

Aloha Rotary Club of Hilo Bay!

The Kupuna of Keaukaha are an integral part of our community that have been hit hard by the effects of COVID-19.

Many of them are part of multigenerational working-class households that were barely getting by before the pandemic and are now literally devastated by unemployment and the inability to provide regular meals for themselves as well as their Kupuna. We have identified a list of at least 800 families that need our help. Thus far we have been able to serve 200 meals a week and need more financial resources in order to reach our weekly goal of 800.

We are partnering with the following organizations to combined efforts for this joint project to deliver care packages and a hearty/healthy meal to our Kupuna each Friday:

1. Rotary Club of Hilo Bay Member, Thomas, orders the food and prepares the fresh meals weekly. Examples are 2 lb increments of Portuguese Bean Soup, Chowder, Stews, Chili, Stir Fry, etc
2. Hilo Yacht Club has donated food items and allows us to use their prep kitchen to individually package the meals after the prepared food is delivered in bulk.
3. The Keaukaha General Store serves as our distribution point and coordinator. Kupuna who are able can pick up if not we deliver.
4. Rotary Club of Hilo provided the seed money as well as sponsoring a grant submission to Rotary International for additional monetary support
5. Hawaii United Way Grant Funds
6. Office of Hawaiian Affairs Grant Funds (they are also the organization that provided us the list of people in need)

If you are able to contribute please make checks payable to Hawaii Rise Foundation a 501c(3) entity and mail to: Hawaii Rise Foundation – 11 Silva St., Hilo, HI 96720

Mahalo for your time and consideration,
Breeani Sumera-Lee
Program Director