

## **PRESS RELEASE**



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### **THE HAWAIIAN CHURCH OF HAWAI'I NEI RECEIVES \$50,000 FROM OHA**

HONOLULU, O'AHU, HAWAI'I - The Hawaiian Church of Hawai'i Nei today announced a grant award totaling \$50,000 for two years that will support the Native Hawaiian community through the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Iwi Kupuna Repatriation & Reinterment Program Grants. The grant will help to reinforce and strengthen Native Hawaiians' 'ohana (family), mo'omeheu (culture) and 'āina (land and water).

With a \$50,000 OHA grant award, for the next two years, The Hawaiian Church of Hawai'i Nei will conduct a series of workshops on the islands of Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai and Hawai'i to make sacred burial items needed and provide them to lineal descendants, Native Hawaiian groups and State of Hawai'i organizations to mālama nā iwi kūpuna in preparation for repatriation and reinterment. These workshops are designed to address the needs of nā iwi kūpuna by providing the necessary education and knowledge focusing on gathering, preparing and crafting from our natural resources here in Hawai'i to make the items needed for the care of nā iwi kupuna. The program will educate the Native Hawaiian community and their 'ohana with three separate resources that the Hawaiian culture uses to make the materials for the sacred burial items. The first year of the program will include our native resource of Lauhala, Wauke, and Ipu. The second year of the program, the resources will be Lauhala, Hau, and Wauke. These statewide workshops will empower and strengthen the Native Hawaiian community and their 'ohana spiritually and culturally through this connection with nā kūpuna by caring for them in a respectful manner. The community will learn from these workshops to pass down all the cultural knowledge and skills to the next generation and carry on the work with the knowledge to mālama nā iwi kūpuna of their area.

"This program will have a significant impact on the Native Hawaiian community and is needed in order to rebury nā iwi kūpuna culturally and properly. All participants in these workshops will be properly prepared and culturally educated as it is our kuleana to care for our ancestors, maintain the spiritual balance and harmony that strengthens our mana and identity as Native Hawaiians and our Native Hawaiian communities."

The purpose of the Iwi Kupuna Repatriation & Reinterment grant is to serve the Native Hawaiian lāhui in alignment with the strategic foundations, directions and outcomes of 15-year Mana i Maui Ola Strategic Plan.

About The Hawaiian Church of Hawai'i Nei:

The Hawaiian Church of Hawai'i Nei (HCHN), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a 170(b)(1)(A)(i) Public Charity Status is an indigenous cultural faith-based organization committed to strengthening and empowering Hawaiian spirituality through traditional Hawaiian ceremonies, rituals and protocols. Its mission is to promote, protect, preserve, and continue the indigenous Hawaiian religious practices, cultural rights, and traditions that are inclusive of spiritual and physical healing, spiritual and physical health, self-reflective understanding, ho'oponopono and peace for Native Hawaiians and people worldwide.

Learn more at [www.hawaiianchurchhawaiiinei.org](http://www.hawaiianchurchhawaiiinei.org)

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