

### Celebrating the Grant Recipients

The Local Grants Committee has completed its work and is pleased to introduce the 2023-2024 recipients.



**\*\*\*Danielle “Pōmai” Akiona.**

Pomai is a **third year awardee** who will earn her bachelor’s degree in Community Public Health from Chaminade University in fall 2024. She previously earned her AA from Windward Community College. Pomai is committed to this profession as her goal is to provide appropriate health and wellness resources for Kupuna, particularly in the underserved Molokai island community. Pomai expressed her appreciation for her third scholarship as Chaminade University tuition costs present a financial challenge. “Mahalo so very much for once again investing in me,” writes Pomai.



Pomai receives an **Endowment Fund Grant.**



**\*\*\*Anna Barley of Kailua** is a **third year awardee** who graduated from Windward Community College and is continuing her studies at Kapiolani Community College’s Nursing (ADN) Program. Upon completion, she will transfer to UH at Manoa for her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Her goal is to earn a Master’s

degree and become an oncology nurse. She is originally from Russia and has lived in the USA for 12 years. Her mother and 16 year old sister found it necessary to immigrate to Hawai’i from Russia due to their protest of the Russia-Ukraine War. Anna has become her sister’s legal guardian. Anna is a single parent who works part time and attends college full time. She feels honored to acquire her education in this country and looks forward to giving back to others and providing a good life for her family in these precarious times. She writes, “Thank you so much for helping me and other women to feel supported and empowered.”

Anna receives a **Deisseroth Grant.**

**\*\*\*\*\*Daryl Jean Chun-Pescaia** of Kailua is a six-time award recipient having graduated from Kapiolani Community College with her Associate in Arts degrees in Liberal Arts as well as her Associate in Science degree in Medical Assisting. She is now in her final year of the Nursing Program at Chaminade University.

She works on-call for Hawai’i Pacific Health at Straub Medical Center as a Medical Assistant. Daryl Jean attends college year round and appreciates the opportunity to grow and learn necessary clinical and



communication skills. She intends to pursue her Master of Science degree in Nursing and work in Pediatrics. Daryl Jean states that serving others is humbling as well as rewarding and she looks forward to gaining the medical expertise to provide wellness outreach services.

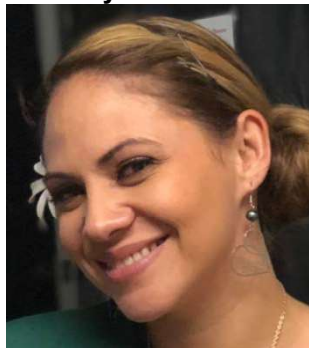
Daryl Jean receives an **Endowment Fund Grant.**

**Alice Colby of Hau’ula** attends Windward Community College and plans to transfer to the University of Hawai’i at Manoa for a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology. She will then pursue an advanced degree as her career goal is either as a Marriage and Family Counselor or School Counselor. Alice is originally from Estonia where she enjoyed her profession as an international youth worker and trainer. She moved to Hawai’i with her husband in 2019. Working with youth is her passion. “Creating an international environment where young people can work through informal means of instruction to promote lifelong learning is my primary focus.” Alice is a first time awardee.



Alice receives a **Windward Branch Grant.**

**\*\* Stacey Dawn S. Goodhue-Souza-Kaululaau** of



Kane’ohe graduated with her Associate in Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Windward Community College. She is now a student at the University of Hawai’i at Manoa pursuing her Bachelors of Social Work degree through distance education. She attends classes all year long, one 5-week course at

a time. Upon completing her education, Stacey plans to get her clinical license and open her own practice. Stacey is married and the mother of four children and shows them that regardless of how big or small your goals are; with work, concentrated study and determination, anything can be accomplished that you

set your mind to. Stacey is very involved in the community and looks forward to serving in an expanded capacity. Stacey is a second year awardee.

Stacy receives a **Snipes Grant**.

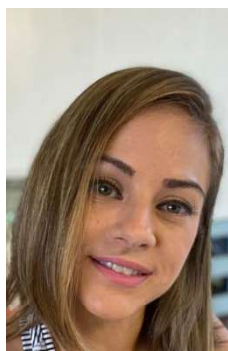
**\*\*\*Naupaka Hoapili** of Kaneohe third year awardee is a single mother of a 5 year old daughter. She is a product of Hawaiian immersion education and attends Windward Community College majoring in both Hawaiian Studies and the Ahupua'a Systems Indigenous Resource Management & Food Production program. After graduating from



Windward, she plans to double major with a Bachelors of Science degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Management degree as well as a Bachelor's degree in Hawaiian Studies. Her goal is to attend graduate school so she can effectively improve the sustainability of Hawai'i's agricultural efforts. Naupaka works on campus as a Cultural Education Specialist and is passionate about anything regarding the 'aina (land) and kai (ocean). She expresses her appreciation for our continued support of her educational pursuits.

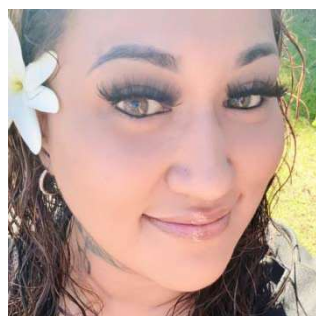
She receives s **Deisseroth Grant**.

**Jennifer Inouye** of Kaneohe is a first time awardee attending Windward Community College. Upon receiving her Associate in Arts degrees in Liberal Arts and Hawaiian Studies, Jen will transfer to University of Hawai'i at Manoa to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. To address the lack of therapists on the Windward side, Jen plans to use her degrees to more fully understand her patients' cultural roots and intergenerational ties that prevent them from creating personal change. Jen is the single parent of four teenagers who works three jobs to support her family in addition to attending college full time. She says Mahalo Nui for awarding her this much needed scholarship.



Jennifer receives the **Jacklyn Dame Memorial Scholarship**

**Sophia Kaawa-Aweau** of Kaneohe a first year awardee who just graduated from Windward Community College with her Associate in Arts degree in Liberal Arts as well as her Academic Subject Certificate in Psycho-Social Development Studies. This fall semester, she continues her education at the University of Hawai'i at



Manoa to earn her Bachelor's degree in Social Work. Sophia is a single parent who works part-time at Time's Supermarket, attends college full-time and volunteers at the Waimanalo Farming project. Sophia shares, "The capability to give back is very important to me and is the foundation for me to pursue a career in social work. Thank you for believing in my dreams to do this."

Sophia receives a **Snipes Grant**.

**Kupalokekuupualeihwaoekau "Love" Kamohalii** of Waimanalo, a first year awardee, is a graduate of Windward Community College and is employed there as a Peer Mentor and Math Tutor in TRiO Student Support Services. Among other many duties, she shares resources, like our scholarship program, with other students. She is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Social Work at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and plans to continue to get her Master's degree. Love is a non-traditional student who has learned from the obstacles she has faced to demonstrate her leadership skills through the BSW practicum program with the Paipai o Ko'olau Program at Windward Community College. Love's mentor shared that Love practices the three key ingredients for success; refuses to give up, always asks for help when needed and maintains a positive attitude toward college and life.



Love receives a **Snipes Grant**.

**Shyrae Na'ihe** of Kailua is a non-traditional student and first year awardee pursuing a Liberal Arts degree at Windward Community College. She intends to continue her studies in Sustainable Agriculture. Her passion is to preserve and strengthen the natural resources in her community by creating a healthy environment that promotes social and economic equity.



As well as attending college full-time, Shyrae serves as a Peer Tutor to women who are studying for their GEDs. She explains this is just one small way she is able to give back to the community.

Shyrae receives a **Windward Branch Grant**.

**\*\*Marie Richter** of Kane`ohe is a second year awardee who just graduated with her Associate in Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Windward Community College. She is transferring to the University of Hawai'i at Manoa to pursue a bachelor's degree in English. Marie is an actor and just completed her run in Paliku Theatre's production of "Machinal". Marie states that her extensive theater



experience helps balance her academic and personal life. Marie is well on her way to meeting her long term goal of earning a Master's degree in English and becoming an English professor in Hawai'i.

Marie receives a **Windward Branch Grant**.

**\*\*\*Caesare Santiago "Chez"** of Kailua is a third year awardee attending the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to earn her Bachelors of Social Work from the Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health. Chez plans to direct her career towards providing support for individuals and families who are struggling with mental illness and instability. Chez is a single parent working part time at Times Supermarket, attending classes full time and raising her son. Chez shares, "The scholarship has helped me keep my eye on the prize; the true reward of helping others and being able to give back support for a change.



Chez receives a **Diesseroth Grant**.

**\*\*Briana Sedeno** of Kane`ohe is a first-generation college student who continues her studies at the University of Hawai'i West Oahu pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Creative Media with a concentration in Video Game Design. As most gaming companies are based on the mainland, Briana's career goal is to start a video game design and development company locally to assist Native



Hawaiians in creating their own games and screenplays. Brianna works as a Circulation Assistant at the Windward Community College library. She is a second year awardee.

Briana receives the **Alta Bento Memorial Scholarship**.

**Nalani Stanley** of Waimanalo is a first year award recipient pursuing her Associate in Applied Science degree in Welding Technology at Honolulu Community College. Through a wide variety of work and educational experiences, Nalani found her purpose in welding. Her current work at Ho`oulu 'Aina, a nonprofit organization which focuses on food production,



community outreach, and reforestation, helped her realize that welding skills are greatly needed by local farmers. Providing this skill, Nalani knows she can malama 'aina to maintain cultural practices that can provide clean air, soil and water for the next generations and well as build a financial foundation for her own family.

Nalani receives a **Windward Branch Grant**.

**\*\*Reyna Viernes** of Kailua is a non-traditional student at Windward Community College completing her Associate in Arts degree in Liberal Arts. Over the summer Reyna will be taking courses in CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) CPR and Life Support to qualify for entrance into the Nursing program at Kapiolani Community College as well as Kapiolani's LPN to RN transition program. Reyna is married with three daughters. Caring for her special needs child has developed her passion for advocacy for those in need. She knows this degree will enable her to continue to take care of her family as well as serve the greater community as well. Reyna is a second year award recipient and represented Windward in Phi Theta Kappa's All- USA Academic Team.



Reyna receives the **Maly Scholarship**.

### About the Grants

**The Miriam Deisseroth Scholarships** - Miriam, a graduate of Linfield College and the University of Idaho, was a treasured member of Windward O`ahu AAUW and served as president from 1968 to 1970. She came to Hawai'i in 1946, and taught English at Castle High School until retirement. During Miriam's term as president Windward O`ahu AAUW members did community work and assisted with programs at both Kailua and Castle High School and hosted the Division Convention in Kailua. Miriam was a great supporter of education. During her presidency the first local grants were given in spring of 1970. After Miriam's death in 2004, the Windward O`ahu