

THE AID EXPERIMENT
Results as of 10/11/2026

Overview
The Hawai'i Theater People Project (HTPP) Aid Experiment launched September 17, 2026 with this email, to test the viability of a mutual aid fund for HTPP by gifting up to $500 of aid to, and inviting additional contributions from, fellow Hawai'i theater people who had completed the HTPP survey.

Initial funds of $5,000.00 for The Aid Experiment were provided by Hawai'i theater person Seema Sueko-Low, using commissioning fees she received from DNAWORKS, an arts LLC (Limited Liability Company) where she is a co-curator. Fellow Hawai'i theater people made contributions, raising the pot to $5,232.50.

By September 23, $5,225.00 in aid had been distributed to 12 Hawai'i theater people.

Usages of the gift funds:

- Electric bill
- Rent/deposit on a new place or for a storage unit while I live in my car.
- Delayed car maintenance
- Rent
- Aid following the loss of a loved one
- Exponential costs associated with cancer diagnosis and treatment
- Medical expenses
- Basic needs
- First installment of tuition payment plan, some recent minor medical issues, and a few other basic needs
- Vehicle safety check and registration
- Food and debt payment
- Preservation & storage costs for Nihon-buyō records, props, music

A follow-up email was sent on October 3 to the 12 recipients of the aid. Four responded. Two shared that their needs were met by the aid. The others have ongoing needs for housing and storage.

Fund Contributors (as of 10/11/26):
Lisa Barnes
Kim Richmond
Robin & Holli Stanton
Seema Sueko-Low

Contributors to THE AID EXPERIMENT are all fellow theater people who responded to the Hawai'i Theater People Project survey. Some of the contributors live paycheck to paycheck, have debt, and/or are on fixed incomes themselves, but they each had, at this moment, a little surplus to share. They believe in mutual aid and the concept of solidarity, not charity.

If you would like this mutual aid fund to continue, when you have funds to share, you may make a tax-deductible donation to DNAWORKS through its fiscal sponsor Producer Hub. DNAWORKS provides administrative and marketing support for the Hawai'i Theater People Project by processing donations, creating and editing graphics and reels, and promoting HTPP through social media. Two percent of your donation goes to Producer Hub, and five percent goes to DNAWORKS. The remainder will be distributed to Hawai'i theater people.

- You may **donate online here.** Please type "For DNAWORKS Hawai'i Theater People Project Aid Experiment" in the message.
- If you prefer to mail a check, please make the check out to "Producer Hub"
  In the memo line, please write "For DNAWORKS", and mail to:
  Producer Hub, 561 7th Ave, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

Most importantly, if you make a donation, please inform Seema (seemasue@gmail.com) so she can alert the team at DNAWORKS to expect the contribution and earmark it for our mutual aid fund.

The Aid Experiment results at-a-glance:

Launched:	September 17, 2026
Initial funds available:	$5,000.00
Additional contributions:	$250.00
*Processing fees on contributions:	$17.50
Total amount available to gift:	$5,232.50
Total amount gifted:	$5,225.00
Amount remaining:	$7.50
Current residence of recipients:	Oahu (4)
	Maui (1)
	Hawaii (1)
	Northwest (1)
	Mountain West (1)
	Midwest (1)
	Northeast (2)
	Southeast (1)

**Contributions to The Aid Project are routed through Producer Hub, a nonprofit organization which is the fiscal sponsor for DNAWORKS. DNAWORKS provides administrative and marketing support for the Hawai'i Theater People Project by processing donations, creating and editing graphics and reels, and promoting HTPP through social media. 2% of each contribution goes to Producer Hub, and 5% to DNAWORKS.*