

Applicant First United Methodist Church of Honolulu / The Legal Clinic

Application Submittal Checklist

The following items are required for submittal of the grant application. Please verify and check off that the items have been included in the application packet.

- 1) Certificate of Good Standing (If the Applicant is an Organization)
- 2) Declaration Statement
- 3) Verify that grant shall be used for a public purpose
- 4) Background and Summary
- 5) Service Summary and Outcomes
- 6) Budget
 - a. Budget request by source of funds ([Link](#))
 - b. Personnel salaries and wages ([Link](#))
 - c. Equipment and motor vehicles ([Link](#))
 - d. Capital project details ([Link](#))
 - e. Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid ([Link](#))
- 7) Experience and Capability
- 8) Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing



AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

Rev. Tom Choi, Senior Pastor

PRINT NAME AND TITLE

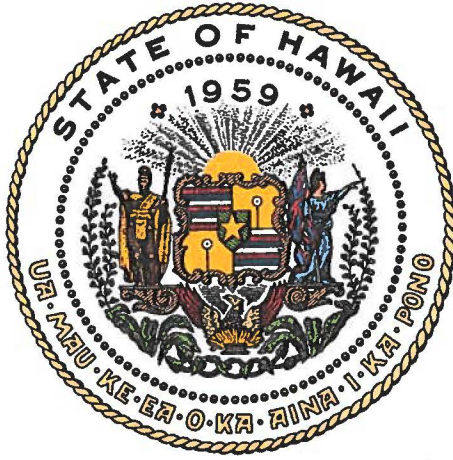
1-17-2019

DATE

The Legal Clinic (TLC) was founded in 2017 with a mission to make hope, dignity and justice available to vulnerable immigrants in Hawai'i, through quality immigration legal services and community education. TLC has filed for 501c3 status with the IRS, and is currently fiscally-sponsored by First United Methodist Church of Honolulu. TLC provides free or affordable immigration legal services to low-income immigrants in Hawai'i; organizes clinics and workshops on immigrant rights, needs, and pathways to citizenship; and works to raise public awareness of the immigrant experience and immigrant contributions.

There is a growing immigration policy crisis in the United States, with a backlog of 700,000 immigration court cases and families enduring long periods of separation. Most claimants cannot afford a lawyer or translation services to pursue a legal path to citizenship, despite the fact that having legal counsel would greatly increase their chances of success. While Hawai'i has been on the forefront of advocating for just policies, there is a critical service gap for an estimated 46,000 immigrants at-risk in our state. There are few immigration lawyers in Hawai'i, and all carry heavy caseloads. Existing services, such as Legal Aid, are doing tremendous work, but are precluded by law from offering services to undocumented immigrants due to federal funding restrictions. The Legal Clinic fills a critical void in Hawai'i, offering affordable high-quality legal assistance to—among others—those who were brought to the US as children without legal papers, to imported farm laborers abandoned by their unscrupulous employers, and to asylum seekers fleeing persecution and torture in their home countries.

Currently TLC is volunteer-run, but in spring 2019 TLC will be opening an office and hiring its first staff members. A State GIA award in the amount of \$150,000 would enable TLC to hire administrative support for the staff attorney and director, engage law students from the UH William S. Richardson School of Law and others in immigration rights work, provide funding to develop communications and marketing strategy and materials, and help cover the cost of other important capacity-building efforts such as volunteer and staff training, database development, and fundraising efforts (for long-term sustainability). During the grant period, TLC will provide 500+ hours of expert immigration legal services and representation for at least 50 eligible, low-income immigrants applying for US Green Card or citizenship; and will organize at least five public immigration-related events (workshops, clinics, trainings) to a combined total of 150 members of the public.



Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

I, the undersigned Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs of the State of Hawaii, do hereby certify that

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

was incorporated under the laws of Hawaii on 06/04/1895 ; that it is an existing nonprofit corporation; and that, as far as the records of this Department reveal, has complied with all of the provisions of the Hawaii Nonprofit Corporations Act, regulating domestic nonprofit corporations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, at Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dated: January 11, 2019

Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs



**DECLARATION STATEMENT OF
APPLICANTS FOR GRANTS 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 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 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 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.
- 2) If the applicant is an organization, 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 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 used for the acquisition of land, when the organization discontinues the activities or services on the land acquired for which the grant 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 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.

First United Methodist Church of Honolulu
(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)

Tom Choi
(Signature)

1-17-2019
(Date)

Rev. Tom Choi
(Typed Name)

Senior Pastor
(Title)

Use of Funds for Public Purpose

If awarded a grant from the State of Hawai'i, First United Methodist Church and The Legal Clinic will use the grant funds only for public purpose, pursuant to Section 42F-102 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

(1) The name of the requesting organization or individual:

The Legal Clinic, a fiscally sponsored project of First United Methodist Church (First UMC)
(The Legal Clinic has filed for independent 501c3 status with the IRS, but is currently
fiscally-sponsored by First UMC.)

(2) The public purpose for the grant:

To make hope, dignity and justice available to vulnerable immigrants in Hawai'i, through quality immigration legal services and community education. TLC provides free or affordable immigration legal services to low-income immigrants in Hawai'i; organizes clinics and workshops on immigrant rights, needs, and pathways to citizenship; and works to raise public awareness of the immigrant experience and immigrant contributions.

(3) The services to be supported by the grant:

First UMC through its project The Legal Clinic, would provide 500+ hours of expert immigration legal services and representation to at least 50 eligible, low-income immigrants applying for US Green Card or citizenship; and will organize at least five public immigration-related events (workshops, clinics, trainings) to a combined total of 150 members of the public. This award would also allow the organization to engage law students from the UH William S. Richardson School of Law and others in providing services to immigrants; to develop a communications and marketing strategy and related materials; and help cover the cost of other important capacity-building efforts such as volunteer and staff training, administrative staff support, database development, and fundraising efforts (for long-term sustainability).

(4) The target group:

Low-income immigrants in the state of Hawai'i (legal service recipients) and members of the public (through educational outreach)

(5) The cost of the grant and the budget.

\$145,000 – please see budget attached to application

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

First United Methodist Church of Honolulu / The Legal Clinic

(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)



(Signature)

1-17-2019

(Date)

Rev. Tom Choi

(Typed Name)

Senior Pastor

(Title)

Application for Grants

II. Background and Summary

In May 2017, in the wake of increasingly divisive national immigration discussions and policies, a group of individuals in Honolulu with strong ties to the community and to faith-based institutions, began meeting to determine how best to protect and ensure the human rights and dignity of immigrants in Hawai'i. The group established The Legal Clinic (TLC) as a fiscally-sponsored project of the First United Methodist Church of Honolulu (First UMC), with the mission to make hope, dignity and justice available to vulnerable immigrants through quality legal services and community education.

- TLC has filed for independent 501c3 IRS charitable organization status (Nov 2018). While the application is pending, TLC continues to operate under First UMC fiscal sponsorship.
- TLC is not a faith-based organization. It is overseen by a board of directors made up of members from diverse faiths and secular backgrounds. One founder now serves as the Director of the University of Hawai'i Manoa's Refugee and Immigration Law Clinic.
- TLC is an affiliate of "National Justice for Our Neighbors" (NJFON), a national network of immigration law clinics serving low-income immigrants across the US.

1. Goals & Objectives

TLC will assist residents in navigating a legal path to citizenship, provide public education, and advocate for fair policies. The goals and objectives related to this request are:

- a) To provide low-cost or no-cost legal representation for low-income immigrants in Hawai'i, particularly for immigration-related cases.
 - Staff the new TLC office with an immigration attorney who can represent eligible individuals and families, and bring their cases to federal immigration courts.
 - Recruit interns, volunteers, and pro-bono lawyers to assist with providing legal services, screening, and referrals.
 - At least 50 individuals will receive expert legal counsel and/or assistance in applying for a US Green Card or naturalized citizenship.
- b) To help vulnerable immigrants in Hawai'i understand their legal and civil rights, and the pathways to obtaining legal permanent residency or citizenship.
 - Develop a communications strategy and materials to reach low-income immigrants in Honolulu and across O'ahu, who may be afraid to come forward.
 - Organize at least three immigration clinics, and/or similar events on O'ahu with service-providers and at least one lawyer on hand.
 - Provide immigrants with access to lawyers and volunteer advisors year-round.
- c) To raise public awareness of the needs, challenges, culture, experience and contributions of immigrants; and of regional and national immigrant justice matters.

Nationwide, there is a backlog of 700,000 people awaiting immigration court proceedings. Most cannot afford legal assistance, though their claims are likely to be denied without it. In 2016, 90% of those who were denied asylum had no legal representation, vs 48 % denied with legal counsel (Center for American Progress). In 2017, the Immigration Court in Honolulu completed 241 immigration cases with 83 resulting in removal or voluntary departure. Only 37% of all respondents had legal counsel.

TLC will fill a critical void in Hawai'i, and is committed to serving immigrants regardless of their ability to pay, immigrant status, religion, nationality or language.

3. *Target Population to Be Served*

TLC's focus is on helping immigrants in Hawai'i who have a legal right to relief and also those with the most urgent needs—those facing deportation, seeking family reunification, applying for asylum from persecution in their countries of origin, and DACA cases (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—aka “Dreamers”—those who were brought to the US as children and whose parents did not have adequate paperwork. Most of TLC's legal services clients will qualify as low-income (at or less than 200% of federal poverty levels). Many will not be very proficient in the English language. TLC may use additional guidelines to prioritize clients, or when unusual circumstances warrant.

TLC will do outreach to a wide range of communities and ethnic groups across the island of O'ahu initially, and in later years, also on neighbor islands. A large sector of the First United Methodist Church community, where TLC's office will be housed, are residents of Tongan origin. Two of TLC's board members are leaders of the largest Muslim community in Hawai'i, and will reach out to their diverse constituents. Additionally, TLC's board members have deep roots in Oahu's Filipino, Chinese, and Korean communities. TLC is very keen to engage a younger generation of O'ahu residents as well, and will work closely with law students and others at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and perhaps other university sites to promote immigration justice and TLC's legal services.

4. *Geographic Coverage*

The education and legal services offered by The Legal Clinic will be extended to any eligible residents of O'ahu and possibly of neighbor islands as well in this first year of service. Eventually, TLC plans to partner with nonprofits on neighbor islands to be able to offer similar services statewide. TLC staff will pay particular attention to sectors and neighborhoods with a high percentage of non-English speaking populations. A 2016 Hawai'i State report found that speakers of a non-English language typically earn 10% to 34% less than English-only speakers for all proficiency levels. 28% of the state's non-English language speakers are in Honolulu County. In Waipahu (district 8), nearly half (49%) of the population age 5 and older speaks a language other than English at home, and 31% speak English “less than very well.” In Urban Honolulu, over one third (37%) of the age 5+ population speaks a non-English language at home, and 21% speak English “less than very well.” (Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, April 2016)

July 2019:

- TLC will have hired the staff attorney and a part-time program coordinator
- Finalize TLC operating policies and procedures
- Draft an events calendar
- Engage community partners and volunteers in planning for a fall immigration clinic
- Plan for individual donor cultivation
- Media outreach to promote immigration clinic

August to September 2019:

- Host an immigration clinic in collaboration with community partners (service providers). Recruit and train volunteers in advance, procure snacks/drinks, and arrange for language interpreters and childcare if needed. Schedule debriefing sessions afterwards.
- Develop donor and contact database
- Develop volunteer and internship program/positions, and begin recruiting
- Create communications strategy/plan and educational/outreach materials
- Begin social media posting and other media engagement
- Fundraising activities: grant writing, individual donor outreach

October to November 2019:

- Media outreach to promote upcoming events
- UH student engagement
- Host an educational/public event on immigration matters
- Fundraising: individual donor event, plan Giving Tuesday, direct mail piece, grant writing
- Continued volunteer management and communications activities

December 2019 to January 2020:

- Volunteer surveys and volunteer recognition event
- Individual donor fundraising- Giving Tuesday, acknowledgements
- Plan for spring immigration clinic, promotional media outreach
- Host an educational/public event on immigration matters
- Compile survey/evaluation data to date

February to May 2020:

- Staff and/or board meeting/retreat to review evaluation data/feedback and explore improvements to existing services.
- Second immigration clinic, and debriefing/evaluation session following
- Plan for third (summer) immigration clinic
- Host an educational/public event on immigration matters
- Meetings with UH Manoa's William S. Richardson School of Law to explore joint volunteer and service provider trainings, and to further develop the internship program
- Fundraising: individual donor outreach, grant writing/reporting
- Continued volunteer management and communications activities

June 2020:

- Third immigration clinic, and debriefing/evaluation session following

- b) TLC will have developed a written communications plan and related outreach materials by end of the grant period.
- c) TLC financial reports will show at least \$4,000 in new individual donor contributions and \$15,000 in new grant funding by the end of the grant period. A donor tracking system/database will also have been put in place.

IV. Financial

Budget

See budget forms attached.

- a) Budget request by source of funds
- b) Personnel salaries and wages
- c) Equipment and motor vehicles - **not applicable**
- d) Capital project details – **not applicable**
- e) Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid – **not applicable**

1. Anticipated quarterly funding requests for the fiscal year 2020.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
\$43,600	\$42,200	\$32,700	\$26,500	\$145,000

2. Other sources of funding that The Legal Clinic (First UMC) is seeking for fiscal year 2020:

- City & County of Honolulu Grant in Aid: \$93,750 (requested)
- Other Foundations (to raise): \$15,000
- Individual Donations: \$8,000 (to raise)

Already secured or pledged (included in cover page “Other Funds Available” figure):

- Hawaii Justice Foundation: \$30,000 (secured for July-Dec 2019)
- National Justice for Our Neighbors matching funds: \$10,000 (pledged)
- Atherton Foundation: \$25,000 (pledged)

3. List all state and federal tax credits granted within the prior three years, and any state and federal tax credits organization anticipates/is applying for pertaining to any capital project.

None – N/A

5. A listing of all federal, state, and county government contracts, grants, and grants in aid granted within the prior 3 years and receiving for fiscal year 2020 for program funding.

Neither First United Methodist Church nor The Legal Clinic have received any federal, state or county government contracts, grants, or grants in aid. The Legal Clinic recently applied for a City & County of Honolulu Grant in Aid for the City & County’s fiscal year (October 2019 to September 2020), but will not receive a funding decision prior to July 2019.

6. The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of Dec. 31, 2018.

Community Center, Unite Here Local 5, Catholic Charities, and lawyers and law students volunteered time to help make it a successful event. Twelve participants successfully filed applications for citizenship, with another two pending, and some completed fee waiver requests. Terrina Wong, a Pacific Gateway Center staffer wrote: "What a great day! I was so proud to be a part of this day representing PGC!"

2. Facilities

The Legal Clinic will be operating out of an office space in the First United Methodist Church, at 1253 S. Beretania St. in Honolulu. It is very centrally located, across the street from the Honolulu Museum of Art, two blocks from Blaisdell Center, and easily accessible by car, public transit and on foot. The church is leasing the space to TLC for \$1/year for at least the first two years. An anonymous donor has contributed funds to renovate the one-room space so that there is a separate office for the attorney to hold confidential client meetings and store files securely. The renovation should be complete by April 2019 or sooner. TLC plans to hold legal clinics and immigration workshops in other borrowed spaces -such as in community centers, schools, and at other churches- in order to be accessible to residents across O'ahu and eventually also on neighbor islands.

VI. Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing

1. Proposed Staffing, Staff Qualifications, Supervision and Training

The Legal Clinic's staff will initially be composed of an executive director, a staff attorney specializing in immigration cases, and a part-time program coordinator. TLC retains a contracted bookkeeper (Paul Harleman, Precision Accounting Hawaii) who handles the accounting and provides compliance support.

First UMC provides fiscal oversight and free office space. The senior pastor of First UMC stays informed of TLC's operations and financial obligations, while his assistant, office manager, and pastoral intern provide administrative support as needed to the TLC project.

TLC has recently hired its first executive director—Bettina Mok (MA, International Administration)—who has worked in nonprofit management for 20 years, including two years as program director of a Hawaii-based non-profit organization, and the last year as an independent consultant to other nonprofit directors. She has significant experience and training in fundraising, employee supervision, volunteer and board recruitment and management, event coordination, program development and non-profit administration. She has been serving in the role of capacity-building consultant to TLC's board of directors since October 2018. In her role as executive director, Bettina will be tasked with day-to-day administration and management of TLC, as well as some direct service work, public outreach, event management, fundraising and communications.

TLC plans to hire the staff attorney and a part-time program coordinator by June 2019. The attorney will be responsible for direct legal services to clients, and legal education and training for staff, volunteers and the public. The attorney will represent clients in immigration court, and therefore will be licensed to practice law in the state of Hawai'i, and accredited to appear

- They may also be required to be accredited by the US Department of Justice, in order to represent cases and clients before the US Citizenship and Immigration Service, and the Executive Office for Immigration Review (US Department of Justice).

3. Private Educational Institutions

This award/grant would not support a private educational institution (neither sectarian or non-sectarian) – as referenced in [Article X, Section 1, of the State Constitution](#).

4. Future Sustainability Plan

Provide a plan for sustaining after fiscal year 2019-20 the activity funded by the grant if the grant of this application is: (a) received by the applicant for fiscal year 2019-20, but (b) not received by the applicant thereafter.

- TLC has an active and experienced fundraising committee, spearheaded by board member Amy Agbayani, who has vast experience generating support for grassroots causes in Hawai'i. The committee will work with the Executive Director to pursue an array of fundraising opportunities, from private foundation grants, to individual donor contributions, as well as government funding.
- TLC will also consider requesting fees from clients, depending on the type of legal services are needed, while still keeping services affordable to TLC's target populations.
- TLC is fortunate to be able to rely on the guidance and resources of the National Justice for Our Neighbors Network, which offers free consultation and training from a professional fundraiser and from an immigration lawyer.
- TLC also benefits greatly from the generous support of the First United Methodist Church of Honolulu, which is providing donated office space for TLC (at \$1/year lease).
- In 2019, TLC is planning to host several events, to raise community awareness of our services and to attract the attention of prospective donors.
- Lastly, TLC plans to continue strengthening its community partnerships with other immigrant-serving organizations, and with students and faculty at the Refugee and Immigration Clinic at the University of Hawai'i Manoa William S. Richardson School of Law.

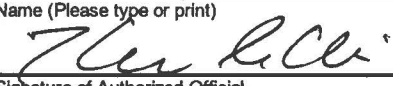
*On behalf of The Legal Clinic, its board of directors, and the First United Methodist Church,
thank you for considering this request, and for the opportunity to apply.*

Mahalo nui loa!

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

Applicant: First United Methodist Church/ The Legal Clinic

BUDGET CATEGORIES	Total State Funds Requested (a)	Total Federal Funds Requested (b)	Total County Funds Requested (c)	Total Private/Other Funds Requested (d)
A. PERSONNEL COST				
1. Salaries	97,585	0	69,317	31,800
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	9,800	0	6,966	3,180
3. Fringe Benefits	17,615	0	9,089	4,450
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	125,000		85,372	39,430
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island				0
2. Insurance			450	150
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment				
4. Lease/Rental of Space			1,928	24,880
5. Staff Training				6,480
6. Supplies	3,000			5,600
7. Telecommunication	7,000			750
8. Utilities	2,000			1,000
9 Contractor/Consultant Fees	5,000		2,700	10,800
10 Case Fees (programmatic)				3,500
11 Indirect- financial review; fundraising, etc.			3,300	5,200
12 Travel - Mileage, Other				3,430
13 Marketing / Design / Promotion	2,000			
14 Publications & Memberships	0			0
15 Printing, Copying, Postage/Shipping	1,000			800
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	20,000		8,378	62,590
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	0	0	0	0
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES	0	0	0	0
E. CAPITAL	0	0	0	0
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	145,000		93,750	102,020
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	145,000	Bettina Mok 808-777-7071		
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested	0	Name (Please type or print) Phone		
(c) Total County Funds Requested	93,750			
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	102,020	Signature of Authorized Official Date		
TOTAL BUDGET	340,770	Rev. Tom Choi, Senior Pastor		
		Name and Title (Please type or print)		

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

Applicant: First UMC/ The Legal Clinic

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
N/A			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				0

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	NO. OF VEHICLES	COST PER VEHICLE	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
N/A			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				0

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

Applicant: First United Methodist Church/ The

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: 2017-2018	FY: 2018-2019	FY:2019-2020	FY:2019-2020	FY:2020-2021	FY:2021-2022
PLANS	0	0	0	0		
LAND ACQUISITION	0	0	0	0		
DESIGN	0	42000	0	0		
CONSTRUCTION	0	0	0	0		
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0		
TOTAL:	0	42000	0	0		
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:						
We are not requesting capital funds from the State at this time. An individual donor is funding the cost of our office renovation.						

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

Applicant: First United Methodist Church / The Legal Clinic

Contracts Total: 0

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	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S. / State / Haw / Hon / Kau / Mau)	CONTRACT VALUE
1	N/A				
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Re: The Legal Clinic's GIA 2020 Proposal

Dear Chair and Members of the GIA Commission:

My name is John Robert Egan and I am an immigration lawyer, and have recently been appointed Director of the new Refugee & Immigration Law Clinic at the Wm. S. Richardson School of Law here in Honolulu. I am writing in support of the 2020 Grant in Aid application for The Legal Clinic, TLC, and I want to disclose that I serve on that organization's Advisory Board.

TLC is an affiliate of the Justice For Our Neighbors network of immigration services organizations nationwide, of which there are now twenty. These organizations are providing good quality legal services to underserved immigrant communities, mostly for free and sometimes at sliding scale rates. Without services of this type many immigrants are left to face their legal issues on their own, *pro se*.

Although there are some existing organizations serving immigrants here in Hawaii, there is a distinct gap in representation in Immigration Court, as well as in services for the "employed poor" who, despite their difficult financial situation, may fail to meet agency guidelines. Our local non-profit immigrant services community has a history of doing its best to provide support to this community, but the gaps have persisted, and these have been exacerbated by the current anti-immigration policies emerging at the national level.

Studies have shown that the lack of low-cost representation for immigrants in legal proceedings has a pronounced negative impact on case outcomes. In some situations, having a lawyer improves outcomes by 2 to 3 times, and since there is no right to counsel in civil immigration proceedings, establishing a community-based organization (CBO) with no- and low-cost representation as a central part of its mission will have a real and positive effect. TLC will be filling a gap in the network of providers with a needed service.

I foresee positive opportunities for capacity-building collaborations connecting TLC with existing CBOs and our Law School Clinic, linking the education and training function with legal services and social support that will bring significant benefit to our immigrant community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Robert Egan', written over a circular stamp or seal.

John Robert Egan

2515 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
www.law.hawaii.edu

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution



*An Affiliate of
National Justice
for Our*

January 10, 2019

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ADVISORY BOARD

*Pastor Tom Choi,
First United Methodist
Church*

*John Egan,
Immigration Attorney*

Dear Members of the House Committee on Finance and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I am an emeritus University of Hawai'i Manoa Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Diversity, civil rights advocate, and immigrant from the Philippines. I am also a member of the board of The Legal Clinic, on behalf of which I am submitting this letter of support.

The Legal Clinic was founded in 2017 to provide free and low-cost legal immigration legal services to vulnerable Hawai'i residents, to educate the public on immigration matters and the immigrant experience, and to advocate for fair immigration policies. One in five workers in Hawai'i are immigrants, and one in four self-employed business owners in the state are immigrants. All told, they contribute over \$668 million dollars in state and local taxes, and generate \$385 million in revenues. Despite their many valuable contributions to our Aloha State, immigrants with few financial resources often struggle against a national upswell of dehumanizing, anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies.

There is a growing immigration policy crisis in the United States, with a backlog of 700,000 immigration court cases and families enduring long periods of separation. Most claimants cannot afford a lawyer or translation services to pursue a legal path to citizenship, despite the fact that having legal counsel would greatly increase their chances of success. While Hawai'i has been on the forefront of advocating for just policies, there is a critical service gap for an estimated 46,000 immigrants at-risk in our state. There are few immigration lawyers in Hawai'i, and all carry heavy caseloads. Existing services, such as Legal Aid, are doing tremendous work, but are precluded by law from offering services to undocumented immigrants due to federal funding restrictions.

The Legal Clinic fills a critical void in Hawai'i, offering affordable high-quality legal assistance to—among others—those who were brought to the US as children without legal papers, to imported farm laborers abandoned by their unscrupulous employers, and to asylum seekers fleeing persecution and torture in their home countries. In 2019, with support from GIA, The Legal Clinic will also organize at least five public immigration-related events to educate, equip, inform, and engage 200 members of the public in immigration matters.

Please support the important efforts of The Legal Clinic. GIA support is critical in this start-up phase. We are committed to raising funds from diversified sources, so that we are not reliant on GIA as a primary funder over the long-term.

Sincerely Yours,

Amy Agbayani, PhD
amy_agbayani@yahoo.com

TO: Grants in Aid Advisory Commission
RE: The Legal Clinic (TLC): A GIA 2020 Proposal

Dear Members of the Commission:

As a former immigration attorney with more than thirty years of experience and knowledge of the legal needs of immigrants in Hawaii, I sincerely appreciate this opportunity to write in support of **The Legal Clinic (TLC)**, an Applicant seeking funding from the Grants In Aid Program.

I am a founding member of TLC and have served on its Board of Directors for more than a year. In late spring of 2017 I was part of a group made up of twelve community social advocates, lawyers, social workers, and representatives from Hawaii's faith-based community. We came together to discuss our grave concerns about the immigration crisis in the United States, and particularly, in Hawaii. Uppermost was our awareness of the lack of services in our community to help poor immigrants in need of advice and information and legal counsel.

We learned that undocumented immigrants were especially at risk — families with children, young adults who had legally entered the U.S. as babies or young children but their parents overstayed their visitor status, sexually abused victims, imported farm laborers abandoned by their unscrupulous employers, and asylum seekers fleeing persecution and torture in their home countries. **Existing immigrant legal services, such as Legal Aid, are precluded by law from helping these immigrants.** In Hawaii it was estimated that more than 40,000 immigrants need access to legal services.

The Legal Clinic was created to respond to this need. Our Mission is "to provide caring, compassionate, and highly skilled legal services to immigrants regardless of their ability to pay." We have filed for 501(c)(3) status, joined forces with a national group — Justice For Our Neighbors, to obtain start-up aid and training, participated in outreach programs to inform the public about immigration issues, started a campaign for funding, and submitted plans that await City approval for renovation of office space donated by First United Methodist Church whose pastor and congregation support TLC's Mission. Our doors will open early in 2019. Already, the public is inquiring about our services. And volunteers are eager to work with TLC.

For the past year it has been my joy to work with the dedicated and committed supporters of TLC who have worked tirelessly to establish a clinic to help immigrants through education and advocacy. **We need financial help.**

Thank you for allowing me to express my passionate support for TLC! As a retired lawyer, I continue to believe we must work tirelessly to help those living marginalized lives to find access to justice through education, advice, and legal representation.

Sincerely,

Esther Kwon Arinaga
1434 Punahou Street, Apt. 701
Honolulu, HI 96822
(808) 591-6662

Hawai'i Immigrants Seek Legal Help to Secure U.S. Citizenship

By **KU'UWEHI HIRAISHI** · OCT 8, 2018 – HAWAII PUBLIC RADIO



58-year-old Patricia Wilson held a green card for nearly four decades. She poses here after completing nearly four hours of paperwork necessary to become a U.S. Citizen.
CREDIT KU'UWEHI HIRAISHI

More than 50,000 immigrants in Hawai'i are eligible to become American citizens but have not yet applied. That's according to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Agency. But the current political climate may be compelling more of them to take on the costly and lengthy task of becoming a citizen. And now, HPR's Ku'uwehi Hiraishi reports, they've got a little help.

For nearly four decades, Patricia Wilson was perfectly content carrying a green card that allowed her to live and work legally in Hawai'i. The 58-year-old immigrated from Tahiti in the early 1980s. But this past Saturday she took her next step toward U.S. Citizenship.

"Because I've been living here long enough to realize that we're lucky to enjoy the freedom that we have here," says Wilson. Freedom that she wants to secure by becoming a

citizen. Wilson was one of 20 Hawai'i immigrants who applied to become U.S. Citizens at a legal clinic held at the First United Methodist Church in Honolulu. Volunteers reviewed piles of documents and completed copious amounts of paperwork. Immigration lawyer John Egan spent his morning there. He oversees the Refugee and Immigration Law Clinic at the William S. Richardson School of Law.

"It's getting kind of hard out there for immigrants and it's definitely in their best interest to get citizenship as soon as they can," says Egan, "It allows them to take all sorts of benefits that wouldn't be available to them. For example, they're eligible to vote. They're eligible to get other sort of public benefits. They can sponsor relatives if they choose to. And you can't be deported."

And that's a big deal. Egan says the national rhetoric surrounding immigration as well as the Trump Administration's unpredictability have immigrants on edge.

"Right at the beginning they started with the Muslim ban, the travel ban. And then just about every week something new comes up," says Egan, "Of course everybody knows about the families who have been separated at the border. People know that the fees have gone up. People also know, for example, we're doing the naturalization application today. The form is 20 pages long. It used to be 8 pages long."

Amy Agbayani helped organize the event. She's with The Legal Clinic, a new non-profit that provides free or low-cost legal services to immigrants. The clinic is one of 17 across the nation supported by the Methodist Church, whose local membership is made up largely of immigrants.



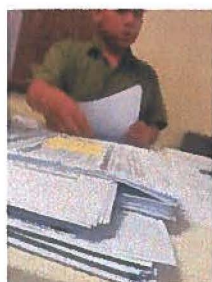
Volunteers from the William S. Richardson School of Law (right) help Hawai'i immigrants navigate the lengthy yet meticulous process of naturalization to become a U.S. Citizen.
CREDIT KU'UWEHI HIRAISHI



Immigration lawyer John Egan (top left) rummages through paperwork to ensure the correct amount of photo copies are made for all necessary documents.
CREDIT KU'UWEHI HIRAISHI



A citizenship workshop was held at the First United Methodist Church in Honolulu.
CREDIT KU'UWEHI



A volunteer at The Legal Clinic's first Citizenship Workshop sifts through piles of immigration paperwork



More than 50,000 permanent Hawai'i residents are eligible to become American citizens but have not yet applied. The Citizenship Workshop held last Saturday at the First United Methodist Church in Honolulu helped at least 20 of them take that first step.
CREDIT KU'UWEHI HIRAISHI