

**Alan Clinton**  
Chair

**Richard Seder**  
Vice Chair



Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service  
1601 East-West Road, JAB 4082  
Honolulu, HI 96848  
Phone: (808) 956-8145  
Fax: (808) 944-7677  
Email: hicncs@hawaii.edu

### **Meeting Minutes DRAFT**

#### **Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service**

**Date:** Wednesday November 5, 2025

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**In-Person Meeting Location** University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
Bachman 107  
2444 Dole Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822

### **AGENDA**

#### **Serve Hawai'i With Aloha**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Alan Clinton called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

**II. Introductions**

Commission members present: Chair Alan Clinton, Vice Chair Richard Seder, Ray Galas, Karen Mukai, Anne Nakakura, Kymberly Sparlin, and Elwyn Watkins

Commission members excused: Kylie Alarcon, Frank Haas, Sandra Larsen, Anne Marie (Mahealani) Matsuzaki, Raga Nadella, Diane Peters-Nguyen, and Suzette Robinson

Others in attendance: Commission staff Keala Monaco, Brian Higaki, and Maelynn Puchalski. Teach For America Hawai'i Executive Director Meilan Akaka Manfre and Managing Director Erin Pauahi Auerbach

**III. Public Comments on Agenda Items**

No written comments were received and no individuals signed up for oral testimony.

**IV. Approval of Minutes of the September 18, 2025 Meeting**

Elwyn moved to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2025 meeting, seconded by Richard, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative with the exception of Kymberly's abstention.

**V. Teach for America – Hawai'i Program Spotlight**

Meilan Akaka Manfre, Executive Director, Teach For America Hawai'i (TFAH) shared about her experience as a corps member and the support and opportunity it provided. She gave a presentation on how TFAH continues efforts in providing equitable education opportunities for students in our local communities. See attachment for presentation.

Commission members engaged in discussion regarding funding breakdown (overhead costs vs. delivery of service costs), university partners, the relationship between housing, stipends, and costs, the breakdown of local vs. non-local members, plans for program expansion, and recruitment issues.

**VI. Recess**

Chair Alan Clinton called for a 10 minute recess at 12:06 p.m.

**VII. Call Back to Order**

Chair Alan Clinton called the meeting back to order at 12:20 p.m. All Commission members present prior to the recess were confirmed to be present upon reconvening.

**VIII. Discussion on Standing Committees**

The standing committee list that was provided with the meeting agenda is currently pending review by counsel and adoption by HCNCS as part of its Bylaws. Ray suggested creating a military/armed services committee. Chair Alan Clinton stated that commission members would be asked to specify which committees they would be interested in serving on prior to the next meeting.

**IX. Executive Director Updates**

**a. Current programs**

The program year 2025-2026 contracts for TFAH and Papahana Kuaola (PK) have been executed and both programs can start submitting reimbursement requests. The program year 2024-2025 reimbursements for TFAH and PK are still being finalized, as we are waiting for AmeriCorps to make corrections to a number of eGrants member records. PK has been slow to submit reimbursements since a new staff member has been preparing the reimbursement documents. All reimbursements to Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i have been processed.

**b. Prospective programs**

The Maui Economic Development Board, College Advisory Group, and National Mental Health Corps contacted HCNCS and expressed interest in establishing AmeriCorps programs. The latter two organizations previously operated AmeriCorps national direct programs but were not funded for program year 2025-2026. HCNCS will continue discussions

with these organizations and will also explore the possibility of awarding funds to UH departments. For prospective programs to be successful, it is critical that they have established systems in place as well as federal grants management experience.

c. AmeriCorps State and National updates

The 2026-2027 Notification of Funding Opportunity was scheduled to be released in October; however, it has been delayed due to the federal government shutdown.

d. Strategic Plan Review

The 2024-2027 State Service Plan is currently under review by HCNCS staff. We will report on our current status and the progress that has been made at the next in-person meeting.

e. HANOCON 2025 Report

Maelynn attended HANOCON 2025 and provided attendees with information regarding HCNCS and AmeriCorps funding. Although she connected with many attendees at our exhibitor table, the collection of contacts via QR code was unsuccessful. Future collection will be done with handwritten registries at the table.

X. Adjournment

Chair Alan Clinton adjourned the meeting at 1:01 p.m.



Meilan Akaka Manfre  
Executive Director



Erin Pauahi Auerbach  
Managing Director, Development



# Teach For America Hawai'i

**Americorps Hawai'i Board Meeting  
November 5, 2025**





# Who we are...

**Finger poll 🖐️:** Raise up the number (1–4) that matches your answer

- **I am familiar with Teach For America Hawai‘i’s vision: One day, all keiki will have the opportunity to attain an excellent education.**
1. This is totally new to me; tell me more!
  2. I have met a TFA teacher, so I am a little familiar.
  3. I have heard of the organization, but didn’t know there was a presence here in Hawai‘i.
  4. I know this vision by heart, and I am a supporter!



# Hawai'i Regional Context



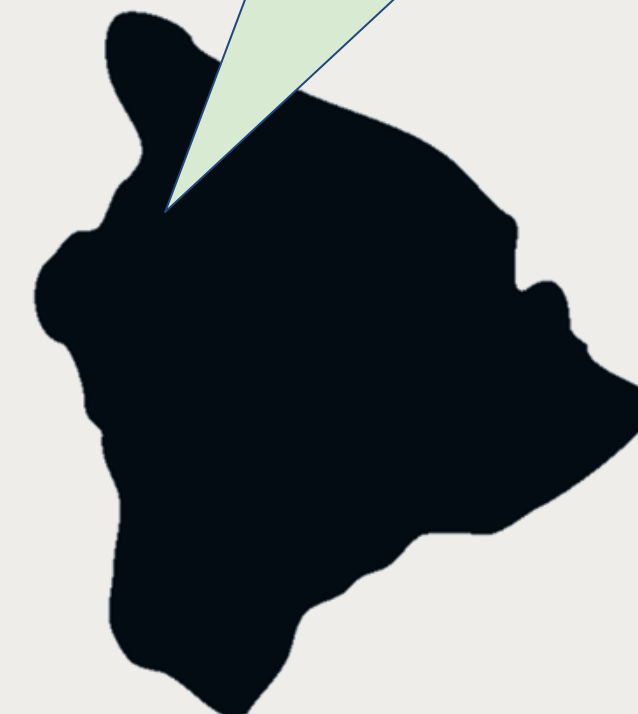
## Founded in 2006 on O'ahu

- Educators serving all 9 complex areas



## Expanded in 2009 to Hawai'i Island

- Educators serving all 3 complex areas



Since 2006

**1,190**

Teachers Trained (~1,000  
AmeriCorps Members)

**21**

2nd Generation Teachers

**270**

Kama'āina and Kanaka Maoli  
Recruited

**53%**

BIPOC in TFA Hawai'i 'Ohana

**631**

Total Hawai'i  
Network

# Systems Drivers Anchor Our Strategy

## Leadership

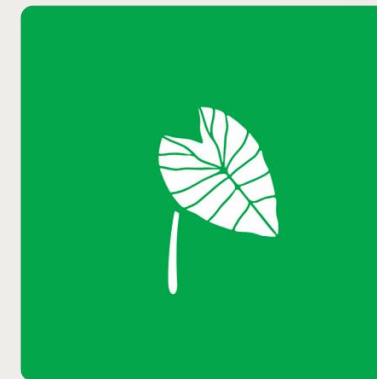
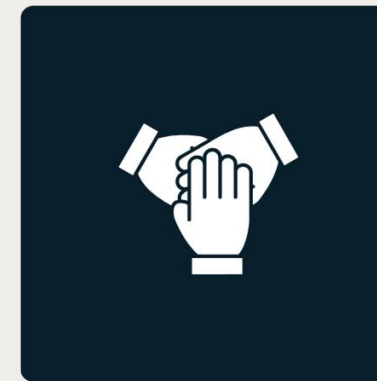
*Find and develop mission aligned leaders who produce positive student outcomes in Hawai'i public schools*

- Field a pipeline of teachers
- Facilitate impactful training
- Prioritize corps-to-alumni bridge
- Support aspiring school leaders

## Innovation

*Pilot and refine initiatives that accelerate and contribute to school, system, and community progress*

- Grow Ignite (high dosage tutoring)
- Seek out and test ideas, prioritizing initiatives that advance early literacy



## Allies & Advocacy

*Connect and catalyze networks for collective action*

- Engage and mobilize network
- Advocate for education policies
- Participate in early literacy coalitions
- Strengthen system leaders relationships

## Locally Rooted

*Honor and uplift Hawai'i's unique history, culture, and values*

- Diversify our corps to better reflect Hawai'i
- Center local history, people, and place of Hawai'i in training and development



# Recruit and Train Effective Educators

## Recruitment Activities

- Local college campus recruitment
  - UH Mānoa
  - UH Hilo
- Targeted campus recruitment in concert with our National Recruiters on the East Coast and West Coast

## Locally Rooted Training and Development

- Summer Practicum with 8 School Partners
- Engage in ‘āina based programming from throughout the year to root and ground in Hawai‘i and Hawaiian culture.

**Corps Member Sentiment:** “It's just so wonderful to get hands on with Hawaiian history. In particular this day was very relevant for me as a biology teacher and I'm going to involve my students and class with the people and org I met!”





# Americorps Funding Supports...

## Stipends: CM Licensure Costs

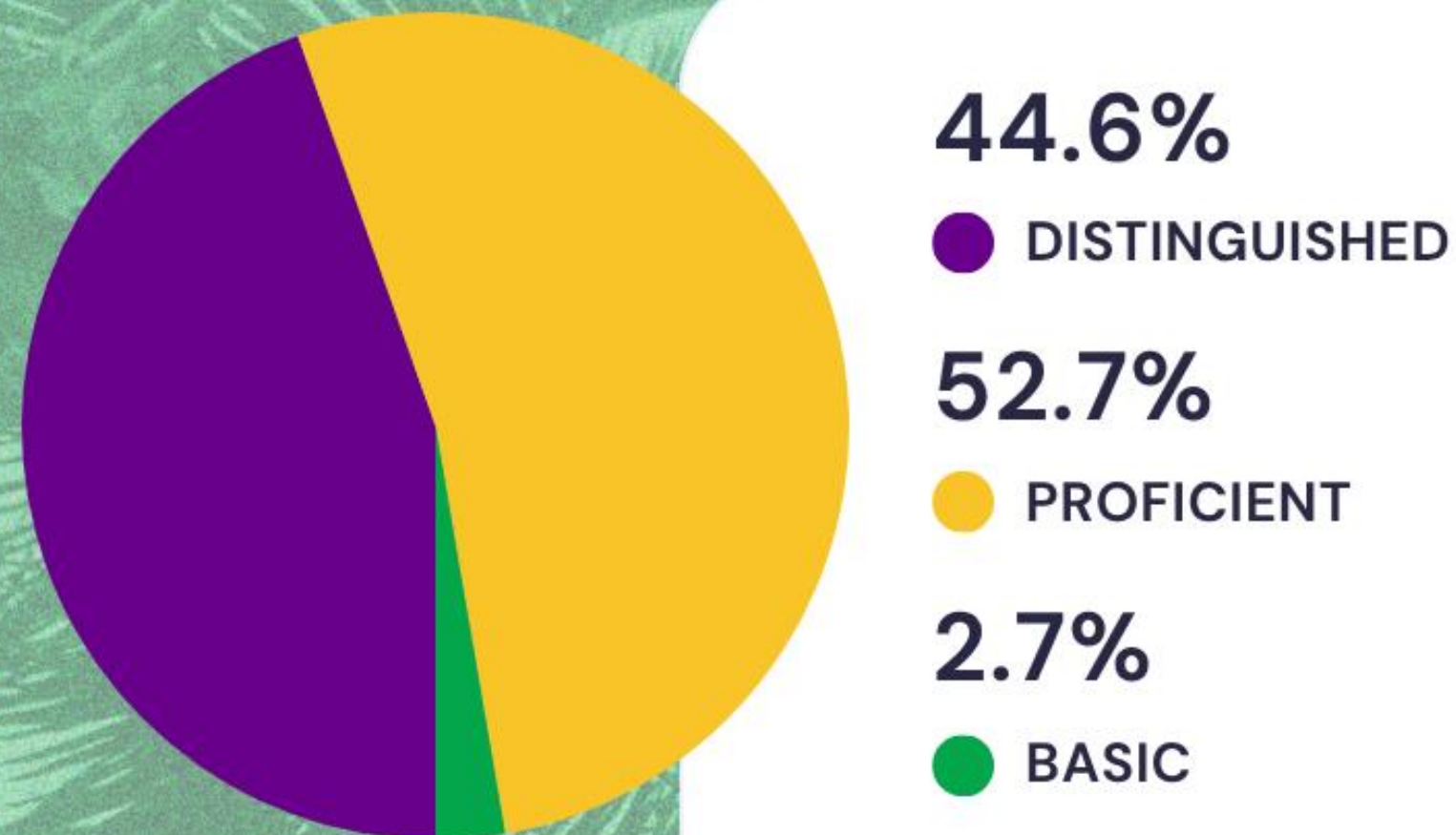
| University Partners   | Chaminade University   | Johns Hopkins University  |
|---|--|---|
| Estimated Licensure Costs for the 2026 – 2027 School Year (for CMs who are being recruited now) | <p><b>\$7,076.25</b></p> <p>The tuition for the 9 credits of licensure only courses for TFA students will be <math>9 \times \\$786.25 = \\$7,076.25</math>.</p> <p>There is also a \$465 technology fee not included in that overall tuition cost.</p> | <p><b>\$9,120.00</b></p> <p>The tuition for the 8 credits of licensure only courses for TFA students will be <math>8 \times \\$1140 = \\$9120</math>.</p> |

## Americorps Support from the Hawai‘i Commission: CM Development

- Summer Training
- On-going support throughout the year
- ‘Āina-based Days

# Recruit and Train Effective Educators

**97% Proficient or Distinguished in Coach Observations**



# Develop Equity Minded Leaders

## Alumni Leadership Development

### 15 Alumni in School Leadership Roles:

Cameron Kubota ('13), Principal, Lincoln El  
Leslie Ziu ('12), Principal, Mākaha El  
Wendy Erskine (CHI '01), Interim ED, SEEQS  
Jason Britt ('08), P, Na‘alehu Elementary  
Osiris Santos ('09), VP, Mililani Mauka El  
Kevin Argueta ('12), VP, Kealakehe HS  
Esther Kwon ( '12), VP, Wheeler Middle  
Bill Chen ('13), VP, Kealakehe HS  
Kekoa Carvalho ('13), VP, Niu Valley El.  
Megan Minotti ('13), VP, Honoka‘a HS & Inter  
Tonya Duncan ('13) VP, Kealakehe Inter  
Brendan Fliris ('13), VP, Keonepoko El  
Chikyra Crabbe ('14), VP, Kamaile Academy  
Scott Hamilton ('15), VP Wheeler Middle  
Ethan Ahuna ('19), VP, Leihōkū El

### NEW School Leader Spotlight



### Leslie Ziu (HI '12) named Principal of Mākaha Elementary

After serving at her placement school, 'Aiea Intermediate, as a science Department Head and data team lead, and as a Hawai'i State Teacher Fellow, Leslie joined TFAHawai'i's staff, coaching and developing corps members.

She returned to the HIDOE to pursue school leadership to

- Support school operations and instructional leadership
- Serve students and families

After completing The Hawai'i Certification Institute for School Leadership (HICISL) Program, she proudly served as Vice Principal at Kapolei High School for five years until her appointment to Principal of Mākaha Elementary in November of 2024.





# Impact of our Work in Hawai‘i – Alumni



**Lipoa Kahaleuahi, '11**

Executive Director,  
Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike



**David Sun-Miyashiro,  
'08**

Executive Director,  
HawaiiKidsCAN



**Scot Matayoshi, '06**

State Representative  
District 49, Kāne‘ohe & Kailua



**Petra Schatz, Ph.D., '95**

State Language Arts Specialist,  
HIDOE

**528**  
In  
Hawai‘i

**74%**  
In  
Education

**17**  
Civic Leaders and  
Law Professionals

**15**  
School Principals and  
VPs

**7**  
NonProfit  
Leaders

# Closing Poll

**Finger poll 🖐️:** Raise up the number (1–3) that matches your answer:

1 – I still want to learn more → watch this [TV special](#) about our impact in Hawai‘i.

2 – How can I support? I am ready! → [Donate](#) or [sign-up](#) for our local newsletter.

3 – I might know someone who would be a great fit to teach. → Send them here to [apply and learn more](#).





# Join Us!



Sign up for our  
newsletter





**Me ka mahalo nui**



**Teach For  
America**