Service Program: a federally-funded, state-administered program that reimbursed Vibrant Hawai'i for the meal kits.



HOW IT WORKED

UNIFIED ACTION

Hawai'i Foodservice Alliance, LLC, Hilo Products, Inc., Hawai'i Institute of Pacific Agriculture, and Ho'ōla Farms brought pallets of canned goods, milk, and boxes of locally-grown produce every week to 14 centralized drop-sites across the island. These deliveries were an incredible orchestration of logistics that sourced pantry items and produce for 56,000 meals a week.

Once the pallets of food supplies were delivered, community groups worked quickly to break down bulk supplies, transport items to 35 locations islandwide, and assemble meal kits for distribution.

The ability to mobilize a project of this scale in just three short weeks indicates the caliber of leadership within each of our communities, as Site Leads coordinated teams of hundreds of dedicated volunteers.

Through this project, Hawai'i Island has again demonstrated the strength and depth of our community, public and private partners, and our commitment to building a resilient and vibrant community.

Mahalo nui to our food providers: Hawai'i Foodservice Alliance, Hilo Products Inc., Hawai'i Institute of Pacific Agriculture, and Ho'ōla Farms, and the supporting organizations: Hawai'i Child Nutrition Programs (HCNP), Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN), Hawai'i Paper Products, Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI), Hawai'i State Department of Education, KTA Superstores, No Kid Hungry, and Hawai'i County Red Cross.

"The impact of Kaukau 4 Keiki extends beyond providing food security for 4,000 Hawai'i Island keiki. Our Vibrant Hawai'i Iwikuamo'o team is honored to facilitate a project that brings together government, business, philanthropy, social services, faith organization, and community-led Resilience Hubs and Points of Distribution. Through our collaboration, each person grows in awareness and belief that we each hold one piece that is a part of something bigger."

*Janice Ikeda,
Executive Director. Vibrant Hawai'i*

336,000 MEALS PROVIDED

Each meal symbolizes not just sustenance, but care, community, and commitment towards Hawai'i's future generations.



Photo: Aloha Harvest



14 LOCAL FARMS SUPPORTED

\$258,000 DIRECTED TO LOCAL FARMS

Directly boosting the local agricultural sector and emphasizing the importance of locally-sourced produce.



386 VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED

The backbone of our efforts, these individuals embody the spirit of aloha, selflessly dedicating their time and energy.

VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS: \$92,061

Directly boosting the local agricultural sector and emphasizing the importance of locally-sourced produce.



FOOD SECURITY

LOCAL PRODUCE

Kaukau 4 Keiki is a demonstration of cross-sector collaboration that unites community, non-profit and faith organizations, local farmers and businesses, and County and State government agencies.

Mahalo nui to our food providers: Hawai'i Foodservice Alliance, Hilo Products Inc., HIP Agriculture, and Ho'ōla Farms and the **supporting organizations:** Hawai'i Child Nutrition Programs (HCNP), Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN), Hawai'i Paper Products, Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI), Hawai'i State Department of Education, KTA Superstores, No Kid Hungry, and Hawai'i County Red Cross.

Every week, 56,000 meals, rich with a variety of foods primarily sourced from local farms, were generously distributed. This initiative invested more than \$250,000 in our local farms, reinforcing the roots of our community's agricultural sustainability and resilience.

"The most rewarding aspect of Kaukau 4 Keiki is working together with community-minded individuals, volunteers, local farmers, businesses, and organizations who are committed to making a vision come to fruition. It is truly rewarding to be a part of a community of caring individuals who prioritize the well-being of others. This program is a shining example of the true meaning of aloha."

*Brandon Bartolome,
Hilo Products, Inc.*

"Seeing all the different groups come together to make this happen - it really does take an entire island to join in to make sure the keiki have food available and easily accessible. I'm grateful we were asked to be of service for this important program."

*Mike Braun,
Hawai'i Foodservice Alliance*

"Your support of fresh produce was a huge help for our keiki! My keiki ate more nutritious than without. We were happy to see so much local produce and my keiki snacked on fruits throughout the day"

*Kaukau 4 Keiki
Recipient*



BELONGING

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

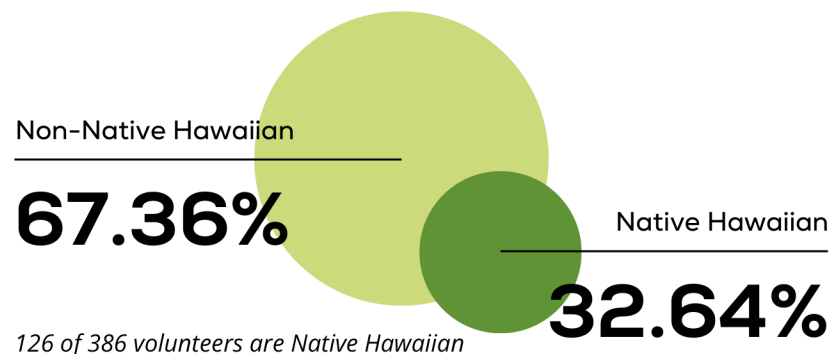
Volunteer Hikaloï (Self-Reflection)

A diverse group of **386 volunteers** contributed a total of 2,895 hours to support Kaukau 4 Keiki. Their significant contribution underscores the immense dedication and aloha, demonstrating the power of community collaboration in driving initiatives of this scale.

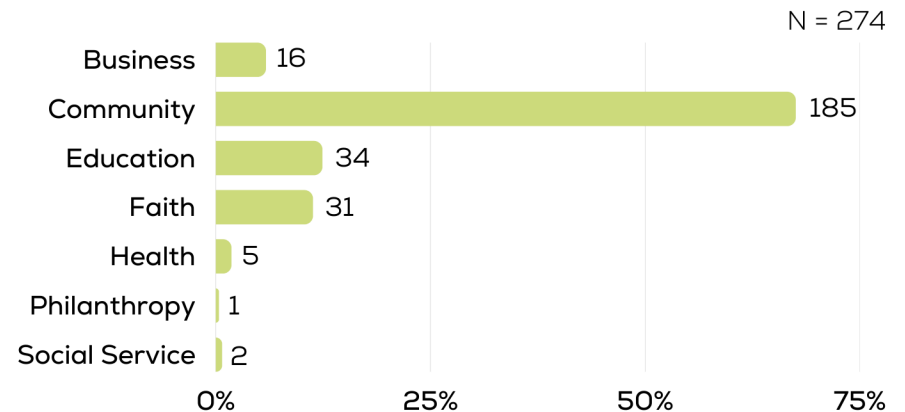
“Food insecurity is an incredibly pressing issue for so many Hawai’i Island families, particularly those with keiki over the summer. Seeing parents pick-up and the look of relief on their faces knowing that their keiki have food for the next week, particularly the fresh fruits and vegetables, is the most rewarding part.”

Mary Beth Laychak, Canada-France-Hawai’i Telescope

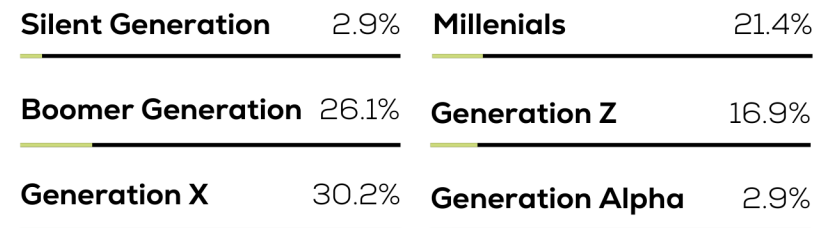
Volunteers By Ethnicity



Volunteers By Sector



Volunteers By Generation



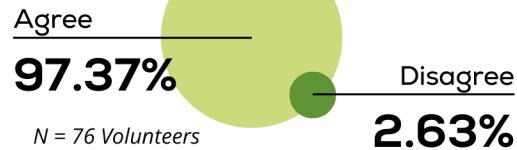
“It is both a privilege and a humbling experience to be able to provide food to my community. In particular, hearing keiki exclaim happily as they see produce they like is always a heartwarming reminder of why we do this work.”

Shannon Matson, Hawaiian Acres Community Association

BELONGING

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

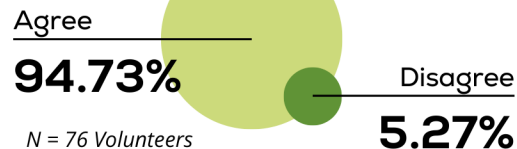
As a result of this project, I grew in my sense of belonging and connection to my community



"One of the most rewarding things for me to see/hear is that the families receiving the benefits of this program are very grateful! 'Ohana has continued to voice that the foods received have been a lot of help for their households during the summer months when their keiki are home."

Lehua Hauanio, Puna Canoe Club

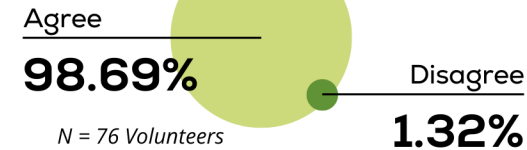
As a result of this project, I built new relationships with the community



"If we have the ability to change the world, and impact the lives of those around us, why not start in our own communities? By sacrificing your time, money, and energy for others, you're not only serving your community, you're also changing someone's life for the better."

La'akea Judd, UH Hilo Youth

As a result of this project, I believe I have the ability to make my community a better place



"Every family has a story and just like a book we can't judge them by its cover. This program positively impacts our children and families by letting them know that they have a safe space to go to for things that this program provides. Our team also becomes familiar faces and they remember us... they learn the act of giving and in turn they reciprocate these same actions as they grow."

Trish Papalimu, Hōnaunau Elementary School



ECONOMIC FINANCIAL STABILITY

The Kaukau 4 Keiki program has been a crucial support for families facing economic hardships, providing essential meals and aiding household budgets. By sourcing meals rich in fresh produce, the program ensured access to nutritious foods for children, despite financial constraints. The community and volunteers played a vital role, enhancing the program's reach and impact, and supporting families in making balanced dietary choices for their children.

"Many thanks for helping families with children's meals while they were home during the summer. With high food costs, the bread, fruit and milk was much needed everyday items in our household. We appreciate your assistance! A wonderful summer program!"

Kaukau 4 Keiki Recipient

"My boys may not understand why we get to pick up food during the weeks of this program, or how much it helps in stretching the budget so we can have a little extra to treat ourselves to a preferred food that we wouldn't be able to afford otherwise. For me, it's like I can breathe a little. Groceries are expensive, so providing food, especially fresh produce, is so appreciated! I looked forward to pick up days because I knew the kids would have healthy snacks and food available."

Kaukau 4 Keiki Recipient

"Thank you for supporting our community and family. My children were so happy to have bananas, apples and oranges this summer. As well as the vegetables. We don't get a chance to buy those items regularly as we can't afford them either. That is the part of the program they will miss the most."

Kaukau 4 Keiki Recipient

"Mahalo to everyone who helped with this program! You kept my kids fed when times got rough. We really appreciate everyone who worked and helped with our pick up site. I hope this program will continue in the future for families like us who sometimes need to choose between bills and food. Mahalo again from the bottom of my heart."

Kaukau 4 Keiki Recipient



COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

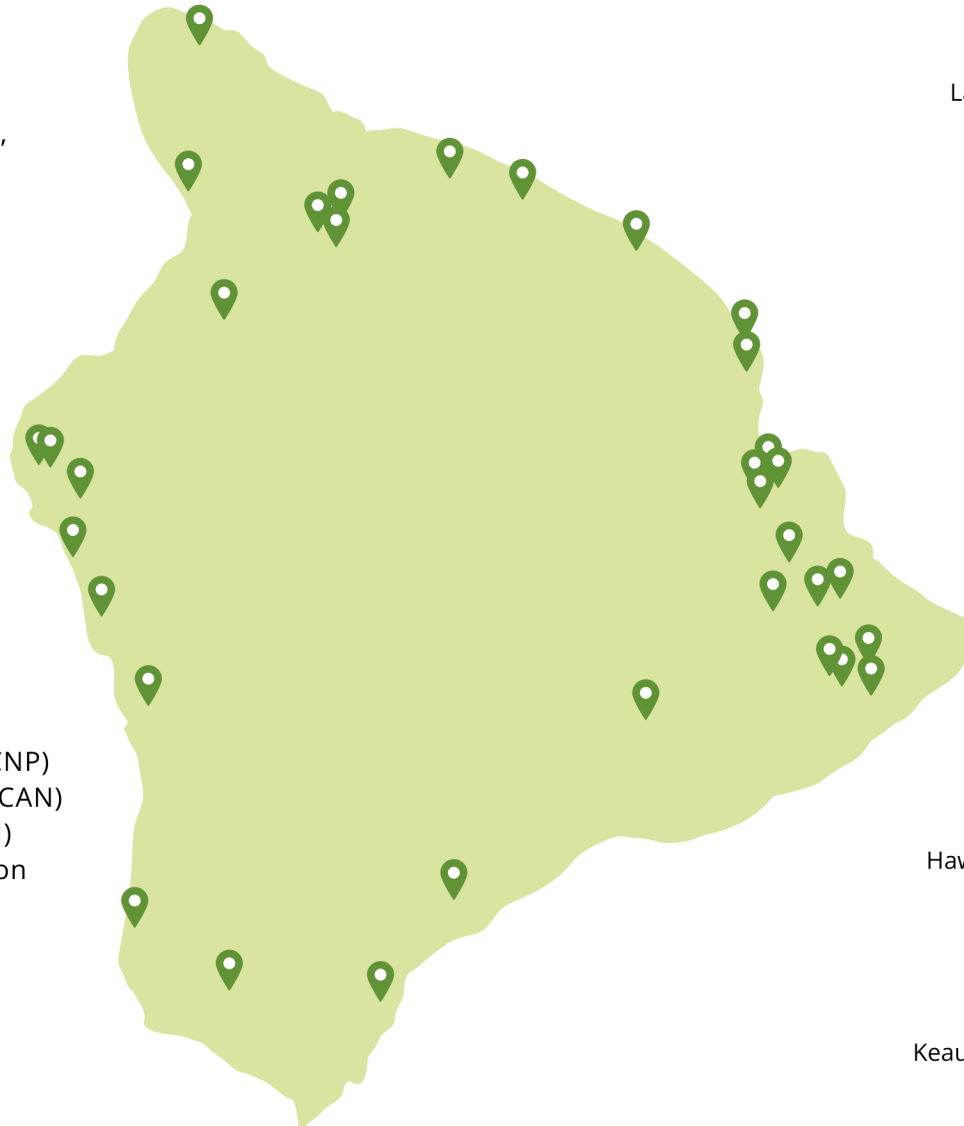
As we wrap up another summer of food security and community empowerment, we extend our deepest gratitude to every volunteer, partner, and participant who made Kaukau 4 Keiki a success. Your contributions have woven a tapestry of community resilience, mālama keiki, and aloha.

List of Food Providers

Hawai'i Foodservice Alliance
Hilo Products Inc.
HIP Agriculture
Ho'ōla Farms

Supporting Organizations

Hawai'i Child Nutrition Programs (HCNP)
Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN)
Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI)
Hawai'i State Department of Education
Hawai'i County Red Cross
Hawai'i Paper Products
KTA Superstores
No Kid Hungry



List of Sites

Hui Mau
Laupāhoehoe Congregational Church
Hāmākua First Assembly of God
Hāmākua Youth Center
North Kohala Resilience Hub
Kaiaulu O Waikoloa
Kailapa Community Association
Mana Christian 'Ohana
Keck Observatory
Canada-France
Hope Chapel Kona
Nā Kahua Hale o Uluwini
Holoholo Ministries
New Hope Legacy
Hālau Ka'eaikahelani
Hōnaunau Elementary School
Oceanview Marshallese
Miloli'i
Nā'ālehu Resilience Hub
Pāhala Resilience Hub
Ho'ōla Farms
Arts and Science Center
Cooper Center Community Pantry
Nānāwale Community Association
Orchidland LDS Church
Hawaiian Acres Community Association
HPP Food Pantry
Leilani Community Association
Sacred Hearts Church
Kekelaokalani
Puna Canoe Club
Keaukaha Pana'ewa Farmers Association
University of Hawai'i at Hilo
Island of Hawai'i YMCA

LIST OF VOLUNTEERS

ANTHONY (SCP)
GWEN ABADILLA
ALAN ABONYI
KANIELA AIONA
BARBARA AKANA
KAMAKAKOA AKAU
SHERRI U'ILANI AKAU
RANEE AKI
KU'ULEI AKINI-SOARES
HIWALANI ALANI
GABRIEL ALIP
BIZ ALLEY
CHRISTINE ALLEY
ANDREW ALOISI
JOEY ALVARADO
STARLETTE ALVAREZ-KAHIIKOLO
LISA ANN AMARAL
JAVI AMOR
MICHELLE ANDRADE
CHARLES ANNIS
ABRAHAM ANTONIO
TRAVEN APIKI
KRISTA ARCE
JASMINE BAKER
JESS BAKER
SHYANN BANIAGA
ELIJAH BANNISTER
OCEAN BARDWELL-JONES
KAYLA BARNEY
MARY ANN BARON
TAYLOR BARONGAN
ALLISON BARRETT
LIZZIE BARRIENTOS
CRYSTEL BEGLEY
JAMES BEGLEY
MIA BELKIN
JEANNETTE BENAVIDES MUNDON
ADAM BENTO
FRANCIS BLAS
LARRY BLATT
BRANDIE BLOSSER
BETH BOHN
JARED BORG
BETTY JEAN BOTELHO
LANI BOWMAN
LEILANI BRANCO
KINK BREWER
TRACIE BREWER
STACY BROWN
KENDALL KIRSTEN CALUMPTIT
JOAN CAMPBELL
MAYLYN CARAVALHO
LOGAN CARROLL
LEIHIIPOE CATRETT
JOAN CATUARA
ELIJAH CHAPSON
HO'OHENO CHASE
BILL CHEN
MATTHEW CHILDS
JASON CHIN
DOREEN CHINEN
PAUL CHINEN
MARI-ELA CHOCK
CADEN CHRISTENSEN
GAIL CLARKE
KAI COLOMA
MUNA COOK
ALFONSO CORDERO
ALFONSO CORDERO JR
LORILEE DAMASO
MAKAYLA DAMASO
GILBERT DANCEL
CONNER DANIELS
TAMMY DELOVIO
JULIAN DEROZIERE
RACHEL SALES DIDIER

DELANEY DIGERONIMO
JAMES DILLARD
ERRYN DINKEL
DANI DOUGHERTY
HALI'A DRUMMONDO
NAULU DRUMMONDO
SHARI-ANN DRUMMONDO
PATRICIA DUNN
KATIE DUNTEMAN
AHIA DYE
LYKE EBERHART
JESSE EBERSOLE
MICHELE EBERSOLE
CYRUS EDER
JOSLYNN EDER
KRYSTAL EDER
MELINDA EDER
LAURIE EDMONDSON
NAIA ELLE
BENJALINE ENGLAND
BENJALINE DENISE ENGLAND
ANIKA ESPINOZA
PAM EVERETT
ALEX FENG
KATHY FERNANDEZ
CARLY FIEL
AYZLYNNE-KALIA FISHMAN-DEVERA
HEIDI FLORES
KATHY FLORES
KUPALA FOSTER
TREVONDRICK FRANCIS
LAURENCE FRANE
GLORIA FRANKLIN
ERIKA FRANTZ
GAVIN FRANTZ
KANANI FRAZIER
PATRICIA FREEMAN
MARLENE FREITAS
DAVID FREUND
SHELBY GALLEGOS
VERONICA GALLEGOS
VICTORIA GARDNER
LIZ GEDDES
DEBBIE GOETZ
CAMERON GOLDSMITH
KAWENA GOMES
TERRY GOMES
JACK GORCHOV
LEAH GOVER
LEAHGOWEN
RUNIGOYAL
HARMONY GRACE
HALEY GRAHAM
MADIE GREENE
REAGAN GREER
PEARLA HAALILIO
LYNN HAMILTON
MARY HANNING
ERIC HANSCAM
ALISSA HANSHEW
DYLLAN HARADA JOAQUIN
GRACE HATRIDGE
CHIARA HENDRIX
JANET HIROTA
CIARA HOLLAND
ROXANNE HOLLAND COSIER
AVERY HOLLAND-COSIER
JADE HONG
SHELBY HOOLEY
JUDI HOULE
PETER HOULE
VANESSA HOULE
JULIETA HUBIK
ABRIL HUNT
JAKE HUNT
MARK HURTADO
KERRI INGLIS
MICHAEL ISHIZU
SHAUNA JACOBSON
EVAN JAMES
BECKI JANKOWSKI
REBECCA JANKOWSKI

JUDY JOHN
ANNE JOHNSON
GARY JOHNSON
TRENTON JOHNSON
CAROLYN JORDAN
LA'AKEA JUDD
KUULEI KA-NE
ANDREA KA'AWALOA-OKITA
JAELEY KAHEE
KEKOA KAHEE
KU'ULEI KA'ALE
TIGA KAILIMAI
IZZY KALAAU-CATRETT
ISABEL KALAAU-CATRETT
MOHALA KALAU
KALEONANI KALAUOKAAEA-KAHELE
KELII KALAUOKAAEA-KAHELE
LAAULU KALAUOKAAEA-KAHELE
PU'UWAIHA'A KALAUOKA'AE'A-KAHELE
KALEI KALILI-BURDMAN
KAHINU KAMAKAWIWO'OLE
ELIZABETH KAOLOWI
SHAWNA KAULUKUKUI
STEVEN KAWAMURA
DEANA KE
ALICIA KEKELA
PAUL KEKELA
KEHAU KEKUAWELA
LIAM KELLY
ANNA KENNEDY
KAWEHIONĀPUA KEOLANUI
EVAN KILEY
MEGAN KIMURA
CELENE KOBAYASHI
KALEHUA KUKAHIKO
KU'UIPO KUMAI
JEANNIE KUTSUNAI
DAVINA LAGARET
KALEI LAGARET
KAUI LAGARET
SHAZEN LAGARET
ILA LAMPSON
NADINE LANE
MARY BETH LAYCHAK
ELODIA LE MAY
DEBORA LEBOURDAIS
CATHERINE LIM
JESSICA LORENZO
MOMI LOVELL
LANELL LUA
CHELSEA LUDWIG
JOSH LUIZ
LEILANI LUIZ
KA'EA LYONS
JAMIE M
KEALOHA MADRIAGA
MAR MAFFI
KELLY MAGUIRE
MALIA MAIAVA
NICOLE MAILHOT
DANIELLA MARSICANO
ELIZABETH MARTIN
KIMO MARTIN
SHERRIE MARTIN
ERICA MARTINS
HARRIET MARUSEK
SARAH MARUSEK
ELIZABETHANNE MASAOKA
CHARLIE MASON
DESTINY MASTERS
JASON MASTERS
MARCIA MASTERS
BETTY MASTERSON
HANK MASTERSON
JOHN MATSON
SHANNON MATSON
JOANNE MATSUMOTO
IOPA MAUNAKEA
TERRY MCCARGAR
ROY MCMAHAN
JOE MEEKER
ELLEN MEISER

TINA MEISER
PRECIOUS MEJIA
MELISSA MINA
DANIELLE MINCHEW
U'ILANI MINER-CHING
TIANA MIYAMOTO
GARY MOBLEY
VALERIE MOBLEY
ALEXANDER MONELL
KILI MONIZ
NALU MONIZ
NUI MONIZ
POMAIKAI MONIZ
POHAI MONTAGUE-MULLINS
COURTNEY MOYLAN
JENNIFER MURPHIOKA
MARYBETH MURPHIOKA
LINDA MYERS
KIONA NAKAMURA
KURT NAKAMURA
NALY NAKAMURA
ALAISHA NAVAS
JULIA NEAL
BRANDON NGUYEN
JUNE NIIMI
LANCE NIIMI
GAIL NOEAU
SHARON NOMURA
WATTS NWOSUOCHA
JOSEPH O'LEARY
MEAGAN O'SHEA
ANDREW ODELL
JILL OLEYER
KAIMANA ORITA
SUE OSHAUGHNESSY
BRANDIE OYE
SANAE OYE
MIULAN PAALUA
KARISMA PAGAT
LIAM PAGAT
ROSS PAGAT
MICAH PANELA
TAIRA PEA
SAVANAH PEARSON
SHELLY PELFREY
JAMES PENDRED
LORRAINE PENFIELD
LIZBETH PEREZ
ARIANNA PEREZ-NEVES
CAROLYN PETROWSKI
DEREK PETROWSKI
ELAINE PETTIT
CHERISH PHILPOT
WALTER PRICE
KEALIA PRINCE
LOVIA PUBLICO
OOPUKAI PUBLICO
LUCIANNE PUKAHI VIERNES
BEATRIZ RAMOS
ARAIYAH RAMOS TALON
KAIKAPU RAWLINS
MAKAALA RAWLINS
MĀLA'E RAWLINS
ALLIE REEBERG
GEORGE REEBERG
BECKI REH
LEE REVIS
STEVEN REVIS
ANNIE RIDGELY
AZARIAH RIDGELY
JOY RIDGELY
OBADIAH RIDGELY
BRENDA RIVERA
MARTHA RODILLAS
BRENDA ROGERS
FAITH ROSA
ARINA ROSTOPCHINA
NOHEA RUNNELLS
ALYSSA RUTZ
ASHLEY SAKATA
MASAKO SAKATA
ANGEL SANCHEZ

RENITA "ANGEL" SANCHEZ
HOLI SANTOS
ARTURO SAYCO
AZA SAYRE
KAILEY SCANLON
CYDNEY SCHMIDT
ABBIEY SCHRODER
DANIEL SCHUTZER
ELLA SEIPEL
AVEN SHEPHERD
TOMMY SILVA
ARI SMITH
ELAINE SMITH
STEPHEN SMITH
KAMELA SOUZA
LILY ANNE SOUZA
STRATTON SOUZA
TAYLOR SPURGEON
PAT STEFFEN
MONICA SUDDARTH
COMFORT SUMIDA
AYLA SWART
JESSICA TAFITI
JOEL TALARO
SHAWN TAPANG
MARCIA TAVARES
KAREN TAYLOR
MIKE & KALENA THOMAS
JESS THOMPSON
DELILAH THORTON
OHIA THORTON
RONIE THORTON
JORDAN TOBIAS
JENNIFER TORCATO
NANETTE TOTMAN
BROOKE TRAPANI
KIMI VAKAUTA
FRANKLIN VALDEZ
ANGELA VALEK
ROY VELORIA
JAMES VERNON
MICK VERNON
SHYLA VICTOR
KIMO VIERRA
PIKA VIERRA
LAUREN WALKER
JAMES WARREN
ULUWEHI WATERS
HEATHER WEDDLE
PAULINE WEDDLE
SHELBY WEITZ
MAILE WIKUM
LINDA WOERTERDYKE
LESLIE WOLD
JOHN WUERTENDYKE
COURTNEY YAMAGUCHI
MARIAH YAMAMOTO
MARIAH YAMAMOTO
GLENN YOKUMURA
RAQUEL ZANE

MAHALO MESSAGES FROM PARTICIPANTS

"BIG MAHALO to all you folks! My kids was so happy with all the food that we received, especially the fruits! We was able to make delicious fruit salads on those hot summer days!"

"Mahalo for a great first time experience! This was so helpful for me and my Ohana! We truly appreciate you all! Thank you!"

"Mahalo for all the mea'ai and the work of all the volunteers! So much appreciated"

"Mahalo for the healthy food this summer, love the Lyman Kids!"

"Mahalo, mahalo, mahalo, for this amazing blessing! My family and I are so grateful for all of you."

"Mahalo nui Loa for all the wonderful food you have help my family with this summer. It has made a huge impact in our life."

"Mahalo for the amazing love for the out-pouring support from all that have been involved."

"Thank you all for all your hard work and for all you do for the community and our Keiki. All your hard work does not go unnoticed. Mahalo a thousand times and many more."

"Kaukau 4 Keiki is such a help during the summer and in general. You are all amazing and thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to distribute the food bundles. We have no complaints and appreciate everyone."

"Thank you for being a blessing to my family. We greatly appreciate the food my kids had received over summer break. May god continue to bless you all."

"Thanks for the help. I appreciate it. Me and my sons are grateful for the assistance."

"We made an apple pie from the apples that we received."

"Mahalo for all you do and for keeping our family (my babies) fed this summer."

"Our family truly appreciated this program, as a parent I was able to not worry about what I needed to sacrifice for summer to be able to stock my home with food for the children to be able to eat. Kaukau 4 Keiki was a BLESSING for our home."

"The bread and tortilla wraps were perfect as the children could make their own lunches during the day."

"Your program provided a priceless service to my family and I'm sure, countless other families in the community and across the state. I wanted to be sure that you knew how grateful our family is to have been a recipient. I hope you have enough data and fund allowance to keep this program going because summers are definitely the most difficult to keep kids fed. A huge Mahalo to your program and all the program sponsors, staff, and volunteers!"

"We just want to say thank you so very much for feeding our Keiki again this summer. This is our 3rd year participating in this amazing program. We tried doing different recipes with the products we received. One new recipe the kids loved was peeling and freezing the mandarin orange slices. They actually loved eating them frozen (first time we ever tried that). We put the frozen mandarin slices in a blender with a small amount of milk (supplied by you) and a small amount of vanilla. It tasted like an orange creamsicle smoothie. So refreshing during the hot summer day. We also incorporated some of the oatmeal into treats like cookies (with the peanut butter too) milk and bread we used for French toast. Topped with sliced apples. The kids loved everything they received. Their bellies were full."

"To all those who contributed for the Kaukau 4 Keiki: First off, thank you so much for having this wonderful program during the summer. From your program and WIC, I was able to provide nutritious meals for my little ones ages 1 and 3. The abundance of fruits and veggies, and having a type of whole grain such as bread or tortillas, made grocery shopping easier budget wise especially since we unfortunately do not qualify for the SNAP program. My little ones absolutely loved the bananas, apples, avocados, and cucumbers! Honestly, the program has been a blessing and I hope it comes back for next summer!"

"Aloha to you all for your hard work in making this happen to take care of family in hard times we dearly appreciate your love and support. Very much appreciated."

"Wanted to send my greatest mahalo to all those who were involved in this program. It was very helpful that I got weekly reminders for pick ups. The staff and volunteer members at the Hilo YMCA were very professional, kind, and helpful."

"Providing meals for families, and giving them healthier choices was rewarding."

Aloha to you all for your hard work in making this All Happen To Take Care of Family in Hard Times we dearly Appreciate your Love and support. Very much appreciated."

"My family and I are so very thankful and blessed that we are able to participate in this program. The vegetables are always so fresh and to be able to feed my children what you provide us are such a blessing. Thank you for having the best volunteers for the past years. They always treat us like family and for that I'm so grateful. Thank you again for everything. Take care and God bless you all."

"Our Ohana would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Vibrant Hawai'i & Kaukau 4 Keiki program that was a huge help for us this summer. Our daughter Lily has been a very grateful recipient of the program & was always looking forward to pick up days. She is very excited to know what's in the box every week. The pick up time and location was also very easy to find. The folks at the booth are always so helpful, kind and always has a smile on their faces. The process was very easy. The very generous amount of food like bread, milk, fruits, veggies etc. Kaukau 4 Keiki provided every week has been a great gift for our family. Because there was always a lot of food given to us, we were also able to share some with our friends. Thank you so much to all who have made the contributions to make it all possible. The kindness is much appreciated & we received the gift with a much grateful heart. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

"Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all your love, generosity, service, and aloha spirit! We have felt taken care of this summer, and were able to share the love with neighbors. It truly brought more peace in our lives knowing we would have enough. Thank you, thank you, thank you! And May God pour His blessing upon you all."

"As the grateful parents thank us for this small but welcome help we are giving them, the keiki are cheerful calling out from the backseat of the car that they see bananas or cuties and it's their 'favorite fruit!' and that always makes me smile."

"The most rewarding aspect of the Island of Hawai'i YMCA's involvement with the Kaukau 4 Keiki program is that the YMCA has extended its reach to 250 more kids than we already serve in our youth program. Also, our collaboration efforts with other organizations have been a positive experience. The Men of Pa'a, Hilo Walmart employees, Hilo Y's Men & Women's Club, Rein Teen Tours Project Hawai'i group and community service workers have been instrumental in helping the YMCA put together & distribute 250 bags of groceries every Monday. This collaboration of teamwork proves that together we are able to accomplish this huge project. This program has positively impacted the children and families by providing them access to options for healthy and nutritious meals on a weekly basis. The fresh produce, fresh bread and fruits were favored and enjoyed by the families."

"It tastes better than the typical refrigerated milk and allowed us to not waste a drop. Our fridge was down for a while and we didn't have to worry about it spoiling."

"This summer's Kaukau 4 keiki program was amazing! The volunteers were so organized and a pleasure to see every week! They made the process very easy. Also we are so thankful for the food we received that contributed to our children's meals this summer. Thank you for allowing us to be part of such an amazing program."

"Thank you to your staff for putting this program together and implementing such an organized system to pick up, sending out reminders and just basically keeping us informed."

"ASC is grateful to support the flow of needed food resources into our Puna community. The gratitude radiates with many Mahalo from all recipients."

"I am a single mom of 2 active and growing boys. We are so fortunate and grateful to have been able to participate in the Kaukau for Keiki Program this and last year."

"My keiki loved the fresh fruits and vegetables, milk and meats that were provided weekly. I loved that many local products were used and a recipe card was also provided to give us an idea of what to make. We appreciated this a lot especially because food is so expensive. Mahalo!"

"I am 25 a mother of 5 at the ages of 11, 7, 6, 5 and 4. I want to thank everyone part of the Kaukau 4 Keiki program for all the food it really helped us at a time like these with inflation and 1 income and 5 hungry bellies during the summer anything helps thank you from our ohana to yours."

"Thank you for 6 weeks of groceries each week. Mika was able to continue to eat healthy meals during the summer. It has also helped us with the grocery bill because we do not qualify for any SNAP benefits. We are still recovering from flooding in 2018 when hurricane Lane hit our island. Just as we were climbing out of it, then COVID hit and I lost my part time job and then been just hustling for part time jobs. Thank you once again for all your hard work to help feed Mika during the summer."

"Thank you so much to all who dedicated their time, goods and efforts to making this program possible. We are so thankful for the help. When our daughter turned five in April we stopped getting WIC and her preschool required us to send home lunches (so we weren't getting any sort of outside assistance for food); Our family also has not qualified for any assistance since I work full time and am in that zone where we need some extra help but don't qualify for anything. All of the different items made available to us through this program helped out so much. I work in social services and know that there is a lot of need out there and that sometimes people can take without showing gratitude, so I wanted to make sure that we let you all know that your service makes a difference and is greatly appreciated!"

"Everyone is excited picking up the fresh produce. Pantry staples are critical, but the cost of fruits and vegetables make them prohibitively expensive for so many families. Handing a family with multiple keiki enough apples, bananas, and cucumbers to feed every keiki is a positive impact for their wellbeing, physical and mental."

"It shows so much Aloha The Island still has for all that has supported this from the Owners Hilo Produce and Employees that hand prepared for delivery. Their Drivers for the drop offs to the Team that handed out at the Pahala Location. Thank you as well Marlene and her Team."

Since 2020, Vibrant Hawai'i
has served 8,000 keiki through
the Kaukau 4 Keiki Programs.



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