

# Kumu's News

## Kumu's Cupboard Newsletter, November 2025

It is hard to believe that it is already the second quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

It has been a busy start for Kumu's Cupboard. At this writing, we are already serving over 425 of Kauai's educators and that number grows with almost every shift. We are thrilled that so many educators find our services valuable.

We continue to bring in new items based on educator input and have been able to raise limits slightly. We continue to grow and thrive because of the generosity of our community and through grants. Look for even more raised limits and new items for the second semester. If you have ideas of what you'd like to see in the store, please email us at: [kumuscupboard1@gmail.com](mailto:kumuscupboard1@gmail.com) or leave your ideas with the volunteers in the store.

Have you checked out the Lending Service? We continue to add new items which you can borrow for use in your classroom. You can find a full listing in Kumu's Cupboard as well as on our website under the "for educators" tab.

Please bring your reusable bags with you when shopping. We try to have bags and/or boxes for you to use but with being so busy we sometimes run out.

Kumu's Cupboard is still looking for a social media volunteer to post events and special happenings on Facebook and Instagram. We will provide the content, you just need to create the posts. If you can help with this, please contact Elyse at 808-647-6989.

Thanksgiving is approaching quickly. The Kumu's Cupboard Board of Directors is thankful for the work all of our shoppers do to support your students. Mahalo.

We are also grateful to our sponsors, donors and volunteers for making the work we do possible.

Have a great second quarter.

### Mini Grants

This Fall Kumu's Cupboard provided mini grants to 47 educators. These grants were for a wide range of classroom supplies and teaching materials.

We will be doing a new round of funding for the second semester. This grant will be different from previous grants as it is designed to fund a special project or unit. The grant amount will be up to \$500. The application is slightly more detailed asking for unit/project goals and learning standards.

Grants will be accepted from December 1-15, 2025. Early applications will not be considered. Grant materials will be available for you to pick up at Kumu's Cupboard in January, 2026.

Please see the application at the end of this newsletter. You will also be able to find the application on our website([kumuscupboard.org](http://kumuscupboard.org)).

When completing a grant, please be sure to include a detailed supply list as we can't fund vague requests.

If you have any questions, need more information, or have a project that succeeds this amount, please reach out to Elyse at: [kumuscupboard1@gmail.com](mailto:kumuscupboard1@gmail.com) or 808-647-6989.

These mini grants are funded with a generous donation from The Doyle Foundation Inc. We appreciate their generosity.

We look forward to helping you with your great ideas to enhance your students learning.



### Closures for the Remainder of the School Year:

**Thanksgiving:** 11/28 – 11/30

**Winter Break:** 12/19 – 1/2

**President's Day:** 2/13 – 2/15

**Spring Break:** 3/13 – 3/20

**Holiday Weekend:** 4/3 – 4/5

**Charity Walk:** 5/1 – 5/2

**Memorial Day:** 5/22 – 5/24

**Closed for summer:**  
5/27 – 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](mailto:kumuscupboard@gmail.com)

[www.kumuscupboard.org](http://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.

# GROVE FARM MATCHING CHALLENGE



**Donate to Kumu's Cupboard  
from November 26 – December 20 and  
DOUBLE your impact!  
Grove Farm is matching donations up to a  
total of \$5,000!**

[kumuscupboard.org/donate](http://kumuscupboard.org/donate)

## — BOOKS FAIRS —

with Paper Pie Books (formerly USBORNE BOOKS AND MORE)

We are again partnering with Sheila Bradly of Paper Pie Books to earn free books for Kumu's Cupboard and to provide an opportunity for people to buy quality books and activity kits. Kumu's Cupboard receives 50% of all sales in free books.

### BOOK FAIR LOCATIONS

**The Shops at Kukuiula**

**Friday, November 28th**

**8:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**Kukui Grove Shopping Center**

**Saturday, November 29th**

**11:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

We would like to find a north shore venue that would allow us to host a book sale. If you know of a location, please contact Elyse Litvack at: [kumuscupboard@gmail.com](mailto:kumuscupboard@gmail.com) or 808-647-6989.

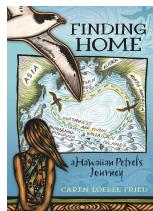
### Hawaiian Studies Resource Guides

Two of the Caren Lobel Fried books that you can sometimes find in our Hawaiian Studies section have free educational resource guides following several learning tracks. They are available for free downloads to help teachers in the classroom.

Caren is a Hawaiian author and illustrator who lives on the Big Island.

The guides are:

**Finding Home,  
A Hawaiian Petrel's Journey**  
<https://www.carenloebelfried.com/findinghome>



**Manu, the Boy Who Loved Birds**  
(Also available in a Hawaiian language version)  
<https://www.carenloebelfried.com/manu-the-boy-who-loved-birds>



### Welcome New Board Members

The Kumu's Cupboard Board welcomes our newest board members:

**Tyler Yee**

President of YeeCorp Financial & Insurance Services

**Dee Anne Facuri**

Store Director; Target Lihue

### Continuing Board Members

Elyse Litvack, President  
Alicia Miyashiro, Vice President  
Merna Jim, Secretary  
Belinda Bartels, Treasurer  
Pat Gegen, Director  
Heidi Takuda, Director

### Welcome New Volunteers

**Nancy Silva Sutton  
Daniel Sutton**

A big mahalo to ALL of our volunteers.  
We couldn't do it without you!

## **Project/Unit Mini Grant Application**

### **Spring Semester 2026**

**The mini grants are available to help provide materials for teaching a unit or doing a project.**

**Applications are accepted December 1–15, 2025. Early applications will not be considered.**

**Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

**Grant applications must be submitted through email at: [kumuscupboard1@gmail.com](mailto:kumuscupboard1@gmail.com).**

Grants are for up to \$500 per applicant. If you have a project or unit with needed supplies that exceed this amount, please contact Elyse Litvack at: [kumuscupboard1@gmail.com](mailto:kumuscupboard1@gmail.com) or 808-647-6989. We have \$8,000 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 within two weeks of notification of availability, and that they will teach the unit or use the materials during the Spring Semester of the 2025-2026 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, 2026.

**Teacher information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade and/or Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of students benefiting from grant: \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit/Project Information:**

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

Subjects Taught through the unit/project: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description of Unit/Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Essential Question(s) for the unit/project: \_\_\_\_\_

Standards Covered by the Unit/Project: \_\_\_\_\_

**LIST THE ITEMS NEEDED FOR YOUR PROJECT ON NEXT PAGE.**

## ITEMS NEEDED

Please list both consumable and non-consumable items and prioritize what you'd like to have. Give specifics about the items. For the selected projects, we'll order from your prioritized list. The grant amount is up to \$500 which includes tax and shipping when applicable. Providing sources and/or links for the materials is very helpful and appreciated.

Teacher Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_