High Alert Institute, Inc.

Biannual Report

2024 - 2025

Board of Directors
12-31-2025

A Message from Our Leadership

In a world defined by unexpected events, the High Alert Institute has remained steadfast in its mission to empower individuals, organizations, and communities with the tools and knowledge to anticipate, withstand, and recover from disasters. This past year has been one of significant growth and impact, driven by our commitment to building a safer, more resilient world for all.

Our work is guided by the All Hazards, One Health, One Nature (AHOHN) framework, an approach that recognizes the deep interconnection between the health of people, animals, plants, and the environment. This holistic perspective has enabled us to develop integrated solutions that address complex global challenges—from climate change and health equity to environmental justice and sustainable innovation.

Throughout 2024 and 2025, we have expanded our reach, advanced critical research, and deployed technologies that make a tangible difference. From our energy-positive headquarters in Florida's Tiger Creek Forest to our global humanitarian initiatives, every project is a testament to our core values: Resilience, Innovation, Sustainability, Equity, and Empathy. We have trained thousands of frontline workers, sheltered hundreds of aquatic animals, and pioneered new systems for renewable energy and public health.

We are incredibly proud of the progress we have made, which would not be possible without the dedication of our multidisciplinary team, the passion of our volunteers, and the generous support of our collaborators, partners, and donors. As we look to the future, we are more committed than ever to providing unexpected solutions for the unexpected, ensuring that communities everywhere can RISE[2] to any challenge.

Thank you for being a part of our journey.

Allison A. Sakara, NP, MSN, RN, PHRN
Co-Founder & Executive Director

Maurice A. Ramirez, DO, PhD
Co-Founder & Chairperson of the Board

The High Alert Institute equips individuals, organizations, and communities with the knowledge and tools to anticipate, withstand, and recover from disasters, ensuring a safer and more resilient world.

www.highalertinstitute.org
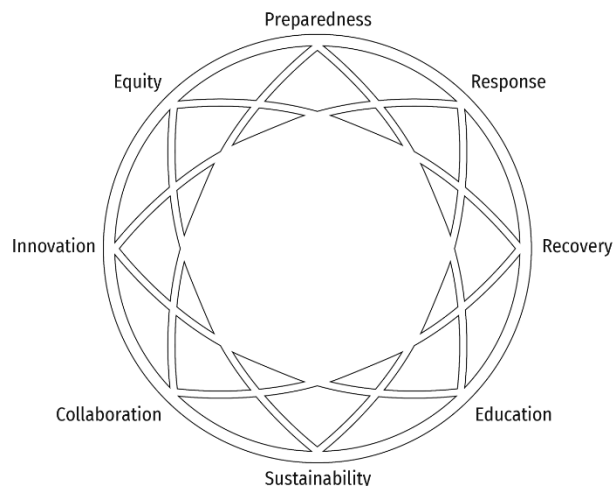
Vision, Mission, and Values

Our Vision

To empower individuals, families, communities, businesses, and organizations to achieve Resilience, Innovation, Sustainability, Equity, and Empathy – to RISE^2 to every challenge.

Our Mission

Our mission is focused on programs and projects united by an All Hazards, One Health, One Nature (AHOHN) framework for the benefit of all peoples, animals, and environments. We are dedicated to serving all populations, with a particular focus on disadvantaged, historically marginalized, and underserved communities, through education, innovation, preparedness, and sustainability.

Our Values

1. **Preparedness**: Equipping people and organizations with the knowledge and resources to face challenges head-on.

2. **Equity**: Ensuring health equity, literacy, and access to resources for all, regardless of location or circumstances.

3. **Collaboration**: Building strong partnerships and networks to amplify impact and foster resilience.

4. **Innovation**: Leveraging emerging technologies and creative solutions to address global challenges.

5. **Sustainability**: Promoting environmental justice and sustainable practices to protect our planet for future generations.

6. **Education**: Providing evidence-based, curated resources to empower informed decision-making and readiness.

7. **Recovery**: Supporting communities in rebuilding and thriving after disasters.

8. **Compassion**: Advocating for the well-being of all living beings, including humans, animals, and plants.

Our History

Our roots are in disaster response, where, for over two decades, we have worked with Federal Partner Agencies to improve disaster readiness and mental wellness for frontline workers. This experience gave us a deep appreciation for the interconnected health and security of all people, animals, plants, and habitats.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, we pivoted to a post-pandemic approach, expanding our mission to include animal welfare and technological solutions for the climate crisis. Headquartered in Lake Wales, Florida, we have evolved into a multi-faceted organization with four distinct branches, each contributing to a more resilient and sustainable future under our unified AHOHN framework.

2002: Our All-Hazards Mission Begins

In the wake of the 9/11 attacks, the Institute was formed as Disaster Life Support of Florida, focusing on preparing frontline workers and hospital systems to respond to disasters of all types.

2005-2009: Expanding Reach and Expertise

- Training expanded across North America, and the organization was renamed High Alert.

- Disaster Behavioral Health courses were launched, and academic partnerships were formed to expand services to public health and policymakers.

- Pandemic Preparedness courses were added to the curriculum, and international training programs were introduced.

2010: Haiti Earthquake Response

The Institute deployed to Carrefour, Haiti, to re-establish supply chains and deliver $18.4 million in healthcare equipment and supplies. Post-response, the Institute assisted the Clinton Bush Fund with the Haiti Recovery Plan.

2011-2019: Transition to Sustainability

- The Institute became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity and transitioned to web-based learning.

- Sustainability projects began, including the installation of solar PV systems and the development of SMART ventilation systems.

- The Institute achieved recognition for its renewable energy advancements, becoming the most energy-efficient facility in North America through the use of disaster-resilient green energy technologies.
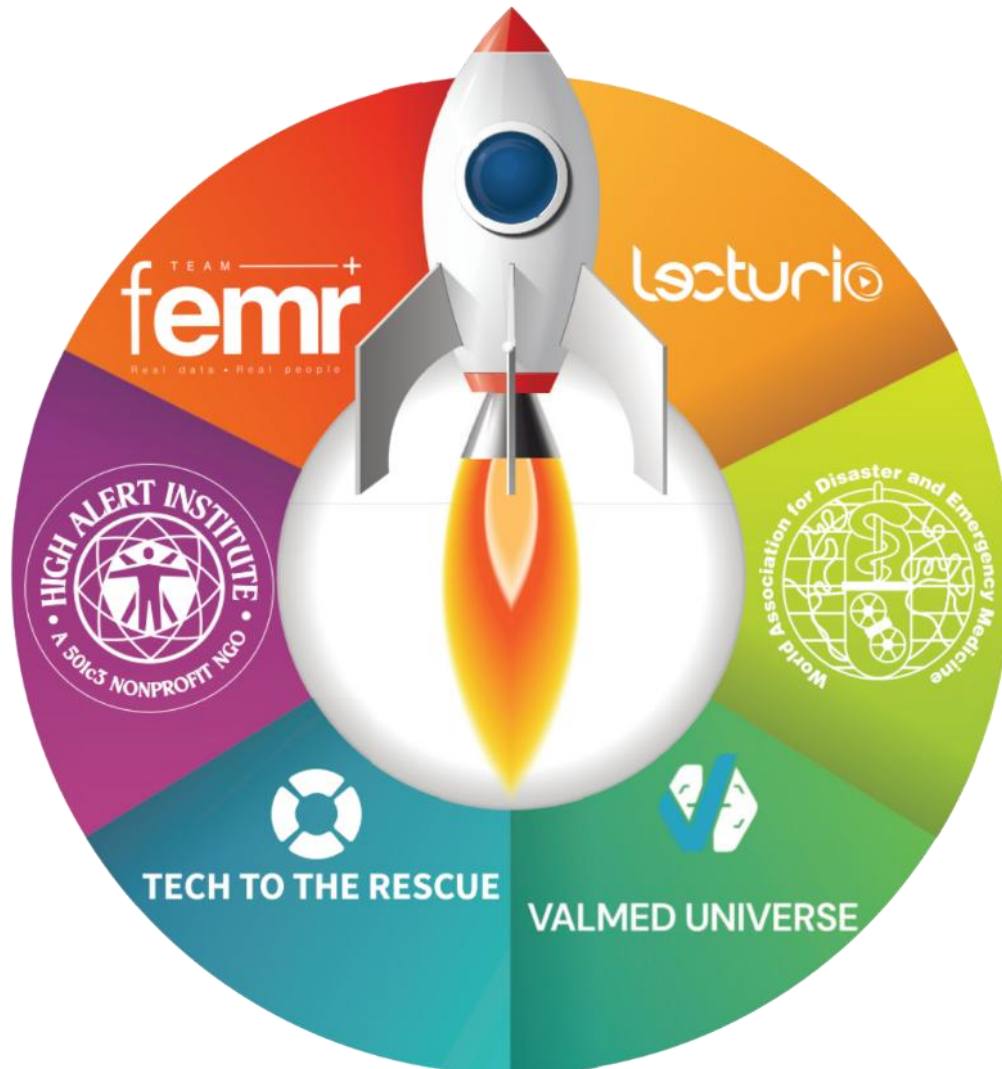
2020-2023: Innovation and Global Impact

- Our volunteer subject matter experts assisted in the search for repurposed antiviral treatments to address the COVID-19 pandemic. We reviewed and analyzed over 250,000 scientific articles in 4 months, becoming one of only two teams to identify ritonavir as a necessary component of COVID-19 treatment.

- The AHOHN framework was formalized, emphasizing the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health.

- The Institute achieved recognition for environmental justice and climate resilience, including programs in healthcare sustainability and waste-to-energy technologies.

- Collaborations with global organizations led to the development of an AI-powered digital health ecosystem and drivers of health big data analysis initiatives.

2024-2025: Innovation and Global Impact

- Collaborations with global organizations led to the development of AI-powered health tools and digital health equity initiatives.

- The Institute achieved recognition for its renewable energy advancements, including wind turbine noise mitigation and supercritical green energy technologies, becoming a registered United States Clean Energy company.

- The United States Library of Congress approves the High Alert Institute's registration as an online periodical publisher (ISSB: 2995-9209).

2024 – 2025: Years of Growth, Impact & Innovation

Over the past two years, the High Alert Institute has driven significant progress across our four core branches, turning our vision of integrated preparedness into reality. Our achievements reflect our commitment to creating scalable, evidence-based solutions for a resilient future.

Key Achievements by Branch

1. Education & Publishing Branch

- **Launched LET-CAI:** Developed and launched "The Little Engine That Could AI" (LET-CAI), an AI-powered tool that combats health misinformation by providing vetted, evidence-based answers in multiple languages, even in low-bandwidth environments.

- **Humanitarian Healthcare Initiative:** Forged a key collaboration with the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM) and Tech to the Rescue to create a digital health ecosystem for vulnerable populations, combining our LET-CAI with offline-capable medical records and clinical decision support tools.

- **Expanded Reach:** Our publications reached over 1.2 million readers, with over 100 articles featured in 200 outlets. Our position papers on health system sustainability were recognized by the UN Climate Change Conference (COP-29), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the EPA.

- **New Look for the Next Quarter Century:** The Institute's look, logo and online presence completed a major update through the expertise, talent and generosity of designer Kirk Kempker, website developer D2I Technology and the Tech to the Rescue Foundation. As part of the new online experience, the Institute debuted our online publication on Medium.com.

2. Aquatic Animal Welfare & Mutual Aid Branch

- **Expanded Shelter Capacity:** Planning and fundraising for a 65,000+ gallon carbon-negative shelter expansion, featuring advanced aquaponic filtration and solar power to create a state-of-the-art, sustainable environment for rescued animals.

- **Rescued and Rehomed:** Provided shelter and care for nearly 200 animals at our Lake Wales, Florida, facility. The shelter also partnered with Bok Tower Gardens to house the "Bok-Koi" during renovations of Bok's 358,000 gallon aquatic habitat. The Institute also helped design the habitat's wall filtration system.

- **Strengthened Partnerships:** Our national mutual aid network facilitated dozens of rescues and rehomings across North America, preventing the release of non-native species into local ecosystems.

3. Environmental Stewardship & Drivers of Health Branch

- **Achieved Carbon-Negative Operations:** Our headquarters generated over 330 MWh of renewable energy since 2013, slashing carbon emissions and mitigating over 930 hours of power outages. With a HERS score of -63, our facility stands as North America's most energy-efficient renovation.

- **Advanced Data-Driven Policy:** Championed the use of Environmental, Social, and Genomic Drivers of Health (ESDoH+G) data to provide policymakers with objective evidence needed to craft effective and equitable environmental policies.

- **Pioneered Sustainable Practices:** Reduced our landfill waste to less than half a cubic yard per year through comprehensive recycling and composting programs. We are also advancing plans for a rooftop rainwater collection system to reduce well water usage by over 90%.

4. Innovation & Technology Branch

- **Patented Green Technology:** Secured a new patent for a supercritical green energy technology designed to decarbonize the energy sector by converting waste into clean energy.

- **Completed AI4Changemakers Health Cohort:** The Institute participated in the Tech to the Rescue AI4Changemakers technology accelerator program. As an AI4C Health Cohort member, the Institute networked with 39 technology forward NGOs internationally and refined two Institute AI projects. As experts in health AI software regulation and safety, the Institute provided instruction for a module of the accelerator program.

- **Department of Energy's Technology Transfer Accelerator:** In preparation for a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CREDA) with the DOE, the Institute is a participant in the DOE's IP2Capital technology-transfer accelerator. After completing Phase 1, the Institute and our partner Solis Power have been offered a funded CREDA with the DOE. The Institute continues in the IP2Capital program as the sole full time participant in Phase 2 of the accelerator.

- **Launched LET-CAI Health Information System:** In a landmark collaboration for the Humanitarian Healthcare Initiative, we successfully launched the LET-CAI system to combat misinformation and improve health literacy globally.

- **Recognized for Innovation:** Received accolades from HHS and at COP-29 for our pioneering work in health system sustainability, climate health, and renewable energy. This includes our patented wind turbine noise mitigation system and our SMART IAQ ventilation system, which reduces airborne infection risk by up to 43%.

Long-Term Resilience Project Reports

Resilience Project 10-year Report #1:

Resilient Built Environments – Green Energy & Hybrid Power Backup

The High Alert Institute's energy resilience project addresses challenges posed by outdated grid infrastructure in a rural wildlife preserve. Frequent power outages, high energy costs, and limited technology compatibility necessitated a sustainable solution. The Institute implemented a hybrid renewable energy system, including a 25 kW wind turbine, 55 kW solar photovoltaic (PV) system, battery backups, and a propane generator. Operational for over a decade, the system generates an average of 4 MWh monthly, achieving carbon negativity and energy resilience.

Key Achievements:

- Sustainable power and backup systems using common off-the-shelf (COTS) technologies.

- Carbon savings of 296 metric tonnes (2013–2024) and mitigation of 930 power outage hours.

- Anticipated energy production of 10 GWh and 7,500 metric tonnes of CO2 savings by 2050.

Challenges:

- Policy and permitting delays, outdated wind data, and limited financial assistance hindered early progress.

- Equipment reliability varied, with some systems experiencing significant downtime (e.g., 25% for certain solar PV systems due to inverter failures).

- Logistical difficulties arose from the remote location and lack of skilled local labor.

Impact and Benefits: The project has reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved climate resilience, and supported mental and physical health by mitigating heat injuries and power disruptions. The Institute's efforts also influenced local policy, enabling smoother implementation of future renewable energy projects.

Future Plans: A 2025 expansion aims to add 15–60 kW of renewable energy capacity and 18–54 kW of battery backup, leveraging federal programs like the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act for funding.

Takeaways: The project highlights the importance of reliable COTS technologies, robust manufacturer support, and standardized monitoring for renewable energy systems. It demonstrates the potential of green energy to enhance disaster readiness, business continuity, and environmental sustainability.

Resilience Project 10-Year Report #2:

Resilient Built Environments – SMART IAQ Ventilation

The High Alert Institute's SMART IAQ Ventilation project addresses the health and environmental risks of poor indoor air quality (IAQ), exacerbated by increased indoor occupancy due to climate change. Poor IAQ raises risks of heart attacks, strokes, and airborne infections. The project implemented a Self-Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Technology (SMART) IAQ Ventilation system, compatible with new and existing HVAC systems, to improve IAQ, reduce energy costs, and enhance resilience.

Key Achievements:

- Deployment of a sustainable IAQ system using common off-the-shelf (COTS) technologies.

- Improved IAQ by reducing airborne contaminants and infection risks by up to 43%.

- Achieved energy savings of 14.4 MWh annually, with 4.8 MWh attributed to the SMART IAQ system.

- Carbon savings of 148 metric tonnes (2013–2024) and projected savings of 511 metric tonnes by 2050.

Challenges:

- Limited reliable certifications for HVAC equipment and manufacturers slowed planning and deployment.

- Logistical difficulties arose from the remote location and lack of skilled local HVAC installers, resolved through remote collaboration with manufacturers.

Impact and Benefits: The SMART IAQ system has operated without failure for 114 months, reducing energy costs by $8,150 (2013–2024) and improving occupant health by mitigating risks of heat injuries, respiratory illnesses, and pollutant exposure. The system also contributed to carbon negativity goals and supported climate resilience.

Future Plans: The Institute plans to continue publishing open-access designs and scientific articles to promote adoption of SMART IAQ systems. Energy savings are expected to fund future HVAC upgrades every 10 years, ensuring long-term sustainability.

Takeaways: The project demonstrated the reliability of COTS technologies under extreme conditions, reduced health risks, and achieved rapid ROI (23 months). It highlights the importance of IAQ in mitigating climate and health challenges, offering a scalable solution for households and businesses.

Our Team and Board

Our success is driven by a multidisciplinary team of over 170 experts, including disaster responders, clinicians, educators, and innovators. The Institute is guided by a dedicated Board of Directors, whose collective experience in disaster medicine, global public health, veterinary science, data science, and technology governance shapes our strategic direction.

Co-Founders:

- **Allison A. Sakara, NP, MSN, RN, PHRN:** Executive Director
- **Maurice A. Ramirez, DO, PhD:** Chairperson of the Board

Board of Directors (2024 – 2025):

- Heidi P. Cordi, MD, MPH, MBA
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- Amy Lynn Walters, MPH, RAC
- Zachary Walters, MS

Financial Overview

The High Alert Institute is committed to the highest standards of transparency and financial accountability. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we ensure that every donation and grant is used effectively to advance our mission. Our strong financial health reflects prudent management, the trust of our supporters, and our dedication to creating sustainable impact.

We are proud to hold top ratings from leading charity evaluators, including a Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid (GuideStar) and a four-star rating from Charity Navigator. These ratings affirm our commitment to fiscal responsibility and operational excellence.

Our revenue is diversified across individual contributions, corporate sponsorships, foundation grants, and licensing fees from our intellectual property. This model supports our operational stability and allows us to invest in long-term, high-impact projects.

(Note: The complete, audited financial statements and IRS Form 990 are available for public viewing on our Transparency page at highalertinstitute.org.)

Preparing for Our Second Quarter Century

Vision for the Future

As our first quarter century draws to a close in 2026, the High Alert Institute envisions a world where resilience, innovation, and sustainability are the cornerstones of every community, organization, and ecosystem. By addressing the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health, we aim to create a future where all populations—especially the most vulnerable—are empowered to thrive in the face of adversity.

We are building on a legacy of resilience, innovation, and sustainability to address the evolving challenges of a rapidly changing world. Guided by our All-Hazards, One Health, One Nature (AHOHN) framework, we are committed to scaling our impact, advancing global partnerships, and leveraging cutting-edge technologies to create a safer, more equitable future.

Strategic Priorities for the Next 25 Years

1. **Expanding Global Reach**

   - Strengthen international collaborations to address global challenges such as climate change, health equity, and disaster preparedness.

   - Extend the reach of initiatives like LET-CAI and the Humanitarian Healthcare Initiative to underserved regions worldwide.

2. **Advancing Technological Innovation**

   - Invest in the development of scalable, affordable technologies that address critical infrastructure vulnerabilities, such as renewable energy systems, SMART IAQ ventilation, and supercritical green energy solutions.

   - Continue to pioneer AI-driven tools to combat misinformation, improve health literacy, and support evidence-based decision-making.

3. **Promoting Environmental Justice**

- Lead efforts to connect environmental factors to health outcomes through big data analysis, driving policy changes that promote equity and sustainability.

- Expand the Good4Planet initiative to demonstrate replicable models of environmental stewardship and carbon-negative operations.

4. **Strengthening Community Resilience**

- Enhance education and training programs to empower individuals, families, and communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

- Develop new resources and tools to support behavioral health, animal welfare, and ecosystem protection during crises.

5. **Fostering Sustainable Growth**

- Build on the Institute's financial sustainability by diversifying funding sources, including grants, partnerships, and intellectual property licensing.

- Expand infrastructure, such as the energy-efficient shelter for aquatic animals, to support mission-critical operations while maintaining a commitment to sustainability.

Goals for the Future

As we build on past successes, we remain committed to expanding our reach and impact. Our focus remains on scaling our programs and driving innovation within the AHOHN framework. By fostering international collaborations, leveraging innovative technologies, and advancing environmental justice, we will continue to build a more resilient and equitable future. Our strategic goals for 2026 and beyond include:

- **Expand the Humanitarian Healthcare Initiative:** Broaden the global deployment of our digital health ecosystem, including LET-CAI, to reach more underserved and crisis-affected communities, improving health literacy and clinical outcomes.

- **Complete the Aquatic Animal Shelter Expansion:** Finalize our state-of-the-art, carbon-negative aquatic animal shelter to increase our capacity for rescue, care, and rehoming, setting a new standard for sustainable animal welfare.

- **Commercialize Green Technologies:** Accelerate the commercialization of our patented renewable energy and waste-to-energy technologies through strategic partnerships, generating sustainable revenue to fund our mission and contributing to global decarbonization efforts.

- **Deepen Data-Driven Advocacy:** Expand our ESDoH+G Big Data Analysis project to provide more granular, actionable insights for policymakers, driving evidence-based environmental justice and public health initiatives.

- **Grow Our Volunteer and Partner Network:** Strengthen our community of experts, volunteers, and collaborators to enhance our collective capacity for education, innovation, and response, ensuring we are ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow.