



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hawaiian Community Assets Celebrates New Office Grand Opening with Kaua'i County Proclamation

Mayor Kawakami and representatives of the Chan Zuckerberg Kaua'i Community Fund in attendance

LĪHU'E, KAUA'I (January 9, 2024) – [Hawaiian Community Assets](#) (HCA) welcomed 30 guests to celebrate the grand opening of its new Kaua'i office with a traditional Hawaiian blessing by Kāhealani Hāmākua, music by Kualono, and pūpū.

Supporters Mayor Derek Kawakami presented HCA with an official proclamation and representatives of the Chan Zuckerberg Kaua'i Community Fund were in attendance. All were invited to tour the space and learn more about HCA's services including desktop home appraisals.

"We are immensely grateful to Priscilla and Mark, Hawai'i Community Foundation, County of Kaua'i and members of the community for their support," said Chelsie Evans Enos, Executive Director of Hawaiian Community Assets. "Their commitment to our mission will empower us to expand our programs, increase those reached through personalized housing ready counselors, and equip residents with the knowledge and resources necessary to achieve stable and sustainable housing."

Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg provided \$1.5 million to support Hawaiian Community Assets and their dedication to providing affordable and sustainable housing solutions for Hawai'i.

Chan said, "Mark and I are honored to support HCA's work, which touches so many Kaua'i families facing challenges associated with housing. We're glad that HCA's services will now be even more accessible through their new office in Līhu'e."

As a nonprofit organization and HUD-certified housing counseling agency, HCA is committed to helping tackle critical challenges in Hawai'i by providing much-needed support to residents facing high living expenses and a shortage of affordable housing. Since 2002, HCA specializes in offering free homeownership resources to assist low- and moderate-income individuals and families to contribute to the overall well-being and stability of the community. This office marks the fourth location throughout the state offering services to build generational wealth and establish financial stability. Community is invited to come in to meet with a certified counselor to create a housing budget, review credit, make an action plan to meet financial or housing goals; gain access to public benefits, grants, and loans; and explore opportunities for job training programs or career coaching.

About Hawaiian Community Assets

Hawaiian Community Assets is the state's largest HUD-certified organization dedicated to providing culturally-based financial education, personalized housing consultations, and comprehensive support services to empower individuals and families in Hawaii. By equipping Hawai'i's people with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary for housing readiness, we strive to create stable and sustainable communities throughout the islands.

HCA's mission to build the capacity of low- and moderate-income communities to achieve and sustain economic self-sufficiency with a particular focus on Native Hawaiians has helped lead to over 8,000 people sustaining housing. Families have averaged increasing their credit scores by over 200 points. Last year alone over 1000 residents got to meet in one-on-one consultations, getting direct attention to their financial dreams through a plane with their counselor. HCA's Kahua Waiwai curriculum in financial education and homebuyer education courses provides a culturally rooted opportunity to empower families in understanding their money, where it goes, and how to ensure it goes to places that will have a positive impact on the next 7 generations. HCA's Kahua Waiwai was recognized by Brandeis University as an innovative approach, and tagging it as Empowerment Economics, putting financial decisions back in the hands of its people instead of systems. Learn more HCA at www.hawaiiancommunity.net or on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Linkedin](#).

Digital Assets:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/8u42ev6icbsv88wxqr960/h?rlkey=ctxgiaipwzbywla48gouqgqpu&dl=0>

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