

Working to Solve Hawai'i's Greatest Challenges Together

Giving to an Island: Steve Lovell

From the beginning of his life to the end, Steve Lovell knew what he liked, and once he found it, he tended to stick with it. For a start, says his younger sister Ann Lovell, although he had an IQ so high that “they were unable to test [it] when he was twelve.” Steve decided that college wasn’t for him, and hitchhiked around the US in the early 1970s.

“The next thing we knew, he was in Hawai’i,” says Ann. On Hawai’i Island, Lovell found a land and a community that embraced him. He also found love, meeting his wife Jayne on a beach during the total solar eclipse of 1991.

“Everything about [Hawai’i] Island, he loved” says Ann, who, along with Steve, served as a trustee for the David and Lura Lovell Foundation, established by their parents.

Steve and Ann’s parents instilled in them the importance of helping causes close to your heart. Steve loved to talk with Ann, who is also a founding director and president of



Steve Lovell

Women Moving Millions as well as a member of the Women’s Leadership Board at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, about finding the paths

to giving that would make the most difference. “He was very strategic about it,” says Ann.

When it came time to settle his own legacy, a whole-island gift to the place and community that he loved and found love in just made sense.

Steve left a \$1.2 million legacy donation to the Hawai’i Community Foundation, earmarked for the West Hawai’i Fund and the East Hawai’i Fund, both of which support all aspects of community and are supported by an advisory board drawn from the community, and the Community Scholarship Fund. This gift will continue to make a difference for many years to come.

Ann says Steve’s hope was to express “his love of the island itself, and his desire to help and to educate—to provide the fishing pole instead of the fish. It really meant a lot to him,” says Ann. “He was a very spiritual, very kind man. Perhaps the kindest I’ve ever known.”

DID YOU KNOW:

Ann Lovell has two pieces of advice. First, ask yourself what you really love. Quoting African American civil rights leader Howard Thurman, Lovell says, “Don’t ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go and do that—because what the world needs are people who have come alive.” Then, consider contributing to a fund, or starting and naming your own fund, within a community foundation--which means your resources will be continuously and professionally administered and can be responsive to changing community needs in years to come. In 2019, the East Hawai’i and West Hawai’i Funds together provided grants to 34 organizations committed to supporting the natural environment, social fabric, health, safety, equality, education, nutrition, housing, arts and culture of their communities.

For information about planning your future impact through philanthropy, please contact Malu Debus (808) 936-1206



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