

LANAI 'OHANA PODS

A MODEL OF PARENT EMPOWERMENT

HawaiiKidsCAN's 'Ohana Pods program, which empowers Lanai's families in the creation and strengthening of small student support groups and "microschools" that range between 4-12 students. These groups have directly addressed family and student needs, and have proven to be a powerful way of engaging parents to think about their educational choices and the resources available in their communities in a new way. This is a unique opportunity developed in response to learning loss caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Through the streamlined ClassWallet platform, families had access to an extensive, diverse network of educational vendors and service providers to utilize a \$1,000 program-provided microgrant for each pod. Funds stay within the online portal, similar to Venmo or PayPal, so our team did not need to worry about issuing checks or collecting paperwork and bank information.



BY THE NUMBERS



140 participants, including 86 students (ages ranging from toddlers to 17 years) and 54 parents



\$11,000 in total microgrant funds to families



30+ education vendors available to participants



1 bill in the 2022 legislative session to create state grants program based on pods that could provide millions of dollars in grants to families

TESTIMONIES

“ I enjoyed watching my kids learn by doing/fixing educational lessons/stuff with their hands and experimenting with scientific studies with the items ‘Ohana Pods helped provide. I enjoyed it as a parent too, so I would definitely let my kids participate in the ‘Ohana Pods again. ”

- Ingrid George

“ What I enjoyed in the ‘Ohana Pods program: (1) it’s fun learning; (2) it gives ways for kids to interact; and (3) enhances their communication skills. ”

- Ritchel Cabiles

“ Aloha! My family and I were so thankful for the opportunity to participate in the 'Ohana Pods program in 2021! It granted us resources and supplies that we desperately needed but were not able to get for our kids. These resources allowed our children to learn new life skills and even share their new skills and the products thereof with those around them. We are so thankful for this program and pray that it will continue for us and other families on Lanai as well. Thank you so very much, 'Ohana Pods Program! ”

- **Abby Alonzo**

“ 'Ohana Pods gave us the opportunity to learn new projects for our kids and help them grow their intriguing minds. We did experiments for electricity, magnetism, kinetic sand, slime, paintings and many more after school activities. We are really thankful for the resources and finances provided to us and we would love to do it again if it's available. Thank you. ”

- **Blessy Abraham**

“ The 'Ohana Pods really help me and my child get out and be social – we were so used to staying home because of the pandemic. It also provided so many resources that I needed to help my child grow and develop but couldn't afford to get. The 'Ohana Pods is such a great program and I cannot stress or emphasize enough how positive my experience was with it all. ”

- **Gabby Shin**

“ The 'Ohana Pods has helped my children connect with other kids to develop their social skills and it taught cooperation. They had a fantastic time learning, exploring, creating and playing. Because of the 'Ohana Pods, I was able to provide my kids with resources that teach emotional intelligence and boost self-esteem. It has helped my children build a healthy brain. ”

- **Michelle Silva**

“ The ‘Ohana Pods have been such an amazing program and has been super beneficial for me and my ‘Ohana. I’m grateful to the ‘Ohana Pods for providing opportunities for me and my children to socialize with other pods, providing funds for essential learning tools that I wouldn’t be able to afford myself and for supporting the growth and development of my children. This whole experience has been so positive, and if this program was offered again in the future I would, without hesitation, join again! ”

- **Makana Nuesca**

PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

Partners

- ClassWallet
- Lanai Union Church
- Lanai Baptist Church
- Hawaii Workforce Development Council
- Kuauli Digital Opportunities
- ‘Ohana Readers
- Computational Thinkers
- Co-Teach

Sponsors

- Pulama Lanai
- Atherton Family Foundation
- The Reinvention Lab at Teach for America

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