

Kumu's News

Kumu's Cupboard Newsletter, January 2025

Our Day-to-Day Operations

Welcome to the second semester of the 2024-2025 school year.

We wish you all a Happy New Year! May it be one of great successes for you and your students.

Many people have asked about how Kumu's Cupboard operates and how we compare to a traditional store. Here are some of the comparisons:

Some of the obvious differences between Kumu's Cupboard and a traditional store are our hours, as there is no reason to be open when educators are in their classrooms. Another difference is that we have a restricted clientele with only Kauai's K-12 public, private and charter school educators being eligible to shop once per month at Kumu's Cupboard. A huge difference is that we are community and grant funded and don't operate for a profit. The main difference is that our shoppers' bill is always \$0.00.

For our shoppers, we operate very much like a traditional store, where you come in select your items and check out. Think of our shopping limits as those sometimes imposed on sale items in stores.

Inventory ordering and management is different from most stores. One of our board members spends hours each week ordering online. She scours the web for the best prices, looks for sales and new items for the shelves. Several board members also shop locally when possible. Sometimes local stores provide us with donations. Not being open during "normal" business hours poses a delivery problem. All the items come to a board member's house and are then brought to Kumu's Cupboard by private car. As with a traditional store, items are then inventoried and put out for our shoppers. The handling of deliveries, cleaning of the store and recycling of packaging materials is all done by the volunteer staff.

We've been asked why we repackage items. In order to provide the most variety for shoppers, we often buy in bulk and then our volunteers repackage into smaller amounts and label items for the shelves. This helps with per item pricing and sometimes with reducing the per item shipping costs. Since not all items are easy to label with an inventory code and/or do not need to be repackaged, we use a scan code book at check out for those items.

Like a traditional store, shoppers bring their items to the counter for check out. We do ask that our shoppers bag/box their own supplies. Our friendly cashiers are always happy to give our shoppers their bill which is \$0.00 payable in smiles. This is definitely different from most stores.

A final difference is that Kumu's Cupboard has **NO** paid staff and all of this is accomplished by our dedicated volunteers. Volunteers also manage our social media, publicity and our newsletter. Board members and volunteers do community outreach, write grants and fundraise. Please be sure to thank the volunteers when you shop.

Kumu's Cupboard volunteers appreciate all the hard work our shoppers do educating Kauai's students.



Closures for the Remainder of the School Year:

President's Day:

2/14 – 2/16

Spring Break:

3/14 – 3/21

Holiday Weekend:

4/18 – 4/20

Charity Walk:

Saturday, 5/3

Memorial Day:

5/23 – 5/25

Closed for Summer:

5/28 – late July

Store Hours

Tuesdays: 3pm-6:30pm

Fridays: 3pm-6:30pm

Saturdays: 10am-3pm

Sundays: 1pm-4pm

Please remember that the closing time is when our volunteers expect to leave so please arrive with plenty of time to shop before closing.

Kumu's Cupboard Contact Information

PO Box 3650

Lihue, 96766

808-647-6989

kumuscupboard@gmail.com

www.kumuscupboard.org

Kumu's Cupboard is Kauai's nonprofit that provides FREE school supplies to teachers and other educational staff.

Our store is located in Kukui Grove Center, near Target, in Lihue.

Kumu's Cupboard's space is generously provided by Kukui Grove Center.

GREAT NEWS!! Limits Have Increased

With the generosity of our community and our donors, we are able to raise a few inventory limits. We base these limit increases on your input.

Beginning January 2025, you will now be able to take:

NEW BOOKS: ONE with a blue sticker **AND TWO** without blue stickers.
(Three without blue stickers is still an option)

MISCELLANEOUS SECTION: TWO different items

ELECTIVES SECTION: ONE sporting equipment and **ONE** other item.

Please remember that we are open to your ideas about items to stock.

Mini Grants Are Back

Through the generosity of our donors, we are once again able to offer mini grants to our shoppers. We have up to \$5,000 to use for these grants. Each grant can be for up to \$250 of materials/supplies for STEAM (Science, Social Studies, Reading, ELA or Math). Only one grant is accepted per educator.

You may apply for a mini grant between January 15th and January 31st by completing the simple grant application attached to this newsletter and found on our website, however grants may be funded in the order received. Please include a supply list and links to the items when possible.

Successful recipients will be notified that their supplies have been ordered and again when the grant items are here. We ask that you pick them up in a timely manner. Recipients will be required to complete a grant agreement when picking up their supplies and a short grant evaluation before the end of the semester.

If you have questions please feel free to reach out to us at: Kumuscupboard1@gmail.com.

We so enjoy learning how you creatively use supplies from Kumu's Cupboard. Here are two examples recently shared with us.

Thao Tu shared this career day project:



I wanted to share a recent project that I completed, thanks to the generous donations from Kumu's Cupboard. I recently participated in career day at Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School using Kumu's Cupboard supplies as well as the assistive technology item that I received through the 2024 mini grant. My career day presentation was for "Occupational Therapy." I used the safety goggles (STEAM) that I wrapped in plastic wrap and petroleum jelly to simulate a visual impairment; I used the gardening gloves (STEAM) to simulate decreased sensation and fine motor coordination in the hands. I had volunteer students don the goggles and gloves and attempt to write their names using the markers (writing supplies) and the sticky back writing strips (teacher supplies). I also had them attempt to place pony beads onto pipe cleaners (art supplies) while visually and motorically impaired. Finally, I demonstrated Assistive Technology possibilities that their peers with special needs may use to make some of these tasks easier. For this demonstration, I used the wobble switch on flex mount that I received from the mini grant in 2024.



Diane Pfandler, the Waimea Middle School Culinary Arts teacher, wrote:

I was at your most wonderful shop last month and picked up some material. I wanted to show off what I did with it.



Please keep sharing the creative things that you do with supplies from Kumu's Cupboard so that we can share with other educators and our Kumu's Cupboard community.

Mini Grant Application

January 2025

The mini grants are available to help provide materials for teaching a unit or project in STEAM, Science, Social Studies, Reading, ELA or Math for the **end of the 2024-2025 School Year**.

Applications are accepted January 15 – January 31, 2025.

Applications must be submitted through email to: kumuscupboard1@gmail.com.

We have \$5,000 allocated for this project. If completed applications exceed the allotment, we will select the projects to be funded although grants may be funded in the order received.

Applicants agree that they will pick up the materials when available and they will teach the unit or use the materials during the end of the 2024-2025 school year. Applicants understand that they will be required to complete a grant agreement when picking up supplies and then complete and return a simple grant evaluation no later than May 15, 2025.

Teacher information:

Name: _____

School: _____ grade or subject: _____

Number of students benefitting from grant: _____

Unit/Project Information:

Title of unit/project for which you are requesting supplies: _____

Subjects Taught through the unit/project: _____

List the items needed, both consumable and non-consumable and prioritize what you'd like to have. If you are using a published curriculum, it is fine to copy their supply list and prioritize it.

For the selected projects, we'll order from your prioritized list up to \$250 in spending. That amount includes shipping when applicable. Providing sources and/or links for the materials is very helpful and appreciated. (Add an additional sheet if needed.)

Teacher Signature

Date