



## THINK Fund at HCF brings STEM technology and experiences to Hawai'i Island students

The Hawai'i Island New Knowledge (THINK) Fund at Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) invests in experiences and resources for Hawai'i Island students to explore and pursue STEM career pathways. To date, THINK Fund at HCF has committed \$325,000 to provide classroom grants through DonorsChoose.org, an online platform that allows teachers to purchase supplies and equipment necessary to bring STEM lessons to life and accommodate diverse learning styles.

### Kids Who Code: Tinkering Today for Success Tomorrow

Kainalu's face lights up. Before him and more than twenty of his third-grade classmates sits an open box filled with robot activity sets and coding task cards. A bounty of creative STEM learning tools made possible by a DonorsChoose.org grant allows students in Pāhoa to spend time coding on iPads, programming Dash and Dot task cards, and building and maneuvering a robotic ball through student created mazes. Students joyfully gain skills in sequencing, problem-solving and perseverance to become better readers, writers, and mathematicians.

"Your generous donation has touched and inspired my class to become lifelong learners with a passion for creating and discovering. It is such a blessing to have supportive and caring donors like you who make these opportunities possible."

- Ms. Okimoto, Grade 3  
Keonepoko Elementary School, Pāhoa



### DonorsChoose.org has supported 246 projects since 2015

The investment in experiences and resources for local students beginning as early as 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is sparking interest in youth to pursue STEM career pathways.



20,000+  
Students served



126  
Teachers funded



42  
Schools funded



## Kealakehe High School students shine at Hawai'i State Science Olympiad competition

In 2019, THINK Fund at HCF began supporting travel costs for students to attend off-island robotics competitions and academic STEM conferences with the State of Hawai'i.

Mr. Hayes and fifteen Kealakehe High School students competed in the Hawai'i State Science Olympiad Competition. Students demonstrated their knowledge of the natural world and their engineering abilities by competing in a variety of build and test-based events. This was the first time in the school's history that students placed within the top three of an event.

The rigor and excitement of competing with like-minded students helped expand horizons and instill pride and confidence in Kona's teens to be capable problem-solvers and models for fellow students to achieve big for their school and community.



"A sincere thank you for the positive and influential experience you gave me. Not only did our team manage to win two bronze medals and four 5<sup>th</sup> place medals out of countless schools, but we gained valuable life skills and knowledge that I believe we will all hang onto for years to come!"

- Jonathan  
Kealakehe High School  
student

For more information about THINK Fund at HCF, please contact Lydia Clements, Vice President of Foundation & Corporate Partnerships, at (808) 935-1206 or [lclements@hcf-hawaii.org](mailto:lclements@hcf-hawaii.org)