



June is Hawai'i Homeownership Month

At Hawaiian Community Assets, we believe that homeownership is more than owning a home—it's about creating stability, strengthening communities, and building generational wealth.

This Hawai'i Homeownership Month, we celebrate every family taking steps toward their homeownership journey through financial education, credit improvement, savings, and housing counseling. Every milestone, no matter how small, brings our communities closer to a stronger and more resilient future.

Whether you're just getting started or preparing to purchase your first home, HCA is here to provide the guidance and resources to help you achieve your goals.

Together, we're building stronger communities—one future homeowner at a time.



The Numbers Behind Stronger Financial Futures

Every workshop attended, counseling session completed, and savings goal achieved represents a step toward greater financial stability and housing security for Hawai'i's families.



At Hawaiian Community Assets, our team members bring a deep commitment to supporting families and communities across Hawai'i. This month, we're pleased to feature Director of Programs Damayanthi Fernando, who has helped guide and strengthen HCA's programs for more than three years. In this edition of Insider Voice, she shares a bit about her journey, what inspires her work, and her hopes for the individuals and families we serve.

Insider Voice

Born and raised in the island nation of Sri Lanka, I grew up amid the economic, cultural, and ethnic tensions that shaped a country emerging from colonialism. Experiencing the realities and consequences of a 30-year civil war gave me an early understanding of how conflict, inequity, injustice and systemic barriers affect communities.

I moved to the United States to pursue my education, which broadened my perspective and helped me contextualize my experiences within the larger challenges faced by communities around the world. I later worked with United Nations health agencies in Southern Africa, supporting children and families affected by HIV/AIDS.

Upon returning to the United States, I worked with refugee, asylee, and immigrant populations displaced by conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere. This work reinforced the importance of trauma-informed and culturally responsive approaches to supporting individuals and families. I subsequently worked in youth education and policy in the San Francisco Bay Area, focusing on family engagement, before relocating to Maui.

Throughout my career, I have been committed to improving outcomes for children and families. My work is grounded in the belief that, with the right support, individuals and families can successfully navigate systems not of their making while remaining connected to their cultural identity, values, and sense of purpose.

HCA's commitment to building community capacity and empowering individuals and families to achieve self-sufficiency deeply resonates with me. Strong communities are built on strong assets, relationships, and opportunities that enable people to thrive. I am honored to be part of this process and to help advance that mission.

*Damayanthi
Fernando*

Hawaiian Community
Assets - Director of
Programs



The first quarter of 2026 reflects continued engagement across financial education, housing counseling, and individualized support services. Through workshops and one-on-one counseling, HCA continues to support individuals and families in strengthening financial stability and progressing toward housing goals.

By the Numbers

EDUCATION & COUNSELING

*Empowering our community through knowledge.
Strengthening futures. Building homes.*



EDUCATION & COUNSELING HIGHLIGHTS



12

FINANCIAL
EDUCATION
WORKSHOPS



14

HOMEBUYER
EDUCATION
WORKSHOPS



243

WORKSHOP
ATTENDEES



822

COUNSELING
SESSIONS
COMPLETED

OUTCOMES



1

NEW
HOMEOWNER



37

CLIENTS IMPROVED
CREDIT SCORES



28.3

AVERAGE CREDIT
SCORE INCREASE



3-88

POINT CREDIT SCORE
IMPROVEMENT RANGE

These outcomes reflect the ongoing value of combining culturally grounded education with individualized counseling support. Whether clients are improving credit, preparing for homeownership, or building long-term financial stability, each step forward represents progress toward stronger and more resilient communities.

Building Stability One Paycheck at a Time



On Kaua'i, one client is demonstrating how small, consistent actions can create a stronger financial future.

Despite recent financial challenges, she has remained focused on supporting her household while continuing to make progress toward her financial goals. Alongside managing debt payments and family expenses, she has prioritized saving for future needs through a dedicated holiday savings account.

By automatically setting aside \$50 from each paycheck and using an account designed to discourage early withdrawals, she has successfully built a savings habit that works for her family. Encouraged by her progress, she plans to increase her contributions to \$125 per pay period.

Her journey is a reminder that financial wellness is often built through steady, intentional steps. Whether preparing for unexpected expenses, family celebrations, or long-term goals, consistent saving habits can help create greater financial stability and peace of mind over time.

Learn, Plan, and Prepare

Upcoming Events!

Enroll now for our educational workshops!

Homebuyer Education Workshop

In Person Hawai'i Island	June 17, 2026	11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
In Person - Kaua'i	June 23 & 24, 2026	3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

[Click here for DHHL Beneficiary workshops and more workshop dates!](#)

Take the First Step

Join the Ua Hale A'ela interest list to learn about future opportunities, receive program updates, and stay connected as new homes become available across the pae 'āina.

* UHA Interest Form *

Hawaiian Community Assets Selected to Receive Food and Housing Security Funding

Hawaiian Community Assets (HCA) is honored to be one of only nine organizations selected for funding through this year's highly competitive grant process supporting food and housing security initiatives across Hawai'i Island.



The selection process reflected the tremendous need within our communities. A total of 28 organizations applied, requesting more than \$622,000 in funding, while only \$64,000 was available for distribution.

While limited funding meant difficult decisions had to be made, HCA is grateful to be among the organizations receiving an award. This investment will help advance our mission of empowering Hawai'i's communities through housing counseling, financial education, and pathways to long-term housing stability.

We also join our partners in hoping that continued awareness and advocacy will inspire greater investment in food and housing security programs across Hawai'i Island, ensuring that more organizations can continue meeting the critical needs of local families.

We're Hiring!

Housing Specialist (Kona)
Housing Specialist (Oahu)
Senior Director of Strategic Operations
Marketing & Communications Manager

Apply now at HawaiianCommunity.net • 4 Day Work Week • Full-time • Full Benefits

WE'RE HERE TO KŌKUA ENROLL ONLINE [HERE](#)



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