Together, we can move Hawai‘i and its people toward a remarkable future.
The University of Hawai‘i Foundation in partnership with you, our generous donors and UH partners, raised $77.6 million in fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017). These funds will directly impact students, faculty, research and programs on all 10 University of Hawai‘i campuses.

“This year 29,180 gifts were made to support programs people are passionate about,” said Donna Vuchinich, UH Foundation president and CEO. “Every day we have the privilege of hearing from students and faculty who share how private support is making a difference in their lives,” she said.

From funding globally recognized research in critical areas that affect us all – including cancer and our environment – to making a quality college education possible, donors are making a difference for UH.

“We are most grateful for the vision and generosity of each and every donor,” said Vuchinich.

Donors decide how and where their gifts are used – 99% of gifts raised are donor-directed. Here are the areas our UH Foundation donors chose to support with their generous gifts:
The University of Hawai‘i is Hawai‘i’s future. What will that future hold?

To meet emerging workforce needs and to prepare our future leaders, the University of Hawai‘i will increasingly rely on private support. Our university system is an important driver of Hawai‘i’s social, cultural and economic well-being. It is a leader in advancing sustainability at home and around the world. It seeds the discoveries that will shape tomorrow. Generous donors help to make this possible.

GIVING TO UH SUPPORTS ITS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

GRADUATING HAWAI‘I’S FUTURE | Having a college degree opens a lifetime of doors. Education is the great social equalizer and by helping Native Hawaiians, low-income students and those from underserved populations succeed in college and graduate on time, UH can help change the trajectory of their lives.

INNOVATING FOR A NEW HAWAI‘I ECONOMY | Every year UH research and innovation brings millions of dollars into Hawai‘i’s economy while finding solutions to global challenges. With the talent, innovation, entrepreneurial spirit and natural resources we have at UH, the sky is the limit.

BUILDING 21ST CENTURY FACILITIES | Eliminate the university’s deferred maintenance backlog and modernize facilities and campus environments to be safe, sustainable and supportive of modern practices in teaching, learning and research.

MAXIMIZING OUR UNIQUE SYSTEM TO BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY | UH is committed to making the most out of its unique unified statewide system of public higher education by streamlining operations and enhancing transparency to maximize savings.

A stronger UH means a brighter future for our state.

Together, we can move Hawai‘i and its people toward a remarkable future. Together, we can Journey Beyond.

To learn more about funding UH’s strategic priorities, visit www.uhfoundation.org/journeybeyond.
UH’s most generous donors were honored at an intimate event at the Culinary Institute of the Pacific at Diamond Head. Governor David Ige warmly thanked donors and UH President David Lassner presented awards to Jay & Wallette Shidler, Barry & Virginia Weinman and Dr. Thomas Kosasa for their transformational gifts to UH. After the program, guests joined locally renowned chefs and culinary students in the brand new kitchens at CIP.
Alumni of the UH Regents and Presidential Scholarship (RAPS) program were honored at a special reunion to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the prestigious program’s founding. Guests gathered at the John A. Burns School of Medicine in Café Waiola to enjoy reconnecting with old friends, meeting current RAPS scholars, and visiting with the UH Board of Regents, UH president, and other UH and UH Foundation leaders. Speakers inspired the group by sharing the history of the RAPS program, a compelling vision for its future, and personal stories about the impact this program has made in the lives of its award recipients.

UH West O‘ahu held its first-ever Scholarship Celebration on Sept. 1, congratulating scholarship recipients and giving them a chance to thank donors who attended the event. About 70 people attended the luncheon, including almost 30 scholarship recipients, State Sen. Mike Gabbard, and City Councilmember Kymberly Pine. More than $150,000 of scholarship money has been awarded to UH West O‘ahu students in the past year.

See more photos from these and other events at www.uhfoundation.org/news/photos
Social worker Tiffanie Keliinui-McCreadie has an important job: she gets through to teens with behavioral and emotional disabilities.

“A lot of teens I work with in my residential youth home may push adults away,” she said. “They may behave as if they don’t want to be around people, but they crave love, attention and care, and they want someone to hear their stories.

“If people are willing to listen, they see that this population of kids has the ability to connect.”

Most of her young clients are in foster care today, but they will soon be adults and working citizens in our community.

Keliinui-McCreadie, a second-year master’s degree candidate at the UH Mānoa Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, explained that the more effort we put into helping these kids now, the more we all benefit when they become adults.

“They come in with low self-worth and low self-confidence,” she said, “but we try to teach them how to express their feelings, to negotiate with us and with each other, and to speak up for themselves.”

Keliinui-McCreadie has worked for Catholic Charities for eight years. She hopes to open her own community-based residential home someday to provide a therapeutic environment that supports young people’s needs in making the transition to adulthood. A graduate degree can help make this happen, but her full-time work directing the youth home doesn’t cover her tuition and expenses.

Fortunately she is the first-ever recipient of the Ethel Yamane Endowed Scholarship. “I’m taking out loans for this degree, and I’m a mom, so this helps a lot,” she said.

“I’ve also gained a lot of confidence from this scholarship. Someone read what I wrote in the application and believed in me. It feels like an affirmation that I’m on the right track and will do something important with my degree.”

Ethel Yamane understands the value of scholarships first-hand: she received them throughout her education, beginning in high school at Mid-Pacific Institute and continuing through her undergraduate and graduate studies at UH Mānoa. This laid the foundation for a rewarding 40-year career in social work.

Yamane began advocating for Hawai‘i’s children in 1950. She worked for the Hawai‘i Department of Public Welfare (now Human Services) and Department of Health in positions related to child welfare, foster homes, and deinstitutionalizing developmentally challenged children.

Yamane wanted to give other social work students opportunities like she had. Her scholarship does just that, and continues her legacy of serving our community by helping students like Keliinui-McCreadie learn how to better serve the less fortunate.

“I’ve never studied as part of a cohort before,” said Keliinui-McCreadie, who is gaining new experience even as an experienced social worker.

“Now I’m with people who are striving for the same goal, working toward caring for the community, and hoping to make it better.”
Two lines of wide-eyed elementary school-aged children and their parents appear at courtside from the locker room tunnel with signs, ready to cheer. Soon, the Rainbow Warriors emerge from the locker room, huddle, and run out onto the court, high-fiving with the excited group.

As the team warms up, David and Elsie Shimokawa, along with other volunteer boosters, escort the youth basketball teams and their families off the court and to their seats, where they'll watch the ‘Bows compete against another rival. It’s one more game and one more Tunnel Experience for the young fans, thrilled to be part of the pre-game action at UH Mānoa.

The Shimokawas are both UH Mānoa alumni and longtime season ticket holders for basketball, baseball and football. They developed The Game & Tunnel Experience for youth teams, schools, clubs and eager fans, in response to former head coach Bob Nash’s call to help bring more fans to UH men’s basketball games. David drew on his work experience and time as a community basketball league director to come up with the idea.

“This whole Tunnel Experience was developed and is maintained by David, with approval from UH Mānoa Athletics,” Elsie said. He contacts youth leagues, coaches, parents and others to spread the word about the Tunnel Experience and share information about the games. A dedicated group of basketball club volunteers, many who are UH alumni, also help.

“The goal is to have the Tunnel participants feel like they are part of the team,” David said, “and not just fans way up in the stands. It is memorable.”

Elsie also works with boosters to support the team in other ways. “This year we provided meals after nearly every home game thanks to support and donations from loyal boosters,” she said.

“We also helped with the team’s summer sports conditioning program. We had fun meeting new players and introducing them to our local food favorites.”

The couple donated proceeds from a rental property sale to the UH Foundation in a charitable remainder trust for two sport scholarship endowments. This granted them considerable tax benefits, while giving them monthly retirement income benefits. The property they donated would have faced a potentially large capital gain tax and required constant attention with little net income after expenses.

Now, their generosity helps UH and gives them more time. David said, “It was a good time to give back to the university while continuing to enjoy every game.”

“You know,” Elsie said, “when I was a student, I was focused on studies, working part-time jobs to pay my tuition, and never had the time or money to go to games. Now, we have time to attend games and participate in activities with the booster clubs, UH Foundation and UH Alumni Association.

“We feel closer to the university now than ever before, and we are proud to give back by supporting our student-athletes.”
AT&T funds two UH programs that look to future

Hacking away at brilliance

Nearly 150 of Hawai‘i’s tech enthusiasts accepted the 24-hour challenge to conceive, design, build and present an innovative app at the 2017 UH-AT&T Hackathon in March. Teams competed in eight categories – including gaming, the internet of things, and user experience – for their share of $7,000 in cash prizes.

A tiny computer hidden in a fuzzy snow leopard automatically downloaded newly posted songs on Reddit. A mobile app located the nearest farmers’ markets and displayed their hours of operation. A connection between a smartphone and an Amazon Echo could welcome you home with your selected theme music. These were some of the great ideas participants turned into reality while judges, representatives from local tech firms, and community leaders cheered them on.

The annual event was bigger and bolder than ever thanks to AT&T, which has contributed $55,000 over the last four years as title sponsor. The UH Information and Computer Sciences (ICS) department, the Pacific Center for Advanced Technology Training, DevLeague, the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation, and host Sacred Hearts Academy were co-sponsors of the event.

High school students take a leap at college

AT&T has also donated $30,000 in recent years to help prepare high school students for college success through the Hawai‘i P-20 Early College Initiative.

AT&T’s support has allowed students at Waimea High, Roosevelt High, and Leilehua High to take college-level courses on their own campuses, earning high school credit as well as college credit. Students who participated two years ago were nearly twice as likely to enroll in college as students without such dual credit. Enrollment numbers were even more impressive for economically disadvantaged students in the program.

Hawai‘i P-20 Partnerships for Education is a statewide partnership led by the Executive Office on Early Learning, the Hawai‘i State Department of Education and the UH System that works to strengthen the education pipeline from early childhood through higher education so that all students achieve college and career success.