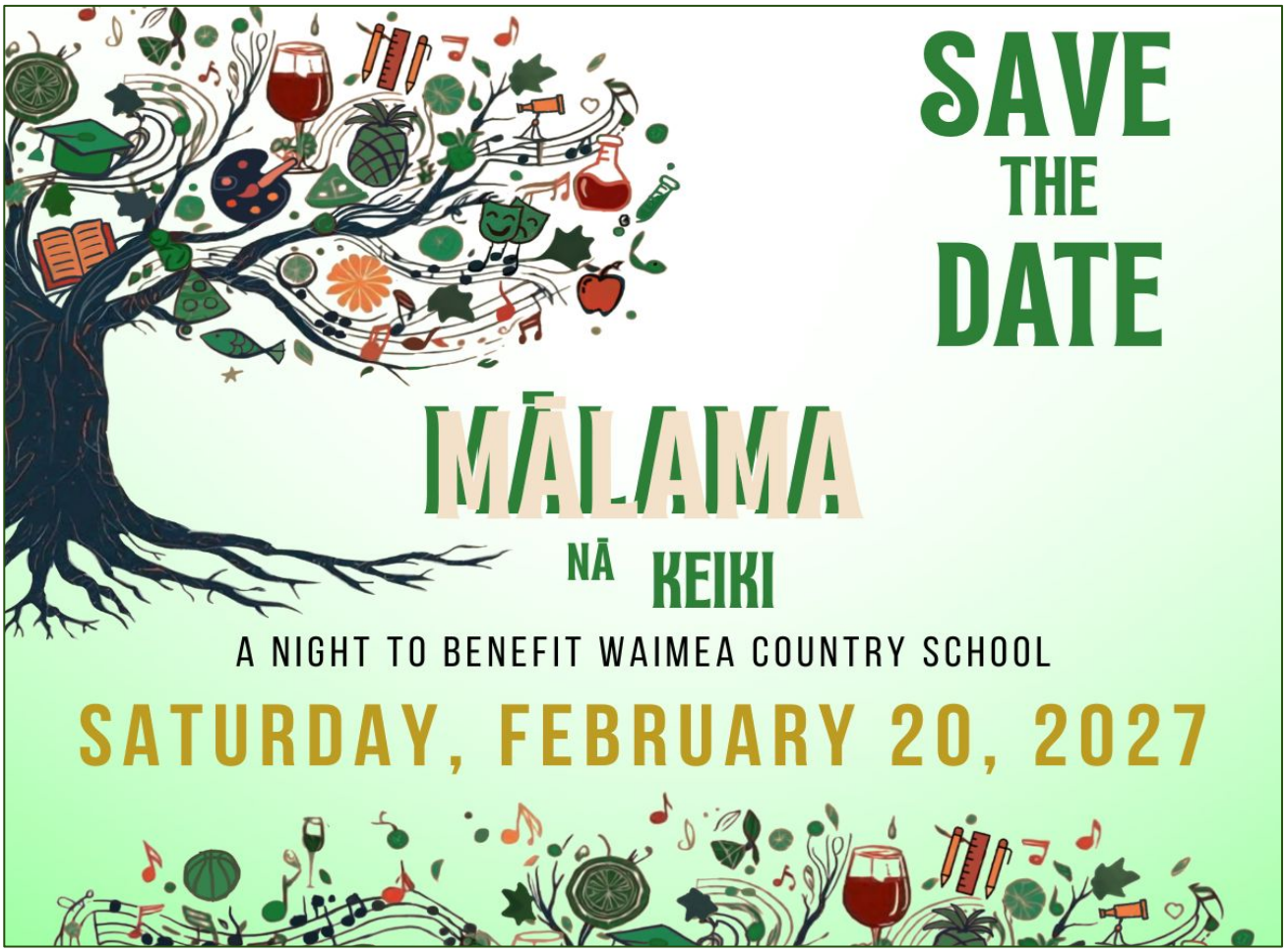
Thank you for being a vital part of our extended Waimea Country School ‘ohana. Looking back on a year of meaningful learning, I am grateful to share our latest Annual Report with you.

Inside, you will find highlights of our achievements alongside a celebration of the people who make our school special: our dedicated educators, curious students, supportive families, and the community partners who enrich our classrooms every day.

We deeply appreciate your role in our ongoing story. Your steadfast generosity makes a lasting difference, and we look forward to continuing our partnership to keep Waimea Country School a place where children truly love to learn.

Students have been thriving at Waimea Country School since 1996. Stay tuned for details about our 30th anniversary celebrations at this year’s Mālama Nā Keiki benefit and throughout the year!



Annual Report ~ 2025/2026

Waimea Country School's mission is to educate children to become confident, responsible, and compassionate people.

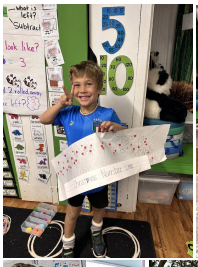


At the heart of our school's identity is the spirit of 'ohana—a living network of families, educators, donors, and community partners whose shared dedication propels everything we do. Rooted in inclusion and respect, our vibrant learning community works hand-in-hand to inspire every student toward our central mission: educating students to become confident, responsible, and compassionate people.



A strong educational foundation thrives on continuity and intentionality. As we prepared for faculty shifts near the end of the school year, we laid the groundwork for a smooth transition designed to enhance long-term stability across our campus. To fill the opening in our Koa (4/5) classroom, veteran educator Kendra Powers, a trusted team member for five years, stepped into the role. Having previously taught upper elementary, she brings high standards and commitment to prepare our 4th and 5th graders for middle school, creating a meaningful full circle moment as she reunites with students she first taught in 'Ohi'a (K/1). In turn, we welcomed Chelsea Croy as our new 'Ohi'a lead teacher. Mrs. Croy is a long-time Waimea community member whose local roots and shared educational philosophy make her a natural fit for our youngest learners. Planning this transition early allowed both teachers to spend time in their future classrooms alongside existing faculty, ensuring a smooth transition for them and seamless continuity for students.









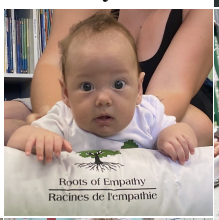
Curriculum Highlights:

- 'Ohi'a Class (K/1) wove together studies of dinosaurs, plants, and oceans, featuring a science-and-art dino dig. They explored Hawaiian and U.S. geography and celebrated their learning with an unforgettable whale-watching trip.
- Koai'a Class (2/3) investigated ecosystem relationships, family histories, early Hawaiian life, and Native American cultures. Students engaged in coding and showcased their work at our Fall Science & Engineering Fair.
- Koa Class (4/5) delved into Earth's dynamic systems, studying geology, earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis, and then deepened their learning and built lasting memories during their overnight trip to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Humanities studies covered Pacific geography, early Hawaiian history, colonial America, and the Revolutionary War.

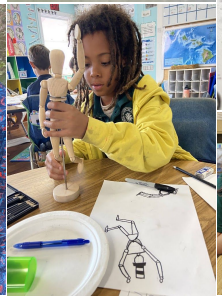
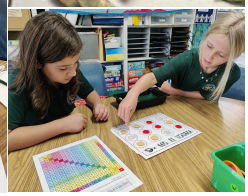


Community support complemented and enriched our curriculum in all classes, featuring visits from guest presenters, partnership with our local library and theaters, and learning trips, such as the Koa Class journey to Keck Observatory to explore the solar system.

Empathy comes to life when students turn understanding into meaningful action. This year, Head of School Laurel Matsuda expanded our Roots of Empathy program into the Koai'a classroom, guiding students in emotional literacy alongside a visiting parent and their "tiny teacher" baby. This focus on emotional growth complemented our active service learning, including our 16th year partnering with the Annunciation Church Food Pantry and hands-on ecological care efforts at Waimea Nature Park.





These hands-on experiences are made possible through the generous commitment of our parents, donors, and local partners. As we look to the future, we remain profoundly grateful for your partnership in nourishing our students' growth and continually strengthening the bonds that tie our school to the wider community.

MĀLAMA NĀ KEIKI

A NIGHT TO BENEFIT WAIMEA COUNTRY SCHOOL

$58,750







Master Class

Thank you to our good friends who donated their time and talent to teach a Master Class.

Angel Prince *Samantha Collins*

Monika Hennig *Wendy Wills*

Ticket sales - $10,845
Stand Up For the Arts - $8,100
Financial Aid Fund - $15,200

Auction - $21,645
Donations - $2,960

Mahalo



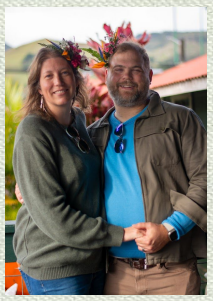
















Alumni Volunteers ~ Mahalo!
Addison '20, Lana '21, Lily '23, Ananda '25, Max '25

Event Support

- Chef Ippy Aiona & 'Ohana
- Ahualoa Grown
- BEST Farms
- Big Island Brewhaus
- Blue Dragon Tavern
- Blue Ocean Mariculture
- Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative
- Hula Halau O Kukui
- Aloha O Kohala
- Kalei Webster
- Maylan Ackerman
- Parker School
- Seth and Leilani Engstrom
- St. James' Church
- Suisan
- T. Ilihia Gionson
- Waimea Country School Board of Trustees, Faculty, & Staff
- Waimea Country School Parent Association
- Waimea Yoga

Auction Donors

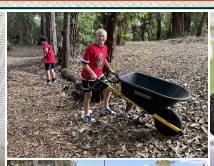
- Ackerman Galleries
- Atlantis Submarine
- Beach Dog Books
- Body Alchemy
- Body Glove
- Caroline Culverhouse
- Canada France Hawaii Telescope
- Chef Ippy Aiona
- Cirque du Soleil 'Auana
- Essential Massage Therapy
- Flights of Aloha
- Hamakua Candle Company
- Hawaii Forest & Trail
- Health in Motion Massage
- Healthways II
- Hilton Waikoloa Village
- Hokuli'a
- Hualalai Golf Course
- Ian Langevin
- Ippy's Hawaiian BBQ
- JamPot
- Juice 101
- Kamuela Inn
- Kohala Zipline
- Kona Brew
- Kona Seafood Market
- Kuleana Rum
- Lava Rock Real
- Margo Ray
- Mauna Kea Beach Hotel
- Mauna Lani Auberge Resorts Collection
- Merriman's
- Oceanspired Arts Photography
- Ola Acupuncture
- Photo Guardians
- Pono Pastries
- Prince Dance Institute
- RE5 Wellness Spa
- Resortica Hawaii (Kim Horton)
- Roy's Waikoloa
- Royal Kona Resort
- Salt Drifter Photography
- Seth Engstrom
- Spicy Ninja Sauce
- Teddy Pabingwit and Cindy Aceret
- The Hidden Nene
- The Temple
- Tommy Bahama
- Volcano Golf Course
- Wai Meli Honey
- Waimea Butcher Shop
- Waimea Yoga Studio
- Westin Maui Resort & Spa
- World Centric
- Yong's BBQ







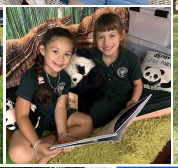












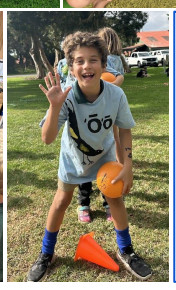


Learning trips and service projects, often by **Hui**, enrich our learning program.









Our commitment to connection shines through **Hui 'Ohana**, a cherished tradition where every child belongs to a multi-age group spanning all grade levels. Meeting weekly for buddy reading and lunches, and teaming often for school-wide events, **Hui** foster mentorship, belonging, and empathy.

Annual Fund
$24,401

Please report any errors or undocumented gifts to our office at 885-0067. Thank you!

Plumeria ($1 - $499)

Anonymous (5 donors)
Angelina Teo
Coral & Tom Shockey
Father David Stout
Didi & Jim Lyke
Erika Stuart
Heather & Michael Quandt
Helen Gregg
Hilary Saner
Ivan Senyuta
Jasmine Bailado
Andrew Carter & Jennifer Magoon
Jeremiah Oldfather
Joan DeMello
John B. Ray
Kevin Painton
Laurel Matsuda
Mel Pobre
Rene & Michael Leonardi
Ray House
Scott & Rhona Collins
Sonia Watkins

Hibiscus ($500 - $999)

Deborah Fulton
Frank W Hustace III
Tim Bostock

Ginger ($1,000+)

Anonymous
Andrew Odell & Mary Beth Laychak
Hitchcock Bowart Daterra Foundation
Janice English
Laurie Heath
Lytle Family Trust
Marc Baril & Jennifer Haywood-Farmer
Matt & Aubrey Wilson
Peter & Lois Gregg
Peter & Cassie Northrup
Randy & Joan Campbell
Weston Hardware

Student Financial Aid Fund $51,200

- The McInerny Foundation
- The G.N. Wilcox Trust
- St. James Episcopal Church
- Mālama Nā Keiki Fundraiser
- WCS Parent Association
- Restricted Donations*

**included in Annual Fund report*





School Garden Program

Plant Sale ~ $2,033
Donations ~ $322















Food Pantry ~ Mahalo!

*Our **WCS 'Ohana** donated **483 lbs** of food and supplies to the Annunciation Community Food Pantry to help combat food insecurity in our community. **Koa Students** rebagged **910 lbs** of rice for distribution over **27** service-learning visits. This is the 16th year of our partnership.*

Congratulations to our 2026 Graduates!



These graduates are now attending
- Hawaii Preparatory Academy
- Parker School
- Waimea Middle School

Two have moved out of this area.

"I feel really lucky for all the special things that we get to do at Waimea Country School that other schools don't."
~ Oscar Yoell, WCS Graduate

"Thank you Waimea Country School for being a safe space for me to grow, take chances, and learn."
~ Koda Lytle, WCS Graduate





Our experienced and dedicated faculty and staff lead our learning ‘ohana, providing the expertise, continuity, and genuine warmth and caring that embodies who we are.

"[Our son] regularly shares with us that school was the best part of his day, and he is learning so much from his teachers as well as his peers. The quality of engagement, care, and instruction at Waimea Country School shows in the curiosity, kindness, and intelligence of its students."
~ Diana Hahn, current parent

Volunteers & Parent Association

Our volunteers help us thrive! 97 people contributed over 950 volunteer hours!



Parent Association Projects
Planning for Garden Irrigation
Classroom/learning supplies
Teacher Appreciation

Parent Association Fundraising
First Annual ‘Ohana Rummage Sale
Charity Walk
Garden Market





WCS Board of Trustees



Randy Campbell
President



Andrew Odell
Vice President



Janice English
Secretary



Matt Wilson
Treasurer



Coral Shockey



Boyd Bond



Beth Wilson

Waimea Country School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit incorporated in the State of Hawai'i. The WCS Board of Trustees governs the School. Board members are the fiduciaries who steer our organization towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies, as well as by making sure WCS has resources to advance our mission.

Waimea Country School

Where Children Love to Learn

808-885-0067

waimeacountryschool.org