

Valued. Vital. Vibrant.



# Annual Report 2020

February 2021



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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# Reflections

In a year like no other, HPR remained valued, vital, and vibrant.

Dear HPR supporter,

We often receive comments from listeners telling us that HPR is “essential” to their lives. It is something that we bear in mind and strive to honor on a daily basis, but the term took on new layers of meaning in 2020. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty that came with it, we became ever more mindful of this station’s responsibility to serve our community with critical information in times of crisis.

In March, we made adjustments in order to continue bringing you timely news reporting, as well as a respite of music when you needed it, while also keeping our staff safe and healthy. Those on our team who were able to work from home, did (and many still do as of this writing). Reporters working remotely found clever ways to optimize sound quality in their audio files recorded at home. And in our Kāheka Street studios, we implemented temperature checks and a mask policy, rearranged desk configurations, and staggered work schedules.

Knowing that you, too, were changing your habits and routines to stay safe, we sought out ways to help you feel connected while we were required to be apart. So, the station offered virtual station tours to new members, and our Generation Listen group presented a variety of online events – everything from virtual book clubs to trivia. In the absence of in-person concerts, we also felt it especially important to share and celebrate local music; we broadcast new and archived world-class performances from the Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra, Blue Note Hawaii, and other partners.

At the same time, we recognized the potential economic impact of the pandemic, and prepared accordingly. We planned leaner budgets so as to be conservative in our fundraising projections, and thoughtful in our spending. And even though we made the difficult decision to suspend our Spring Pledge Drive, this station remains strong. When we held our Fall drive, our membership and contributions

grew, indicating that our community recognizes our value.

As we look ahead, HPR remains strong. Thanks to generous and loyal supporters, over the years HPR has built operational reserves – a “rainy day” fund from which we draw for unexpected infrastructure repairs and maintenance. These monies help to provide a safety net during tough times. Moreover, our station remains debt free, and to date we have made no changes to programming service or staffing. We will continue to closely monitor station finances, to ensure we maintain our strong position.

The need for trustworthy, unbiased news and information, thought-provoking news and entertainment programming, and expertly curated music has never been greater. Your unwavering support makes it possible for us to offer all of that and more, every day of the year. No matter what the future brings, HPR will continue to be here for you. Thank you.

*With gratitude,*



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara A. Hastings".

**Barbara A. Hastings**  
Chair, HPR Board of Directors 2019-2021



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "José A. Fajardo".

**José A. Fajardo**  
HPR President & General Manager

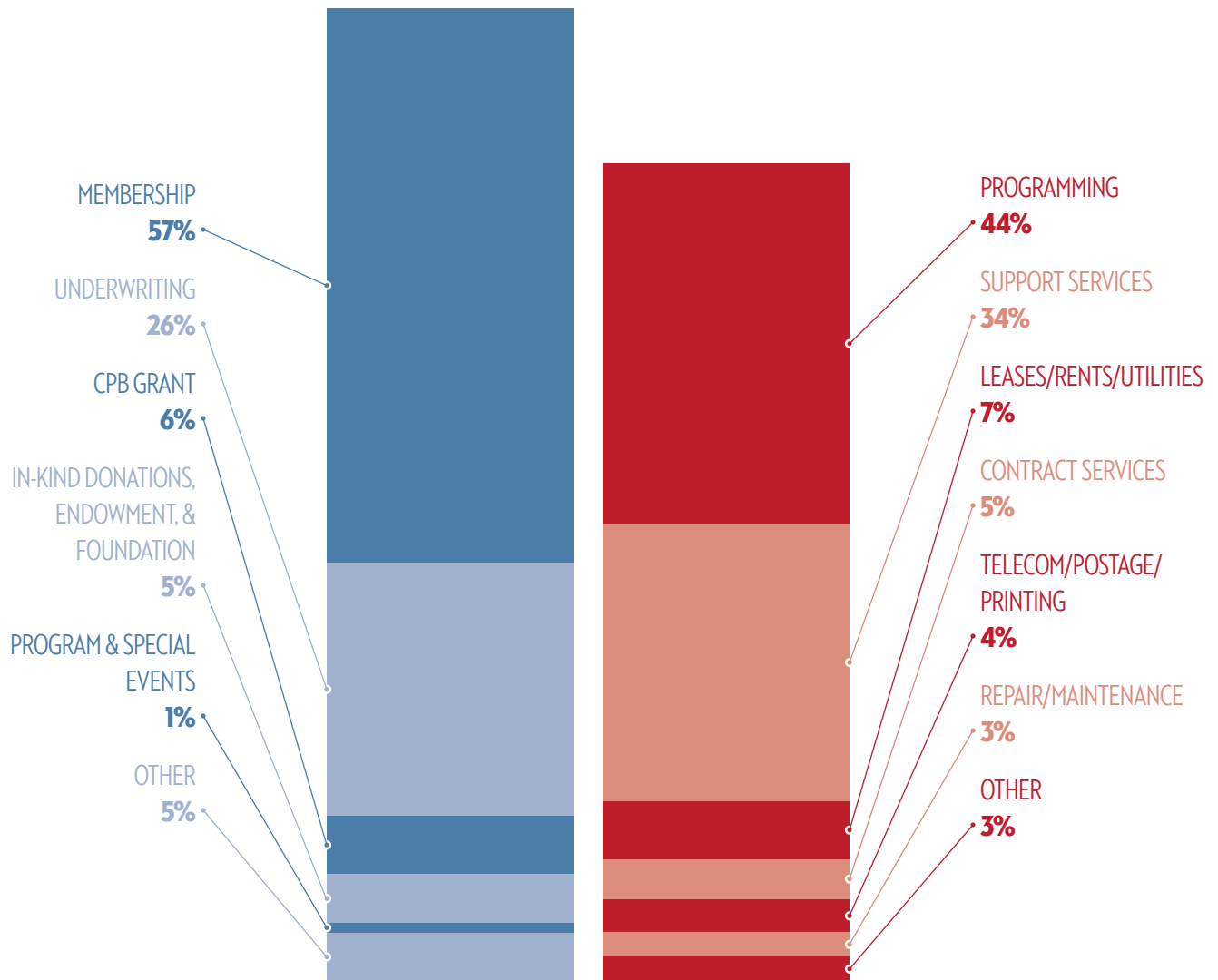


# By The Numbers

Strong community support underscored the value HPR provides to the islands.

Despite the challenges presented by 2020, HPR remains financially viable and is well positioned to thrive in 2021 and beyond. In addition to a balanced budget, a balance sheet free of debt, and a clean financial audit, HPR has received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator for eight years in a row. We will continue to feel the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic into 2021, but, as always, we will work to ensure the generous contributions of our community are used wisely, thoughtfully, and responsibly.

## HPR's Fiscal Year 2019/2020



**REVENUE**, \$6,581,948    \$5,541,196    **EXPENSES**

# News & Talk

In a year unlike any other, HPR provided vital updates on the pandemic's impact on the nation and the islands.

There's no such thing as a typical year in news, but it's safe to say 2020 broke the mold.

In January, the news team aired "Trashing the Islands," a series centered around garbage and the different ways it's dealt with across the state. Our reporting offered a county-by-county examination of issues around recycling, burning waste for energy, composting, reducing trash, and other strategies.

As March approached, it became clear that another story was developing, and that, of course, was the coronavirus pandemic. While it emerged as an international story, it quickly became one with local relevance as well as immense importance. As the virus reached Hawai'i, HPR's reporters worked not just to track the spread of the disease and the varied ways it impacted each island, but also to share lifesaving information and local resources for those who needed help.

Lifting up lesser-heard voices was another recurring element in the year's local news stories. Reporters

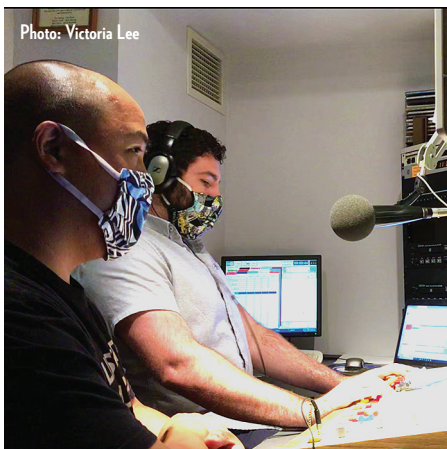
illuminated how the pandemic affected Pacific Islander communities, and those experiencing homelessness, as well as the impact on organizations and partnerships providing assistance to those individuals.

Amid uncertainty and hardship, there were glimmers of hope, too. The "Acts of Aloha" series highlighted the quiet heroes making a difference in other people's lives during trying times. And we debuted a new series, "Manu Minute"; each week features a different Hawai'i bird and its unique song, with an exploration of its environment and conservation.

In a historic election year, the news team profiled political candidates for state and county offices, covered the primary election in August, and reported on island-specific voting issues amid the pandemic, including the complications presented when a cluster of cases emerged on Lana'i. This, along with special coverage from NPR and other sources, provided reliable, fact-checked insight and analysis about local and national elections and their outcomes.

HPR's local talk shows provided additional context and insight on local issues throughout the year. *The Conversation* (weekdays at 11 am on HPR-1) tackled topics ranging from police reform to quarantine enforcement, featured interviews with each of the state's county mayors as well as with the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, and shared one local leader's memories of the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

And in a year when health was top of mind for many listeners, *The Body Show* (Mondays at 6:30 pm on HPR-1) explored a variety of subjects related to COVID-19: everything from handling stress during a pandemic to giving birth during one. Similarly, *Bytemarks Café* (Wednesdays at 6:30 pm on HPR-1) examined the pandemic through a technology lens; shows covered distance learning, remote work, and digital inclusion, among other topics.



## National Recognition for HPR News Team

The station garnered national recognition for its reporting in 2020, including a regional Edward R. Murrow award for Ryan Finnerty's story "Before Graduation, ROTC Students Learn Lessons from Fallen Comrade." Additionally, Finnerty and Sandee Oshiro were awarded with Second Place in the Radio II division for Best Continuing Coverage by the Associated Press Television and Radio Association for the series "Native Hawaiian Activists Block Construction of the World's Largest Telescope."



# Music

HPR's music programming offered comfort, inspiration, and an escape to a more vibrant world.

Classical music continues to thrive at HPR, home of the state's only dedicated classical music station. One significant impact of the pandemic (among many) was the necessary suspension of live music performances. Like many other arts organizations, the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra was forced to cut short their regular performance season; HPR responded by rebroadcasting "best of" performances from previous seasons, in order to continue to share live music with our audiences. Later, the station broadcast the six performances that did take place in the 2019/2020 season, and also aired a selection of Hawaii Youth Symphony performances from years past.

HPR debuted a new limited series, *Hawai'i Public Radio Presents Blue Note: Virtually Live*, featuring some of the state's best musicians recorded live on the stage of Blue Note Hawaii, which itself was closed by shutdown orders. The 10-performance series featured Henry Kapono, Tavana, Taimane, and the US Air Force Band of the Pacific, among others, and included backstage interviews conducted by show host Marco Olivari.



Henry Kapono. Photo: Dabney Gough

Restrictions on gatherings also meant that we could not welcome audiences into our own Atherton Performing Arts Studio. We responded by finding other ways to share live music, through our airwaves and on digital channels. The station also hosted several livestream music concerts, performed in HPR's Atherton Studio - just without an audience. The events highlighted emerging artists such as Dae Han, as well as established ones like Dion "Boogie" Scott.

We also explored what life in lockdown looked like for nationally renowned musicians through our series "Off the Road," hosted by HPR's Dave Lawrence. Interviews with Carlos Santana, Mary

Ramsey of 10,000 Maniacs, William Shatner, and many others explored the impact of the pandemic on musicians' schedules and creative pursuits, and included a few impromptu performances as well. The segments aired on *All Things Considered*, with extended interview recordings also available on our website.

*We responded  
by finding  
new ways  
to share live  
music through  
our airwaves  
and on digital  
channels.*

Jake Shimabukuro and Mana Music. Photo: Dabney Gough



Nick Yee and Louise Lanzilotti at HOT Family Day. Photo: Jason Walter



# In The Community

Vibrant connections were a defining element in the station's relationship with listeners.

Face to face connections with our community are one of the key ways we engage with and learn from our listeners and members. We were able to squeeze in a few in-person events in the early part of 2020; once the coronavirus pandemic made it clear that these would no longer be possible, we got creative and found other ways to stay connected.



Station members at Lahaina event.  
Photo: Sharon Worthington

## WEST MAUI OUTREACH

Our newest frequency, KJHF 103.1 FM, went live on January 14, 2020 broadcasting HPR-1 to West Maui, Lānaʻi, and Molokaʻi. We celebrated with a series of community events on Maui in early March, including a member-only lunch, a chocolate tasting at Kuʻia Estates Chocolate, and a dance party hosted by *Bridging the Gap* host dj mr.nick.



Behind the scenes on HPR-2.  
Photo: Dabney Gough

## VIRTUAL TOURS

In any other year, we welcome new members at a twice-yearly station open house. In 2020 we created a virtual station tour to share with members. It guides new members through our Honolulu facilities and puts a face to some of the most familiar voices on HPR's airwaves.

You can take the virtual tour at [bit.ly/HPRtour](https://bit.ly/HPRtour).



Zoom trivia event. Photo: Dabney Gough

## GENERATION LISTEN

The station's initiative to engage younger listeners didn't skip a beat when pivoting to virtual events. The Gen Listen team found new ways to turn existing events, such as the popular trivia series, into online activities. As a bonus, this meant that Gen Listen could welcome participants no matter where they were. The group also partnered with a local book club, executed a civic engagement campaign, and hosted livestream Bar Talk events featuring local beer experts and mixologists.



The Nutcracker. Photo: Ballet Hawaii

## THE NUTCRACKER

As the year wound to an end, HPR also presented a gift to our community with Ballet Hawaii's The Nutcracker with the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra. The made-for-television event incorporated performances by the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra at the Hawaii Theatre Center from this year, narration by Amanda Schull, and previously recorded footage of Ballet Hawaii's productions of The Nutcracker. It aired several times throughout December on KITV Channel 4.





**PROGRAMMING** NEWS, TALK, ENTERTAINMENT & A VARIETY OF MUSIC

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MIDNIGHT	Blues from the Basement	Echoes					New Sounds
1 AM							
2 AM							
3 AM	BBC News	BBC News					BBC News
4 AM							
5 AM							
6 AM	Weekend Edition	Morning Edition					Weekend Edition
7 AM							
8 AM							
9 AM	The New Yorker Radio Hour						The Splendid Table
10 AM	On Being	Here and Now					Radiolab
11 AM	New Dimensions	The Conversation					Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me!
NOON	Travel with Rick Steves	All Things Considered					Ask Me Another
1 PM		The World				Science Friday	This American Life
2 PM	Kanikapila Sunday	On Point					The Moth Radio Hour
3 PM		Fresh Air					TED Radio Hour
4 PM	Applause in a Small Room	All Things Considered					Selected Shorts
5 PM	All Things Considered						All Things Considered
6 PM		Marketplace					
6:30 PM	Brazilian Experience	The Body Show	Counterspin	Bytemarks Café	Says You!	All Songs Considered	American Routes
7 PM		On the Media	Freakonomics	Reveal	Hidden Brain	Left, Right & Center	
8 PM		Evening Jazz				Latin Beat	The Real Deal
9 PM	The Real Deal						
10 PM	B-Sides and Beyond	Bridging the Gap					Blues from the Basement
11 PM							



**PROGRAMMING** YOUR HOME FOR CLASSICAL MUSIC

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MIDNIGHT							Classical 24
1 AM							
2 AM							
3 AM							
4 AM							
5 AM							
6 AM							
7 AM							Howard's Day Off
8 AM	With Heart and Voice						Classical Guitar
9 AM							Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center
10 AM	Sunday Brunch	Morning Café / Morning Concert					The Score
11 AM							From the Top
NOON							Classical 24
1 PM	Sunday Baroque	Performance Today					Opera
2 PM		Exploring Music					
3 PM	Classical 24	Classical Pacific					
4 PM							
5 PM	Howard's Day Off (Encore)						Singing and Other Sins
6 PM		Evening Concert					The Early Muse
7 PM							SymphonyCast
8 PM		Seasonal Concerts	Collector's Corner	Chicago Symphony	NY Philharmonic	Seasonal Concerts	Millennium of Music
9 PM	Classical 24						Harmonia
10 PM		Classical 24					Classical 24
11 PM							



# Station Members

We are humbled by and grateful for the extraordinary generosity of the 15,068 community members who collectively provide more than half of HPR's operating funds, including the more than 8,514 Sustaining members whose monthly contributions ensure a secure foundation for the work we do every day. HPR recognizes its Cornerstone Society (gifts of \$1,000 or more) and Founder's Circle contributors for gifts made between January 1 – December 31, 2020. Thank you for your partnership in our work.

## Cornerstone Society

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### FOUNDER'S CIRCLE

#### \$100,000 OR MORE

A Friend of HPR  
The Eblen Family  
Hawai'i Community Foundation

#### \$50,000 - 99,999

Island Insurance Foundation

#### \$30,000 - 49,999

A Friend of HPR  
Monte Elias  
Dr. Thomas & Mi Kosasa

#### \$20,000 - 29,999

ABC Stores  
John R. Halligan Charitable Fund  
LGA Family Foundation  
Mareli Foundation  
Pikake Foundation

#### \$15,000 - 19,999

First Insurance Company of Hawaii

#### \$10,000 - 14,999

A Friend of HPR  
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Carol & Clive Davies  
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Susan M. Kosasa Fund  
Chuck & Zana Mitsui  
Nuestro Futuro Foundation  
The Poha Fund  
G. N. Wilcox Trust

#### \$5,000 - 9,999

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#### \$3,000 - 4,999

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Julia C. Wo & Brian Soma

#### \$1,000 - 2,999

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Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra. Photo: HSO

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Hawaiian Native Corporation	The Leeward Theatre at Leeward Community College	Outdoor Living	Tony Lim CPA	
HEMIC	Legacy of Life Hawaiʻi	Outrigger Hospitality Group	Tori Richard	
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Homeworks Construction	Locations	Pacific American Lumber	Trupanion	
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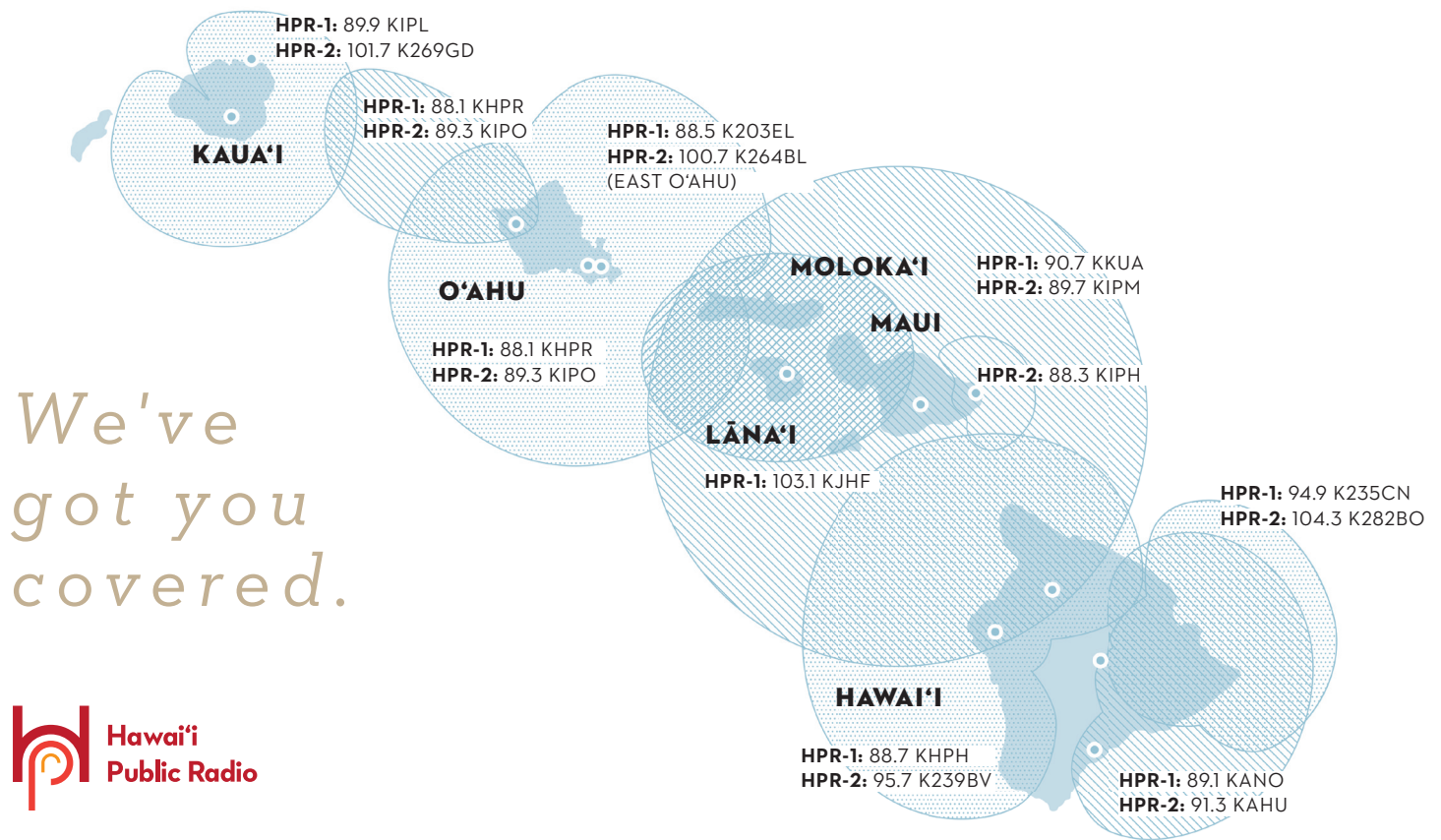


Jake Shimabukuro in HPR's Atherton. Photo: Dabney Gough



Dae Han and Nelson Cho. Photo: Jason Taglianetti





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Whether you read, listen, tune in, or stream, HPR is here for you.

In the coming year, we will continue to invest in existing digital platforms as well as emerging technologies, expand the availability of our content on social media and other channels, and launch a redesigned, more user-friendly website.

We made an important milestone in 2020, when in January we activated 103.1 FM KJHF, named in honor of Dr. John Henry Felix, HPR's founding chair of the Board of Directors. The new signal delivers HPR-1 to an area of West Maui, Lanā'i, and Moloka'i previously under the terrain shield created

by the West Maui mountains. In 2021 we plan to continue maintaining and, in a few key areas, expanding our terrestrial radio infrastructure throughout the state.

## There are so many ways to listen to HPR!

### WEBSITE

Go to hawaiipublicradio.org and look for the player module near the top of the page.

### APP

HPR's mobile app streams HPR-1 and HPR-2, and integrates with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

### ALEXA

HPR-1: say "play Hawai'i Public Radio."  
 HPR-2: say "play KIPO."

### PODCASTS

*The Conversation, Body Show, Bytemarks Café, Manu Minute*

### CABLE TV

On Spectrum channels 864 and 865, and on Hawaiian Telcom channels 661 and 662.

### RADIO

And of course, you can tune in the old fashioned way.