

**THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
APPLICATION FOR GRANTS
CHAPTER 42F, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES**

Type of Grant Request:

Operating Capital

Legal Name of Requesting Organization or Individual: Db:

Nisei Veterans Legacy Center

Amount of State Funds Requested: \$ 35,000

Brief Description of Request (Please attach word document to back of page if extra space is needed):

The mission of the Nisei Veterans Legacy is to preserve and promulgate the story of the Nisei soldiers of World War II, both during and after the war. We are the primary legacy organizations that promote the history and contributions of all four Nisei Army units on a state-wide basis. We do this through educational programs involving exhibitions, presentations, print media, television, social media and a website. This request if granted will further the continuation of our education efforts through direct support to our mission.

Amount of Other Funds Available:

State: \$ 0
Federal: \$ 0
County: \$ 0
Private/Other: \$ 35,000

Total amount of State Grants Received in the Past 5

Fiscal Years: \$ 381,000

Unrestricted Assets:

\$ 67,500

New Service (Presently Does Not Exist): Existing Service (Presently in Operation):

Type of Business Entity:

- 501(C)(3) Non Profit Corporation
- Other Non Profit
- Other

Mailing Address:

2454 South Beretania St., Suite 302

City: Honolulu State: HI Zip: 96826

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application	
Name: Byrnes Yamashita	Title: Vice President
Email: bkyamas@gmail.com	Phone: (808) 728-9900

Federal Tax ID#: <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 15px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>	State Tax ID#: <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 15px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>
---	---



Authorized Signature

Byrnes Yamashita, Vice President

Name and Title

1/18/2023

Date Signed

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
 - b) Personnel salaries and wages
 - c) Equipment and motor vehicles
 - d) Capital project details
 - e) Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid
- 7) Experience and Capability
- 8) Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing


AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

BYRNES YAMASHITA, VICE PRESIDENT
PRINT NAME AND TITLE

1/18/2023
DATE

Application for Grants

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

I. Certification – Please attach immediately after cover page

1. Certificate of Good Standing (If the Applicant is an Organization)

If the applicant is an organization, the applicant shall submit one (1) copy of a certificate of good standing from the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs that is dated no earlier than December 1, 2022. (See Attachment A)

2. Declaration Statement

The applicant shall submit a declaration statement affirming its compliance with Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes. (See Attachment B)

3. Public Purpose

The applicant shall specify whether the grant will be used for a public purpose pursuant to Section 42F-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Nisei Veterans Legacy (NVL) embodies the idea that the incredible stories of sacrifices and acts of heroism and patriotism demonstrated by the Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJA) during the course of World War II (WWII) as well as their significant contributions to our post-war society, need to be preserved, protected and promoted by and for the next generations.

We hope that our promotion of community awareness of the values of good citizenship, such as loyalty, gratitude, humility and racial equity exemplified by the Nisei veterans, will lead to a greater sense of civic responsibility among these generations.

We believe these tenets comprise a public purpose in accordance with Section 42F-102, HRS.

II. 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. Please include the following:

1. A brief description of the applicant's background;

The Nisei Veterans Legacy Center, Inc. (dba Nisei Veterans Legacy) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization formed in 2012. Our membership primarily consists of descendants of the Nisei (second-generation AJA) soldiers of WWII, who were initially discriminated against and declared “enemy aliens” and prohibited from serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Once allowed to serve in segregated all-Japanese American units, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) went on to become the most highly decorated unit in American military history for its size and length of service. The men of the Military Intelligence Service are credited with shortening the Pacific war and saving many American lives by translating captured Japanese information that provided the U.S. forces superior intelligence on the enemy’s plans.

Upon returning from the war, the Nisei veterans were determined to change the social, economic, and political environment of Hawaii to become a more democratic and fair society. Young people growing up in Hawaii today owe much to their hard work and sacrifices.

Our mission is to preserve and promulgate the history and story of the Nisei soldiers with the general public to promote good citizenship. We are the only such educational organization in Hawaii that promotes the stories and legacy of all the Nisei Army units of WWII on a state-wide basis. We believe that all of the men who served their country during the war to prove their loyalty as Americans deserve to be remembered for their service and sacrifice.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;

We are committed to ensuring that future generations learn about Hawaii’s Nisei soldiers who served gallantly during WWII in the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd RCT, the Military Intelligence Service and the 1399 Engineer Construction Battalion.

We strive to share their remarkable life stories, from plantation villages to military service, and how they were a driving force behind Statehood, the pursuit of redress for the mass incarceration of the Japanese community during WWII and the re-shaping of our islands into the vibrant state it is today. Our primary audiences are the younger generations of Hawaii, and Japanese visitors and students. However, through our website and exhibits we also intend to reach national and global audiences.

Through these activities, we hope to educate and motivate young people to become active participants in society and to carry on the struggle for social equity and racial justice.

3. The public purpose and need to be served;

We believe that the stories of the incredible sacrifices made by the AJA during WWII as well as their significant contributions to our post-war society need to be preserved and promoted, especially here in Hawaii. We hope that a greater sense of civic responsibility

will transpire by promoting community awareness of the values of good citizenship exemplified by the Nisei soldiers.

As the Nisei generation passes on, it is increasingly important that its history and stories be kept alive for future generations of young people in Hawaii and the world.

4. Describe the target population to be served; and

The NVL, through our traveling exhibits had initially been targeting Hawaii residents for our educational programs. Our target audience is the general public but with a special focus on the younger generations so that they can appreciate the rights and freedoms that were attained by the hard work and sacrifices of the Nisei soldiers.

We expanded our outreach through a significant investment in a permanent airport exhibit located inside the Interisland Terminal of the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport. The expansive historical exhibit documents the wartime and post war contributions of the Nisei veterans through text, photographs, and artifacts.

Airport officials estimate that pre-COVID, as many as 3 million travelers per year walked through the area where our exhibit is located and this is one of the main reasons the State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation, Airports Division, partnered with the NVL on this effort.

We also installed a kiosk exhibit on the Nisei Army units of WWII in Japanese near the Japan Air Lines gates. We accomplished this with support from local Japanese-owned businesses and the Japanese Consulate of Honolulu. This exhibit has been recently removed due to renovation work in the area.

We continue to improve and develop our interactive website to allow even greater access to the tremendous stories of sacrifice of our Nisei veterans. The website has made it possible for users world-wide to access the information about the history of the Nisei soldiers. We have added Japanese translation to the website content to make the information available to the Japanese audience. We believe that this will contribute to increased tourism and interactions between Japanese visitors and the local community.

Since December 2016 when President Obama and Prime Minister Abe held the Joint Statement Ceremony at Pearl Harbor, Japanese visitation to Pearl Harbor had steadily risen until the COVID pandemic shut down the Japanese visitor industry. Prior to 2020, we had made numerous presentations to Japanese students coming to Hawaii for educational and cultural exchange. We have pivoted to online presentations to keep the interest alive until the tourist and student visits can resume. A visit from the Rainbow Kids, children orphaned by the 2011 tsunami and earthquake is scheduled for March, 2023.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

While our initial efforts targeted geographic locations primarily within the State of Hawaii with traveling exhibits on Oahu, Maui, Hawaii and Kauai, we have been expanding our geographic outreach. In 2017 and 2018, we displayed the Hawaii Nikkei Legacy Exhibit in over 10 cities throughout Japan.

The exhibit tour focused on those Japanese prefectures that sent the majority of immigrants to Hawaii known as the Kanyaku Imin, or contractor immigrants.

Through this experience, we learned about the high level of interest in the Nisei soldier story among the Japanese and are working to increase their awareness of this important piece of Hawaii's history. To make the information more accessible to the general Japanese public we have included Japanese translations of our historical information on our website and are continuing to deepen our relationships with Japan oriented entities such as the Japanese Consulate of Hawaii, and Hawaii Tourism Japan (HTJ).

We also work with other Nisei veterans' organizations across the country on collaborations for educational functions like development of high school curriculum and gathering exhibit materials for the new National Museum of the U.S. Army. Thus, we strive to serve as a state-wide clearinghouse for national efforts to preserve the Nisei soldier legacy.

III. 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;
 - a. The NVL conducts educational programs primarily via permanent and travelling exhibits, presentations, videos, social media such as Instagram and our website.

In 2018 and 2019, the NVL displayed the Hawaii Nikkei Legacy Exhibit (HNLE) in several locations around the State as part of the Gannenmono commemoration, see details at Section V. Experience and Capability. The HNLE is a 26-panel photographic traveling exhibit that features the Nisei soldier story and includes information on their post war contributions, as well as the initial Japanese immigration to Hawaii. We partnered with the Japanese Consulate of Honolulu to identify venues, publicize the showing, and do set-up and take down of the exhibit. Guided tours are also offered to the public interested in learning more details about the Nisei soldiers.

On Oahu, we had showings at the Waimalu Shopping Center and the Pearl City and Kaimuki Public Libraries in 2019. With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic in

early 2020, several large venues such as the Honolulu Festival were cancelled. It will be resuming in 2023.

- b. As COVID restrictions eased, we have resumed our educational outreach presentations to local students, visiting Japanese students and various community and military organizations. Details of presentations over the past few years are listed at Section V. Experience and Capability. In the interim, we turned our efforts to the production of videos, advertising and writing articles to help continue the educational effort.
- c. In 2022, we completely updated the NVL website to reflect a new focus on the modern day relevance of the Nisei soldier story to issues such as social equity and racial justice.
- d. Also in 2022, we supported newspaper writer Jayna Omaye's "Nisei Impact Youth Program", a special class in journalism for high school students that featured research on the Nisei soldiers in writing their articles. We offered the students background information on the Nisei soldiers and veterans as interview subjects.
- e. We also participated in an educational contest amongst Junior ROTC high school programs and made a donation to JROTC cadets. We also support the 442nd RCT scholarship program public schools. See section below.
- f. Our major event is an annual memorial service to honor the Nisei soldiers, currently referred to as the Nisei Soldiers Memorial Service.

The service is held every year on the last Sunday of September. This date symbolizes the sacrifices made by the Nisei soldiers during World War II. Sergeant Shigeo "Joe" Takata was the first Nisei soldier killed in action on September 29, 1943 in Italy. He was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in combat. More details on the service are provided at Section V. Experience and Capability.

- g. Special Events - In 2019, we helped sponsor a special education event in conjunction with the MIS Veterans Education Society of Hawaii that featured a dramatic presentation on the experience of people during WWII along with a presentation by author Tom Coffman on the contributions of the Nisei soldiers. Over 100 people attended the event at the 100th Infantry Battalion Clubhouse.
- h. Scholarship Program - The NVL is working with the Sons and Daughters of the 442nd RCT on a scholarship program to promote the achievements and values of the Nisei soldiers. We have contributed a grant of \$2,500 for this purpose.
- i. National History Day – Each Spring, students around the State and Nation develop projects that reflect each year's designated values or achievements in history. On an

ongoing basis, the NVL assists students with reference information and arranging interviews with Nisei soldiers.

- j. Nisei Soldier Film: We provided funding to support the production of a new film on a Nisei soldier, "Shikata Ga Nai" that tells the story of a Nisei veteran and the trauma he suffered during the war that haunted him many years later. The film is being produced by local actor and director, Eric Nemoto, and a cast and crew of volunteers.
- k. Book on Japanese forced relocation during the war: We provided funding support for William Kaneko's new book on the Japanese families that were forced to relocate at the outbreak of WWII because of the proximity of their homes and farm to military installations.
- l. Communications Plan - In 2021, we completed a communications plan that identified our core product and status in the community, targeted affinity groups, and defined promotional goals and measurements.

As part of this communications plan, we sponsored ads and PSAs in the press like the Honolulu Star Advertiser and Hawaii Herald. We have also sponsored ads in local television programs to reach the broader public.

We issue a semi-annual newsletter called "NVL News" and augment it with an electronic version called "Ganbari" that is shorter.

We use television media to help spread the story of the Nisei soldiers. In 2018, the HNLE tour in Japan was featured in a piece by Japanese station NHK World which was aired in 150 countries.

In 2020, as part of the events commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, we participated in a special KITV program featuring several stories about the war and its impacts on Hawaii.

In 2021, then President Lynn Heirakuji was interviewed in a History Channel special on the Nisei soldiers that was aired nationally.

In 2022, we prepared a communications implementation plan or roadmap to further expand and broaden our communications outreach. We plan to continue these programs in 2023.

- m. Summary of request for fiscal year 2024:

- Presentations and Exhibitions	\$ 5,000
- Nisei Soldier Memorial Service and Video	\$12,000
- Communications Program	\$ 8,000
- Education Programs/Website Improvements	<u>\$10,000</u>

Total

\$35,000

2. Provide a projected annual timeline for accomplishing the results or outcomes of the service;

Our travelling exhibits and in-person presentations were on hiatus during the COVID pandemic restrictions but are resuming as conditions permit. For example, we will be participating in this year's Honolulu Festival in March and a group of orphans from Fukushima, Japan will receive a presentation also in March.

New video programs are in progress. Besides the memorial service video, we are working on a video highlighting the post-war accomplishments of the Nisei veterans and a series of short videos highlighting historic sites on Oahu and their linkage to the Nisei soldiers. Examples include the Brothers in Valor monument and U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii in Waikiki, the Killed in Action Memorial in Kaneohe, the Keehi Lagoon Memorial, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. On-site video recording has been suspended during the recent COVID case increase but we plan to resume in 2022 as conditions permit.

3. Describe its quality assurance and evaluation plans for the request. Specify how the applicant plans to monitor, evaluate, and improve their results; and

As a primarily educational organization, the NVL is in a constant state of quality assurance and self-evaluation. We believe that in order to have credibility our website, presentations and exhibits require accuracy and appropriate reference citations.

We collaborate with other legacy organizations such as Densho in Seattle and the Go For Broke National Education Center in Los Angeles to develop applicable standards of reference citation to enable researchers to use information and data provided on our website.

We also encourage feedback from the public and users of our information on how we can improve the quality of our offerings as well as ease of access. While touring the HNLE around the State, we offered feedback forms produced in conjunction with the Japanese Consulate of Honolulu to obtain inputs from the public as well as any questions for additional follow-up.

Questions and inquiries from our website are referred to the proper NVL individual for response. Any critiques or suggestion for improvement are incorporated in the website improvement plan.

In 2021, we conducted an internal organizational assessment using metrics developed by a national non-profit support organization. This feedback assessment identified the progress in organizational improvements that we had made towards national standards and identified areas that we need to continue to focus on.

We conduct presentations to our NVL Advisors group every six months during which we solicit feedback and guidance on our accomplishments and objectives. We also incorporate recommendations into our plans moving forward.

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.

We have instituted a survey feedback tool at our traveling exhibits which will allow us to better monitor how that portion of our activities are progressing. A summary of sample comments can be included in our progress reports. We can also provide visitor estimates to help assess the popularity of the exhibits.

We are also currently exploring ways in which we can more effectively track the number of interactions occurring at our newly opened permanent exhibit at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport, Interisland Terminal.

We can also obtain feedback from venue exhibitors such as the public libraries on the feedback provided by their clients.

In 2018, we initiated an Instagram account through which we highlight significant events or historically significant dates in the Nisei soldier timeline. The number of subscribers can be used as a metric of the level of interest in our information. We currently have over 300 followers.

All website visits and interactions are recorded and we are able to accurately track the number of visits to our website. We believe this data will be extremely helpful in determining where we should extend outreach efforts. These data can be reported to the expending agency.

We have a question and answer feature on our website through which we provide information to students seeking research information as well as Nisei soldier descendants looking for information about their father's or grandfather's experiences.

One of our major website efforts includes expanding the Japanese translations. These translations are made locally, then sent to the Japanese Overseas Migration Museum in Yokohama for review of the language and factual content. This is an arduous but necessary process since the translation process from English to Japanese is so difficult. We have received feedback from several Japanese that have visited our website that our translations are easy to understand and correct grammatically.

As mentioned earlier, the NVL prepares semi-annual newsletters outlining our achievements during the year. Our reports to the expending agency can include these newsletters which provide an overview of our educational and collaboration activities. A copy of the latest newsletter is attached.

IV. Financial

Budget

1. The applicant shall submit a budget utilizing the enclosed budget forms as applicable, to detail the cost of the request.
 - a. Budget request by source of funds (attached)
 - b. Personnel salaries and wages (not applicable)
 - c. Equipment and motor vehicles (not applicable)
 - d. Capital project details (not applicable)
 - e. Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid (attached)

2. The applicant shall provide its anticipated quarterly funding requests for the fiscal year 2023.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
\$5,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$35,000

The NVL has scaled back its GIA application request this year in view of the current economic impacts being experienced by the State due to the COVID pandemic. Like many other non-profit organizations, we are tightening our belt and looking for ways to best use our resources through collaboration and cooperation with other like organizations.

3. The applicant shall provide a listing of all other sources of funding that they are seeking for fiscal year 2024.

We typically solicit donations from the general public and associated Japanese and AJA organizations throughout the year along with fundraising activities through events and via the website. In addition, we plan to apply for grants from various foundations such as the Kosasa Family Foundation and the Atherton Family Foundation.

We also conduct annual fundraising efforts such as virtual events or programs like Foodland’s Give Aloha campaign. All NVL board members are expected to support the program financially.

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.

The NVL has neither applied for nor does it intend to apply for any tax credits.

5. The applicant shall provide a listing of all federal, state, and county government contracts, grants, and grants in aid it has been granted within the prior three years and will be receiving for fiscal year 2024 for program funding.

In 2019, the NVL applied for a grant of \$150,000 from the State Grant-in-Aid Program and was appropriated \$131,000. We are not planning to apply for any other government grants or grants-in-aid for fiscal year 2024 besides the State Grant-in-Aid program.

6. The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2022.

The balance of our unrestricted account as of December 31, 2022 was \$67,500.

V. Experience and Capability

1. 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.

- a. In addition to this leadership group, the NVL has a cadre of dedicated volunteers who are primarily descendants of Nisei soldiers. The core group consists of individuals with backgrounds in engineering, law, government service and education. We also have younger generation supporters who work on individual events or projects on an ad hoc basis.
- b. The NVL conducts educational programs primarily via permanent and travelling exhibits, presentations and our website. We also conduct an annual memorial service to honor the Nisei soldiers.
- c. Additionally, the NVL has installed permanent exhibits at:
 - Central Pacific Bank, Downtown Branch, Honolulu, Hawaii (since removed)
 - Daniel K. Inouye International Airport - kiosk display on Nisei Army units in Japanese near the Japan Air Lines gates (since removed)
 - Daniel K. Inouye International Airport - Interisland Terminal - The "Hawaii Nisei Veterans" Exhibit. The materials and construction of this exhibit was funded by a State Legislature GIA. The design, planning and content

installation were completed by volunteer labor from the Nisei soldier descendant community.

d. In 2017 and 2018, the NVL partnered with Hawaii Tourism Japan (HTJ) to take the HNLE to several locations in Japan as part of its Aloha Program to promote Japanese tourism to Hawaii:

- Yokohama: June 24 – September 5, 2017
- Tokyo: July 15-17, 2017
- Fukushima: July 21 – 28, 2017
- Hiroshima, October 1-14, 2017
- Usa: September 7-18, 2017
- Nagoya: May 25 -27, 2018
- Hiroshima: June 16, 2018
- Osaka: July 4 - 9, 2018
- Nagaoka: July 7 -20, 2018
- Fukuoka: August 16-19, 2018
- Sapporo: September 1-2, 2018
- Okinawa: October 2-14, 2018
- Kumamoto: October 20 – November 25, 2018

We estimated that over 50,000 visitors saw the exhibit at these locations. In addition, several presentations were made to interested audiences on the history and culture of Hawaii AJA.



Opening Ceremony Participants, Hiroshima, November 2017.

In 2018, the HNLE toured the State of Hawaii as part of the 150th anniversary celebration of the initial Japanese immigration to Hawaii, known as the Gannenmono. The tour was a partnership between the NVL and the Japanese Consulate of Honolulu.

- Honolulu Festival: March 9 - 11, 2018
- Honolulu Hale: March 27 – April 18, 2018
- Queen Kaahumanu Center, Wailuku: April 26 – May 10, 2018
- Kahala Mall: June 16 – July 1, 2018
- University of Hawaii West Oahu: August 20 – 31, 2018
- Kuhio Grove Center, Lihue: September 7 – 23, 2018
- Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union, Kona: November 1 – 28, 2018
- Hawaii Japanese Center, Hilo: December 1 -21, 2018



Hawaii High School Students at Honolulu Festival, March 2018.

In 2019, the HNLE was displayed at the following locations:

- January 14-18: Punahou School Cooke Learning Commons
- February 4-14: Sendai City Hall, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan
- March 8-10: Honolulu Festival, Hawaii State Convention Center
- May 24 - June 3: Waimalu Shopping Center
- June 25: First State Veterans Summit
- July 14 – August 31: Pearl City Public Library
- October 1-31: Kaimuki Public Library



Guided tour at Pearl City Public Library, August 2019.

Largely due to these efforts regarding the HNLE, the NVL received the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Spirit of Aloha award in June 2018 and the Consul General of Japan's Commendation Award in November 2018.



JCCH Spirit of Aloha Awardees, June 2018. NVL Former President Wes Deguchi on the left.



Consul General of Japan Commendation Awardees, November 2018. NVL Former President Wes Deguchi and current Vice President Byrnes Yamashita, (second row, far left).

- e. Nisei Soldier Memorial Service (JMS) - The NVL has been the primary sponsor for the annual Nisei Soldier Memorial Service which serves to honor the Nisei Soldiers of WWII for the past 9 years.

Those attending represented various military organizations, veterans' groups, high school JROTC cadets and members of the general public.



Joint Memorial Service participants September 2019. Photo courtesy of iHiPhotography.

The Nisei Soldiers Memorial Service is the largest public ceremony in the State that honors the sacrifices of the Nisei soldiers of WWII. As the members of our “greatest

generation” pass away, it is imperative that this ceremony be kept alive to honor their memory and sacrifices for our younger generations to learn from their legacy.

The event is regularly attended by the Governor, Mayor of Honolulu, Commander USINDOPACCOM and numerous military and civilian leaders including the Consul General of Japan.

JROTC cadets from several Oahu high schools and Cub and Boy Scout troops participate in the program. They each receive a handout that explains the Nisei Army units and their contributions. Through this active participation and educational exposure, young Hawaii residents are exposed to the history and contributions of the Nisei soldiers to modern Hawaii.

The ceremony has been broadcast on O`lelo and highlighted on local news programs. It has the largest singular impact on keeping the Nisei soldier story alive for the local public.

In 2020 and 2021, the service was cancelled due to COVID restrictions on public gathering but the live event was held in 2022.

The Memorial Service is the key annual event presented by the NVL and we look forward to return to live events when COVID restrictions allow them.

f. The NVL’s comprehensive website is continually updated as content is prepared, (nvlchawaii.org). A total upgrade was completed in 2022 moving to a more user-friendly operating system that allows us to make the updates by ourselves, reducing the cost to maintain the website.

g. Japanese Educational Outreach. Over the past several years, the NVL has made presentations to many Japanese organizations and groups about the history of Hawaii’s Japanese community and the Nisei soldier story. These presentations have been both in Japan and in Hawaii.

In conjunction with the HNLE tour of Japan, numerous presentations were made to university students and the general public. Through these presentations, we learned that the Japanese people have a tremendous interest in Hawaii and the story of the Nisei soldiers.



Presentation at Nagaoka City Auditorium, July 2018.

According to the Japanese Consulate of Honolulu, pre-COVID over 10,000 Japanese middle, high school and university students visit Hawaii each year for educational and cultural exchanges. The NVL has made numerous presentations to some of these student groups including tours of facilities like the 100th Infantry Battalion clubhouse.



Presentation and tour to Japanese students from Fukushima, Japan, March 2018 at the 100th Infantry Battalion Clubhouse.

Additionally, the NVL supports researchers and students from Japan to find information on the Nisei soldiers including arranging interviews.



Japanese researcher Ms. Nao Fukuoka from Hiroshima, Japan (second from right) with interview subjects at the NVL office, November 2019.

During the COVID pandemic, we have continued to support these educational presentations to Japanese students via online services.



Vice President Byrnes Yamashita (first row, second from right) during presentation to Japanese students in Usa City, Oita Prefecture, Japan. Mililani Middle School students also participated (upper left).

h. Hawaii Community Educational Outreach. The NVL offers a speaker bureau to local schools and organizations to make presentations about the history and achievements of the Nisei soldiers. These have included the following:

- March 2018: Shufu Society of Hawaii
- May 2018: Scouts of Aloha Council
- June 2018: Society of Military Widows, Hawaii Chapter
- June 2018: U.S. Coast Guard District 14
- July 2018: 808 Hawaii Update Radio Talk Show
- November 2018: Downtown Honolulu Rotary Club
- November 2018: Hawaii Tokai International College
- December 2018: Rouren NHK Employees

- January 2019: Hawaii Tokai International College
- February 2019: Pearl City AARP Chapter
- May 2019: Pan-Pacific Leaders and Mentors (PPALM)
- June 2019: 9th Mission Support Command (U.S. Army)
- June 2019: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Leadership Development Program
- November 2019: Kahala Nui Retirement Center
- November 2019: Maunalani Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
- February 2020: Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Corporation
- March 2020: Kaiser High School
- September 2020: University of Hawaii at Manoa Japanese Cultural Studies
- November 2020: Punahou School JROTC
- April 2021: Japanese American Citizens League Honolulu Chapter
- July 2021: Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce
- August 2021: Podcast, "Hanging out with Nolan Hong"
- September 2021 and February 2022: University of Hawaii at Manoa Japanese Cultural Studies
- May 2022: Radford High School

In early 2020, with the advent of the COVID pandemic, in-person presentations were greatly curtailed. The NVL pivoted to online presentations to maintain the educational outreach. We hope to resume in-person presentations when the COVID restrictions are relaxed or eliminated.



NVL President Lynn Heirakuji (upper left) during presentation to University of Hawaii at Manoa students online.

- National Nisei Organization Coordination and Collaboration. The NVL assists in coordinating amongst Nisei veterans' organizations both within the State of Hawaii as well as across the nation.

For example, in June 2018 NHK World Japan sponsored a showing of a documentary on the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. NHK wanted to invite members of the Nisei veteran community but had no idea of how to contact them. The NVL reached out to the local Nisei veterans' organizations and put NHK World Japan in touch with each of the organizational Presidents. Through this coordination, over 400 people including over 15 Nisei veterans and their wives or widows, attended the showing at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

In August 2018, then Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono visited Hawaii and asked to meet with the various Nisei veterans organizations. The NVL coordinated with all the major units and hosted a meeting at the 100th Infantry Battalion Clubhouse. We also conducted a special tour of the Hawaii Nikkei Legacy Exhibit for Mr. and Mrs. Kono at the University of Hawaii West Oahu.



Japan Foreign Minister Kono and Mrs. Kono at right, UH West Oahu, August 2018.

In 2018, the various Nisei organizations on Oahu began discussions and deliberations regarding cooperation amongst the various groups to honor the memories and contributions of the Nisei soldiers. The NVL was an active participant in those discussions and encourages further collaboration amongst the various organizations. We are currently in similar discussions with the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans group.

In 2019, the NVL among other organizations, was contacted by the Nisei Veterans Network in Washington, D.C. to assist with gathering stories and memorabilia of Nisei soldiers in Hawaii for inclusion in the National Museum of the U.S. Army. The NMUSA hosted a special event featuring the Nisei Soldier Experience exhibit in August 2021 in Ft Belvoir, Virginia.

In 2019, the Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) headquartered in Los Angeles sent a video crew to Hawaii to record interviews and oral histories from Nisei soldiers. The NVL coordinated with the various Nisei organizations to set up

the interview sessions that will be edited and then provided via the GFBNEC website for future generations of researchers.

In 2021, the GFBNEC in cooperation with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and the NVL introduced a class curriculum in the Hawaii public schools on the Nisei Soldiers. The NVL donated funds to be used for stipends for public school teachers to take the training, offer the curriculum and provide feedback.

Also in 2021, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) announced the release of a Forever Stamp honoring the Japanese American Soldiers of WWII. Hawaii held its Go For Broke stamp unveiling event at the 100th Infantry Battalion Clubhouse on June 4, 2021. NVL President Lynn Heirakuji was the co-chair for the event and served as emcee for the ceremony which was live streamed with no live audience due to COVID restriction.



Go For Broke Stamp Unveiling Ceremony, June 2021.

2. 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.

We are currently leasing a small (226 SF) office space at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. This space provides a desk workspace and a small conference area for meetings. It has been used for conducting interviews with Japanese researchers and press along with recording oral history interviews of Nisei veterans.

VI. Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing

1. 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 work of the NVL is being performed strictly with the extensive use of volunteers and community organizations. We pay an accountant and accounting assistant to perform duties as needed.

We have various committees that supervise work in different functional areas as shown below:

Communications:	Chairperson Lynn Heirakuji
Education:	Chairperson Byrnes Yamashita
Membership:	Chairperson Phyllis Hironaka
By-Laws:	Chairperson Lawrence Enomoto
Philanthropy and Legacy Gift:	Chairperson Jennifer Okubo Polido
Website:	Chairperson Caitlin Shishido

The committee chairs have a broad range of professional experience and community service work that makes them very qualified to carry out their duties. These committees have permanent and/or ad hoc members that work on the different functions or projects as requirements evolve.

2. 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 organization chart that illustrates the placement of this request.

NVL Leadership:

Interim President – Lawrence Enomoto

- Past President, Military Intelligence Service Veterans Club of Hawaii
- Major (Retired) Enomoto served for 22 years in the U.S. Air Force and has a law degree from the University of Hawaii
- Actively involved with many veteran-related organizations

Vice President – Byrnes Yamashita

- Retired, U.S. Navy Engineer
- Member, Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT
- Member, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
- Member, Hawaii United Okinawa Association

- Member, Hawaii Aloha Life Enrichment Association

Treasurer – Kristen Alm Kamakahi

- Director of Staffing and Operations at Remedy Intelligent Staffing
- Past President and current director of the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce
- Member, Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce
- Former Co-Chair, Cherry Blossom Festival

Secretary – Phyllis Hironaka

- Deputy Public Defender, State of Hawaii
- Member, Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT
- President, 522nd Field Artillery Battalion Chapter

Board Member – Dr. Lynn Heirakuji

- Retired Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army
- Board Member, Maunalani Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
- Member, Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT

Board Member – Dr. William Wright

- PhD in Computer Science and Operational Analysis
- Retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel
- Former consultant to Microsoft and the Department of Homeland Security
- Member, Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT

Board Member – Jennifer Okubo Polido

- Estate Planning lawyer
- Member, Honolulu Junior Japanese Chamber of Commerce
- Member, Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce
- Volunteer, Project Dana

Board Member – Warren Yamamoto

- President, 100th Infantry Battalion Legacy Foundation
- Semi-retired civil engineer with over 40 years of professional engineering experience.

Board Member – Dr. Caitlin Shishido

- Biologist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Member, Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT

Advisor – Major General (Retired) Suzanne Vares-Lum

- President, East-West Center
- 34 years, U.S. Army (first Native Hawaiian female general)
- Former Mobilization Assistant to the Commander U.S. Indo-Pacific Command
- Board Member, American Red Cross Pacific Islands Region
- Former Advisor, Hawaii Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council

Advisor – Brigadier General (Retired) James Hirai

- Deputy Executive Director, Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies
- Retired U.S. Army general with over 30 years of command and leadership experience
- Former Director, Go For Broke National Education Center

Advisor – Warren Haruki

- President, Grove Farms, Inc.
- Former President, Hawaiian Telephone Co.
- Serves on several boards of directors

Advisor – Barbara Tanabe

- Former television news anchor
- President, Hoakea Communications
- University of Hawaii Distinguished Alumnus

Advisor – Gary Okuda

- Civil and Commercial Litigation lawyer
- Partner, Leu, Okuda and Doi
- Member, State Land Use Commission

Advisor – Wes Deguchi

- Former President, Nisei Veterans Legacy
- Member, Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT (former President)
- Former Director, 442nd Regimental Combat Team Foundation
- President, AD2 International, Inc. Has over 40 years of experience as an architect

3. Compensation

The applicant shall provide an annual salary range paid by the applicant to the three highest paid officers, directors, or employees of the organization by position title, not employee name.

The Nisei Veterans Legacy has no current salary commitments.

VII. Other

1. 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.

Not applicable.

2. Licensure or Accreditation

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

Not applicable.

3. Private Educational Institutions

The applicant shall specify whether the grant will be used to support or benefit a sectarian or non-sectarian private educational institution. Please see [Article X, Section 1, of the State Constitution](#) for the relevance of this question.

No portion of this grant will be used to support or benefit a sectarian or non-sectarian private educational institution.

4. Future Sustainability Plan

The applicant shall provide a plan for sustaining after fiscal year 2023-24 the activity funded by the grant if the grant of this application is:

- (a) Received by the applicant for fiscal year 2023-24, but
- (b) Not received by the applicant thereafter.

Pre-COVID, The NVL typically received between \$5,000 to \$10,000 annually from various organizations that support the organization's legacy efforts or Japanese tourism.

For example, in 2018 and 2019 the Hawaii Senior Life Enrichment Association donated \$1,000 from the proceeds of its annual charity golf tournament. Also in 2019, Hawaii Tourism Japan donated \$2,500 from the proceeds of its Aloha Program educational program where Japanese learn about Hawaii history and culture.

When the COVID pandemic began in 2020 and the State Grant-in-Aid program was suspended, we took two major actions: 1) we requested an extension of our FY 2019-2020 GIA grant until June 2021, and 2) we adjusted our budget execution in order to stretch our funds over the two-year period.

In 2020-2022, we applied to several foundations for funding support and received grants from the following:

- Bank of Hawaii Foundation (\$7,500)
- Kosasa Family Foundation (\$65,000)
- Atherton Family Foundation (\$10,000)
- CPB Foundation (\$10,000)

In 2021 and 2022, we also received donations from the Iosue Family of Chicago (\$25,000).

These grants and donations allowed us to continue our normal educational activities and supported our operating expenses.

Additionally, our fundraising drives such as annual dinner banquet and special guest presentations are expected to raise between \$25,000 to \$50,000 each year. In 2021, we conducted a virtual fundraiser event which raised \$20,000. In 2022, we conducted an in-person fundraiser which raised \$30,000.

These unrestricted funds allowed us to cover our operational expenses for our office space and printed materials.

In addition to the facility costs for our small office, we also use the services of a CPA and an accounting assistant to prepare our financial records and reports for tax and reporting purposes.

If not funded beyond fiscal year 2023-24 we will continue our fundraising efforts and may resort to options like crowdfunding in order to sustain our activities. One proposal is to create a donation page in Japanese to tap funding support from Japan based on our past and ongoing educational activities.

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

App Nisei Veterans Legacy Center, Inc.

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	0			
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	0			
3. Fringe Benefits	0			
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	0			
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island	0			800
2. Insurance	0			1,000
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment	0			
4. Lease/Rental of Space	0			9,000
5. Staff Training	0			
6. Supplies	0			200
7. Telecommunication	0			1,000
8. Utilities	0			1,000
9. Tax Preparation/Accounting Support	0			4,000
10. Presentations/Exhibitions	5,000			0
11. Nisei Soldier Memorial Service & Video	12,000			0
12. Communications Program	8,000			0
13. Education Programs/Website Improvs.	10,000			0
14. Fundraising				18,000
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	35,000			35,000
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	0			
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES	0			
E. CAPITAL	0			
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	35,000			35,000
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	35,000	Byrnes Yamashita (808) 728-9900		
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested	0	Name (Please type or print) Phone		
(c) Total County Funds Requested	0	<i>Byrnes Yamashita</i> 1/18/2023		
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	35,000	Signature of Authorized Official Date		
TOTAL BUDGET	70,000	Byrnes Yamashita, Vice President		
		Name and Title (Please type or print)		

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES

Period: July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

Applicant: Nisei Veterans Legacy, Inc.

POSITION TITLE	FULL TIME EQUIVALENT	ANNUAL SALARY A	% OF TIME ALLOCATED TO GRANT REQUEST B	TOTAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED (A x B)
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
TOTAL:				0.00
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: No personnel salary costs requested.				

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Applicant: Nisei Veterans Legacy Center, Inc.

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:				

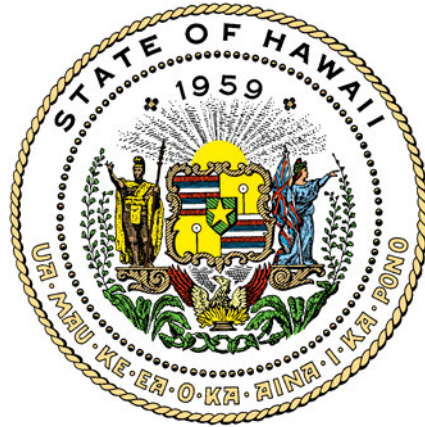
DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	NO. OF VEHICLES	COST PER VEHICLE	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				0
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: No equipment or motor vehicle costs requested.				

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

Applicant: Nisei Veterans Legacy Center, Inc.

Contracts Total: \$0.00

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
27					
28					
29					
30					



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

NISEI VETERANS LEGACY CENTER, INC.

was incorporated under the laws of Hawaii on 02/24/2012 ; 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 19, 2023

Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**DECLARATION STATEMENT OF
APPLICANTS FOR GRANTS PURSUANT TO
CHAPTER 42F, HAWAI'I REVISED STATUTES**

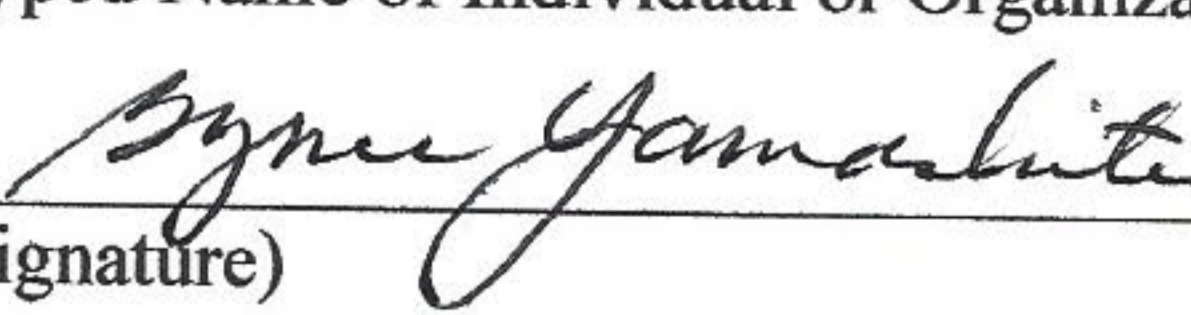
The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies the following:

- 1) The applicant meets and will comply with all of the following standards for the award of grants pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawai'i 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, Hawai'i 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; and
- 3) If the applicant is a non-profit organization, it meets the following requirements pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawai'i 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.
- 4) The use of grant-in-aid funding complies with all provisions of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii (for example, pursuant to Article X, section 1, of the Constitution, the State cannot provide "... public funds ... for the support or benefit of any sectarian or nonsectarian private educational institution...").

Pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawai'i 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.

Nisei Veterans Legacy Center, Inc. dba Nisei Veterans Legacy
(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)

 1/18/2023
(Signature) (Date)

Byrnes Yamashita Vice President
(Typed Name) (Title)