Established by Queen Liliʻuokalani in 1909, for the benefit of orphan and destitute children within the Hawaiian Islands and with preference given to children of Hawaiian ancestry, Liliʻuokalani Trust (“LT”) delivers programs to its kamaliʻi (beneficiaries) from inception to age 26. In 2015, the board of trustees set a course to break the cycles of poverty for Native Hawaiians and ultimately to realize Liliʻuokalani’s wish, and LT’s vision, that Native Hawaiian children experiencing challenging life circumstances overcome these to thrive. The pathway to thriving, measured by wellbeing outcomes, can be a difficult journey due to persistent cycles of poverty and trauma. Improving this pathway requires an investment in transformative growth – growth that can exponentially benefit the pae ʻāina for generations to come.

**Vision:**  
*E Nā Kamalei Lupalupa – Thriving Hawaiian Children*

**Mission:**  
Liliʻuokalani Trust provides opportunities for Hawaiian children to realize their greatest potential – living healthy, joyful, and prosperous lives, while contributing positively to their families, communities, and the world.

**Statement of Need**  
The Queen dedicated her wealth to the most vulnerable of children. Having seen the Native Hawaiian population decline from over 100,000 to fewer than 40,000, she was acutely aware of the large numbers of orphaned, abandoned, and destitute children across the pae ʻāina. While the Hawaiian population today is beginning to rebound and show higher rates of connectedness to ʻohana, consistent with Hawaiian cultural values, kamaliʻi are still overrepresented in virtually every indicator of distress.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

• How will LT’s Strategic Vision 2045 impact future delivery of services and programs to Native Hawaiian kamali‘i?

Our path forward, as defined in our Vision 2045 and 2020-2025 strategic plan, aligns our community work with core initiatives in early childhood, youth development and opportunity youth – all rooted in culturally grounded clinical services.

For the first time in our history, LT will provide services from cradle to age 26.

An early childhood center is being planned for O‘ahu to house a multi-generational program approach for children from conception to age five. On-site housing for pregnant teens, single mothers and young families will allow us to provide simultaneous, transformational pathways for both parents and children.

Our statewide kīpuka will host youth development activities in arts, sports, and entrepreneurship. New facilities are being planned, developed and/or renovated across the pae ʻāina.

Culturally grounded clinical services will focus on kamali‘i from foster care, juvenile justice system, homelessness, and/or experiencing multitudes of trauma or exploitation. Our social workers now work virtually, piloting a “kipuka without walls” concept where they can better reach our kamali‘i and ‘ohana where they are, in a safe and accessible way.

At Lydia’s House in Honolulu, we began providing transitional housing for 42 youth affected by COVID-19. When future renovations are complete in 2021, it will also include an assessment/drop-in center, and emergency shelter in downtown Honolulu in close proximity to health services, business center, court system, and other public services for youth who are homeless, runaway, or at risk of committing status offenses.

Additionally, the Trust has acquired approximately seven acres in Kea‘au and 1.5 acres in Kaunakakai for future program development. A shopping center in Lahaina and a commercial building in Pukalani are being repurposed and renovated for creative and exciting programs.

• How have the Trust operations and programming pivoted to respond to the needs of beneficiaries under the pandemic?

Thus far, LT committed up to $1 million to help with immediate needs of Native Hawaiians during the pandemic.

While LT offices are closed, Liliʻuokalani Trust has operated a centralized help line to provide emergency stabilization financial assistance and case management for those who qualify.

And, LT’s youth development team continues to engage with youth remotely, creating opportunities to connect online and developing creativity kits to spark family fun while at home.

LT has also been working closely with our community partners to fund food purchases and support food distribution to support Native Hawaiian children and families, particularly in rural areas.

Through our collective efforts, 54,000 food boxes have been distributed to those in greatest need in our communities, and approximately 1,300 people received assistance through LT’s Kokua line.
• Why are you closing Honolulu and Hale‘aha Kipuka and what are the community impacts?

Liliʻuokalani Trust (LT) is committed to ensuring that the Queen’s resources serve our Hawaiian orphan and disadvantaged children today, as well as tomorrow.

Our leadership looks at data to inform decision making—assessing the needs of our kamaliʻi, what assets and resources exist in our communities, where is the gap, and how can LT best utilize its resources to have the greatest impact for our most vulnerable kamaliʻi and families.

This is particularly important now; as the ongoing global pandemic continues to affect all of us, LT has shifted resources and made changes to how we deliver programs to our most vulnerable Native Hawaiian keiki.

Due to safety concerns around COVID-19, LT has cancelled all in-person programming until June 2021. Social Services teams will continue to provide services through centralized screening and telemedicine solutions. Youth Development teams have moved existing programs online and look forward to piloting new ways to help our youth through this difficult time. All back-office teams have been working from home since mid-March and will continue to do so until June 2021.

As part of our efforts to more effectively deliver services and increase our reach to our most vulnerable kamaliʻi through targeted community-based, mobile and virtual services, LT has consolidated its O‘ahu operations to its centrally located service hubs.

Effective September 1, 2020:

1. East O‘ahu social services and youth development programs were relocated to Kipuka Koʻolau Poko.
2. West O‘ahu social services and youth development programs were relocated to centers at Leihano, Waiʻanae, and at Lydia’s House in Honolulu.

While services have been relocated, our programs and passion for serving Native Hawaiian orphan and destitute children in those communities will continue.

• Do you have plans to sell LT properties.

Liliʻuokalani was an astute businesswoman who directed the affairs of her trust, including leasing and sale of land. In a letter dated May 28, 1908, she described herself as follows:

“I am not the idle individual that you once knew me to be, but have taken affairs in my own hands, and employed some of my retainers to transact my affairs under me, while I direct all that I want done.”

When she created her trust, Liliʻuokalani granted her trustees broad powers, including the authority to lease, sell or exchange her land for the benefit of the Trust.

The Trust is repositioning assets to more effectively reach vulnerable Hawaiian children while also converting our former offices to youth-centered engagement and innovation centers.

The recently opened 18-unit emergency shelter/transitional housing located in the Honolulu urban core expands LT’s ability to serve Native Hawaiian youth impacted by COVID, in crisis and at risk of becoming homeless.
We’re developing a youth development center in the urban core, more central to transportation hubs, partners, health care, schools, employment opportunities. This center will provide 4.5 times the program space than at LT’s Halona Street center.

The Trust has acquired approximately seven acres in Kea’au on Hawaii Island, and 1.5 acres in Kaunakakai on Molokai for future program development. On Maui, a shopping center in Lahaina and a commercial building in Pukalani are being repurposed and renovated for creative and exciting programs.

In 2014, the board designated approximately 150 acres of oceanfront property, including Halepa’o, as a non-build zone except for mission-driven programs that serve kanaka maoli; with perpetual restrictions against development or sale.

So, facilities are being expanded and strengthened into spaces for children.

• **How does the Trust engage with community?**

Liliʻuokalani Trust has had a long history of engaging with the Hawaiian community across the pae ʻāina. LT’s teammates regularly reach out to community leaders, partners, and beneficiaries for ongoing feedback on services to respond to the evolving needs of our kamaliʻi.

With a focus on amplifying youth voice, LT established a Youth Leadership Council based in each region to create opportunities for our emerging leaders to inform the design of LT programs and services. LT youth are intentionally included in the design process of LT’s strategic initiatives, as well as informing regional programs, recognizing this as a critical path to self-determination.

In 2019, LT traveled across the pae ʻāina, holding meetings in the community to develop a working model of Native Hawaiian intergenerational poverty. That model, which we call the systems map, describes for us what hundreds of youth, parents, elders, and community members see around Native Hawaiian children in poverty. The valuable input gathered through these community meetings helped to inform LT’s strategic plan.

https://onipaa.org/pagesystems-mapping.

LT will continue to engage with its diverse stakeholders to provide input as LT’s leadership reassesses, refines, and adapts its strategies to best meet the evolving needs of our Hawaiian children.

• **Where can I find more information about Liliʻuokalani Trust?**

We welcome all who are interested in the Queen, her legacy, her mission, to follow us on Facebook and Instagram @liliuokalanitrust. Also visit our website at [www.onipaa.org](http://www.onipaa.org).