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## Alaska Airlines Foundation donates \$260,000 to 24 nonprofits

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Alaska Airlines Foundation, the charitable arm of the airline, has awarded \$260,000 to 24 nonprofits in Hawaii, Alaska, and Washington. The six local beneficiaries are Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawaii, ClimbHI's LEI program, Friends of Hawaii Robotics, Girl Scouts of Hawaii, Malama Learning Center's Island Scholars and Nalukai Foundation.

The Alaska Airlines Foundation supports programs that benefit young people in the communities that the airline serves. Over the last 20 years, the foundation has donated more than \$2 million in grant funding to nonprofits.

"We want to see more students, from all backgrounds, have the chance to become future leaders in not just aviation, but any industry," Daniel Chun, Alaska Airlines' director of sales, community and public relations for Hawaii, told Pacific Business News via email. "Each of the six Hawaii organizations that were chosen this year have statewide impact and represent a broad range of disciplines including STEM, entrepreneurship, tourism and culture. We are proud to invest in Hawaii's future by enabling more young people to find their passions and realize their dreams."



ALASKA AIR GROUP INC.

With the acquisition of Virgin America, Alaska Airlines will operate 1,200 daily departures.

Julie Morikawa, president of ClimbHI, told PBN that the funding will help her organization grow its newly launched career platform Opportunity Portal, as well as its LEI programming that educates students about potential career paths in the tourism industry.

“ClimbHI is grateful for Alaska Airlines Foundation's commitment to communities along the west coast,” Morikawa said in an email to PBN. “With their support, ClimbHI will be able to further develop the Opportunity Portal and expand LEI initiatives to include even more high school students, college students and educators across the state.”

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