

Kumu's News

Kumu's Cupboard Newsletter, July 2026

Welcome to the 2026-27 School Year

Welcome to the 2026-27 school year at Kumu's Cupboard. We hope that you had a restful and wonderful summer.

A quick look back at last school year shows that we served a record 516 individual educators and provided nearly \$25,000 in mini grants to our shoppers. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and grantors, we were able to expand our inventory and increase shopping limits on many items. Most importantly, based on your feedback, Kumu's Cupboard continues to be a place you enjoy visiting, and we are grateful for the opportunity to support you and your students.

This summer the Kumu's Cupboard volunteers have been working hard to inventory, clean, and stock the shelves so we are ready to welcome you back on July 21. Back-to-school hours for the first two weeks are listed in the right column. You will find some new products, some raised limits, and increased packing sizes, so please be sure to use the inventory sheet when shopping.

This fall, we plan to offer mini grants for needed supplies. Look for an email later this summer announcing these grants.

In January we will be celebrating our 10th anniversary and we're planning a party. We plan on hosting a gallery of student work during our anniversary celebration so please save a sample or a photo of a successful class project you've done using our supplies.

As you start the school year, know that the our Board of Directors and volunteers appreciate the work you do for the island's keiki. Have a wonderful start of your school year.

Thank You to Kumu's Cupboard Volunteers

Kumu's Cupboard is a 100% volunteer-operated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We are supported entirely through community donations and grants, and we could not exist without the dedication and hard work of our volunteers. Please take a moment to thank them when you shop—they are the heart of Kumu's Cupboard.

Here is a current list of the wonderful individuals who volunteer to keep Kumu's Cupboard running.

*Designates a board member as well as an in-store volunteer.

Libby Barbara	Pat Gegen*	Heidi Tokuda*
Belinda Bartels*	Merna Jim*	Carrie Sato
Bertie Bloom	Elyse Litvack*	Daniel Sutton
Lili Bryan-Conant	Joni Masumura	Nancy Silva Sutton
Laurie Clouse	Alicia Miyashiro*	David Thorp
Chris Curtis	Dot O'Reilly	Tyler Yee*

Thank you also to other volunteers who help with special projects and behind the scenes work. You are greatly appreciated.



Special Back-to-School Hours

Tuesday, July 21
10am-2pm

Wednesday, July 22
10am-2pm

Thursday, July 23
10am-2pm

Saturday, July 25
10am-1pm
NEW HIRES ONLY

Monday, July 27
9am-1pm

Tuesday, July 28
3pm-6:30pm

Thursday, July 30
3pm-6:30pm

Regular Store Hours Resume Friday July 31

Tuesdays: 3pm-6:30pm

Fridays: 3pm-6:30pm

Saturdays: 10am-3pm

Sundays: 1pm-4pm

2026-2027 Store Closures

Statehood Day: 8/21

Labor Day: 9/24-9/6

Fall Break: 10/2-10/9

Thanksgiving: 11/27-11/29

Winter Break: 12/18-1/2

President's Day: 2/12-2/14

Spring Break: 3/13-3/20

Holiday Weekend: 3/26-3/28

Charity Walk: 4/30-5/1

Closed for summer:
5/26-late July

Back-to-School Mini Grants

Please remember that back-to-school mini grants **must be picked up the first week we are open**. Remember that you must **bring the signed contract you were emailed with you** when you pick up your grant. These grants were generously funded as part of a Doyle Foundation grant.

Grant Pick-Up Dates and Time

Tuesday, July 21: 10 am – 2 pm
Wednesday, July 22: 10 am – 2 pm
Thursday, July 23: 10 am – 2 pm
Monday, July 27: 10 am – 2 pm

We hope these materials are helpful in starting your school year.

Backpacks for Students in Need

If you have students without backpacks and needed supplies, Kumu's Cupboard can help. We continue to have backpacks ready to pick up at three different grade level bands; K-1st, 2nd-5th and Middle School/High School. These backpacks have the basic supplies for students.

You may stop by Kumu's Cupboard to pick them up **after the school year begins**—you do not need to wait for your shopping day. We ask that you take backpacks only for students who currently need them, rather than “just in case,” so we can ensure there are enough for everyone who may need one. We will keep these stocked all through the school year.



Important Reminders

- Please remember that all of the supplies you receive from Kumu's Cupboard are intended **for use in your own classroom**. As outlined in the agreement you signed, these items should not be given away, donated, sold, or taken home for personal use. You may wonder why we ask that you not share supplies with other educators. Kumu's Cupboard is funded through the generosity of individuals, businesses, service organizations, and grants. When we apply for funding, the number of educators we directly serve is an important measure of our impact. By having each eligible educator shop for their own classroom, we can accurately demonstrate the number of educators we support and help ensure continued funding.
- Remember that our closing time is when the volunteers need to lock up prepare to leave. Please arrive with adequate time to do your shopping and check out. This is one way to show respect to our volunteers.
- Please bring your own bags or boxes to take your supplies to your classroom. We try to have bags and boxes but often run out. We recommend bringing reusable bags or containers.
- Visitors are welcome at Kumu's Cupboard however they will be asked to sit up front. Only registered educators can shop in the store.
- Kumu's Cupboard does not have a public restroom.

Kumu's Cupboard Contact Information

PO Box 3650
Lihue, 96766
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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 Marketplace,
near Target, in Lihue.

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