

IMPACT REPORT

2020



VIBRANT
HAWAI'I

Introduction

This document has been formatted for electronic viewing.

All underlined words and phrases contain embedded hyperlinks to webpages, videos, and documents for further learning and connection to our work.

In 2019 Vibrant Hawai'i held a series of gatherings around the island with one simple question, "What is your vision of a vibrant Hawai'i"? Nearly 200 participants representing every district and sector of our island shared drawings, stories, hopes, intentions, and ideas.

In 2020, Vibrant Hawai'i took those good intentions and ideas and transformed them into good practice. We have invested in providing equitable access to resources both online and in communities across Hawai'i Island. We have convened and connected multi-generational and multi-sector stakeholders in over 300 hours of dialogue to develop trust and shared ownership of our vision.

And we have increased wealth.

We define wealth as an abundance of human, social, natural, and financial capital that we contribute to and draw upon.

From retired Silicon Valley engineers donating their time to teach keiki 3D printing at resilience hubs to Department of Water Supply engineers meeting with the Housing Coalition to examine opportunities to develop parcels for housing – we have shared our human capital. We have connected residents across the island and across socio-economic divides and invested thousands of hours in building social capital and relationships. We have placed 'āina back into every conversation as kumu, kupuna, kin and community stakeholder. And we have invested over \$2,000,000 of CARES funding back into our local community.

We did this during a pandemic, while schools and our economy shut down. We did this despite having the highest rate of ALICE and poverty on our island.

We did this despite carrying generational and historical trauma. We did this because we carry generational and historical resilience.

We did this, because we are a Vibrant Hawai'i.

[*Click here to view the drawings and ideas from our community gatherings.](#)

Grounding Statement

Vibrant Hawai'i is a growing community that commits to individual and collective 'auamo kuleana to increase equitable opportunities to build wealth: an abundant reservoir of human, social, natural and financial capital that we contribute to and draw upon.

Our kuleana is to:

- Convene conversations so that all wa'a can travel toward a common goal.
- Build community awareness, will, and action from the foundation of our shared values.
- Shift deficit narratives, systems, and policy that perpetuate poverty and inequity.
- Implement strategies that are developed and resourced by the community and reflect native intelligence.

We value equity and belonging, and we demonstrate this by:

- Being willing to let go of our assumptions and biases about each other,
- Speaking up when we recognize barriers that prevent us from participating, prospering, and reaching our full potential,
- Promoting full-family engagement and participation, and,
- Raising our own and our collective belief that wealth, abundance, and prosperity is not a pie. More for others does not mean less for ourselves.

We value aloha, and we demonstrate this by:

- Acknowledging that aloha is unique to Hawai'i. It is from this place. By valuing aloha, we value the vast and unique genius of the people of Hawai'i and we prioritize the knowledge, skills, and solutions of its people.
- Recognizing that aloha is an action modeled to us by our environment, and we validate its aloha through aloha 'āina, and,
- Our willingness to suffer a little, so that no one has to suffer a lot.

We value 'auamo kuleana, and we demonstrate this by:

- A commitment to empowerment, rooted in our belief that everyone has skills and abilities but need circumstances and opportunities to express them,
- Promoting language that recognizes a person's abilities, and,
- Shared ownership and accountability: if any one of us stumbles we all fall because we are all connected.

We value flexibility and learning that leads to transformation, and we demonstrate this by:

- Being honest without shame, when we don't know,
- Being courageous, adaptive leaders, even when it calls for difficult conversations and even when our outcomes look like failure,
- Demonstrating ahonui and ha'aha'a as we hold tension to achieve change, and,
- Practicing makawalu and acknowledging that we each hold one piece that is a part of something bigger.

Data Justice

On July 21, 2020 Vibrant Hawai'i hosted a webinar that featured Abigail Echo Hawk and La Quen Naay Medicine Crow, pioneers in the Data Justice movement. Over 700 participants logged in to learn about "[Decolonizing Data. Data Justice. Data Governance.](#)" Since then, the recording has been viewed 2,298 times. Abigail and La Quen Naay reminded us that our stories matter and that **everyone is collecting data to tell the story about how we are dying, but it is up to us to collect data to tell the story about how we are living and how we are healing.**

Woven throughout this report is data.

Our data comes from keiki and kūpuna, from volunteers and executives. Our data comes from folks who were fed and the farmers who readily partnered with us because they had planted seeds and prayers for those who are hungry. The number of **people** who showed up with hope, the number of **people** who contributed to growing their hope. I emphasize the word people because they are so easily lost among the numbers.

Opportunity For Growth

We are still learning what it means to own our narrative. We are still grappling with the permission, privilege, and weight of the kuleana to create our own data sets.

We are currently in our design phase and we are working with Public Health professionals to see what is happening not only within Streams, but across Streams as each is a social determinant of health, and to be sure every question benefits our community – not our own ego. This takes time, a lot of reflection, and a lot of dialogue. It's a fine line. We hope that we will continue to have opportunities, as we did in [this article by Joyce Lee Ibarra to share what our community is teaching us.](#)

Mahalo

We are thankful for the leadership, support team, and every donor who is investing in the work of vibrant Hawai'i. Our impact is your impact, and our story is your legacy. We hope you will see your hopes for Hawai'i coming alive in the pages of this report and the data and stories that are shared.

Emergent Strategy

Kūkākūkā: Stop and Carve a New Mental Model

In her book Emergent Strategy, Adrienne Maree Brown states, "Emergence is the way complex systems and patterns arise out of a multiplicity of relatively simple interactions. Emergence emphasizes critical connections over critical mass, building authentic relationships, listening with all the senses of the body and mind. Emergence notices the way small actions and connections create complex systems, patterns that become ecosystems and societies.

If love (aloha) was the central practice of a new generation of organizers, we would understand that the strength of our movement is in the strength of our relationships, which could only be measured by depth. Scaling up would mean going deeper.

Emergence shows us that adaptation and evolution depend more upon critical, deep, and authentic connections, a thread that can be tugged for support and resilience. Shifting from "mile wide inch deep" movements to "inch wide mile deep" movements that schism the paradigm.

Sometimes I think we need to liberate ourselves from critique, both internal and external, to truly give change a chance.

The central demand is to build and expand a conversation that is long overdue in this country, a conversation that doesn't have simple cut and dry demands. **We are realizing that we must become the systems we need** – no government, political party, or corporation is going to care for us, so we have to remember how to care for each other.

Emergent strategy is how we intentionally change in ways that grow our capacity to embody the just and liberated worlds we long for."

Vibrant Vision

Social justice, inclusivity, no disparity, empowerment and equity, access to community resources and activities, policy and government involvement, inter-dependence, communication, listen to all people, aloha in action

| Key Indicator | Activity / Project | Data / Outcome |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Multi-Sector Participation | Stream meeting dialogue and discussions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 41% Engaged Citizen• 22% Business• 20% Philanthropy• 42% Education• 13% Government• 17% Social Service• 4% Faith Community |

Based off Zoom Participant Polls taken September – December during Health, Housing, Economy, and Education Stream meetings. N=279

Equitable Access To Information

Our community's vision of a vibrant Hawai'i includes equitable access to information. In response, Vibrant Hawai'i created the Resource and Information Hub for a Vibrant Hawai'i Island. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the group had less than 20 members. Within weeks, the online community grew to over a thousand and organizations wanting to get information out to the public increasingly turned to Vibrant Hawai'i as a partner to assist.

In addition to the social media posts, Vibrant Hawai'i also created a dedicated section of their website to providing information on unemployment navigation, health and government announcements, how to access food and other social service supports, and information for keiki and kupuna.

1,066

Facebook Page Followers

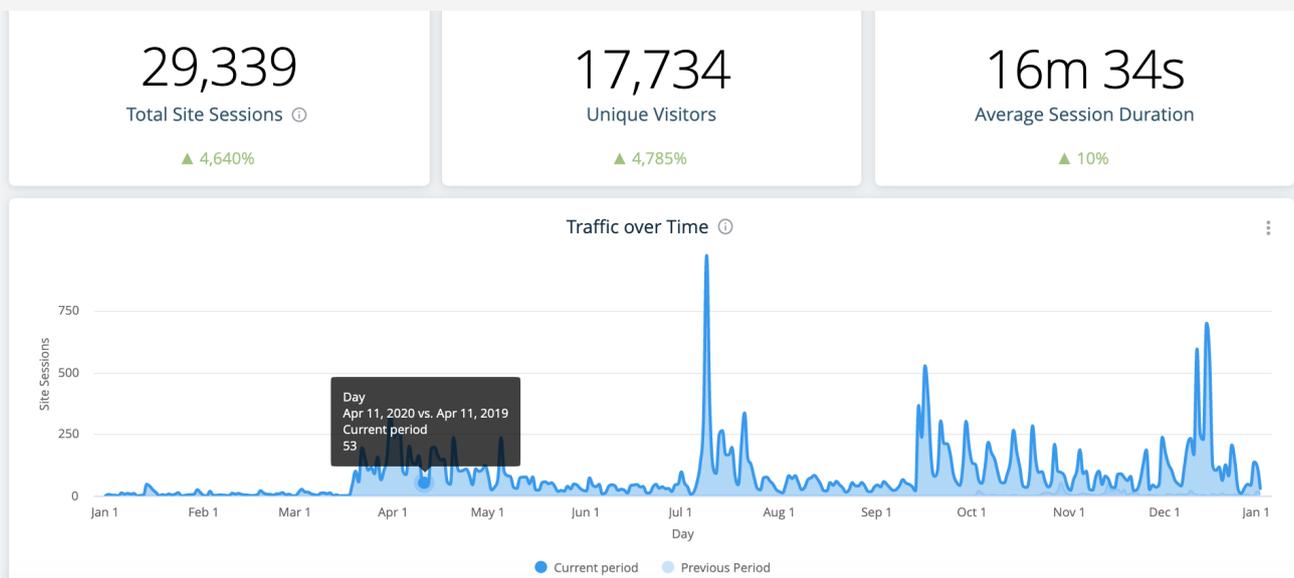
1,125

Facebook Group Members

1,028

Instagram Followers

Website traffic summary for 2020 below.



4,300

Total Vibrant Hawai'i newsletter subscribers

40%

Average open rate

Our Streams

There are five focus areas of Vibrant Hawai'i which we refer to as Streams. We look to 'āina as our kumu and kupuna – who teaches us through streams – how to be flexible and respond to the environment and carve new paths forward, break off and form sub-streams, and come together again in confluence. We embrace and promote this ancient practice of our 'āina and engage in biomimicry as we respond to our environment and move toward our vision as Streams.

Our Streams of Education, Housing, Economy, Health, and Financial Empowerment were developed in response to our community's vision of a vibrant Hawai'i.

2020 was a formation year for these Streams and activities focused on identifying and inviting multi-sector stakeholder participation, finding common language and shared understanding, articulating a shared purpose, and building trust.

Each Stream is led by a volunteer Chair or a group of up to three Co-Chairs, much time was spent forming the leadership teams and establishing group norms.

We spent 2020 investing in what is very difficult to measure – hope and trust. We did this because across agencies and organizations there is no shortage of strategic plans and action plans. Indeed, we know where we want to go and to an extent, we know how to get there: public-private partnerships.

The question then becomes, "When will we get there?"

Forums like the Vibrant Hawai'i Stream meetings allow people from different districts, generations, and sectors to come together and practice leading and listening with a value of equity: "not about having the number one best idea, but having ideas that come from and work for more people."

The Streams provide a space to learn together, and "be honest without shame when we don't know, be courageous and adaptive leaders even when it calls for difficult conversations and even when our outcomes look like failure. We develop our ability to have difficult conversations and hold tension to achieve change because we intentionally build relationships grounded in trust.

And most important, when we come together we see the problems from multiple angles and we see the solutions from multiple angles and we see how each of us – government, business, social service, philanthropy, faith community, education, community members – all are able to contribute to the goal.

Education

Summary

The focus areas of the Education stream are 'Āina Aloha, Equity in Education, Transformational Learning, and Workforce Development. Over 40 individuals representing all sectors and all districts of Hawai'i Island have consistently met over the past year.

"Meeting people that I wouldn't have met normally has allowed me to connect people to faculty, or connect faculty with community members for opportunities to collaborate."

**Julie Mower, Acting Director,
Center for Community
Engagement, UH Hilo**

Participant Poll

Data based on 6 meetings held September–December 2020

| <u>Sector</u> | <u>Kupuna/Youth</u> | <u>District</u> | <u>Role</u> |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 37% Engaged Citizen | 12% Kupuna | 21% North Kohala | 4% Lead |
| 16% Business | 4% Youth | 40% Waimea | 27% Key |
| 24% Philanthropy | | 19% Hāmākua | 46% Support |
| 67% Education | | 40% Hilo | 54% Weaver |
| 10% Government | | 9% South Puna | 7% Interest |
| 7% Social Service | | 10% North Puna | |
| 4% Faith Community | | 1% Ka'ū | |
| | | 16% South Kona | |
| | | 25% North Kona | |
| | | 4% Not Residing on Hawai'i Island | |

Looking Forward

Building on the strong foundation of trusting relationships that have developed over the past year, the Education Stream will focus on the following initiatives in 2021

- Digital Literacy initiative in partnership with Hawai'i Community College
- Drafting education priorities for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Normalizing and promoting opportunities to advance 'Āina Aloha

Housing

The 2019 Hawai'i Housing Planning Study reported that 30.6% of Hawai'i County were shelter burdened, meaning paying more than 30% of their monthly household income toward shelter. In order to meet the needs of our growing population, Hawai'i County needs 13,300 additional housing units by 2025.

The Hawai'i Island Housing Coalition was established to enable mutually reinforcing action of island-wide, multi-sector representatives to strengthen local responses and to provide a spectrum of affordable housing options through effective and timely interventions.

Membership Composition

32% Business
24% Education
12 % Philanthropy
20% Community Member
12% Social Service

*Although we have no individuals representing government who have applied to become members, we do have regular and ongoing participation from (3) Hawai'i County Council Members as well as representatives from the Office of Housing and Community Development, and the County of Hawai'i Planning Department.

2020 Outcomes

- Testified at the County Council regarding the building code adoption
- Hosted presentations from the utilities including water, electric, and wastewater
- Members and participants formed and agreed upon priority action areas
 - Increase home production and preservation
 - Support land use policy that promotes equity and affordability
 - Support the development of parcels tied to existing infrastructure
 - Encourage and incentivize the use of subsidized voucher programs
 - Identify opportunities for alternative lending

"I am watching the Hawai'i County Sustainability Summit breakout session on Housing Affordability. The Vibrant Hawai'i Housing Coalition has been mentioned twice so far. Today's program is an example of a seamless, layered, collaborative and full-spectrum conversation. These are the types of conversations that have occurred over the past year in the Housing Coalition.

The Housing Coalition serves as a place where perspectives are shared and vision is built by community members, some of who are in positions to make a difference. It was really inspiring to see these conversations mirrored in today's Hawai'i County program.

**You asked today how many people are involved or have been touched by Vibrant Hawai'i? All of them."
Kehau Costa, Executive Director,
Hawai'i Island Board of Realtors**

Economy Stream

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Multi-Sector Participation

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 27% Community | 8% Government |
| 19% Business | 8% Social Services |
| 11% Philanthropy | 2% Faith Community |
| | 24% Education |

Webinars and Panel Discussions

Economics of Happiness: 57 Participants

Hurricane Preparedness: 21 Participants

CEDS Panel: Creative and Performing Arts (Data not available)

CEDS Panel: Regenerative and Community Driven Tourism: 45 Participants

CEDS Panel: Resilient Food Systems: 69 Participants

CEDS Panel: Tech Industry: 24 Participants

CEDS Panel: Health and Wellness: 23 Participants

CEDS Panel: Education: 15 Participants

Outcomes

As a result of the hosted panel discussions, six working groups were formed, each focusing on one of the focus areas of the CEDS panels. Working groups are drafting action plans for economic development initiatives with broad community stakeholder input. These plans will be provided to Hawai'i Island Economic Development Board for consideration in the 2021 Hawai'i County CEDS update. These action plans will also be utilized by Vibrant Hawai'i to guide next steps in 2021.

Economy Stream

Resilience Hubs

Resilience Hubs (September 27 – December 18, 2020)

In September 2020, Vibrant Hawai'i (through its fiscal agent Hawai'i Rise Foundation) was awarded \$1,700,000 of CARES funds to launch a network of resilience hubs to provide connectivity for distance learning, access to meals and food supplies, and build community resilience. Five Hawai'i County Council members provided an additional \$171,100 to support the Vibrant Hawai'i resilience hubs initiative.

CARES Hubs Impact

- 21 Hub sites that provided access to laptops and wifi, programming and restaurant prepared meals and food boxes
- 14 Hub sites that focused solely on food distribution
- 11 Programs that supported hubs and broader community resilience
- 41,733 households and 108,214 individuals (38 percent under age 18) were assisted
- Over \$544,000 invested across 30 local restaurants that provided meals to hubs
- Over \$335,000 supported over 100 community members serving the hubs. All were paid at the living wage rate of \$20 minimum per hour.

CARES Hubs Partners

Resilience Hubs leaned in to building up social networks and human capital. We intentionally worked to position federal dollars in communities islandwide and support.

Restaurants and Food Suppliers that supported Hubs: Amoo Enterprises • Andrade's Cafe • Any Kine Wonton • Asami's Kitchen • Brine (Hilo Food Hub) • Cafe Pesto • Chef Hui, Mariah Williams • Chef Kanekoa • Chef Living HI • Coffee Grinds • Dimple Cheek Cafe • Grandma's Kitchen • Hana Hou • Hawai'i Community College Culinary Arts Program • Honoka'a Country Market • Hula Hulas • Ippy's Hawaiian BBQ • Jackie Reys • Ka'ai & Soo-Ling Delights • Kalaekilohana Inn • Kaleo's • KBXtreme LLC • Kīlauea General Store • KTA Superstores • Lava Rock Cafe • Liquid LIfe • Luquins • Mom's Hilo • Pancho's Tacos • Papa'aloa Country Store • Poke Market • Remy's Food Service • Shaka Shack • Short N Sweet • Suisan • Sushi HI • The Fish House • Tin Shack Bakery • Umekes • Uncle's Kitchen

Businesses that provided in-kind donations to support Hubs: Creative Arts Hawai'i • Hawai'i Island Board of Realtors • Waiākea Hawaiian Volcanic Water

Economy Stream

Resilience Hubs (Continued)

CARES Hubs Partners (Continued)

Cooper Center and Volcano Arts Center, Kim Miller & Linda Ugalde · County of Hawai'i Kawanānākoa Gym, Chelbielyn Hanohano Flemming · Haleki'i Resilience Hub and Friends of the Children of West Hawai'i, Michael Olsen · Hāmākua Youth Foundation, T. Mahealani Maikui & Jeannette Soon-Ludes · Hawaiian Beaches/Hawaiian Shores, Jessie Aguilar · Hawaiian Paradise Park Activities Center, Judi & Vanessa Houle · Hilo Coffee Mill, Caitlin Davis · Kailapa Community Center, Shari Ann Drummondo · Kō Education Center, Kalehua Kukahiko · Kua O Ka Lā, Pilimai Traub · La'i'ōpua, Kawehi Inaba · Laupāhoehoe Train Museum, Doug Connors & Auntie Lucille Chung · Leilani Community Association, Greg Armstrong · Lower Puna, Sammy Hastings · Maku'u Farmers Market, Laua'e Kekahuna · Nā'ālehu Hongwanji, Michelle Galimba & Nadine Ebert · Nānāwale Community Association, Aaron Ferreira & Kanaka Ha'aheo · Nā Kahua Hale O Uluwini, Toni Symons · Ocean View, Pam & Hannah Ako · Pahala Community, Katie Graham · Pahoā Schools Foundation, Hoku Fernandez · Pana'eewa Farmers Market and Hub, Justine Kamelamela & Ahia Dye · Partners in Development Foundation and Overflow Church, Ross Pagat · Pōhāhāikalani, Kūlia Tolentino-Potter · Puna Baptist Church, Paula Minney · Salvation Army Hilo Corp, Lt. Jacob Bratton · St. James Church, Lauren Avery · Sure Foundation Puna, Richard Gorman · University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Farrah Marie-Gomes · Volcano School of Arts & Science, Kim Miller & Kalima Kinney · Big Island Face Shield Group/3D Printing: Kean Wong, Ava Williams, Caroline Landry · Community and Financial Resilience, Rebecca Choi, Cheryl Matsumura, Kalehua Kukahiko and Kim Kobayashi · Conscious Communities, Sulma Gandhi · Full Life, Mar Ortaleza · Hāmākua Harvest, Marielle Hampton & Lei Lei Paolacci · Honeybee Education Program, Jenny Bach · Ke Kula 'O Aloha 'Aina, Heidi Hart · Keiki Heroes · Wellness Training for Students, Donna Matthews & Lacy Matsumoto · Young Keiki Learning and Enrichment, Cheyenne Jouppi

**"People don't need us to tell them what to do.
They need us to remind them of who they are."**

Bob Goff, Everybody, Always

Economy Stream

Resilience Hubs (Continued)

Exit Evaluation of Hub Teams: What are you proud of?

- The program's ability to service multiple gaps in the support infrastructure for some of the island's most critical needs – food, childcare, financial independence
- food distribution volunteers
- Being able to provide a safe space for keiki to continue their distance learning, parents were able to return to work and continue to provide for their Ohana.
- I'm proud to have been able to help so many local families in need. The food distribution was huge for many people.
- The relationship that developed with local farmers that will continue after the grant by providing Miloli'i with 2nd grade avocados and papaya for palu so Miloli'i fisherman will use to hani 'ōpelu koa.
- So proud to see our community come together at a grassroots level and support one another and our willingness to "suffer a little so that no one has to suffer a lot."
- Being able to support artists, and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities.
- That we could pull it all together so fast. Wasn't neat and pretty but it was amazing , brave, and beautiful.
- Servicing the youth
- With COVID, being at home is not always the safest place and many of our young people are learning at home or in hubs. Interpersonal violence needs and support have escalated since stay at home guidelines were in place.
- Interpersonal violence is a hard topic to discuss – especially virtually. However, in our current context of virtual learning it is doing something like we did – or nothing at all. I am so proud of our brave educators who despite everything that is on their plate – decided to try something new and they all have much excitement to continue to implement in the new year. We are looking at ways to continue to support these KKP educators in 2021.
- The collaboration with other staff in the operations of all of the Kua O Ka Lā Hubs. These times have been challenging for everyone so I am extremely thankful to KOKL staff who worked diligently to serve our keiki and families at our Hubs.
- By having a Resilience Hub in Kohala we were able to provide child care for school teachers, staff and other working parents/guardians so they could continue working.
- I am most proud to be part of an effort that is thoughtfully addressing systemic inequity island-wide by honoring Hawaiian values and connection to place. These are big issues and the commitment to using local skills and resources to uplift our island will result in tailored solutions to shared challenges.

Economy Stream

Resilience Hubs (Continued)

Exit Evaluation of Hub Teams: What are you proud of?

- The ability for community leaders to come together for a common purpose was impressive. Every one stepped into leadership roles without hesitation and that was what we needed in this time of uncertainty.
- Made me feel happy and hopeful to see people serving and uplifting their communities. Serving in the communities where they reside.
- We are most proud of the way in which the Vibrant Hawaii project led the way to encourage communities and organizations around Hawaii Island to "formally organize" to do the most good for the people in our towns. Without Vibrant Hawaii leading the way in a positive, organized and thoughtful way, we would not have accomplished as much as we have in very short time.
- The speed and scope of the project was amazing. It all happened pretty fast and was able to get food, information and resources directly to those in need in our communities.
- I am most proud of the impact that has been made on our island communities. So many keiki and families have been fed, local restaurants and businesses have been supported, financial, housing, disaster plans, education, trauma, CPR & First Aid, and sustainability resources have been made available to the public. Jobs have been provided through Vibrant Hawaii to those who live in the community.
- Our ability to network within our community to reach so many new families.

Economy Stream

Resilience Hubs (Continued)

Hubs 2.0 (Feburay – May 2021)

Through a generous donation of over \$1MM from Kohala Coast residents, over 20 community Resilience Hubs around Hawai'i Island will build on the initial activation and primes community partners with a suite of tools, resources, and mentorship to assist residents, revitalize the economy, and build capacity and infrastructure so communities are ready for anything.

To foster economic resilience, Hubs have committed to pilot an economic development initiative in one of the following areas: 'Āina Based Learning, Sustainable and Community Driven Tourism, Health and Wellness, Resilient Food Systems, Creative and Performing Arts, and Technology and Creative Media. To advance their initiatives, Vibrant Hawai'i has engaged industry experts to mentor Hubs in their area of focus in order to establish proof-of-concept and create a functioning prototype with pathways for the project to scale up. To this end, retired and active professionals also volunteer their time to support fellow islanders and surrounding communities.

To increase food resilience, Vibrant Hawai'i has partnered with the Honeybee Education Program to institute a Pay-it-Forward community garden initiative at each Resilience Hub. Community members as well as 'ohana who pick up a produce bag or restaurant prepared meal will be encouraged to volunteer in the garden to further cultivate individual/community resilience as well as an abundance and reciprocity mindset.

Pono placemaking support will be provided to Hubs pursuing community-driven tourism initiatives that support the local economy, protect natural and cultural resources, and better connect people to the island. To support the arts, local artists will curate pop-up experiences to expose community and keiki to various art mediums to foster health and well-being and showcase the stories and uniqueness of each region of Hawai'i Island.

Communities in the Hubs 2.0 network include:

- Hāmākua: Honomū Gym, Pāpa'ikou Gym, Hāmākua Youth Foundation, Pōhāha I Ka Lani
- East Hawai'i: Island of Hawai'i YMCA, Kawananakoa Gym, Pana'ewa Farmers Market, UH Hilo, Waiākea Uka Gym
- Puna: Leilani Estates Neighborhood Watch, Men of Pa'a x Kanaka O Puna
- Ka'ū: Nā'ālehu Hongwanji x O Ka'ū Kākou, Pāhala Resilience Hub
- Kohala: Kailapa Community Association, Feed Hawai'i, Overflow Church x Partners in Development, St. James Church, Waimea District Park
- West Hawai'i: Kama'aina Hale Apartments, Miloli'i Kōkua Hub

[Link to Hawai'i News Now Story on Hubs 2.0](#)

Health

Our vision of a Vibrant Hawai'i includes health, wellness, mālama, access to health care and healing. Our multi-sector, collaborative approach values the contribution that each participant brings to reach our goals of building capacity, supporting communities, building competencies and catalyzing change.

Building Capacity

- Certified 47 Mental Health First Aid Instructors through CARES grant funding
 - MHFA Instructors certified over 300 community members
 - Held 50 community based workshops in partnership with KAHA which focused on Trauma Informed Care, Adverse and Benevolent Childhood Experiences and Cultural and Historical Trauma and reached 779 community members
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Supporting Community

- Distributed 427,400 surgical and cloth masks
 - Developed social media campaign "It's All OK" to support mental health
 - Partnered with Fire and Police Department to provide resources for dispatchers
 - Launched Vibrant Hawai'i Heroes campaign in partnership with County of Hawai'i Mayor's Office and Mauna Lani to honor community members who took action and provide support amidst the pandemic
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Curating Resources and Developing Original Content

- A Little Book About Coronavirus – [Link Here](#)
 - How To Create A Parent Pod Workshop and Resources – [Link Here](#)
 - Purpose Workshop with Richard Leider – [Link Here](#)
 - Co-Created the Vibrant Hawai'i Resilience Toolkit with Hawai'i Island community stakeholders. [Link to the Toolkit here.](#)
-

Catalyzing Change

We aim to achieve this by:

- Including 'āina based healing in Employee Assistance Programs and reimbursable health care costs – [Link to Hāloa proposal here.](#)
- Advocating for public policy to include Trauma Informed Care

Participant Spotlight

EMS Captain Stacy Domingo



"I learned a lot about myself through leading this project. I learned that it's one thing to sit around a table and have ideas or opinions about what needs to change – and it's a whole 'nother thing to put in the work to contribute to make a change. It's hard work. And that's what it takes."

EMS Captain Stacy Domingo came to a Vibrant Hawai'i meeting in March 2020. There were just 5 other women in the room that day representing education, government, social services, community, and business. No one knew each other, but they all shared one thing in common – they saw the impacts of burnout, trauma, and chronic stress in their work teams and wanted to be a part of a change. For Capt. Domingo, her dream was to make Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) certification accessible for residents island-wide.

Through a County of Hawai'i CARES grant that Vibrant Hawai'i was awarded in September 2020, Capt. Domingo was able to see her dream come true. The project graduated 47 MHFA instructors within a 3-week period who represent every sector and every district of Hawai'i Island. Each instructor committed to reciprocity – in exchange for the investment made in them to become instructors, they would provide MHFA training and certify a minimum of 10 community members. By the end of the project period, they had certified close to 300 Hawai'i Island residents.

The impact of this project continues into 2021. MHFA Instructors provided training and MHFA certification to the network of Vibrant Hawai'i Resilience Hubs teams, and through a partnership with the County of Hawai'i Fire Department, these instructors will soon certify lifeguards, fire personnel, Parks and Recreation personnel and many others in MHFA.

Over the course of the project, Capt. Domingo contributed 260 hours of in-kind service to Vibrant Hawai'i. To learn more about the Vibrant Hawai'i Mental Health First Aid project, [click here to watch this YouTube video.](#)

Project Spotlight

Cloth and Surgical Masks

Beginning in early March 2020, Vibrant Hawai'i began working with community volunteers – many of them kūpuna – to sew and distribute cloth masks. There was a lot of confusion initially, as government and hospital facilities were not yet supporting the use of masks. Within a few weeks, however, emergency proclamations required everyone to wear a mask in public and before going into stores. Within weeks, we received requests for thousands of masks from all over the island – and we filled every one through the generosity of donors and volunteer seamstresses. Vibrant Hawai'i was able to distribute **472,400 surgical and cloth masks to individuals and communities who would not have had the means to obtain a mask otherwise. This represents over \$1,000,000 of in-kind donations and 4,000 hours of volunteer time valued at \$112,000.**

The Partners, Donors, and Volunteers who made this possible: #OurKuleana • Aileen Kawakami Oyama • Alice Yonemitsu • Amanda Villacorte • American Trading Company – Cheryl Matsumura • Andrea Ueno • Arc of Hilo • Bryan Knight • Byron and Carol Toma • Canada France Hawaii • Carla Kuo • Carleen Corpuz • Carol Tsunezumi • Carolyn Mizuno • Catherine Chow • Charlene Iboshi • Chenoa Mims • Cheryl Ikeda • Claire Arakawa • Clarysse Nunokawa • Corinna Pinzan Mitchell • County of Hawai'i • County of Hawai'i Office of Aging, Horace Farr • Creative Arts Hawai'i • Denise Nakashima • East Asian Observatories • East Hawai'i Mask Sewing Circle • East Hawai'i 4H • Ellen Okuma and Phyllis Kemble • Emily Kahele • Ethel Miyashiro • Etsuko Kurokawa • EveryoneHawai'i • Gail Tsuha Maesato • Gladys Harada • Haruka Tomioka • Hawai'i Community Foundation • Hawai'i Island United Way • Hawaii Science and Technology Museum • Holli Shiro • Honomu Hongawanji • Hope Dragons • Illene Hara • Jan Higashi • Janet Watarida • Jane Iida • Janella Matsumura • Jean Shibuya • Jing Fukutomi • Joanne Ikemori • John and Velvet Replogle • Juanita Smith • Kaniuloa Ohia • Karen Maedo • Karlen Ono • Kay Aoki • Kay Tanaka • Kilauea Creations • Krista Nevaeah • Laurie Higashi • Leatrice Yamamoto • Lei T. Kakugawa • Leslie DeRego • Lois Shimizu • Lynn Esaki • Mandy Villacorte • Mari Koyama • Mari Vermeer • Masako Sakata • Mieko Nagao • Miley & Rhett Auth • Nita Smith • Penny Teehee • Puna Hongwanji • Rebecca Marshall • Roanne Tsutsui • Sandra Tomiyama • Sew Da Kine • Shary Crocker • Shelly Ogata • Sue Okunami • Susan Nakamura-Koge • Susan Nishioka • Tanya Yadao • University of Hawai'i at Hilo • Vivian Levy • Warren Tanigawa • Wilma Kawasaka

"You guys are unreal. The rest of Hawai'i has a lot to learn from you guys. No one is as organized or prepared as Big Island. Mahalo for showing Hawai'i what resilience looks like. "

Robert Kurisu, EveryoneHawai'i

Project Spotlight

A Little Book About

A LITTLE BOOK ABOUT



CORONAVIRUS

To Help Our Keiki Understand Why Life Changed

Written By: Janice Ikeda

- **Translated into 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, Spanish, Marshallese, and American Sign Language**
- **Over 2,000 copies distributed through Keiki Care Packs**
- **Viewed over 4,000 times online**
- **Featured on KITV4 Nā Mea Pono**

A Little Book About Coronavirus was written to ensure "full-family engagement and participation" in adopting healthy practices at the onset of the pandemic and the stay at home order. The book provided parents a way to talk with their keiki about the many changes in lifestyle and included a resource page to support parents mental health.

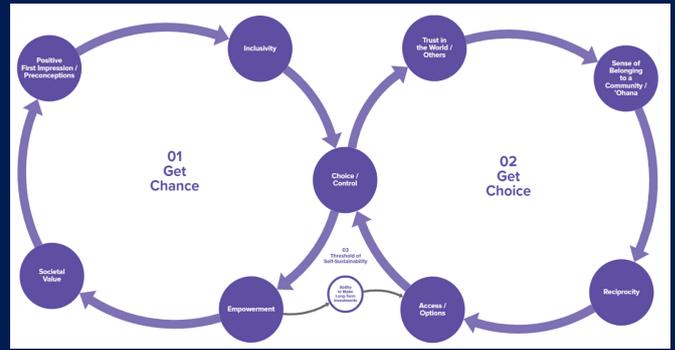
This book was followed by A Little Book About Abundance - a coloring book that was widely distributed online, through Vibrant Hawai'i Resilience Hubs, schools, and through Hawai'i First Federal Credit Union in English, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, Spanish and Marshallese.

The book provided parents a way to talk with their keiki about changes in finances and provided 'āina based stories to introduce concepts of building wealth. The book ended with A Letter To Mama - encouraging her to design her own treasure map by connecting with a financial coach.

Mahalo nui to our translators who allowed A Little Book About Coronavirus & A Little Book About Abundance to reach a broader community: 'Ōlelo Hawai'i: Ākeamakamae Kiyuna & Ku'ulei Kanahale • Spanish: Ana McKnight • Marshallese: Meetu Kellen • Artist: Kailah Ogawa

Financial Resilience

Get Chance, Get Choice



In partnership with Hawai'i Leadership Forum, Vibrant Hawai'i engaged 120 multi-sector stakeholders from Hawai'i County to develop the Get Chance, Get Choice system map to document the accelerators and inhibitors that allow/not allow us to have hope and ownership of our future. The map is still in a draft format, but preliminary analysis of data tells the following story:

Get Chance

When a person lacks choice, it hinders their ability to leverage opportunity and empower themselves. Because society does not value disempowered individuals, these individuals may find themselves marginalized and stereotyped, fostering negative preconceptions and biases against them. These biases, in turn, exclude them from social circles which could have otherwise been pathways to accessing opportunities, further limiting the choices for that person. This dynamic, as a result, lowers the chances these individuals have for finding ways to take ownership of their own future. This helps explain one major reason why people are not given a chance to seize opportunities to take ownership of their own future.

Get Choice

When a person lacks choice and a sense of control over their life, it can instigate feelings of cynicism, negatively affecting their trust in others and the world at large. This can hinder a sense of belonging to community, and with it opportunities to create reciprocity. This, in turn, hinders access to resources and opportunities which could have helped increase their feeling of choice. This dynamic, as a result, lowers the choices these individuals have for finding ways to take ownership of their own future. This helps explain one major reason why people are lacking choices for taking ownership of their own future.

Next Steps

The Core Team will present the draft to the community to refine the narrative of the loops, and with community support will then utilize the final map to inform a cohesive approach to financial resilience and the overall work of Vibrant Hawai'i.

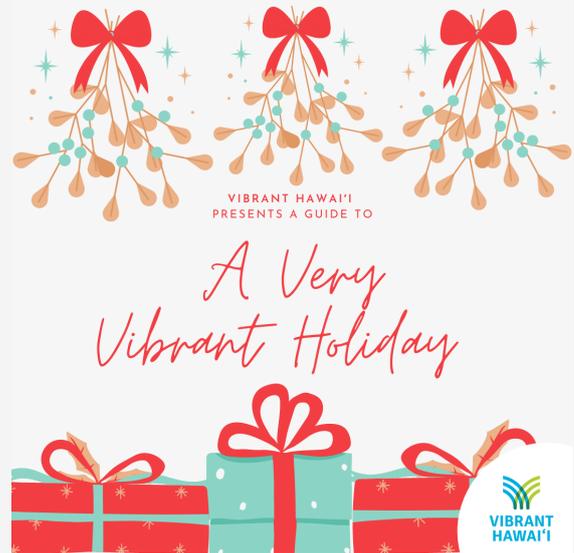
A Final Note

This project was inspired by the words of former Mayor, Billy Kenoi. At the dedication of the Hale Kikaha microshelter project in Kailua-Kona he said, "Everyone just wants to know they get chance and they get choice". We hope this System Map will provide insight, inspiration, and action that will continue his legacy of service for all Hawai'i Island residents.

Project Spotlight

A Very Vibrant Holiday

2,000 copies of A Very Vibrant Holiday guide was distributed through Resilience Hubs, and an additional 2,312 copies were downloaded from our website. Guides were available in keiki and 'opio versions and provided prompts and activities around creating a vision board, identifying love languages, identifying gifts of service, time, affection, how to develop a budget to guide your shopping, and gratitude. The 'opio guide built upon the keiki edition, and provided additional lessons on credit and comparison shopping. Vibrant Hawai'i sent \$50 Target gift cards to the first 200 keiki and 'opio who completed the online evaluation.



Download at
vibrant-hawaii.org/vibrant-holiday

81%

What I learned I will use
in real life

61%

I will change the way I
think about spending

63%

I will change the way I make
decisions about buying gifts

83%

I will share what I have
learned with someone

70%

I would like to do this
activity again next year

57%

I am more interested in learning
how to earn, save, and spend
money

Comments From Keiki and 'Opio (and their Parents)

- I learned how to make a list and price match.
- I like to buy gifts but I like to save money too.
- This helped me organize the things I do during the holidays. I also learned that there's more to shopping than I thought and budgeting is very important.
- I'm thankful that I get to spend this holiday season with my family even tho things have been very hard for us financially, emotionally and physically.
- Thank you for giving me the opportunity to think about different gifts I can give my family and friends.
- I like the gift ideas. I'm making a New Years card for my great grandma.
- This activity made me think twice about the places I spend money.
- I like that I got to think about gifts more that just buying them.
- I really liked doing these activities because it helped me think of things to get people.
- It was so sweet to see how each child thought outside the box to come up with ways to love each other that are different than their own.

Acknowledgements

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Mahalo nui to the Vibrant Hawai'i Board of Directors for your strong commitment to the vision for our community and belief in the power of collective action: Rachel Solemsaas, Chair • Mahina Paishon Duarte, Vice Chair • Kehau Costa, Secretary • Ashley Kierkiewicz • Bennett Dorrance • Billy Kenoi • Blayne Higa • Caroline Landry • Justin Pequeno • Kea Keolanui • Keiko Mercado • Lee-Ann Heely-Rolston • Michelle Galimba

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Contact

Janice Ikeda
200 Kanoelehua Avenue
PMB 366
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 936-2268
janice@vibranthawaii.org
www.vibranthawaii.org