



The Sewing Hui

Creating for Maui

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2022**

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INTRODUCTION

Every year we look back and reflect on where we currently are and where we came from. 2022 marked a pivotal year for us as we entered new partnerships, collaborations, and an eager group of volunteers.

As an organization, a key driving factor to our various sewing initiatives is in identifying the current needs within the community. In 2022 we focused our community projects on the **youth, kūpuna, and arts education**. As a result, we developed new partnerships with several organizations working to provide arts educational opportunities to youth and support services to the kūpuna. Ultimately, *through offering our sewing services we helped other organizations further their own missions.*

In the early part of 2022 we continued to create masks for Maui schools, then as mask requirements eased up, we were able to use our fabric supplies to address another need in the community. Many of the kūpuna on this island were using plastic bags on their walkers and wheelchairs to store their items. With the leftover fabric from our mask initiative and fabric donations, we created walker and wheelchair bags. In addition, we continued our collaboration with **Alexander Academy Performing Company** through altering, sewing, and designing costumes for their two annual dance productions.

In 2022, we partnered with **Hawai'i Tourism Authority** to join their **Community Enrichment Programs (CEP)**. Through the CEP we began offering voluntourism experiences via our event '*Talk Story, Sew, & Feast*'. We opened our doors to not only resident volunteers but also Maui visitors.

In 2022, we were met with generosity, gratitude, and a stronger sense of community through our various efforts as an organization. Recipients, Maui volunteers (residents and visitors), and partners consistently returned to us with positive feedback and praise. There is truly something special about the community coming together and helping one another out. It creates a stronger connection between different groups of people in the community. Gratitude was expressed on all ends of the projects. We learned about the value in reaching different members of the community, from keiki to kūpuna to the visitor populations. As a community organization sewing for Maui, it is important to us to continue to reach different groups of people on the island.

We look back with gratitude and encouragement as we continue to expand our reach and efforts moving forward into 2023. ***Mahalo nui loa to everyone who has been a part of our trajectory thus far!***

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, 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, costumes for schools and dance organizations, curtains for non-profit organizations, and more. TSH is a registered Hawaii non-profit corporation, fiscally-sponsored by Alexander Academy Performing Company, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Previously we were fiscally-sponsored by Maui Makers, Inc. from 2020-2022.

OUR HISTORY

TSH 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.

50+

RESIDENTS AND
VISITOR-VOLUNTEERS
JOIN US TO SEW FOR THE
MAUI COMMUNITY
ANNUALLY

OUR 2022 GOALS

1

Identify current community needs and implement sewing initiatives to support those needs.

We identified three main needs in the community:

- 1) Local dance organizations needed costume support in order to continue to offer affordable performing opportunities to Maui's youth.
- 2) Kūpuna in senior centers were using plastic bags on their wheelchair/walker bags. They needed proper bags to carry their items in.
- 3) Local schools on Maui needed help to create and alter apparel for their May Day, Lei Day and Ho'ike celebrations.

From these needs we built sewing initiatives to support them.

3

Build new partnerships with community organizations and groups.

Through new partnerships we were able to create lasting change. We developed a partnership with Alexander Academy Performing Company to continue to assist with dance costumes over the years. We partnered with Hawai'i Tourism Authority as part of their Community Enrichment Programs to provide volunteer opportunities for Maui's visitors. And lastly, we partnered with AmeriCorps Seniors & Kaunoa Senior Center for their Retired & Senior Volunteer Program.

2

Increase our group of volunteers in order to be able to accommodate the community more readily.

During the pandemic we had a large group of volunteers regularly joining us. After people went back to work on a more full-time basis, we no longer had the same volunteer numbers. Thus, we extended our volunteering to the Maui visitors by providing a voluntourism opportunity. Visitors got the opportunity to learn more about the local community and talk story while giving back to the island they were visiting. The extra sewing hands helped us offer our sewing services more extensively to the community.

4

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

Through assisting local schools and performing arts organizations, we were able to support and contribute to the rich arts and culture on Maui. Youth celebrating May Day, Lei Day, or Ho'ike could gain a deeper appreciation with their cared for apparel. Youth in dance education gained a body positive experience with their dance costumes fitted to their bodies.

OUR 2022 SEWING INITIATIVES

Our three major sewing initiatives included:

- Dance costumes for the youth in arts
- Wheelchair and walker bags for kūpuna
- May Day, Lei Day, and Ho'ike Apparel for youth

PROJECTS	DETAILS	OUTCOME
Dance Costumes for Youth	Partnered with Alexander Academy Performing Company to create, alter, and embellish costumes for their annual <i>The Nutcracker Ballet</i> Production and for their <i>Sleeping Beauty Ballet</i> Production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Altered over 50 costumes for the <i>Sleeping Beauty Ballet</i> Production• Designed and created 32 original costumes for <i>The Nutcracker Ballet</i> Production. Altered and embellished 44 costumes.• Provided a body positive costume experience for youth
Wheelchair/Walker Bags for Kūpuna	Created wheelchair and walker bags for kūpuna at senior centers and residences across Maui. Including Hale Makua Health Services, Roselani Place, Kula Community Hospital, Lanai Community Hospital, Maui Hospice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Created 200+ wheelchair and walker bags for kūpuna• Kūpuna told TSH that they felt cared for as a result.
May Day, Lei Day and Ho'ike apparel for Youth	Assisted local Maui schools with the apparel used for their May Day, Lei Day, and Ho'ike Celebrations. Including Ha'ikū Elementary School and Carden Academy. Including working on pa'u tops, tunics, kihei, and holoku dresses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Altered and created 70 pa'u tops• Students developed a deeper appreciation for these cultural traditions

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS + ACTIVITIES

The Sewing Hui's statistics and achievements in 2022:

- Created 1,201 Halyard Masks for 11 schools across Maui
- Created curtains for Kahului Hongwanji Temple
- Hemmed table runners for Kaunoa Senior Center
- Became a station with AmeriCorps Seniors & Kaunoa Senior Center for their Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
- Joined the Mālama Hawai'i Program where Maui visitors can participate in voluntourism through The Sewing Hui
- Created 103 May Day, Lei Day and Ho'ike apparel including pa'u tops, tunics, kīhei, and holoku dresses for Ha'ikū Elementary School and Carden Academy
- Altered over 50 costumes for Alexander Academy's *Sleeping Beauty Ballet* Production in the Spring
- Created and altered costumes for Alexander Academy's *The Nutcracker Ballet* Production. Created and designed 13 rat costumes, 17 waltz of the flowers costumes, and 2 new womens dresses for the party scene. In total we designed and created 32 original costumes for their production. We altered and embellished 44 costumes
- Created over 200 wheelchair and walker bags for the kūpuna across Maui and donated these bags to Hale Makua Wailuku and Kahului, Kula Hospital, Lāna'i Community Hospital, and Hospice Maui
- Assisted Adaptations Dance Theater with dance costume alterations for their RARE residency at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center
- Joined Hawai'i Tourism Authority's Community Enrichment Programs with our event '*Talk Story, Sew, & Feast*'. Maui Visitors + Residents were welcome to join our sewing sessions every week
- Had 55 volunteers in 2022 including Maui residents and visitors.
- In total The Sewing Hui had over 3,264 volunteer hours
- Launched our very own Cookbook Fundraiser where we sold 150 cookbooks across Hawai'i and the mainland US to help support our operational costs.

55

Volunteers

3,264+

Volunteer Hours

5,000+

People reached in the
Maui community

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

2022

Sewing Initiatives

DOCUMENTATION

From the studio to the Maui community



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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!

The Sewing Hui

3660 Baldwin Avenue

Makawao, HI 96768

www.thesewinghui.com

thesewinghui@gmail.com

[@thesewinghui](https://www.instagram.com/thesewinghui)

- **Volunteers** - Angie Negrete, Annelies Brabant, Ann-Kristine Thrift, Anna Hughes, Annette Arakawa, Booke Auchincloss, Bobbi Nakagawa, Chelsea Bryce, Daniella Vingelen, Deb Wilson, Debbie Shimabukuro, Denise Green, Diana Woods, Diane Williams, Dotty Higa, Elaine Gima, Elizabeth Ashley, Emma Carter, Eric Negrete, Gail Pickholz, Heather Goldin, Jessica Beck, Julie Vesselle, Jenny Baker, Kat Town, Kelly Kitti, Lisa Daly, Liz Ashley, Lynne Donaldson, Luna Auchincloss, Madeline Reese, Makia Salena, Marcus Liou, Micah Oberg, Nancy Betts, Nancy Chavaria, Nancy Schweiker, Pamela Patrick, Patty Davis, Randy Keller, Rita Avancini, Salena Makia, Sally Ngo, Sally Daniels, Shannon McCaffrey, Sheryl Carter, Sierra Wilson, Terry Heller, Valerie Lasciak, Vicki Shortell, Viola Wolsey, Virginia Whalen, Wendy Herrick
- **Supporters + Donors** - Atherton Family Foundation, Hawai'i Authority Tourism, Danelle Watson
- **Recipients**- Kahului Hongwanji Temple, Kaunoa Senior Center, Ha'ikū Elementary School, Alexander Academy of Performing Arts, Alexander Academy Performing Company, Hale Makua Wailuku and Kahului, Kula Hospital, Lāna'i Community Hospital, Hospice Maui, Adaptations Dance Theater, Roots School, St. Anthony School, Maui High - Special Education Dept., Hawai'i Technology Academy, Baldwin High School, Lihikai Elementary School, Kamali'i Elementary School, Sped EA at Hana Middle School, Aloha Kai Academy Preschool, Kihei Charter School, Kamehameha Schools.
- **Fabric Donors** - Sandra Clark, Dr. Strother, Cindy Wilson, Jen Meyers, Nancy Meyers, Ali Wagner
- **Cookbook Fundraiser Donors** - Danelle Watson, Gail Traughber, Mariah York, Nancy Loftis, Kandi K McLeod, Elaine Gima, Deborah Gouveia, Sarah Jaeggli, Jennifer Oberg, Nancy Betts, Gail Pickholz, C K Rutherford Storm, Diana Woods, Patricia Tanges, Sheryl Carter, Ashley Takitani, Kristine Ho, Patricia Davis, Vicki Shortell, Mallory Armstrong, Yasmine Lindskog, Sophia & Gena Gallegos, Terry Ann Heller, Leanne Pletcher, Dianne M Hoffman, Diane Williams, Stacey Pagud, Melita Charan, Janet Dwell, Debbie Benton, Gail Kuba, Kathy Sakai, Robin Sturdivant, Judy Allen, Murray Donaldson, Patricia Triplett, Tracey Takase, Stella Goto, Kelly Kitti, Donna Gomes, Randy Keller, Anna Hughes, Debbie Shimabukuro, Lisa Yamada, Shannon McCaffrey, Salena Makia
- **Fiscal Sponsors** - Maui Makers, Inc.
- **Studio Space** - Jennifer Oberg Atelier

MAHALO NUI LOA

FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN

OUR PROGRAMS