



[www.explorationfound.org](http://www.explorationfound.org)

January 30, 2014

To: Senate Committee on WAYS AND MEANS  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 208  
Attn: Mr. Rod Becker

Re: Grant-in-Aid Submittal for The Exploration Foundation

Dear Mr. Becker:


Please find attached a grant-in-aid application requested pursuant to HRS Chapter 42F.

During review, I would be happy to answer any questions you might have regarding this request. My contact information is:

Phone: 808.327.4751  
Cell: 808.987.2522  
Fax: 808.327.4750  
Email: [wheapcs@gmail.com](mailto:wheapcs@gmail.com)

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Curtis Muraoka, Vice-Chair  
The Exploration Foundation

House District 6

Senate District 3

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
APPLICATION FOR GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES  
CHAPTER 42F, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

Log No:

For Legislature's Use Only

Type of Grant or Subsidy Request:

GRANT REQUEST - OPERATING

GRANT REQUEST - CAPITAL

SUBSIDY REQUEST

"Grant" means an award of state funds by the legislature, by an appropriation to a specified recipient, to support the activities of the recipient and permit the community to benefit from those activities.

"Subsidy" means an award of state funds by the legislature, by an appropriation to a recipient specified in the appropriation, to reduce the costs incurred by the organization or individual in providing a service available to some or all members of the public.

"Recipient" means any organization or person receiving a grant or subsidy.

STATE DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY RELATED TO THIS REQUEST (LEAVE BLANK IF UNKNOWN):

STATE PROGRAM I.D. NO. (LEAVE BLANK IF UNKNOWN):

1. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Legal Name of Requesting Organization or Individual:

~~THE~~ EXPLORATION FOUNDATION  
Dba.

Street Address:

73-4460 Queen Kaahumanu Hwy. #105

Mailing Address:

73-4460 Queen Kaahumanu Hwy. #105

Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96740

2. CONTACT PERSON FOR MATTERS INVOLVING THIS APPLICATION:

Name Curtis Muraoka

Title Vice-Chair

Phone # 808.987.2522

Fax # 808.327.4750

e-mail wheapcs@gmail.com

3. TYPE OF BUSINESS ENTITY:


- NON PROFIT CORPORATION
- FOR PROFIT CORPORATION
- LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
- SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP/INDIVIDUAL

6. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S REQUEST:

Campus Relocation of West Hawaii Explorations Academy

Grant to The Exploration Foundation to assist West Hawaii Explorations Academy in relocation and construction on NELHA Lot 12A, away from the danger zone for projected airport noise and tsunami impacts.

4. FEDERAL TAX ID#: 

5. STATE TAX ID#: 

7. AMOUNT OF STATE FUNDS REQUESTED:

\$1,250,000

FISCAL YEAR 2015: \$ 1,250,000

8. STATUS OF SERVICE DESCRIBED IN THIS REQUEST:


- NEW SERVICE (PRESENTLY DOES NOT EXIST)
- EXISTING SERVICE (PRESENTLY IN OPERATION)

SPECIFY THE AMOUNT BY SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF THIS REQUEST:

STATE \$ 0  
 FEDERAL \$ 5,500,000\*  
 COUNTY \$ 0  
 PRIVATE/OTHER \$ 950,000\*\*

\*USDA Rural Development Loan November 19, 2013, but not yet released  
\*\*Bank of Hawaii bridge loan because of USDA's delayed release.

TYPE NAME & TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:

  
Curtis Muraoka, Vice-Chair

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

NAME & TITLE

DATE SIGNED

1/28/2014

## Application for Grants and Subsidies

*If any item is not applicable to the request, the applicant should enter "not applicable".*

### I. Background and Summary

This section shall clearly and concisely summarize and highlight the contents of the request in such a way as to provide the State Legislature with a broad understanding of the request. Include the following:

1. A brief description of the applicant's background;  
***The Exploration Foundation*** ("EF") was formed in 2007 as the non-profit arm of West Hawai'i Explorations Academy ("WHEA"). Its primary purpose is to support campus planning, design and relocation of this nationally recognized secondary public education model. EF also supports program development, including dissemination of WHEA's best practices, and is a duly constituted 501(c)(3) non-profit, operating as a component unit exclusive to WHEA.

***The Exploration Foundation*** is applying for this grant on WHEA's behalf as its associated non-profit.

WHEA began as a school-within-a-school of Konawaena High School, and has operated as a tenant and educational partner with the Natural Energy Laboratory Hawai'i Authority since 1994.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;  
***The Exploration Foundation*** is requesting \$1,250,000 to finish construction of two nominally completed high school buildings: a STEM Lab, and a multi-purpose building. This grant will also provide funding for two additional general use classrooms.

EF is assisting WHEA in relocating school operations due to significant **health and safety concerns**, including:

- a) Projected detrimental airport noise from expansion of Kona International Airport, which includes a planned military runway, and;
- b) The school's current location in the coastal tsunami inundation zone—a hazard underscored most recently by the 2011 Tohoku Quake and Tsunami in Japan.

As a public charter school, reliable state facilities funding has been inaccessible, therefore the Exploration Foundation is serving as WHEA's support 501(c)(3) to seek grants and otherwise build support to provide for relocation of school operations. EF's mission is to assist in maintaining current operations of the high-performing public education program developed since 1993, and established in 1994 at West Hawai'i Explorations Academy,

which has shown significantly positive impacts on student achievement over two decades.

Broad research from USDOE cites numerous studies showing negative impacts on student achievement commensurate with inadequate school facilities (<http://www2.ed.gov/offices/OESE/archives/inits/construction/impact2.html>). The facilities at WHEA are currently a piecemeal collection of buildings and project areas built on a Spartan budget of about \$300,000 spanning the first 15 years of the program. Even though WHEA has educated well over 2,500 students at a physical facility cost of approximately \$120 per student, its students consistently outperform statewide peers in Reading, Writing, SAT College entry scores, and college-readiness on the ACT.

With a SY2013-14 enrollment of 235 on the current 1.7 acre site, the school cannot increase capacity to serve a growing waitlist (130 in the current school year), therefore this makes relocation to the larger 4.7 acre site at NELHA Lot 12A a reasonable next step forward.

The full scope of new campus construction and relocation is projected to cost a fraction of typical new school construction. A longstanding goal of WHEA is to serve as a robust, time-tested curricular model for 21<sup>st</sup> Century schooling, including cost-efficient modeling of new design concepts for school facilities—particularly facilities related to enhancing real-world, hands-on STEM education.

In summary, the goals and objectives are threefold:

1. Health and Safety—Relocation of a public school away from impending detrimental airport noise, and out of the tsunami inundation zone;
2. Maintenance of Effort—Allow uninterrupted delivery of high performing public educational services from a desirable community resource that not only educates students from the Big Island, but also provides educational programs serving children across the entire state;
3. Enhanced Service—Continued development and improvement of school facilities based on successfully proven curricula for 21<sup>st</sup> Century schooling. WHEA's practices have already been proven effective over nearly 20 years, and facilities designed around those best practices can serve as a model for cost-efficient, highly effective public education statewide. Community demand is significant with a SY2013-14 waitlist of 130 students, in spite of the current facilities challenges.

It should be noted that this grant request is not intended to cover the full cost of relocation, but to assist in completing the first phase of the overall project.

3. The public purpose and need to be served;  
The primary purpose and need behind this request is a safe and healthy learning environment for current and future students. WHEA is a hands-on STEM education initiative, and among the state's oldest and well-established public school programs. Initiated in 1994 as an extension of the Konawaena High School Solar Car Project (1989-1993), it was co-founded by Presidential Awardee for Excellence in Mathematics and

Science Teaching, William F. “Bill” Woerner. Professor Emerita Nina Buchanan of the University of Hawai`i-Hilo is also a co-founder, along with current WHEA Co-Director Heather Nakakura.

WHEA’s model is one of Hawai`i’s most durable and widely recognized public school programs. In addition to being a nationally recognized STEM model, WHEA also serves the broader public education community via peer education, annually hosting over 1,500 visiting elementary school children from across the state through its largest student project, Aloha Kai, which was recently awarded the 2013 Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce Pualu Award for Community Education.

WHEA students are also active in the West Hawai`i community through student volunteerism and outreach projects.

4. Describe the target population to be served; and The Exploration Foundation’s target population, via WHEA’s program, includes but is not limited to:

- Students in grades 6-12 from West Hawai`i and surrounding areas. Current enrollment is 235 students, with a waitlist of 130;
- 1,500 mainly DOE elementary school children visiting annually from neighboring schools, plus those visiting Hawai`i Island from across the state;
- Community partners and mentor volunteers;
- Educators interested in WHEA’s real-world, hands-on pedagogy and methodologies.

School enrollment has grown 440% over 19 years, from 53 students in grades 10-12 (SY1994-95), to 235 students in grades 6-12 currently. During the initial phase of relocation, enrollment will grow by 25 students. WHEA’s waitlist to enroll is 130 in the current school year, with demand expected to expand further once operations relocate to the new site.

Notably, the distribution of enrollment is geographically diverse because WHEA’s hands-on STEM education serves as a magnet for students and families from across the island. It is not unusual for families from as far away as Hilo (a 200 mile, four hour ‘round-trip commute) to enroll their children.

In addition to the student body served, WHEA hosts over 1,500 visiting keiki annually via its largest project, Aloha Kai, a student led tour program where WHEA high schoolers teach science mini-lessons to visiting elementary school children. An estimated 28,000 children have participated in Aloha Kai since 1994, most of them from Oahu public schools.

Finally, it has always been WHEA’s intention to pilot and prove hands-on models for education reform, both statewide and nationally. Student projects are often community collaborations involving adult-like tasks during work with experts and mentors from various fields.

The school is featured by the George Lucas Educational Foundation's *Edutopia: Schools that Work* video series, and is a past winner of the prestigious Intel and Scholastic Schools of Distinction Award for Science Achievement. Most recently, WHEA was a featured presenter at the 2014 International School Choice and Reform Academic Conference.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

Typically, student geographic distribution is from Ocean View to Hawi, a distance of 100 miles. In some years, students enroll from as far away as Hilo, and one year, a student commuted from Oahu.

As stated above, WHEA annually serves hundreds of visiting keiki statewide through the Aloha Kai Tour Project, so WHEA's impact reaches far beyond that of a typical district school.

The campus improvements provided through this grant request are intended to enhance the community outreach and overall impact of WHEA's programs, including Aloha Kai's statewide reach. Facility improvements will enhance expansion, and enable enrollment capacity, and thereby, community reach.

## **II. Service Summary and Outcomes**

The Service Summary shall include a detailed discussion of the applicant's approach to the request. The applicant shall clearly and concisely specify the results, outcomes, and measures of effectiveness from this request. The applicant shall:

1. Describe the scope of work, tasks and responsibilities;

Scope of work directly related to this request is to finish improvements of one nominally complete high school STEM Lab, and one nominally complete multi-purpose building, and to build two additional classrooms, starting in early 2015.

The overall tasks of planning and design have already been completed, with guidance of Pa`ahana Enterprises LLC, a project management firm, and principal architect, Ferraro Choi, "green" designers of Waipahu Intermediate School's cafeteria building, and Amundsen-Scott Station at the South Pole.

Pa`ahana Enterprise's Principal, Kenneth Melrose, is the primary oversight and planner for contractors and subcontractors.

The broader objective of this request is to assist a long established public education program to relocate operations away from projected detrimental airport noise, and out of the coastal tsunami inundation zone. Overall concepts of the effort include:

- Planning and design of an innovative and cost effective public education facility to replace and better serve the core curricular functions of the current WHEA

campus (constructed piecemeal over 15 years time with mainly donated materials, through the efforts of students, teachers, parents and community volunteers;

- Launching a capital campaign seeking donations and private philanthropy;
- Participating in discussions and advocacy leading to increased support from community leaders, policymakers and government officials to improve funding opportunities.

Significant planning and design work via Ferraro Choi Architects has already been accomplished, with grading and site preparation completed by Isemoto Construction as of June 30, 2013. This work was funded by a GIA provided in 2011-12, and released in early 2013.

As of January 25, 2014, foundation slabs for three buildings have been poured and prepared for framing, so significant scope of work for the overall project has already commenced. However, the broader scope of the project is more than the building of a school, and all that implies. The full scope includes elements of community partnership, educational experimentation, research, development, and replication of best practices. The full scope, tasks and responsibilities of the broader effort have therefore been ongoing, nuanced, and of much longer duration than is usual for most state projects.

Three discreet stages are in place:

- 1) Curriculum development and program viability (1993-present), and,
- 2) Design and construction of suitably aligned facilities that can model best practices developed and proven as examples for school reinvention, commencing in 2004, with groundbreaking on February 2, 2013, and completion of 1<sup>st</sup> phase for occupancy on track for August, 2014.
- 3) Continued build-out in full as designed by Ferraro Choi Architects, with efforts to attract significant philanthropy to support dissemination and replication of Project Based best practices.

Stage 1 has been largely completed for some time now, with a high performing, innovative public charter school as the net result. Stage 2 was significantly delayed for various reasons beyond EF's control, but is now moving ahead. This grant will allow the school to transition to the purposes of Stage 3.

Team members supporting EF in the current stage of development are:

Architects: Ferraro Choi Architects

Project Manager: Pa`ahana Enterprises, LLC, Kenneth Melrose, Principal

Grading Contractor: Isemoto Construction

General Contractor: Quality Builders

The current construction stage includes a shell for a high school STEM Lab Building, nominally complete Multi-purpose Building, Amphitheater and the first two of six general use classrooms.

The grant request will support completion of the Lab and Multi-purpose buildings, and two additional classrooms. Timely completion of these will allow significant program expansion and capacity for SY2015-16, which serves as targeted, measurable outcomes.

Other future infrastructure, some of which will be incorporated into students' real-world project development, includes but is not limited to large tank displays for sharks and rays, touch tanks, fish breeding and aquaculture hatcheries, gardens, greenhouses, public display areas, food harvesting and preparation facilities, etc.

Please NOTE: The Building Program is designed such that new buildings can be erected as funding becomes available. This was built into the relocation concepts specifically because of:

1. The inherent urgency caused by the health and safety issues that are the impetus to relocate, and;
  2. The need for cost-efficient methodologies caused by unpredictable funding support from public sources, as well as private philanthropy.
2. Provide a projected annual timeline for accomplishing the results or outcomes of the service;

The planning and design phases are completed, with grading and basic infrastructure in place as of June 30, 2013. The goal is a phased build-out of a cost effective STEM campus to replace current campus infrastructure. Projected relocation timeline is as follows:

- July 15, 2014: Completion of first installment (nominal) high school buildings.
- August 1, 2014: WHEA High School program (Grades 9-12) relocate and open at new site (NELHA Lot 12A).
- September 30, 2014: Completion of first installment (nominal) middle school buildings.
- October 13, 2014: WHEA Middle School program (Grades 6-8) relocate and open at new site (NELHA Lot 12A).

*Please NOTE: This is a heavily phased build-out financed in part by a USDA Rural Development Loan. Due to the significant health and safety concerns prompting relocation of operations, and because of the general inaccessibility of facilities funding for charter schools in Hawai'i, the means of financing for the project are unusual. Planning and design phases were paid for via a combination of school level fundraising, donations, and operational savings accumulated over time. Campus design, site plans and building program are structured such that new buildings can be readily erected when funding becomes available, whether through private philanthropy, grants, or improved facilities funding policy environments. As new funding becomes available, or is provided via state budgets, new classrooms and venues will be built.*



3. Describe its quality assurance and evaluation plans for the request. Specify how the applicant plans to monitor, evaluate, and improve their results; and The Project Manager along with EF board members, monitor the progress of ongoing building activities, changes and modifications. During monthly meetings, expenditures and updates are provided. If changes or other developments arise, the PM provides updates via email and phone.

Quality assurance and evaluation are monitored by the PM and reported to EF Officers. In addition, EF's Board reports progress regularly to the WHEA Governing Board, and welcomes consultation and advice. The organizations understand their complementary roles and responsibilities. As such, substantial weight of evaluation will be placed on adherence to the timeline for opening at the new site, including contract timelines, closings, and permitting approvals. Both the EF Board and the WHEA GB monitor and expect updates on building progress, including expenditures and budgets.

Finally, due to experience working for the release of prior GIA funding, both EF and the PM understand reporting expectations for the Charter School Commission with regard to GIAs, and will duly report progress on the results of this request if granted. WHEA and EF were the first GIA released via the Charter School Administrative Office (now the Commission), and are therefore well acquainted with the process as established.

4. List the measure(s) of effectiveness that will be reported to the State agency through which grant funds are appropriated (the expending agency). The measure(s) will provide a standard and objective way for the State to assess the program's achievement or accomplishment. Please note that if the level of appropriation differs from the amount included in this application that the measure(s) of effectiveness will need to be updated and transmitted to the expending agency.

Since this request provides classroom space where previously there was none, measures of effectiveness will be aligned with notions of complete versus not complete. The prior GIA implemented by EF was primarily for grubbing and grading of Lot 12A. Since this was fairly straightforward (complete or not complete), a narrative including "before" and "after" aerial photos sufficed to show the timing and scope of work completed. Time stamps, with captions were also provided as part of the photos, as was a summary of the Lot 12A scope of work.

Measuring the effectiveness of this request will be straightforward also. The budget items and accouterments will be documented by the PM via the contracts, and a checklist generated. Photographs showing the elements and buildings will be taken, and final occupancy documents will be provided. An executive summary and full accounting will be included.

**III. Financial****Budget**

1. The applicant shall submit a budget utilizing the enclosed budget forms as applicable, to detail the cost of the request.

See Budget Sheets, Page 7, with Appendix A for more information.

2. The applicant shall provide its anticipated quarterly funding requests for the fiscal year 2015.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
\$1,000,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$0	\$1,250,000

3. The applicant shall provide a listing of all other sources of funding that they are seeking for fiscal year 2015.

The Exploration Foundation commenced a capital campaign in 2010, which includes seeking private philanthropy via naming opportunities and donations. These philanthropic efforts will continue into 2015, and with actual construction occurring, significantly increased visibility in the media, and improving policy environments for state support, EF and WHEA are now focusing on both public and private support for development of the relocation project.

- The Hawai`i Public Charter School Commission is seeking support for CIP and additional per pupil general funding on behalf of schools. WHEA has made a formal request for \$4M via the Commission's 2014 CIP submission.
- EF has begun to build an alumni data base for former students to make gifts to the new school. A planned giving program has started based on alumni.
- WHEA and EF will continue to write grants to defray program costs, thus allowing for program savings, which can then move toward financing the relocated campus to a limited extent.
- EF will continue to seek large donors seeking opportunities to support uniquely positioned and impactful public education entities, and dissemination of their best practices.

4. The applicant shall provide a listing of all state and federal tax credits it has been granted within the prior three years. Additionally, the applicant shall provide a listing of all state and federal tax credits they have applied for or anticipate applying for pertaining to any capital project, if applicable.  
Not applicable.

5. The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2013.

See Appendix B, *Balance Sheet, The Exploration Foundation*

#### **IV. Experience and Capability**

##### **A. Necessary Skills and Experience**

The applicant shall demonstrate that it has the necessary skills, abilities, knowledge of, and experience relating to the request. State your experience and appropriateness for providing the service proposed in this application. The applicant shall also provide a listing of verifiable experience of related projects or contracts for the most recent three years that are pertinent to the request.

The Exploration Foundation has been working to support WHEA for seven years. Its members are a combination of educators, community business people and parents.

Among them are:

Chair Leesa Foreman, a lifelong educator with background in all levels of education, including grades K-12 certifications in multiple subject areas, Special Education, and policy;

Vice-Chair Curtis Muraoka, a lifelong educator with experience in administration and education policy, and who also serves on the Hawai'i Public Charter School Commission;

Treasurer Melanie Gross, a member of WHEA's first graduating class, with a background in Marine Sciences and small business administration;

Secretary Yuki Agoot, a small business owner with background in Health Services.

The foundation has received, administered and reported on grants ranging from \$500 - \$1.5M dollars via varied sources including individual donors, county and state grants-in-aid, and major philanthropy like the Turner Foundation. In addition, EF provides the Governing Board of WHEA with regular updates, and collaborates on planning and implementation of the ongoing project progress.

Verifiable Experience:

- a) Hawai'i State Legislature Grant-in-Aid, 2011-2012—Implemented terms of a \$1.5M GIA released in January, 2013 for grubbing and grading of Lot 12A located at the Natural Energy Laboratory Hawai'i for the purposes of school relocation. Work commenced in March, 2013, and was completed by July, 2013. Monies were expended very quickly because work to make project shovel-ready was conducted proactively in anticipation of grant release. Contract for release, and final report are on file with the Hawai'i Public Charter School Commission.
- b) USDA Rural Development Loan, 2012-2014—Obtained \$5.5M in financing for construction of buildings and overall campus relocation.

Managed loan application process, including participation in webinar trainings, and attendance at Brustein Manasevit Federal Programs training.

## **B. Facilities**

The applicant shall provide a description of its facilities and demonstrate its adequacy in relation to the request. If facilities are not presently available, describe plans to secure facilities. The applicant shall also describe how the facilities meet ADA requirements, as applicable.

Since January 1995, school operations have occupied a site on 1.7 acres along the shoreline inside the Natural Energy Laboratory Hawai'i Authority at Keahole Point, North Kona, Island of Hawai'i, with facilities built almost exclusively by students, teachers, parents and community volunteers over the first 15 years of the program, starting in January, 1995 (the school was temporarily housed inside the NELHA compound from August – December, 1994). Proximity to Kona Airport was not a concern at that time, but as the community grew, increased demand led to plans for airport expansion. Current KOA master plans include a C-17 practice runway, and an additional commercial runway significantly closer to WHEA's current site. Military training flights have also increased significantly over the last decade.

Starting in 2004, with the urging of NELHA's then CEO, WHEA began conceptualizing relocation and a model project-based STEM focused campus on Lot 12A near the Gateway Energy Center at the top of Makako Bay Drive near Queen Kaahumanu Highway.

In 2011, the Lot 12A site was leased to WHEA and the Exploration Foundation for 30 years, and planning and design phases were completed in that same year.

A 2011 GIA was approved, and subsequently released in early 2013 for site preparation, grubbing and grading on Lot 12A, completed in July 2013.

At the end of this initial build-out, 6 of the 14 total planned buildings will be complete. This will allow WHEA to increase enrollment to 250 students.

Architecture firm Ferraro Choi designed the facilities to be fully ADA compliant. The maximum occupancy of the new site is 847, but enrollment growth will need to be staged out over the course of several years as the full build-out progresses in phases. In the context of current and historical operations, this new facility will be significantly more suitable for the purposes of public education because it was designed based on proven methodologies honed over nearly two decades.

The new site is 4.7 acres. The master plan includes two "villages" consisting of multi-use classrooms (teaching venues to be shared among staff, as opposed to traditional notions of one-to-one teachers to classroom). The outdoor project areas will be the primary mode of educational services, so classroom space will be adequate.

V. Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing

A. **Proposed Staffing, Staff Qualifications, Supervision and Training**

The applicant shall describe the proposed staffing pattern and proposed service capacity appropriate for the viability of the request. The applicant shall provide the qualifications and experience of personnel for the request and shall describe its ability to supervise, train and provide administrative direction relative to the request.

The EF Board, and particularly its Chair (Leesa Foreman) and Vice-Chair (Curtis Muraoka), have reasonable experience in grant implementation and compliance. Both are well acquainted with education policy and programs, and have held board positions in other organizations previously. Both navigated on the GIA process for EF's prior award in 2011-12, successfully gain its release, and worked to rapidly move the moneys into the construction contracts. It should be noted that there were no delays once the moneys were released, and grading was completed in four months (March to June, 2013).

The Program Manager, Kenneth Melrose, has over 30 years experience in the construction industry.

The award-winning architecture firm of Ferraro Choi is well-known for such high profile projects as Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station in Antarctica, Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology at Coconut Island, and the University of Hawai'i IT Service Center. This question relates to WHEA operations as well as the Exploration Foundation who is applying for the grant on the school's behalf.

The school program is already fully operational as a high performing public secondary school. Currently serving 235 students in grades 6-12, enrollment is projected to increase to 250 in the first year at the new site, and 285 the next. Future growth will depend on the phased build-out, with additional enrollments added as funding and capacity permit. The maximum occupancy of the site when fully built has a maximum occupancy of 847. The school's current waitlist is 130, and demand is expected to grow significantly once operations are moved to the new site.

The two school administrators (co-directors, Heather Nakakura and Curtis Muraoka) have a collective 47 years of teaching experience, with 26 of those collective years spent administering the WHEA program.

In addition, the school employs 16 FTE Teachers, with 14 who are currently highly qualified under NCLB, and the remaining two enrolled in teacher training that will lead to HQT status. The proportion of HQTs is generally above 90% of staff.

Funding received under the prior GIA (2011-12) was administered by EF with the assistance of Ken Melrose, principal of Paahana Enterprises, LLC, a project management

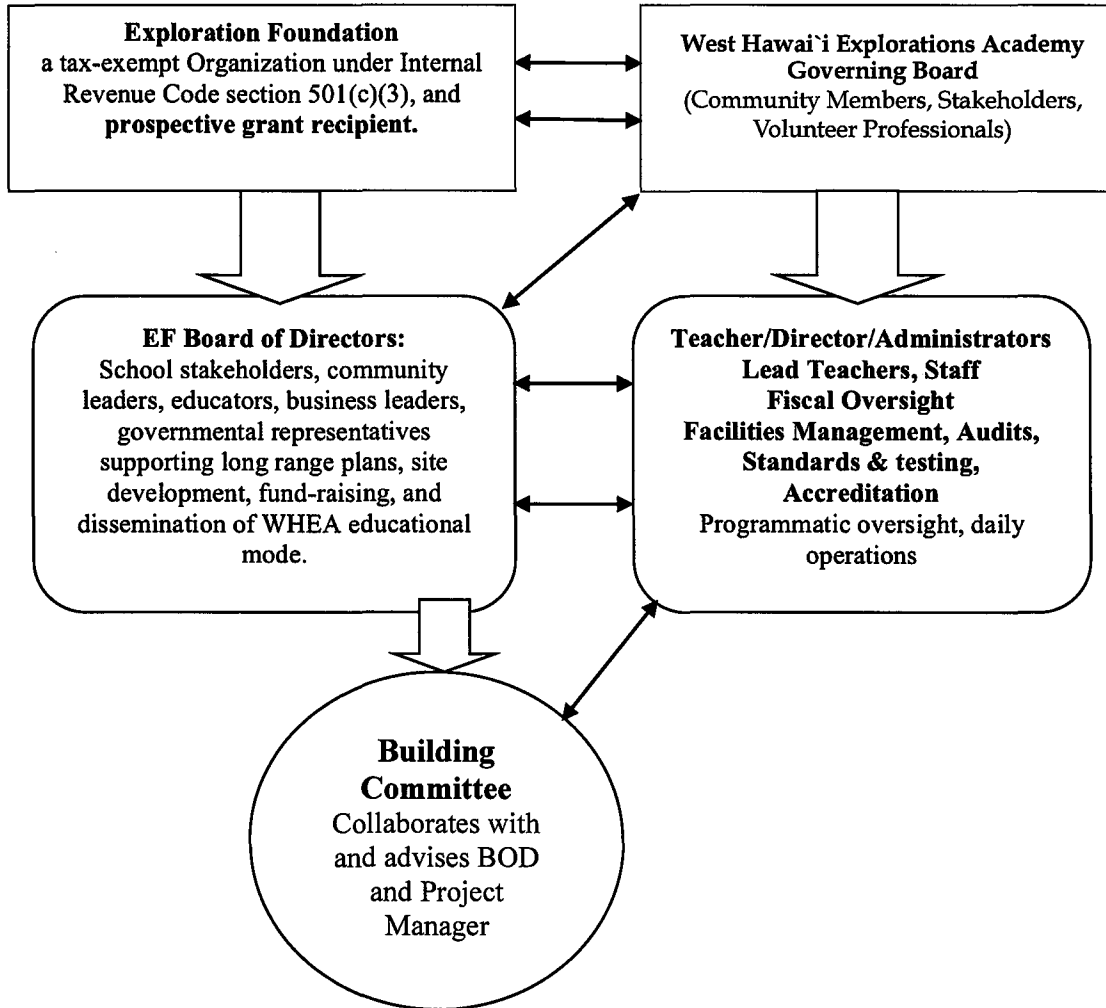
firm with 30 years construction project experience on the Big Island, including both DOE and Charter School construction projects. Pa'ahana meets regularly with EF officers, WHEA administrators, WHEA's facilities manager, and provides updates to the WHEA Governing Board.

In addition, Pa'ahana maintains a supervisory presence at the new site, and meets regularly with subcontractors, and has been providing regular updates to EF board members. The board members themselves also monitor progress by participating in builder meetings, and stopping at the site frequently.

Finally, the rigorous review of qualifying for the USDA Rural Development Loan was useful and enlightening, and added a level of oversight and supervision to the accountability processes already in place in both EF and WHEA.

**B. Organization Chart**

The applicant shall illustrate the position of each staff and line of responsibility/supervision. If the request is part of a large, multi-purpose organization, include an organizational chart that illustrates the placement of this request.



**C. Compensation**

The applicant shall provide the annual salaries paid by the applicant to the three highest paid officers, directors, or employees of the organization by position. The Exploration Foundation officers are not compensated, and work on behalf of the foundation is voluntary.

## **VI. Other**

### **A. Litigation**

The applicant shall disclose any pending litigation to which they are a party, including the disclosure of any outstanding judgement. If applicable, please explain.

None.

### **B. Licensure or Accreditation**

The applicant shall specify any special qualifications, including but not limited to licensure or accreditation that applicant possesses relevant to this request.

The Exploration Foundation, established in 2007, is a duly constituted non-profit 501(c)(3) supporting West Hawai'i Explorations Academy (WHEA), a high performing public school serving grades 6 -12, located at the Natural Energy Laboratory Hawai'i, a state facility.

WHEA is Hawai'i's first "start-up" charter school to be fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC, 2002), and has held a public charter to operate since May 4, 2000—the first charter high school to open in Hawaii. WHEA is a nationally recognized, award-winning model for school innovation and reform via hands-on STEM education. WHEA's founders and co-directors have published papers relating to positive impacts of real-world, hands-on Project Based Learning.



Appendix A: Campus Relocation Classroom Construction, and Finish  
WHEA 2014 Grant in Aid request

Budget

1/13/14

**Indirect Costs:**

Ferraro Choi CA	40,000	
Paahana PM	40,000	
Survey	5,000	
Special Inspections	5,000	
Legal & Accounting	5,000	
Permits/misc	5,000	
		100,000

**Direct Costs:**

Complete Multi-Purpose building- P03	200,000	
Fit out FF&E HS Science lab- H03	100,000	
HS Classroom-H02	375,000	
MS Classroom- in place of portable M05	375,000	
		1,050,000
Contingency		100,000
<b>Total Grant in Aid budget</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,250,000</b>

NOTE: Work is in progress financed in part by a USDA Rural Development Loan. The Exploration Foundation is acting as agent on behalf of West Hawaii Explorations Academy. The work continues atop grading work financed by a 2011-12 GIA, also received by the Exploration Foundation.

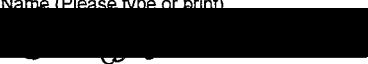
The Explorations Foundation  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of January 27, 2014

01/27/14

	<u>Jan ...</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Bank Accounts	
#9386 - BOH Operating	6,963
Total Bank Accounts	<u>6,963</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>6,963</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>6,963</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>6,963</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Temp Restricted Net Assets	17,318
Total Equity	<u>17,318</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>17,318</u></u>

**BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS**  
(Period: July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015)

Applicant: The Exploration Foundation

<b>BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>Total State Funds Requested (a)</b>	<b>(b)</b>	<b>(c)</b>	<b>(d)</b>
<b>A. PERSONNEL COST</b>				
1. Salaries	n/a			
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	n/a			
3. Fringe Benefits	n/a			
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL COST</b>	<b>n/a</b>			
<b>B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES</b>				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island	n/a			
2. Insurance	n/a			
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment	n/a			
4. Lease/Rental of Space	n/a			
5. Staff Training	n/a			
6. Supplies	n/a			
7. Telecommunication	n/a			
8. Utilities	n/a			
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
<b>TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES</b>	<b>n/a</b>			
<b>C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES</b>	<b>n/a</b>			
<b>D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES</b>	<b>n/a</b>			
<b>E. CAPITAL</b>	<b>\$1,250,000</b>			
<b>TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)</b>	<b>\$1,250,000</b>			
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDING</b>		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	\$1,250,000	Curtis Muraoka	808.987.2522	Phone
(b)			1/28/2014	Date
(c)		Signature of Authorized Official		
(d)		Curtis Muraoka, Vice-Chair		
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$1,250,000</b>	Name and Title (Please type or print)		

## BUDGET JUSTIFICATION PERSONNEL - SALARIES AND WAGES

Applicant: Not Applicable  
The Exploration Foundation

Period: July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

POSITION TITLE	FULL TIME EQUIVALENT	ANNUAL SALARY A	% OF TIME ALLOCATED TO GRANT REQUEST B	TOTAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED (A x B)
n/a				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
<b>TOTAL:</b>				
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:				

## BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Not Applicable

Applicant: The Exploration Foundation

Period: July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST
n/a			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
<b>TOTAL:</b>			\$ -

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	NO. OF VEHICLES	COST PER VEHICLE	TOTAL COST
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
<b>TOTAL:</b>			\$ -

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

**BUDGET JUSTIFICATION  
CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS**

Applicant: The Exploration Foundation

Period: July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

**FUNDING AMOUNT REQUESTED**

TOTAL PROJECT COST	ALL SOURCES OF FUNDS RECEIVED IN PRIOR YEARS		STATE FUNDS REQUESTED	OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS REQUESTED	FUNDING REQUIRED IN SUCCEEDING YEARS	
	FY: 2012-2013	FY: 2013-2014	FY:2014-2015	FY:2014-2015	FY:2015-2016	FY:2016-2017
PLANS						
LAND ACQUISITION						
DESIGN						
CONSTRUCTION		\$1,500,000	\$1,250,000			
EQUIPMENT						
<b>TOTAL:</b>			\$1,250,000			

**JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:** Requesting grant assistance in relocating school operations away from projected increases in airport noise, and also to move school operations to higher ground beyond the tsunami inundation zone.

**DECLARATION STATEMENT OF  
APPLICANTS FOR GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES PURSUANT TO  
CHAPTER 42F, HAWAII REVISIED STATUTES**

The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies the following:


- 1) The applicant meets and will comply with all of the following standards for the award of grants and subsidies pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes:
  - a) Is licensed or accredited, in accordance with federal, state, or county statutes, rules, or ordinances, to conduct the activities or provide the services for which a grant or subsidy is awarded;
  - b) Complies with all applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, or disability;
  - c) Agrees not to use state funds for entertainment or lobbying activities; and
  - d) Allows the state agency to which funds for the grant or subsidy were appropriated for expenditure, legislative committees and their staff, and the auditor full access to their records, reports, files, and other related documents and information for purposes of monitoring, measuring the effectiveness, and ensuring the proper expenditure of the grant or subsidy.
- 2) The applicant meets the following requirements pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes:
  - a) Is incorporated under the laws of the State; and
  - b) Has bylaws or policies that describe the manner in which the activities or services for which a grant or subsidy is awarded shall be conducted or provided.
- 3) If the applicant is a non-profit organization, it meets the following requirements pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes:
  - a) Is determined and designated to be a non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service; and
  - b) Has a governing board whose members have no material conflict of interest and serve without compensation.

Pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for grants or subsidies used for the acquisition of land, when the organization discontinues the activities or services on the land acquired for which the grant or subsidy was awarded and disposes of the land in fee simple or by lease, the organization shall negotiate with the expending agency for a lump sum or installment repayment to the State of the amount of the grant or subsidy used for the acquisition of the land.

Further, the undersigned authorized representative certifies that this statement is true and correct to the best of the applicant's knowledge.

The Exploration Foundation

(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)

  
(Signature)

1/20/2014  
(Date)

Curtis Muraoka, Vice-Chair

(Typed Name)

(Title)