



## Hawai'i Community Foundation – Mental Health and Wellness Support for Maui Recovery (MHSMR)

### BACKGROUND

The Mental Health and Wellness Support for Maui Recovery Program (MHSMR) is funded through the Hawai'i Community Foundation's Maui Recovery Funders Collaborative Mental Health & Community Wellbeing Initiative. The program provides wildfire-impacted survivors from Maui with culturally grounded healing experiences on Kaho'olawe by integrating licensed grief counseling, Native Hawaiian cultural practices, mālama 'āina, and environmental stewardship. Through service to the 'āina, participants will strengthen their resilience, reconnect with culture and community, and support both personal and collective healing.

### DELIVERABLES

- Conduct four healing and service access trips to Kaho'olawe.
- Integrate licensed grief counseling with Native Hawaiian cultural practices.
- Promote healing, resilience, cultural reconnection, and environmental stewardship through mālama 'āina.

**AWARD AMOUNT:** \$78,415

**FUNDER:** Hawai'i Community Foundation – Maui Recovery Funders Collaborative Mental Health & Community Wellbeing

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Project management transitioned from Ashley Razo to Carmela Noneza on July 3, 2026, to support ongoing implementation and coordination of the MHSMR Program.
- Four healing access trips confirmed with Kula Community Watershed Alliance, Aloha Pu'u Kukui, Lahainaluna High School, and Lahaina Jodo Mission.
- Licensed grief counselor and cultural practitioners confirmed to support all four accesses.
- Participant Kilo Planner developed, incorporating Hawaiian moon phases, cultural content, native plants, reflection prompts, and artwork that supports the participant healing journey.



## Hawai'i Community Foundation – Mental Health and Wellness Support for Maui Recovery (MHSMR)

- Custom Lokahi Program T-shirt artwork is in final design, integrating 'ōlelo no'eau and imagery reflecting healing, cultural reconnection, and mālama 'āina.
- Supplies identified and procurement is underway, including participant journals, colored pencils, native plants, and restoration materials.
- Volunteer orientations and logistics coordinated for the August and September accesses, with continued coordination among participating organizations, cultural practitioners, the grief counselor, and the fiscal sponsor.

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

| Total Funds | Expended | Balance     |
|-------------|----------|-------------|
| \$78,415    | \$655.83 | \$77,759.17 |

**Fiscal Sponsor:** Pacific American Foundation (PAF)

- Grant funds are administered by PAF.
- Project purchases are being made through a PAF-issued Ramp purchasing account or paid directly by PAF (e.g., ACH payments to contractors and vendors).

**PROJECT UPDATE:** January 2026 thru July 2026

During the reporting period, the MHSMR Program transitioned from planning to implementation. Four healing access trips to Kaho'olawe were scheduled with Kula Community Watershed Alliance, Aloha Pu'u Kukui, Lahainaluna High School, and Lahaina Jodo Mission. A licensed marriage and family therapist and cultural practitioners were contracted to support participant healing through the integration of grief counseling, Native Hawaiian cultural practices, and mālama 'āina. Program coordination was established with Pacific American Foundation (PAF), the project's fiscal sponsor, including grant administration, purchasing procedures, and financial management. On July 3, 2026, project management transitioned from Ashley Razo to Carmela Noneza to oversee program implementation and coordination.

During this period, participant engagement materials were developed, including the Kilo Planner, participant journals, supplies, and the MHSMR Project T-shirt. The August access has been fully coordinated, including group's participant list, volunteer orientation, logistics, and program preparations. Coordination for the September access



## Hawai'i Community Foundation – Mental Health and Wellness Support for Maui Recovery (MHSMR)

is currently underway, including group's participant list, volunteer orientation, and logistical planning.

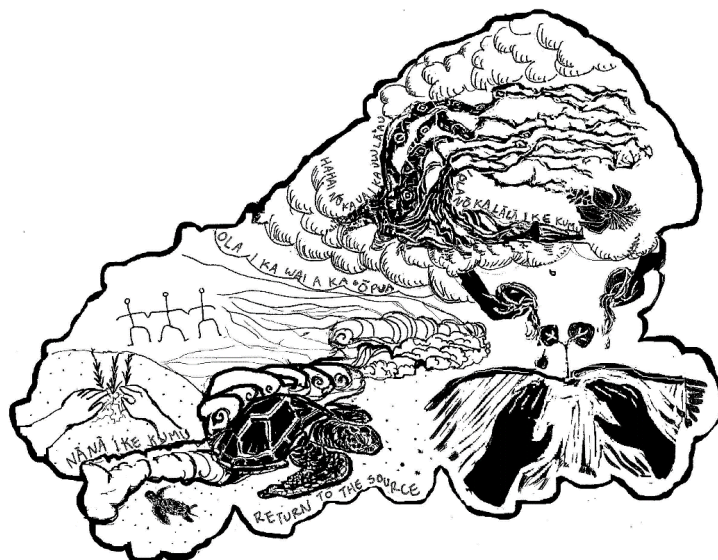
The program will move into implementation with the first access scheduled for August 11–13, 2026, followed by additional accesses in September, November, and December. Future reporting will focus on participant outcomes, program evaluation, and the impacts of integrating cultural practices, mālama 'āina, and trauma-informed mental health support to foster healing, resilience, and community wellbeing.

### PROJECT DELIVERABLE HIGHLIGHT

#### Participant T-Shirt Design

**Designed by:** Christina Wine, KIRC Staff

The participant T-shirt was intentionally designed as an educational and cultural resource that reinforces the MHSMR themes of healing, resilience, cultural reconnection, and mālama 'āina. The artwork uses five 'ōlelo no'ēau to illustrate the participant journey on Kaho'olawe.



#### 'Ōlelo No'ēau

#### Meaning

Ola i ka Wai a ka 'Ōpua

Healing begins with nourishment. Just as rain restores Kaho'olawe, care, compassion, and connection create the conditions for healing.

Nānā i ke Kumu (*Honu*)

Returning to our roots. The honu reminds us that strength comes from reconnecting with our culture, 'ohana, 'āina, and sense of purpose.

Nānā i ke Kumu (*'Aki'aki*)

Every act of mālama matters. Small acts of care and stewardship contribute to restoration and lasting change.

Hahai nō ka Ua i ka Ululā'au

When we nurture life, life returns. Caring for ourselves, one another, and the 'āina creates the conditions for healing and growth.

I Ola nō ka Lālā i ke Kumu

Resilience comes from our source. Like the historic wiliwili, we continue to grow by staying connected to our roots and community.