



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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INTRODUCTION

In 2024, The Sewing Hui took many big steps forward. We officially received our 501(c)3 recognition as a nonprofit organization and we took many new steps toward sustainability efforts.

2024 was a transformative year for **The Sewing Hui**, beginning with a move from our studio in Makawao to a spacious new location in Haiku. Outgrowing our previous space, this transition allowed us to better accommodate our growing team of volunteers and expand our sewing projects. We were very happy to get settled into our new home this year.

This year, we proudly achieved a significant milestone by officially becoming a **501(c)3 nonprofit organization**. This achievement signifies a pivotal step in our journey as a community-focused organization. Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who has supported us along the way—your contributions and dedication have empowered us to make a meaningful impact on thousands within the Maui community.

Sustainability remained at the heart of our mission throughout 2024. We developed our educational and community engagement initiatives with our programs **SEWING101**, an introductory 12-hour course designed to teach sewing fundamentals, and our monthly **SEWING SEWCIALS**, community gatherings that encourage

participants to repair, mend, upcycle, and restyle clothing. Thanks to a grant from **Maui County's Recycling Department**, these SEWCIALS have become an important component of our efforts to promote sustainability and reduce textile waste on Maui.

One of the year's most notable accomplishments was addressing the growing issue of **textile waste in Maui's landfills**. Over just three months, we collected **1,600 pounds of textile waste**, diverting it from the landfill. Of this, 450 pounds were shredded on-site at **Mālama Maui Nui**, a Keep America Beautiful affiliate. These shredded materials were repurposed for pet beds which were donated to **Maui Humane Society** and **East Maui Animal Refuge**. The shredded material will be repurposed for other projects as well. Additionally, through our SEWING SEWCIALS, we diverted another **132 pounds** of clothing waste by creatively repurposing and restyling worn garments.

continued...



INTRODUCTION continued

We also played an integral role in the arts and culture on Maui this year, designing costumes for a variety of youth programs, community theater, and performing arts productions. Collaborating with organizations such as **Alexander Academy Performing Company, Maui OnStage,** and **Baldwin High School,** we contributed to productions ranging from *Seussical to Murder on the Orient Express, Grease, The Nutcracker,* and *Swan Lake.* Sustainability guided our approach to costume design, as we focused on crafting durable, high-quality pieces while reusing materials whenever possible.

We continued our program assisting local schools in the creation of garments for their Hawaiian cultural events and celebrations. We began the 2024-2025 school year creating garments for **Roots School.** We will continue this program in 2025 working with other schools on Maui.

Volunteer participation reached new highs in 2024, with **over 120 individuals** joining our efforts. Among them were **81 resident volunteers** and **40 visiting volunteers,** collectively dedicating a total of **4,782 hours** to our programs. We are deeply grateful to every person who shared their time, energy, and talents to support The Sewing Hui's mission this year.

Thank you for being part of an incredible year. Together, we're building a more sustainable Maui through creativity, education, and community collaboration. **Mahalo nui loa!**



It is humbling to see what is possible when we move and work together. Mahalo for believing in what we do! We look forward to what 2025 will bring!

OUR STORY SO FAR



OUR MISSION

The Sewing Hui's mission is to help the Maui community by creating hand-sewn items for organizations in need. We hope that through our organization we can exemplify the power of community, generosity, sustainability, and creating together.

WHO WE ARE

The Sewing Hui volunteers are a dedicated team of over 50 sewists and craftspersons, made up of residents and visitor-volunteers, who create projects for Maui's healthcare providers, schools, and community organizations. We have created face masks, fleece blankets and wheelchair/walker bags for kūpuna, shorts and bags for the unsheltered community, apparel for schools and dance organizations, curtains for non-profit organizations, and more. The Sewing Hui is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

OUR HISTORY

The Sewing Hui evolved out of the Maui Face Mask Project. www.mauifacemaskproject.com. Conducted in the Spring of 2020, the project worked to address the critical shortage of N-95 face masks on Maui. The project created 10,000 high quality filter face masks for Maui's healthcare providers. After we completed the project on May 15, 2020, the volunteers wanted to continue sewing for Maui and The Sewing Hui was born.

OUR VALUES

- Aloha** caring, compassion for others, love
- Kokua** help, assist, comfort, support
- Kuleana** privilege, responsibility
- Laulima** many hands working together
- Mahalo** thank you
- Malama** caring, nurturing others, to protect
- `Ohana** family
- Pono** right, good, moral, fair, just

120+ RESIDENTS AND
VISITOR-VOLUNTEERS
JOIN US TO SEW ANNUALLY

OUR 2024 GOALS

1

Identify current community needs and be ready to act to support those needs.

We focused on (1) Maui's rich arts and culture community by providing costume support for performing arts productions and by assisting local schools with garments for their annual Hawaiian celebrations and events. (2) Community engagement and education through our sewing courses and events. And (3) Addressing the issue of textile waste in Maui's landfills by diverting waste and repurposing textiles. During 2024, we had several other spontaneous sewing initiatives arise as well.

3

Increase volunteer engagement and participation.

After a necessary move to a larger studio space, we have been able to host more volunteers this past year. We welcomed over 120 volunteers, 81 were resident volunteers and 40 were visitor volunteers. We had nearly 5,000 volunteer hours. Thanks to the many volunteers who joined us this year we were able to further impact the Maui community!

2

Emphasize sustainability in our various programs.

Sustainability has become an important value for The Sewing Hui. Through our various programs we strive to emphasize sustainable approaches. Our costuming program is focused on creating high-quality costumes that are meant to last, our educational program is aimed at encouraging individuals to repair and upcycle clothing rather than throwing away textiles, and this year we collected 1,600 pounds of textile waste to be repurposed into pet beds and other items as needed.

4

Support and contribute to the thriving arts and culture on Maui.

We believe in the importance of supporting and uplifting the arts and culture on Maui, which is why we are dedicated to providing costume design and creation assistance to local organizations. In addition, we also support local schools' Hawaiian cultural events and celebrations through garment assistance. In 2024, we continued our contribution to the arts by designing durable and sustainable costumes for local productions. Through partnerships with schools, community theaters, and performing arts organizations, we continued to offer costume support for the performing arts community.

OUR 2024 SEWING INITIATIVES

Our four major sewing initiatives included:

- Costume design and creation for youth programs, community theaters, and performing arts organizations
- Community engagement and education
- Repurposing Textile Waste
- Other community projects

PROJECTS	DETAILS	OUTCOME
Costume Design and Creation	Partnered with Alexander Academy Performing Company, Maui OnStage, and Baldwin High School to create, alter, and embellish costumes for their productions, including: <i>Swan Lake</i> , <i>The Nutcracker Ballet</i> , <i>Seussical</i> , <i>Murder on the Orient Express</i> , and <i>Grease</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created and altered 360+ costumes for Alexander Academy Performing Company's <i>Swan Lake</i> and <i>The Nutcracker Ballet</i> Productions. • Created and altered over 90 costumes for Maui OnStage's <i>Seussical</i> and <i>Murder on the Orient Express</i> Productions. • Created 8 capes for Baldwin High School's <i>Grease</i> Musical
Community Engagement and Education	Continued to offer our 12-hour introductory course in sewing, SEWING101, and began offering our new monthly SEWING SEWCIAL event. The SEWCIAL is a community gathering where attendees can repair, mend, upcycle, and restyle their worn clothing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held 2 editions of our SEWING101 course, a free introductory 4-week course focused on the basics of sewing and using a sewing machine. We had a total of 8 participants. • Launched our new monthly Sewing Sewcial event, designed to keep textile waste out of Maui's landfill. We had 46 attendees join these events and 132 pounds of textile waste was diverted from the landfills
Repurposing Textile Waste	Addressed the issue of textile waste in Maui landfills. Collected textile waste, shredded it to be repurposed for pet beds and other projects. Held monthly SEWING SEWCIALS to encourage the community to repurpose their worn clothing rather than throwing it away.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created 44 pet beds from repurposed textile waste. These beds were donated to Maui Humane Society and East Maui Animal Refuge. • Diverted 1,600 pounds of textile waste from the Maui landfills. We shredded 450 lbs of these textiles on site at Mālama Maui Nui, a Keep America Beautiful affiliate here on Maui.
Other community projects	Often we get various spontaneous sewing requests from schools and organizations throughout the year. This year, in between our main sewing initiatives, we also partnered with various organizations to create cushion covers, walker and wheelchair bags, and Christmas stockings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created 280 walker and wheelchair bags for Hale Makua Wailuku, Kula Hospital, Kaunoa Senior Center, and Maui Adult Day Care • Created 12 cushion covers for Maui Youth and Family Services • We created 104 Christmas stockings for keiki on Maui and donated them to Friends of the Children's Justice Center. • Created and altered 121 garments for Roots School's Hawaiian cultural events performances. These items included 47 hula skirts, 47 pa'u tops, and 27 sashes.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS + ACTIVITIES

The Sewing Hui's statistics and achievements in 2024:

- Created and altered over 150 costumes for Alexander Academy's *Swan Lake* production at 'A'ali'ikūhonua Creative Arts Center
- Created 280 walker and wheelchair bags for Hale Makua Wailuku, Kula Hospital, Kaunoa Senior Center, and Maui Adult Day Care
- Held 2 editions of our SEWING101 course, a free introductory 4-week course focused on the basics of sewing and using a sewing machine. We had a total of 8 participants.
- Created 8 capes for Baldwin High School's *Grease Musical*
- Created and altered 60 costumes for Maui OnStage's *Seussical* production at the Historic 'Īao Theater
- Created 12 cushion covers for Maui Youth and Family Services
- Created and altered 30 costumes for Maui OnStage's *Murder on the Orient Express* Production at the Historic 'Īao Theater
- Created and altered 121 garments for Roots School's Hawaiian cultural events performances. These items included 47 hula skirts, 47 pa'u tops, and 27 sashes.
- Created and altered 210 costumes for Alexander Academy's *The Nutcracker* Production at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center
- Launched our new monthly Sewing Sewcial event, designed to keep textile waste out of Maui's landfill. We had 46 attendees join these events and 132 pounds of textile waste was diverted from the landfills
- Launched our Pet Bed Project, created 44 pet beds from repurposed textile waste. These beds were donated to Maui Humane Society and East Maui Animal Refuge.
- Diverted 1,600 pounds of textile waste from the Maui landfills through our sustainable efforts. We shredded 450 lbs of these textiles on site at Mālama Maui Nui, a Keep America Beautiful affiliate here on Maui. These shredded textiles have been used for our Pet Bed Project and we will also use them for other items.
- We created 104 Christmas stockings for keiki on Maui and donated them to Friends of the Children's Justice Center.
- We had 121 volunteers join us in 2024! Of these, 81 were resident volunteers and 40 were visitor volunteers
- In total The Sewing Hui had over 4,782 hours of volunteer time
- In 2024 we created, collected, and donated a total of 1,019 items for the Maui community
- We received grant support from Laurence H. Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation, Fred Baldwin Foundation, and from Maui County's Recycling Department.

121

Volunteers

4,780+

Volunteer Hours

10,000+

People reached in the
Maui community

Further details on our various sewing initiatives can be found on our website at www.thesewinghui.com/initiatives

2024

Sewing Initiatives

DOCUMENTATION

From the studio to the Maui community



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Sewing Hui extends its thanks and gratitude to the many volunteers, supporters, partners, recipients, and community who have been involved in one way or another. Thank you for your support and believing in the work we do for the Maui community. Mahalo nui loa!

- **Volunteers** - Adrianna Flavin, Adrienne Butler, Anna Higa, Anne Sexton, Audrey Billups, Ayla Rose, Barry Kawakami, Ben Butler, Beth Fox, Bonnie Lefevre, Bruce Carstens, Carol Hoch, Carolyn Fong, Catherine Hampe, Cathleen Lukrich, Celia Haines, Chazz Pono, Cheryl Bien, Cheryl Hamilton, Christal Miller, Cole Ackerman, Colleen Simpson, Connie Fernandez, Cynthia Soohoo, Danelle Keenan, Daniella Vingelen, Danielle Perrault, Debbie Shimabukuro, Debi Merrill, Diane Mathison, Donna Gianelli, Dotty Higa, Elaine Gima, Emma Carter, Fontaine Ma, Gail Pickholz, Grady Whalen, Heidi Mathison, Ildiko Kalmar, Ilene Hokanson, Ivanna Jung, Jani Hoffmeier, Jeff Simpson, Jennifer Carlson, Jennifer Oberg, Jerry Nielson, Jimmy Tsao, Joanne Cataldo, Joanne Davenport, Jon Gianelli, Karen Gochmour, Karen Hokanson, Kate Colby, Kathy Amico, Kathy Cataldo, Kay Ashby, Kim Raymond, Kiran Jain, Koleen Knudson, Kristin Mills, Layli Gonzalez, Leanne Pletcher, Lenka Kubinova, Lili Regeczy, Lilia Zangpo, Linda Burkett, Lisa Pestana, Luna Bien, Lynne Donaldson, Lynnette Witter, Madeline Reese, Maria Ovalles, Marilyn Tsang, Marina Davis, Marti Hess, Mary Nowakowski, Meg Desmond, Mele Andrade, Micah Oberg, Mieko Arakawa, Mino Mclean, Mitsziko Mote, Morgan Rawson, Murray Donaldson, Nancy Betts, Nancy Kickertz, Natalia Gomez, Natalie Ackerman, Pamela Patrick, Patti Brummel, Patty Davis, Paul Pew, Pauline Fiene, Peggy Nielson, Pete Armstrong, Randy Keller, Rhonda Barut, Rose Kwiatkowski, Sally Daniels, Samantha Sheehan, Sandra Bishop, Sandy Rice, Sara Oberg, Sarah Espe, Shannon McCaffrey, Sheryl Carter, Stephanie Garrett, Suen Augustus, Suzie Carstens, Teresa Pew, Terry Ann Heller, Terry Hibbs, Tia Lanzetta, Val Yee, Varun Jain, Vicki Shortell, Vickie Conmy, Vickie Johnson, Vicky Gray, Victoria Moore, Wendy Ney, Yasmine Lindskog, Zoe Chotzen-Tsuruda
- **Supporters + Donors** - Bridgit Santry, Chazzo Pono, Christopher Soohoo, Dr. Kevin Omuro, Fred Baldwin Foundation, Jean Sakutori, Jennifer Plesnicar, Laura Simpson, Laurence H. Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation, Lynn Yamauchi, Makawao Union Church, Maria Ovalles, Mary-Ellen Barrett, Maui County's Recycling Department, St. Rita's Church, Victoria Gray
- **Recipients**- Alexander Academy Performing Company, Hale Makua Wailuku, Kula Hospital, Kaunoa Senior Center, Maui Adult Day Care, Baldwin High School, Maui OnStage, Maui Youth and Family Service, Roots School, Maui Humane Society, East Maui Animal Refuge, Friends of the Children's Justice Center



MAHALO NUI LOA
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN
OUR PROGRAMS

