

**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 a:
Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization

Amount of State Funds Requested: \$ \$1,041,373

Brief Description of Request (Please attach word document to back of page if extra space is needed):
The grant will support the protection of Hawaii's people and places from wildfire impacts through wildfire education, mitigation, and planning, led by HWMO, and designed and implemented in partnership with many agencies and communities across Hawaii. Services include: wildfire education, wildfire risk reduction and mitigation activities, technical support for wildfire prevention and mitigation initiatives, and wildfire planning. Target groups include communities at risk of wildfire, land managers, and government agency representatives working on wildfire initiatives that require technical expertise and support.

Amount of Other Funds Available:

State: \$ 154,300
Federal: \$ 409,137
County: \$ _____
Private/Other: \$ 350,000

Total amount of State Grants Received in the Past 5 Fiscal Years:

\$ 175,000 (FY2020)

Unrestricted Assets:

\$ 274,661

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:

65-1279 Kawaihae Rd. Ste 211

City:

Kamuela

State:

HI

Zip:

96743

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application

Name:
Elizabeth Pickett or Andrea Barretto

Title:
Co-Executive Directors

Email:
directors@hawaiiwildfire.org


Phone:
808-885-0900

Federal Tax ID#:

██████████

State Tax ID#

██████████



Authorized Signature

Elizabeth Pickett, Co-Exec. Director

Name and Title

January 17, 2024

Date Signed



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF VENDOR COMPLIANCE

This document presents the compliance status of the vendor identified below on the issue date with respect to certificates required from the Hawaii Department of Taxation (DOTAX), the Internal Revenue Service, the Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), and the Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA).

Vendor Name: HAWAII WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

Issue Date: 01/10/2024

Status: Compliant

Hawaii Tax#: [REDACTED]

New Hawaii Tax#:

FEIN/SSN#: XX-XXX5517

UI#: XXXXXX9570

DCCA FILE#: 202674

Status of Compliance for this Vendor on issue date:

Form	Department(s)	Status
A-6	Hawaii Department of Taxation	Compliant
8821	Internal Revenue Service	Compliant
COGS	Hawaii Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs	Exempt
LIR27	Hawaii Department of Labor & Industrial Relations	Compliant

Status Legend:

Status	Description
Exempt	The entity is exempt from this requirement
Compliant	The entity is compliant with this requirement or the entity is in agreement with agency and actively working towards compliance
Pending	A status determination has not yet been made
Submitted	The entity has applied for the certificate but it is awaiting approval
Not Compliant	The entity is not in compliance with the requirement and should contact the issuing agency for more information

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

The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies the following:

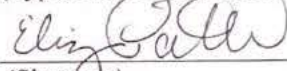
- 1) The applicant meets and will comply with all of the following standards for the award of grants pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawai'i Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is licensed or accredited, in accordance with federal, state, or county statutes, rules, or ordinances, to conduct the activities or provide 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.

Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization

(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)



(Signature)

1/17/24

(Date)

Elizabeth Pickett

(Typed Name)

Rev 8/30/23

Co-Executive Director

(Title)

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) Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate (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](#)) n/a
 - d) Capital project details ([Link](#)) n/a
 - e) Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid ([Link](#)) ✓
- 7) Experience and Capability
- 8) Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing


AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

Elizabeth Pickett
PRINT NAME AND TITLE

1/17/24
DATE

Application for Grants

I. Certification – Please attach immediately after cover page

1. **Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate (If the Applicant is an Organization)**
Attached.
2. **Declaration Statement**
Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) *affirms* that the organization is in compliance with Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes.
3. **Public Purpose**
Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) *affirms* that the grant will be used for a public purpose pursuant to Section 42F-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes.
4. **§42F-102 Applications for grants.**
 - (1) **The name of the requesting organization or individual:**
Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization
 - (2) **The public purpose for the grant:**
The grant will support the protection of Hawaii’s people and places from wildfire impacts through wildfire education, mitigation, and planning, led by HWMO, and designed and implemented in partnership with many agencies and communities across Hawaii.
 - (3) **The services to be supported by the grant:**
Services include: wildfire education, wildfire risk reduction and mitigation activities, technical support for wildfire prevention and mitigation initiatives, wildfire planning.
 - (4) **The target group:**
Target groups include communities at risk of wildfire, land managers, and government agency representatives working on wildfire initiatives that require technical expertise and support.
 - (5) **The cost of the grant and the budget. [L 1997, c 190, pt of §3; am L 2014, c 96, §6]**
\$1,041,373. Detailed budgets are provided within the application narrative and attachments.

I. Background and Summary

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

Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, dedicated to protecting communities and natural resources across the state of Hawaii from the impacts of wildfire. HWMO serves as the state's hub of wildfire education, technical expertise, and cross-jurisdiction project coordination, aiming for wildfire-ready residents, wildfire-safe landscapes, and information exchange/collaboration among the many diverse residents and professionals dealing with wildfire. To do this work, HWMO works with and on behalf of government agencies, land managers, and communities across the state. Founded in 2000, the organization has won several national awards over the years for its work to improve wildfire safety and preparedness in Hawaii. HWMO is the only organization of its kind in the state, and is even unique in the nation for its model of addressing wildfire-related issues by serving as an intermediary among government agencies and community members, effectively creating pathways for the sharing of expertise and the implementation of collaborative projects. Wildfires do not recognize fences, jurisdiction lines, or community boundaries, and they impact both people and natural resources. This makes cross-boundary, multi-agency, and collaborative firefighter-community-land manager-government project coordination and implementation essential. HWMO is uniquely experienced and positioned to coordinate projects that might otherwise be limited to jurisdictional or geographical boundaries. For decades, HWMO has worked to fill in the gaps related to wildfire prevention, science, planning, and programming in Hawaii.

On behalf of and with many partners, HWMO leads the only community wildfire preparedness program in the state (Firewise), co-leads the Pacific Fire Exchange Fire Science program (with University of Hawaii), has written every Community Wildfire Protection Plan in the state since 2007, leads the Cross-County Wildfire Prevention Council (all county and state fire agencies participate), and leads Hawaii's two multi-partner statewide wildfire preparedness campaigns (Wildfire & Drought Lookout! [summer] and Ready, Set, Go! [year-round]). A review of state and county hazard mitigation plans, the recent State House Wildfire Prevention Working Group report, and other essential guiding state and county documents will show that the work by HWMO and/or our Pacific Fire Exchange program is relied upon for the majority of the wildfire-related information available in Hawaii.

HWMO also serves as Hawaii's primary representation to many national efforts including the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, the National Fire Adapted Communities Network, and has represented Hawaii's wildfire needs and priorities in several hearings and meetings with the U.S. Congressional Wildfire Mitigation and Management Commission, established as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (2021), and at several formal and informal U.S. Senate and House hearings and informal meetings/interviews regarding wildfire in Hawaii. HWMO has also worked for over two decades with national agencies within Hawaii to implement wildfire projects locally, including the USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Defense.

Since the August 2023 wildfires, there has been a 1,500% increase in requests for HWMO's technical expertise and educational programming. (That is a real number).

These requests have included:

- Participation in many new government-led initiatives, working groups, and committees (House Wildfire Prevention Working Group, State Fire Council, County Council committees, investigations) and related technical expertise toward legislation and policy changes;

- Technical review and expertise toward wildfire mitigation work and plans by state agencies (Department of Hawaii Home Lands, Department of Transportation, Department of Education, HI Emergency Management Agency, and many more);
- Attending and leading community preparedness workshops;
- Supporting communities through the Firewise program (which is the only community wildfire preparedness program in the state);
- Assistance with fire code updates and building voluntary code compliance by property owners through education and home assessments;
- Assistance with grant writing for wildfire mitigation projects (HWMO assisted with \$62M of federal grant proposals for state/county agencies and community partners since August 2023); and more.

These efforts were not something for which we could have pre-planned, or ensured ahead of time that HWMO has secured competitive national grant funding to cover, which is the primary way HWMO secures funding for Hawaii's wildfire programs (in addition to small annual fundraisers). When the August fires hit, and state and county agencies were both requesting our time, expertise, and services **and** sending scared community members and land managers to our preparedness and educational programs through both informal and official communications, HWMO staff worked around the clock to meet the urgent need and the huge number of requests for our assistance. We were able to do that for a short period of time in a traumatic and emergency situation, but at great cost to staff wellbeing and the organization's finances. Our national partners who understand the role we play for Hawaii and have experience with what organizations like ours are asked to do in the aftermath of devastating fires, provided supplemental funding as their contribution to both HWMO, and to Hawaii. That funding enabled us to meet the gravity of the situation with care and attention, and to show up for the massive increase in reliance upon HWMO. That was temporary funding, however, and was short lived. These are essential public services that need continued investment.

For over 20 years, and as the only entity focused full-time on wildfire in the state, the majority of HWMO's funds have come from competitive federal grant competitions, in which HWMO competes against entities across the western U.S. states, whose wildfire issues are more publicized, with the exception of two State Grant-in-Aid awards (\$175k in FY2020, and \$158k in FY2017). Yet, HWMO plays an essential role in the state, in many cases carrying out government mandates as well as multi-partner and community-level initiatives. HWMO has been successful thanks to creative and strategic approaches to achieving high-impact projects on very limited funds, but this new chapter of wildfire awareness, concern, and desire to take action at all levels across Hawaii is creating the need to ramp up our capacity and acquire adequate funding instead of our typical threadbare budget.

Now is a time when HWMO's partner communities and agencies are seeking additional preparedness and technical assistance, when Hawaii's residents need to be supported to safeguard their families and homes, and when land managers and diverse agencies are seeking assistance in mitigation planning and technical expertise to better reduce wildfire risk. HWMO needs the funds to be able to provide these critical public services.

Through this proposal, HWMO is seeking funds that will contribute to:

- A. Statewide public wildfire preparedness education activities, as well as deeper learning and action programming for communities and several targeted stakeholder groups;
- B. Technical assistance for agencies, communities, and landowners working on wildfire planning or mitigation initiatives; and

- C. Coordination for multi-partner collaborations, including updates to fire plans, hazard assessments, fire codes, and grant proposals for collaborative wildfire projects.

All are fundamental to a successful and comprehensive public safety education and preparedness effort.

We have a clear work plan and understanding of what it will take for HWMO to provide the services that have been requested of us by our partners and constituents. Some funding has been secured already. This proposal seeks funding to cover the remaining needs.

A recent public poll, conducted by Anthology Research and funded by Ulupono Initiative determined that a large majority of the public strongly approve of tax dollars being spent on wildfire mitigation programs such as those carried out by HWMO in conjunction with fire agencies across the state. The results of that survey are as follows:

Our Pathway Forward

ANTHOLOGY RESEARCH:

COMMUNITY SENTIMENT FOR SUPPORTING WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND CODE ENFORCEMENT USING TAX DOLLARS

QUICK SURVEY FACTS

- Anthology Research conducted the online survey between Sept. 21-29, 2023
- Total of 442 surveys were collected
- Respondents were full-time Hawai'i residents aged 18 years or older
- Survey sponsored by Ulupono Initiative



Our Pathway Forward

Q1: As a Hawai'i taxpayer, would you support or oppose your tax dollars going toward the funding of wildfire mitigation programs and staffing in your county?


79% Strongly or somewhat support the idea

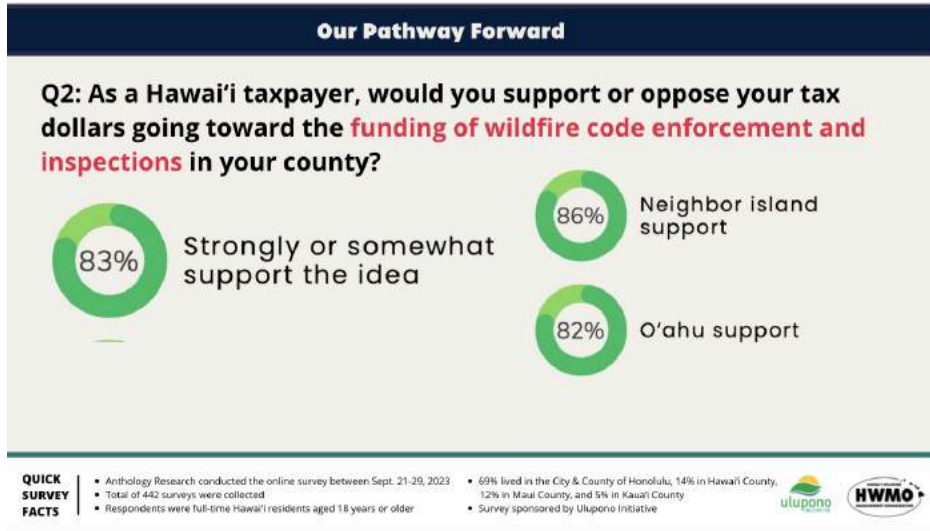
85% Neighbor island support

76% O'ahu support

QUICK SURVEY FACTS

- Anthology Research conducted the online survey between Sept. 21-29, 2023
- Total of 442 surveys were collected
- Respondents were full-time Hawai'i residents aged 18 years or older
- 69% lived in the City & County of Honolulu, 14% in Hawai'i County, 12% in Maui County, and 5% in Kauai County
- Survey sponsored by Ulupono Initiative





This GIS proposal from HWMO is seeking funds directly related to both of these priorities, as we are seeking funds to carry forward wildfire mitigation programs, much of which requires increasing HWMO's wildfire program staffing funds, as well as HWMO's ability to participate and provide technical assistance and support to many plans and wildfire code updates and their associated education/enforcement programs.

2. *The goals and objectives related to the request:*

Goal: A Wildfire-Ready Hawaii

HWMO is requesting operational funds to provide wildfire prevention education, preparedness programming, and technical mitigation planning assistance across Hawaii, with the specific goals of improving Hawaii's wildfire outcomes and reducing wildfire's impacts on communities and natural resources.

At the 30,000-ft level, this is what is needed:

- **Reduction in wildfire ignitions.** 98% of wildfires in Hawaii are started by people, **75%** by accident— meaning **75% of fires** are preventable if people know to take precautions.

This requires a change in awareness and behavior by those who reside in or visit Hawaii when it comes to the activities that accidentally start wildfires. This will come from increasing awareness and providing ample and multi-modal learning opportunities. Hawaii is fire-prone, and we must work to shift toward safer use of campfires, barbecues, sparking equipment, fireworks, and vehicles (all are top causes of accidental ignitions in Hawaii). To work on this, public awareness campaigns, multiple exposures to the information, and easily accessed information via web and social media are needed.

- **Reduction of wildfire's ability to spread** across lands and homes/towns through strategies that include managing vegetation and improving the safety of our built environments.

Essentially, there is education, planning, and mitigation work to be done in both our wildland and built environments. This requires work related to deeper education of those who design,

manage, or maintain lands and properties, providing technical assistance (to support voluntary action), code and regulatory updates (to ensure action), and measurable mitigation activities on the landscape and within the built environment to physically reduce the risk and change how fire is able (or not) to move across lands and towns.

- **Overall readiness, ability, and capacity by the public, emergency responders, and community leaders** to prevent fire, respond safely and effectively during a wildfire event, and recover after a fire.

Clearly, addressing wildfire is not simple. There is no one single solution or approach, but rather a combination of factors that must be addressed to achieve optimal safety.

Hawaii, as a state, strongly partners with, and aligns itself with the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. Our organization, all four county fire departments, HI State Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and our federal fire agency programs that operate in Hawaii are working within its framework, acknowledging the complexity of wildfire and the sustained actions that are necessary to improving wildfire outcomes. HWMO leads a large subset of Hawaii's efforts in implementing the national strategy in Hawaii. ***The specific goals and projects that HWMO is proposing in the FY25 GIA have been developed in partnership with our fire and emergency response agency partners and align with the National Cohesive Wildfire Fire Management Strategy.***

Taken together, they strategically and systematically work toward:

- ***Fire-Adapted Communities:*** People and the built environments of Hawaii being adapted to the risk of wildfire;
- ***Wildfire Resilient Resilient Landscapes:*** Lands and waterways that can resist fire, survive fire, and recover from fire impacts;, and
- ***Safe and Effective Wildfire Response:*** Optimal during-event wildfire firefighting and emergency response.

And, across those three categories, collaboration and using, developing, and making available the best science and information are paramount.

The FY25 objectives and this proposal specifically and strategically address the 5 categories of wildfire action (underlined above) and the immediate priorities within them. This suite of activities will move the needle of progress toward the 30,000 ft- level goals described above toward a Wildfire-Ready Hawaii while also aiding with immediate preparedness and risk reduction.

FY 25 Objectives

Objective A. Statewide public wildfire preparedness education activities, as well as deeper learning and action programming for communities and several targeted stakeholder groups.

Goal A1: Ensure the public receives multiple exposures to wildfire awareness, prevention, and preparedness information, in multiple formats, in order to promote awareness and effective action.

Project A1: Public Wildfire Awareness and Information

Project A1 Deliverables:

Multiple and robust learning opportunities for public awareness and education, to include:

- **Radio:** 3-month *Wildfire and Drought Lookout!* radio PSA campaign at the start of fire season on all islands.
- **Print:** Update, print, and distribute Ready, Set, Go! Wildfire Preparedness Action Guides to all fire, forestry, and emergency management departments.
- **Web:** Develop and launch an improved Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization website, designed to be a clearinghouse of wildfire preparedness information, existing wildfire plans, learning modules, programs, etc.; to meet accessibility standards since government agencies are relying on the HWMO as the website to educate the public; and to support next-level functions and needs of our key public preparedness programs (such as the Firewise program).
- **Social Media:** Quality wildfire educational content developed for social media, to be posted and shared by both HWMO and fire and forestry partners.
- **Live (in-person/remote)-** Wildfire preparedness workshops (40 total, approx. 10 per county).

Goal A2: Neighborhoods/communities are working proactively to reduce wildfire risk at and beyond the individual household level.

Project A2. Firewise Communities Program

Project A2 Deliverables:

Leadership and coordination of Hawaii's Firewise Communities Program within each county, rather than only one program staff person for the whole state. This will enable:

- Ongoing technical support for the existing 20 Firewise Communities to ensure they maintain their efforts and national recognition;
- Localized technical assistance for new communities requesting to join the Firewise program, to include community hazard assessments and technical assistance toward neighborhood mitigation projects and application for national recognition (approximately 20); and
- Coordination and hosting of quarterly Firewise statewide network meetings (all participating communities, 4 gatherings per year), as well as quarterly Firewise network gatherings per island (4 total)

Goal A3: Owners and managers of large lands are engaged in learning about and carrying out wildfire mitigation measures.

Project A3. Wildfire Resilient Landscapes Program

Project A3 Deliverables: Leadership and coordination of a Wildfire Resilient Landscapes Program within each county, rather than only one HWMO program staff person for the whole state. This will enable::

- Educational workshop series for land stewards (covering topics such as wildfire site planning, best practices for mitigation, fire behavior and vegetation management, etc.), (4 workshops)
- Technical assistance in both on-the-ground fuels management work, plans, and grant proposals to aid in completing the mitigation work. (assistance to no less than 8 land stewards with their mitigation planning and grant proposals).

- Coordination and hosting of land steward wildfire working groups to support ongoing learning, collaboration, and fuels management, co-implemented with county fire departments (4 working groups, 1 per county)

Objective B: Technical assistance for those working on wildfire planning or mitigation initiatives; to include updates and technical reviews of wildfire-related plans, codes, policies and initiatives, and grant proposals and mitigation project plans.

Goal B1: Wildfire preparedness, planning, and risk reduction measures being carried out by local, county, and state partners are supported with technical assistance.

Project B1: Wildfire Technical Assistance and Support

Project B1 Deliverables: Technical assistance to, and participation in, ongoing efforts by State and County agencies, departments, and elected officials, as follows:

Hawaii's Departments of Emergency Management, Transportation, Health, Education, Land and Natural Resources, Hawaiian Home Lands, UHERO at University of Hawaii, Mānoa, and many community leaders and elected officials have requested HWMO's participation and technical support in wildfire planning, education, mitigation, policy-making, and other related initiatives. County fire departments have requested technical support and participation in code updates, hazard assessments, and mapping efforts. Additionally, many partners have requested HWMO's assistance with integrating wildfire strategies into County-based Community Development Plans, Hazard Mitigation Plans (State and County), and Emergency Response Plans. Deliverables include HWMO's participation in these efforts, contribution of technical guidance and information, and review/feedback on final plans, as requested by partners.

Objective C: Coordination for multi-partner collaborations, including knowledge exchange opportunities, coordinated initiatives, and the development and sustaining of robust partnerships and communications among sectors, agencies, and communities.

Goal C1: Robust and coordinated communication and collaboration to ensure wildfire initiatives across partners, sectors, and counties are compatible, efficient, effective, and mutually-supportive, whenever possible. Opportunities are provided to build wildfire knowledge and professional connections.

Project C1: Multi-partner Collaboration, Coordination, and Communication

Project C1 Deliverables:

- Completion of a **Hawaii State Wildfire Hazard Assessment**, completed in partnership with all county fire departments and State Department of Forestry and Wildlife.
- Completion of a catalog of existing, recently funded/initiated, and newly proposed wildfire-focused plans, research initiatives and mitigation projects, to ensure compatibility and continuity among the many separate public and private plans, and to maintain coordination and connection among them, the public, and decision makers.

- **Multi-day knowledge exchange and training event** that convenes diverse professionals to learn, share, and coordinate wildfire initiatives, best practices, new technologies, and opportunities.
- Coordination and hosting of the **Cross-County Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Council**, which includes all county, state, and federal fire/forestry agencies in Hawaii.
- **Wildfire Communications Newsletter** developed and distributed regularly as a clearinghouse of information such as wildfire-related opportunities, training, and publications.

3. The public purpose and need to be served

Ultimately, the proposed efforts are aiming toward reducing wildfire frequency, size, and damage to Hawaii's people and places. Public safety, public health, and environmental protection are all achieved when fewer fires occur and when residents, land stewards, and response agencies are prepared. Firefighting is the last line of defense, and there is much research and evidence to show that prevention and preparedness save lives and money. Until the August 2023 fires, wildfire issues in Hawaii were underpublicized, underfunded, and under-addressed, but they have long affected natural resources from mauka to makai and have burned homes and caused numerous municipal challenges and public safety issues for years, long before August 2023. HWMO understands the full scope of the issue, and has expertise in what can be done to minimize wildfire occurrence and impacts. Hawaii's residents and professionals dealing with wildfire need information and sustained support to take effective action.

Hawaii's wildfire issues rival the most fire-prone Western U.S. states, and yet we are only at the beginning of the work to be done to address these issues. While our acre numbers may be lower because Hawaii is a small state, the impacts are significant, broad, and long lasting, as evidenced by the loss of life and property on Maui and Hawaii Island in 2023— but the losses and impacts have been increasing for decades. By all measures, Hawaii is a fire-prone state, and it is time for our public awareness, preparedness programs, and hazard reduction activities to catch up to the risk we face. Wildfire impacts and suppression costs are increasing while resources for wildfire prevention, hazard reduction, and research remain relatively unchanged and insufficient for many years. HWMO was founded because agencies throughout Hawaii have had limited capacity to prevent wildfires, reduce hazards, and restore impacted areas (basically, the non-firefighting aspects of managing wildfire threats and impacts). Even with the surge of attention that wildfire currently has in the consciousness of our state, and the priority space it will likely be given in policy and budget-making this year, the specific projects proposed here are not included in those changes or budgets yet. The proposed activities are baseline necessities and public services that still need full funding. They supplement and support the work and budgets already initiated post-disaster.

This proposal seeks to build a more proactive, prevention-minded public across Hawaii through multi-modal educational activities, and to support firefighting and land management agencies by providing technical assistance, and by coordinating training and cross-boundary project coordination that will increase knowledge, capacity, and efficacy.

In addition to holding the potential for the type of disaster we have recently experienced where lives, homes, and property were destroyed and/or threatened, wildfires in Hawaii have the following impacts in our state:

- decrease groundwater recharge (burned soil affects drinking water supplies);
- damage nearshore resources (fishponds, coral reefs, fisheries) from post-fire erosion;
- cause flooding;
- create traffic and road closures;
- degrade air quality (smoke and post-fire dust);
- destroy native forests (threatening native species and their habitats);
- change soil (and often convert native vegetation to fire-prone nonnative vegetation, causing more fires and a vicious cycle of increasing hazard);
- cause erosion, fill streams with sediment (impacting water flow and stream plants and animals);
- are expensive to suppress (and costs are going up; firefighting and post-fire recovery are exponentially more expensive than prevention); and
- are increasing in size, frequency, and damages.

While no one ever would have wished for awareness and prioritization of this issue to come in the way it has to our state, there have been recent strides in reckoning that Hawaii is at great risk of wildfire. There has been a new commitment to learning more and taking action. It is time now to make sure we are able to follow through in ways that can be sustained and make a long-lasting impact toward adapting to this challenge comprehensively and effectively.

We have much work to do to communicate the critical, year-round, all-areas, everyone-needs-to-do-their-part nature of the problem here within the state, shift to a new culture wherein people know what can be done to reduce their risk and stay safer, and support/inspire people to do their part. We need our systems, policies, plans, HOAs, neighborhood boards, budgets, and lifestyles to reflect a greater appreciation for wildfire risk, and a collective effort to mitigate that risk through ongoing, sustained awareness and action. This proposal would support strong, informed, and effective movement in that direction. These projects provide a substantial public service that not only assists the government agencies and other entities with whom we work, but also protects human lives, property, and the natural environment.

4. Describe the target population to be served;

The populations to be served by the proposed projects are those that live and work in high-risk fire-prone communities throughout the state. This project specifically supports programs in every county. All demographics are served. However, HWMO prioritizes services to areas of highest risk and bolsters its support for underserved populations by fundraising to assist with mitigation projects with/for these communities.

The key recipients of the services proposed here are as follows:

- **Adult and youth residents, and community leaders** will be supported with information and strategies they can use to become wildfire-ready and wildfire-safe, including fire preparedness strategies to protect families, homes, yards, and communities.
- **Local residents and visitors** alike will be served by a reduction in wildfires, as all are affected by wildfire due to traffic, road closures, and environmental impacts such as reduced groundwater recharge/drinking water and air quality issues from smoke and post-fire dust.
- **Firefighting agencies and natural resource managers** will also benefit from the services provided by HWMO through the requested funds, as the proposed projects are specifically and

collaboratively designed to assist their efforts to protect communities and natural resources from wildfire through educational, training, and technical assistance activities.

- **Professionals developing wildfire projects, plans, codes, assessments, and maps**, and those affected by those efforts will also benefit from high quality wildfire information and technical guidance within those documents and subsequent policies and actions, which are all meant to yield public health and safety, and healthy natural resources.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

Wildfire issues occur on every island in the state. While the *largest* fires occur in leeward areas, we know from statewide fire agency records that fire ignitions occur with frequency on all sides of every island, and that even smaller -acreage fires can have devastating consequences on human lives, property, and natural resources. With projected extreme drought and high levels of vegetative fire fuels in these areas, fires may be able to catch and spread in areas that are typically too wet to sustain a wildfire. For this reason, the proposed project will provide outreach to all areas of the state, with an additional detailed focus on the most fire-prone communities as well as people who have been underserved to date.

Specifically, HWMO is proposing to have each of the proposed programs represented and carried forward by staff in each county. Currently, our programs are run statewide, and our staff travel to each island to carry out the related activities, with one staff person covering the whole state for their program. This is no longer a viable option. With the massive interest and number of requests we now have in every county, particularly to work with communities, land stewards, agencies, and community leaders regularly and often in person, this proposal will enable HWMO to provide program staff in each county for more consistent, effective, and local support.

III. Service Summary and Outcomes

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

Scope of work:

HWMO will lead wildfire preparedness and prevention activities, spanning from awareness campaigns to deeper learning and action programs. Additionally, HWMO will provide technical assistance, as well as knowledge exchange and collaboration support to natural resource managers, firefighters, landscapers, community leaders, state and county agencies, and others working on wildfire-related efforts.

Tasks and responsibilities per deliverable:

Project A1: Public Wildfire Awareness and Information

Project A1 Deliverables: Multiple and robust learning opportunities for public awareness and education to include radio, print, web, social media, and live formats:

Project A1 Tasks:

- **Radio:** Secure contracts, record PSA, broadcast PSAs for 3 months
- **Print:** Update, print, and distribute guides
- **Web:** Work with contractor to design and launch improved website
- **Social Media:** Work with contractor to develop professional quality educational social media content

- **Live (in-person/remote)**- Coordinate, advertise, and host 40 wildfire preparedness workshops approx. 10 per county)

Project A2. Firewise Communities Program

Project A2 Deliverables: Leadership and coordination of Hawaii's Firewise Communities Program within each county, to include ongoing technical support for the existing Firewise Communities, assistance for new communities requesting to join the Firewise program, and coordination and hosting of quarterly Firewise network meetings.

Project A2 Tasks:

- Hire and train each county Firewise Coordinators
- Assist existing and new communities through annual program requirements, including hazard assessments, national application, community projects, and record keeping
- Host quarterly all-community Firewise network meetings

Project A3. Wildfire Resilient Landscapes Program

Project A3 Deliverables: Leadership and coordination of a Wildfire Resilient Landscapes Program within each county, to provide educational workshop series for land stewards and technical assistance, and host land steward working groups.

Project A2 Tasks:

- Hire and train program coordinators per county
- Prepare, coordinate and host 4 workshops for land stewards
- Coordinate and host ongoing working groups for land stewards on each county

Project B1: Wildfire Technical Assistance and Support

Project B1 Deliverables: Technical assistance to, and participation in, ongoing efforts by State and County agencies, departments, and elected officials.

Project B1 Tasks:

- Coordinate schedule and develop work plan to effectively engage in partner planning efforts
- Attend meetings and participate in site visits and other work sessions as requested/needed
- Provide requested education or information
- Review plans, final project designs, and/or project/grant proposals.

Project C1: Multi-partner Collaboration, Coordination, and Communication

Project C1 Deliverables: With partners, coordinating complete a series of collaborative projects, trainings, and working groups.

Project C1 tasks:

- Work with county fire departments and State Forestry to develop the assessment tool and complete a statewide Hawaii State Wildfire Hazard Assessment.
- Hire contractor to develop a wildfire projects and research catalog of existing and new projects, research and planning effort related to wildfire. Produce a webpage that can serve as a clearinghouse for this information for the public to use, that shares contact information and summaries for each, as well as final results, plans, products.
- Work with partners to co-design a multi-day knowledge exchange and training event. Secure venue and presenters. Advertise and hold event.
- Coordinate and host of the Cross-County Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Council; arrange speakers and trainings, send reminders, meet bimonthly.

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

Timeline of activities	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<p>Project A1: <u>Public Wildfire Awareness and Information</u> Project A1 Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Radio: Secure contracts, record PSA, broadcast PSAs for 3 months - Print: Update, print, and distribute guides - Web: Work with contractor to design and launch improved website - Social Media: Work with contractor to develop professional quality educational social media content - Live (in-person/remote)- Coordinate, advertise, and host 40 wildfire preparedness workshops approx. 10 per county) 			*	*
	*	*		
	*	*	*	
	*	*	*	*
	*	*	*	*
<p>Project A2. <u>Firewise Communities Program</u> Project A2 Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hire and train each county Firewise Coordinators - Assist existing and new communities through annual program requirements, including hazard assessments, national application, community projects, and record keeping - Host quarterly all-community Firewise network meetings 	*			
	*	*	*	*
	*	*	*	*
<p>Project A3. <u>Wildfire Resilient Landscapes Program</u> Project A2 Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hire and train program coordinators per county - Prepare, coordinate, and host 4 workshops for land stewards - Coordinate and host ongoing working groups for land stewards on each county 	*		*	
	*	*	*	*
<p>Project B1: <u>Wildfire Technical Assistance and Support</u> Project B1 Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinate schedule and develop work plan to effectively engage in partner planning efforts - Attend meetings and participate in site visits and other work sessions as requested/needed - Provide requested education or information - Review plans, final project designs, and/or project/grant proposals. 	*			
	*	*	*	*
	*	*	*	*
	*	*	*	*
<p>Project C1: <u>Multi-partner Collaboration, Coordination, and Communication</u> Project C1 tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with county fire departments and State Forestry to develop the assessment tool and complete a statewide Hawaii State Wildfire Hazard Assessment. - Hire contractor to develop a wildfire projects and research catalog of existing and new projects, research and planning effort related to wildfire. 	*	*	*	
	*			
		*	*	*

<p>Project A1 <u>Public Wildfire Awareness and Information</u></p> <p>Includes: Radio PSAs Print materials Website Social media Workshops</p>	<p>Materials reviewed by partners and field experts</p> <p>Web-surveys regarding effectiveness of informational resources to public who download online resources or engage with content</p> <p>Evaluation surveys after community workshops and technical assistance</p> <p>Track distribution of materials and information</p>	<p>Review content and style. Is the message easily understood, do materials appropriately communicate priorities and strategies per county? Are materials endorsed by all fire and land management agencies? Will the public understand the importance of fire prevention and know what actions they can take?</p> <p>Was information or experience helpful? Did it answer questions? Has awareness/ knowledge increased? How? Likelihood to take wildfire preparedness action.</p> <p>Recommendations for improvement and follow-up activities.</p> <p># materials distributed, # communities and sectors reached. Was info distributed to all fire prone communities? All fire prone schools?</p>
<p>Project A2: <u>Firewise Program;</u></p> <p>Project A3: <u>Wildfire Resilient Landscapes Program;</u> and</p> <p>Project C1: <u>Multi-partner Collaboration, Coordination, and Communication</u></p>	<p>(For all three projects):</p> <p>Participation tracking</p> <p>Pre-event survey</p> <p>Post-event survey</p>	<p>(For all three projects):</p> <p>Type and # entities involved. Diversity of professions participating? Are fire, emergency management, and forestry represented, etc.?</p> <p>Why participating? Hopes and expectations? Existing connections/partnerships.</p> <p>Participant experience feedback and recommendations for improvement and follow-up activities. Whether expectations have been met, new partnerships or projects initiated, new skills/subjects learned. Changes in perspective, anticipated changes in behaviors and actions.</p>
<p>Project B1: <u>Wildfire Technical Assistance and Support</u></p>	<p>Partner surveys after technical assistance is provided</p> <p>Documentation of outcomes</p>	<p>Partner satisfaction; effectiveness, quality and timeliness of assistance; level of engagement and collaboration among stakeholders facilitated by the assistance</p> <p>Did the resulting plan, project, or document succeed in building capacity, mobilizing resources, increase partnerships or collaboration, engage stakeholders, lead to improved policy, improve cost effectiveness of stakeholder engagement/action?</p>

4. List the measure(s) of effectiveness that will be reported to the State agency through which grant funds are appropriated (the expending agency).

Activity	Measure of Effectiveness
<u>Wildfire Prevention Education</u>	<p>All proposed educational and informational deliverables completed, distributed, and/or posted online, as proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Radio: Wildfire radio PSA campaign for 3 months - Print: Ready, Set, Go! Wildfire Action Guides printed and distributed to all counties (2,500 per county, 10,000 total) - Web: New HWMO website is designed, launched, and is accessible and comprehensive - Social Media: 104 quality educational social media content posts are created and shared (2/week) - Live (in-person/remote)- 40 wildfire preparedness workshops approx. 10 per county)
<u>Firewise Communities Program</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Program coordinators hired and trained - 20 existing and 20 new communities are assisted through annual program requirements - Quarterly Firewise network meetings (4 total)
<u>Wildfire Resilient Landscapes Program</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Program coordinators hired and trained - 4 land steward working groups with biannual gatherings - Completion of statewide Hawaii State Wildfire Hazard Assessment.
<u>Multi-partner Collaboration, and Coordination, and Communication</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wildfire projects and research catalog is developed and web-published. - Multi-partner wildfire knowledge exchange and training event coordinated and held. - Bi-monthly hosting of Cross-County Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Council (6 total) - Wildfire Communications Newsletter (6 total)

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
Attached
 - 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 2025.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
300,000	250,000	250,000	241,373

3. The applicant shall provide a listing of all other sources of funding that they are seeking for fiscal year 2025.

HWMO has submitted or will be submitting grant proposals for the following projects and amounts for FY 2025, but due to the timing of grant deadlines and award notification periods, none are certain or secured yet.

Source	Amount for FY25
USDA Forest Service	\$275,000
USDA Forest Service	\$275,000
USDA Forest Service	\$275,000
USDA Forest Service	\$90,700
USDA Forest Service	\$92,400
USDA Forest Service	\$88,800
USDA Forest Service	\$45,000
USDA Forest Service	\$95,000
USDA Forest Service	\$90,000
USDA Forest Service	\$88,000
USDA Forest Service	\$90,000
County of Hawaii	\$50,000

Total secured federal funds= \$409,137. Total pending/proposed federal funds=\$1,504,900 (Total possible federal funds \$1,914,037, if all \$1.5M of proposals are funded. From past experience, HWMO is hopeful that some or many of these proposals will get funded, but we do not expect all requests to be awarded).

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.

None.

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 2025 for program funding.

The following table demonstrates funding amounts and sources for the last three years, and

includes those with terms that extend through part or all of FY2025.

CONTRACT DESCRIPTION*	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
Volcano Wildfire Public Outreach & Education	1/10/23 - 9/30/24	DOFAW	State	12,000
Home assessor training and support	11/1/23 - 10/30/25	DOFAW	State	40,000
2023 Hawaii Wildfires Recovery Program Support	9/1/23 - 9/30/24	Watershed Research & Training Center	Federal	60,000
Regional Cross-Border Collaboration to Reduce Wildfire Risk in North Kona, Hawaii	10/2/23 - 6/30/26	DOFAW	State	66,600
Identifying wildland info and tech needs in the US-affiliated Pacific	9/1/21 - 8/31/24	US Forest Service	Federal	180,000
Community Wildfire Defense Grant Outreach & Education	10/2/23 - 6/30/24	DOFAW	State	190,000
US-API Wildfire Prevention Planning	7/20/22 - 5/31/27	US Forest Service	Federal	275,000
Hazard reduction for Big Island Firewise and adjacent lands	9/15/21 - 3/14/24	US Forest Service	Federal	300,000
Priority community risk reduction in Hawaii	9/7/22 - 9/30/24	US Forest Service	Federal	310,000
Wildfire Fuels Control and Establishing an Effective Shaded Fuel Break in the Waianae Mountains	9/17/23 - 4/30/27	US Forest Service	Federal	316,957
Pacific Fire Exchange: Linking Fire Science and Fire Management	10/1/23 - 9/30/25	US Dept of Interior Bureau of Land Management	Federal	194,591
*Many additional applications have been submitted for funding, the outcomes of which are not available at time of GIA application				

6. The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2023.

\$274,661.97

V. Experience and Capability

1. Necessary Skills and Experience

Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization is the only entity doing the full spectrum of non-suppression wildfire protection activities in the state. For more than two decades we have been providing wildfire education, engaging and assisting communities, writing fire plans, reducing hazards, and improving firefighting capacity. Over this time, we have developed and adapted successful strategies and techniques, and built networks of partnerships and collaborations to increase public safety and to protect Hawaii’s natural and cultural resources from wildfire. We are well-prepared and positioned to accomplish the tasks described above. The mission of the organization and its activities is to provide the public service of wildfire preparedness and decreased impacts. State funds provided from this application will be matched with secured federal and other funds, allowing us to expand the public benefit of our activities.

Elizabeth Pickett and Andrea (Nani) Barretto, Co-Executive Directors of HWMO, will be responsible for oversight and implementation of the goals and activities described in this application. Both directors have proven track records for successful wildfire mitigation, natural resource management and engaging communities to be proactive.

Ms. Pickett has been leading wildfire protection projects, coordinating partner collaborations, and managing HWMO's operations and staff since 2008. She is a wildfire mitigation specialist, and has led the development of every Community Wildfire Protection Plan in Hawaii since 2008. She holds the Vice Chair position for the Big Island Wildfire Coordinating Group, and is a participant in the West Maui Fire Task Force, South Maui Fire Task Force, Molokai Fire Task Force, and Kauai Brushfire Meeting Group. She is co-founder and active steering committee member of the Pacific Fire Exchange program, implemented with University of Hawaii and US Forest Service. Since the August 2023 fires, Elizabeth has served as a key expert for the several investigations, local to state government committees and policy-making, media communications about Hawaii's wildfire situation, and mitigation assistance requests. She will oversee the technical program staff and technical assistance deliverables, and the coordination of multi-partner work that are proposed in this GIA request.

Ms. Barretto began with HWMO in 2019, with a community program development, public health, and research background. For HWMO, she has led the expansion of the state Firewise Communities Program, the Pacific Fire Exchange Program, and more. She has grown the Firewise program by many communities, established essential new components of the program, such as connecting Firewise Community mitigation efforts with wildfire prevention efforts on adjacent large lands and developing statewide and island Firewise networks, and piloted a Community Wildfire Ambassadors program that trains fire department personnel and community volunteers together, in order to provide free educational wildfire home assessments to those in fire-prone areas who request this service. This program has strengthened the coordination and partnerships with our fire departments, increased local capacity to reduce vegetation and fire risk in neighborhoods, and grown local workforce capacity for wildfire mitigation. She will oversee the Firewise program staff, Firewise deliverables, and education/outreach deliverables proposed in this project.

Additional expertise and implementation support for the project will come from the HWMO Board of Directors, HWMO Technical Advisory Partners, and paid HWMO staff. Details for each are provided below:

HWMO Volunteer Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee

The HWMO Board consists of some of the best wildfire, natural resource, and nonprofit expertise in the state. Environmental scientists, land use planners, and representatives from University of Hawaii Cooperative Extension, Hawaii Fire Department, and Department of Land and Natural Resources all serve on the HWMO Board and lead its Technical Advisory Committee, which is composed of many experts and partners from across the state, Pacific, and nation. Diverse founders established HWMO to be a proactive and collaboration-focused non-profit organization that addresses wildfire-related issues by leveraging existing agency and community capacity and expertise to achieve better-together results. The Board and Technical Advisory Committee perpetuate that approach, making HWMO as strong as it is.

HWMO Staff

In addition to the Co-Executive Directors, HWMO's paid staff is comprised of a Wildfire Mitigation Program Manager, a Collaborations and Education Coordinator, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) specialist, a Data Analyst, and several project assistants. The requested funds include salary support for each position for the portion of time dedicated to the proposed objectives, as well as new positions proposed to ensure effective capacity in each county.

Partner Contributors

HWMO has established positive and productive working partnerships with numerous entities. This is a major key to our success, capacity, and quality. HWMO maintains strong relationships and communication with our partners in order to bring in the best expertise toward designing and implementing projects as possible. We are also able to leverage these partners' involvement toward value added contributions toward the projects, which often extend the life and/or enhance each project's positive impacts. Our partners connect HWMO staff and projects to information, help design the projects (as they did for this proposal), aid us in sharing educational information to the public and their diverse constituents, help advertise public workshops, and more. HWMO's partners and technical advisors include:

County:

Hawaii Fire Department
Maui Fire Department
Kauai Fire Department
Honolulu Fire Department
County of Hawaii Civil Defense
Kauai Emergency Management Agency
Honolulu Emergency Management Agency

State:

State Fire Council
HI DLNR- Division of Forestry and Wildlife
HI DLNR- Division of State Parks
HI DLNR- Division of Aquatic Resources
HI- Emergency Management Agency
HI Department of Education
HI Department of Health
HI Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
HI Department of Transportation
University of Hawaii, Manoa
Hawaii Community College

Hawaii Natural Resource Management and Land Stewardship:

Koolau Mountains Watershed Partnership
Leeward Haleakala Watershed Partnership
Mauna Kahalawai Watershed Partnership
Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance
South Kohala Coastal Partnership
Waianae Mountains Watershed Partnership

Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership
Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative
Hawaii Island Native Seed Bank
Hawaii Forest Industry Association
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Parker Ranch
Ponoholo Ranch
Haleakala Ranch

Federal

USDA Forest Service
USDA National Resource Conservation Service
U.S. National Park Service
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Army Fire and Emergency Services, PTA
NOAA- National Weather Service

National Fire:

National Fire Protection Association
Western Fire Chiefs Association
International Association of Fire Chiefs
Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network
National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy
Coalitions and Collaboratives

Pacific Island:

Guam Dept. of Agriculture- Forestry and Soil Resources Division
Ibiil Society
Palau Wildfire Prevention Network

Verifiable Projects over the past 3 years

The following projects represent both our ongoing efforts, as well as the unique role and projects we have fulfilled as a result of the August 2023 fires:

- **Coordinated and developed 5 regional wildfire plans**, on behalf of County Fire Departments, Civil Defense/Emergency Management, and State Division of Forestry and Wildlife:
 - North Shore Community Wildfire Protection Plan (published)
 - East Honolulu Community Wildfire Protection Plan (in review)
 - Hamakua Community Wildfire Protection Plan (in review)
 - Leeward Haleakala Community Wildfire Protection Plan (published)
 - Greater Kawaihae Region Wildfire Mitigation Framework (published)

- **Coordinated and expanded Hawaii's Firewise Communities Program**
 - Assisted 6 new communities and 14 existing to apply and maintain national recognition
 - Supported annual fuels reduction and education projects within each Firewise Community
 - Launched and maintained the Hawaii Firewise Network
 - Launched and maintained the Big Island Firewise Network
 - Launched and maintained the Community Ambassadors program to train and certify community members and fire service personnel to conduct wildfire home assessments (provided 3 multi-day certified trainings, 242 homes assessed in fire prone areas, 44 trained community ambassadors)

- **Raised funds and coordinated implementation of vegetation hazard reduction projects**, both small/community scale and larger landscape scale:
 - 30 vegetation management projects in Firewise Communities contributing to 1500 cubic yards of hazardous vegetation removed from around houses and neighborhoods and 24 acres of fuel break cleared/maintained, vegetation removal services and green waste dumpster days, and neighborhood chipping projects and services
 - Approx. 200 acres of strategic vegetation management to reduce fire fuels endangering sensitive natural resources and at-risk communities on Hawaii Island, Maui, Molokai, Kauai, and Oahu.

- **Led the state's wildfire education initiatives** on behalf of, and in partnership with, all fire agency partners, to include:
 - Leading approximately 85 workshops and webinars for communities and various sectors on wildfire preparedness.
 - Serving as information hub and co-lead of multi-partner statewide *Wildfire and Drought Lookout!* campaign information and media materials (35 entities involved).
 - Developing, printing, and distributing *Wildfire and Drought Lookout!* and *Ready, Set, Go!* prevention materials to agencies, community members, and students in fire prone areas across the state as part of all-agency wildfire prevention preparedness campaigns.
 - Coordinated 3 years of radio PSAs on all islands during 3 most fire-prone months.

- **Co-implemented the Pacific Fire Exchange Program (PFX)** with the University of Hawaii and US Forest Service to develop more Hawaii-focused fire science and to translate fire science results into information and training usable in land management practices to decrease fire risk in Hawaii. In response to the August 2023 fires, After-Fire guidance and best practices became a focus, toward which several workshops, webinars, and publications were developed and shared. New initiatives to address specialized needs from partners on Maui and Hawaii Island related to post-fire assessment and restoration have been a major effort.

- **Served as producer, technical expert, and point of contact for existing wildfire information**, to include hazard assessments, fire history maps, community fire plans, and preparedness information. Since August 2023, these constitute the majority of the background information used by legislators, government agencies, planners, natural resource managers, scientists, media, and investigations to further wildfire-related work and increase public safety.
- **Absorbed responsibility of promoting and supporting the federal Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program** on behalf of the State (agreement made between DLNR-DOFAW for HWMO to lead due to lack of DLNR-DOFAW capacity). As part of this responsibility, HWMO assisted partners across Hawaii to apply for over \$65M of grant funding for wildfire risk reduction projects.
- **Led, coordinated, and/or participated in wildfire working groups around the state**, to include the Big Island Wildfire Coordinating Group, Cross-County Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Council, Waianae Wildfire Hui, Leeward Haleakala Fire Task Force, Molokai Fire Task Force, Kauai Brushfire Group, and City & County of Honolulu Wildfire Preparedness Working Group.

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.

HWMO rents an office space in Kamuela, HI and stores field equipment in a storage container also in Kamuela. These facilities, though tight, generally fit our current and anticipated needs for staff workspace and equipment storage, so long as we can continue to cover the associated expenses. Part of this proposal includes costs associated with these facilities. The majority of HWMO staff work a combination of remotely and in the field or with partners and community members, and receive a work-from-home stipend to contribute to the associated costs of internet, phone, electricity, etc. HWMO is able to keep costs down in this way. We also rent space as needed for community workshops and educational events.

VI. Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing

1. Proposed Staffing, Staff Qualifications, Supervision and Training

HWMO has achieved much of its success through strong partnerships and collaboration, and very dedicated and passionate employees who often donate additional time to their projects. With a sufficient budget and the ability to hire staff local on each island/county, the depth and strength of our work will increase dramatically. Currently, each staff person leads their specific program forward across the entire state. The recent massive increase in community and practitioner technical assistance requests, and uptick in neighborhoods joining the Firewise Communities Program will best be served by localized program staff who can dedicate time toward local attendance and support. For this reason, we are restructuring to have program directors/managers who will support and oversee county-focused program leads.

The proposed staffing pattern to accomplish our full work plan is below. Partial funding has already been secured. This proposal is seeking the unmet funding needs, as demonstrated in subsequent sections of the proposal.

Staff Position	Proposed service	Qualifications
Co-Executive Directors	Responsible for overall direction of organization and accomplishment of all goals. Guide and manage daily operations, staff, progress toward milestones, administrative activities, and the completion of proposed projects. HWMO’s Executive Directors work side by side with staff to implement projects. Focal areas are divided up according to expertise: one director oversees technical projects and one director oversees community programs.	Masters degrees. 16+ years each of natural resource and community program management experience, 14+ years of staff management and administrative experience. Knowledgeable about wildfire issues, prescriptions, best practices, and statewide partners.
Statewide Program Directors/Managers: - Firewise Communities (1) - Wildfire Mitigation (incl. Wildfire Resilient Landscapes Program) (1) - Pacific Fire Exchange (1)	Lead statewide programs, to include planning, management of project budgets, communication with Co-EDs and partners, team leadership, ensuring timelines are met, partner development, reporting, overseeing county-level program coordinators to ensure consistent and quality programs per county.	Masters degrees or 10+ years experience. Knowledgeable about wildfire issues, local ecology, mitigation prescriptions, best practices, and statewide partners. Strong public speaking, facilitation, and project management experience. Strong written and verbal communication.
Program Coordinators: - Firewise Communities Program (4) - Wildfire Mitigation (4) - Wildfire Planning (4) - Community Education (1) - Pacific Fire Exchange (1) - Communications (1)	Provide education and technical guidance to partners within each county. Lead educational workshops. Meet the program-specific goals. Firewise and Mitigation/Planning have coordinators in each county. The other programs have one for the whole program.	Bachelor’s degree. 4+ years of wildfire prevention, preparedness, and/or mitigation. 6+ years working with the public. Strong public speaking, facilitation, and project management experience. Strong written and verbal communication. Print, web, and media skills.

<p>Technical Specialists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data Analyst - GIS Mapping Specialists 	<p>Develop and produce map products and spatial analyses for use in planning projects, educational resources, and for fire departments.</p>	<p>Bachelor’s degree. Strong knowledge and skills of GIS mapping and analysis. 8+ years of wildfire prevention or natural resource management background.</p>
<p>Project Assistants</p>	<p>Work with HWMO program directors to implement projects and assist toward deliverables.</p>	<p>Bachelor’s degree or 3+ years experience. Background in natural resources management. Strong organizational and planning skills.</p>
<p>Bookkeeper/ Business manager</p>	<p>Maintain compliance with all laws. Provide bookkeeping services, human resources, administrative support, and payroll services.</p>	<p>Proper certifications and 8+ years experience.</p>
<p>Contracted Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tax accountant - Fuels management - Website - Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual taxes and audit services - Landscaping crews for specific projects - Website development and updates - Wildfire data collection for specific projects 	<p>Proper certifications, insurance coverage, and 8+ years experience.</p>

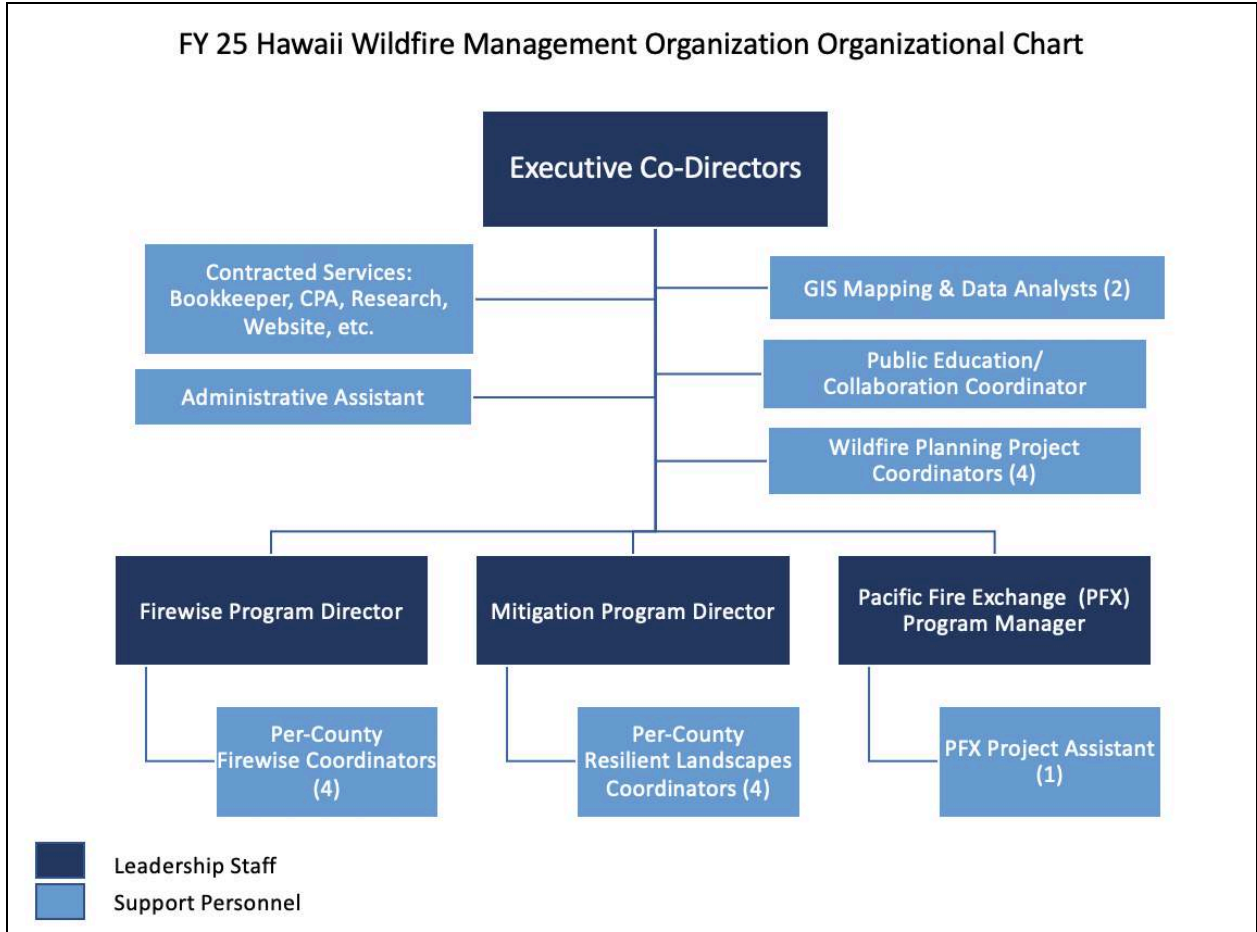
HWMO has the experience and capacity to ensure these positions accomplish the goals laid out in this application. We have compliant labor, administrative, and recordkeeping systems in place, an employee manual, and biannual staff evaluations and work plan updates. Additionally, HWMO holds weekly staff meetings to ensure all work is being accomplished as planned and to support each other to accomplish overall goals of the organization and our many partners.

2. Organization Chart

The Executive Director is overseen by the Board of Directors, who in turn, oversee program staff. Staff are hired for their experience and skill sets, are required to keep up their specific certifications when necessary, and are supported whenever possible to pursue additional training. While the Technical Advisory Committee does not have formal authority over the staff, it is included in the chart below to demonstrate the importance of our advisors in lending their expertise toward HWMO’s work plan and priorities, to ensure they are of service to Hawaii’s wildfire-related needs.

Both the higher level organizational chart and the FY 25 personnel org chart showing lines of authority follow:

HWMO Organizational Structure	Serves these needs:	Planning	Information & Outreach	Cross-Boundary Project Coordination	On-the-Ground Hazard Reduction
	To support:	Community Members	Government Agencies	Elected Officials	Private Organizations, Businesses, Landowners
	To ensure:				Expertise:
Compliance, Sustainability, Integrity		Board of Directors Governance & compliance regarding legal and financial matters Hire/evaluate/support Executive Director Fundraising, Set Mission and Vision			Non-profit governance
Grounded in Wildfire Needs, Priorities, & Expertise		Technical Advisory Committee Advise, assist, support HWMO projects and programs Keep HWMO grounded, relevant, effective, connected			Technical Experience and Understanding
All aspects are coordinated and managed with excellence & toward mission		Executive Director Lead operations, hire/fire/manage staff, manage finances, Design, coordinate, & implement projects and programs Raise funds through grant-writing and donor activities Primary organizational contact/lead			Overall Operations
Projects are completed on time and with high quality		Staff Implement projects and perpetuate HWMO's collaborative culture Community education, fire assessments and plan writing, fuels management, GIS/mapping			Project Implementation
Continuous community engagement opportunities		Volunteers Support and enhance projects, network, and connections Champion HWMO projects and causes			Place-based connections & understanding



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.

Executive Director A/Technical Expert: \$118,560

ED B/Director of Programs: \$95,680

Mitigation Program Director: \$72,800.

VII. Other

1. Litigation

Not applicable

2. Licensure or Accreditation

Each of our Technical Board Directors and Advisors maintains current training requirements for their field, mostly as firefighters, foresters, or planners. Our staff each have degrees in their area of expertise and keep up with current training certifications.

There is no licensing or accreditation at the federal, state, or county levels for the services HWMO provides. However, as an organization, HWMO staff is a trained formal cooperators with national level wildfire programs:

- Ready, Set, Go! (We are even pictured on the homepage)
- Firewise USA
- Fire-Adapted Communities Learning Network

In addition, all project staff at HWMO have completed the following courses:

Certifications and Courses from NFPA Firewise USA:

Firewise Landscaping
Firewise Assessment in the Wildland/Urban Interface
Firefighter Safety in the Wildland/Urban Interface

Course from National Fire Protection Association:

Assessing Structural Ignition Potential from Wildfire

The Executive Director and Mitigation Program Director maintain current certifications as wildland firefighters (S-130/S-190) and wildfire mitigation specialists through the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). They also maintain additional training and certifications for Incident Command Systems (ICS 100-300), and as Public Information Officers (PIO) and Resource Advisors (READ) through the National Park Service.

3. Private Educational Institutions

Not applicable

4. Future Sustainability Plan

If HWMO receives this funding only for FY 25 and not beyond, it will still serve the essential purpose of being able to immediately provide the technical assistance and community support for wildfire mitigation and readiness at this time when concern is high and many planning and policy efforts are happening all at once and asking for HWMO to lead the way and/or participate at a fairly intensive level. This funding will be critical to bridging the gap and immediately allow us to ramp up for what we believe may be the most demanding year of our organization (based on the post-disaster need). Our programs are front-loaded and this will allow us to do that hard work of getting communities' Firewise efforts off the ground, get wildfire expertise put into all of the state and county agency plans, catalog all the new research and plans and ensure that partners are aware of each other and that government and local plans and research are compatible, and more. From new fire codes to statewide hazard assessments to updated and new fire and hazard mitigation plans to the 1500% increase in interest in the Firewise Communities program, FY25 needs will be instrumental to Hawaii's wildfire future.

This funding will also allow us to be of service while the role HWMO will play in the future will become more clear. We will utilize this time to better understand and plan for our next chapter, and develop our

programs and services to match the level of need, requests, and action occurring into the future— but all of that is based on the next 1-2 years of unfolding wildfire-related initiatives across the state. Many of those are just getting off the ground now. HWMO will only be able to provide services for what is funded, as demonstrated in our financial information, much of our capacity is riding on this and other still-ending grant applications. Regardless of the state's high level of need, because HWMO is currently the primary organization running many of these statewide wildfire planning, preparedness, and education programs, whatever isn't funded will consequently/likely not be available for Hawaii's people, agencies, and places until funds are secured.

That said, HWMO has been mostly successful in its historic competitive federal applications for grants to conduct the work prioritized by its technical advisors and partners, and anticipates continued success for current and future applications. Because the projects are supported, and in part generated, by public and private partners from across the state, we are often able to pool resources toward collaborative priorities as needed, as funds to our organization wax and wane. We will continue to leverage partners and existing resources and assets, and apply for additional grant funding to pursue the very important work that we do and that has been prioritized for our state. We are the only 100% wildfire-focused entity in the state, so we are persistent in our efforts and adapt as necessary to fill this unique role and push forward on this under-addressed but crucial issue.

In both 2017 and 2018, HWMO held its first large fundraising events, both with great success, providing much needed funds to the organization for operational overhead and community education projects. We had to pause those because of COVID, followed by the complete overwhelm of our work after the 2023 fires. We plan to reactivate our donation-focused and event-driven fundraising efforts into the future, with the goal of covering operational and project expenses more and more as possible.

Additionally, to diversify our income, HWMO has also begun ramping up two fee-for service income streams. The first is aiding land use planning firms and consultants to incorporate wildfire-prevention and preparedness best practices into their designs. The second is to provide assessments and mitigation planning assistance to private large landowners seeking to improve wildfire safety on their landholdings. Both of these have been fruitful and we believe they will continue to provide supplemental, if not primary, income in the years to come.

Because of our role since the aftermath of the August 2023 fires, HWMO has been fortunate enough to receive some technical assistance from two philanthropic groups to assist us with public relations, who are helping us increase our name recognition and connections to private funders, donors, and businesses. We believe this will also be fruitful toward our funding moving forward.

Finally, we are working closely with our agency partners to restructure how these programs are implemented and funded, since there is broad agreement that leaving all of Hawaii's wildfire work up to a small nonprofit leaves the entire state vulnerable to our ability to compete against the rest of the United States for limited funds. This will take time, but there is already conversation and planning taking place to reconfigure how this work gets done, by whom, and how it will be funded. We believe the future is bright with not just partnerships (which to date, have consisted of agency representative time and cheerleading of HWMO), but movement toward true co-implementation and co-funding. We just need FY25 bridge funding while we work on all of these new approaches.

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES Period: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Applicant: _Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization

POSITION TITLE	FULL TIME EQUIVALENT	ANNUAL SALARY A	% OF TIME ALLOCATED TO GRANT REQUEST B	TOTAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED (A x B)
Co Executive Director 1, Technical Specialist	1	\$118,560	20.00%	\$ 23,712.00
Co Executive Director 2- Program Specialist	1	\$95,680	20.00%	\$ 19,136.00
Firewise Program Director	1	\$83,200	100.00%	\$ 83,200.00
Firewise Program Coordinators (4 total; one per: Kauai, Oahu, Maui County, Hawaii Island). \$62,400 each; State request is for 3 of the 4.	4	\$62,400	300.00%	\$ 187,200.00
Mitigation Program Director	1	\$83,200	100.00%	\$ 83,200.00
Resilient Landscape Program Coordinators (4 total; one per: Kauai, Oahu, Maui County, Hawaii Island). \$62,400 each;	4	\$62,400	300.00%	\$ 187,200.00
Pacific Fire Exchange Program Manager	1	\$72,800	0.00%	\$ -
Pacific Fire Exchange Project Assistant	1	\$62,400	50.00%	\$ 31,200.00
GIS Mapping & Data Specialist 1	0.5	\$93,600	20.00%	\$ 18,720.00
GIS Mapping & Data Specialist 2	0.5	\$36,400	0.00%	\$ -
Wildfire Planning Project Coordinators (4)	4	\$93,600	0.00%	\$ -
Public Education Coordinator	1	\$66,560	100.00%	\$ 66,560.00
Administrative Assistant	1	\$52,000	20.00%	\$ 10,400.00
				\$ -
TOTAL:				710,528.00
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:				

Applicant: HAWAII WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

** This application page is NOT APPLICABLE to Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's FY25 GIA Application

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:				
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:				

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS Period: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Applicant: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization

**** This application page is NOT APPLICABLE to Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's FY25 GIA Application**

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: 2022-2023	FY: 2023-2024	FY:2024-2025	FY:2024-2025	FY:2025-2026	FY:2026-2027
PLANS						
LAND ACQUISITION						
DESIGN						
CONSTRUCTION						
EQUIPMENT						
TOTAL:						
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:						
NOT APPLICABLE TO HAWAII WILDIFRE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION						

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

Applicant: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization

Contracts Total: \$1,945,148

FY25 Total: \$563,437

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION*	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1	Hazard reduction for Big Island Firewise and adjacent lands	9/15/21 - 3/14/24	US Forest Service	Federal	300,000
2	Home assessor training and support	11/1/23 - 10/30/25	DOFAW	State	40,000
3	US-API Wildfire Prevention Planning	7/20/22 - 5/31/27	US Forest Service	Federal	275,000
4	Community Wildfire Defense Grant Outreach & Education	10/2/23 - 6/30/24	DOFAW	State	190,000
5	Wildfire Fuels Control and Establishing an Effective Shaded Fuel Break in the Waianae Mountains	9/17/23 - 4/30/27	US Forest Service	Federal	316,957
6	Volcano Wildfire Public Outreach & Education	1/10/23 - 9/30/24	DOFAW	State	12,000
7	Regional Cross-Border Collaboration to Reduce Wildfire Risk in North Kona, Hawaii	10/2/23 - 6/30/26	DOFAW	State	66,600
8	Priority community risk reduction in Hawaii	9/7/22 - 9/30/24	US Forest Service	Federal	310,000
9	Identifying wildland info and tech needs in the US-affiliated Pacific	9/1/21 - 8/31/24	US Forest Service	Federal	180,000
10	2023 Hawaii Wildfires Recovery Program Support	9/1/23 - 9/30/24	Watershed Research & Training Center	Federal	60,000
11	Pacific Fire Exchange: Linking Fire Science and Fire Management	10/1/23 - 9/30/25	US Dept of Interior Bureau of Land Management	Federal	194,591

Applicant: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization

Support letters were provided by HWMO's partners in support of Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's GIA application. They include County, State, Federal, local nonprofit, and national nonprofit partners who rely on HWMO's work and will benefit from the proposed activities.

Letters were provided from and submitted as a separate attachment:

County Fire Departments:

Maui Department of Fire and Public Safety
Hawaii Fire Department
Honolulu Fire Department
Kauai Fire Department

County Emergency Management Agencies:

City & County of Honolulu Department of
Emergency Management
Kauai Emergency Management Agency
County of Hawaii Civil Defense Agency

County Councilpersons:

Heather Kimball, Hawaii County Council
Felicia Cowden, Kauai County Council
Tamara Paltin, Maui County Council

National Fire Partner:

Coalitions & Collaboratives, Inc.
Wildland Fire Leadership Council
Western Fire Chiefs Association
National Fire Protection Association/
Firewise USA
Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network

Federal and State Agencies/Institutions

USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest
Region, Fire & Aviation
USDA Institute for Pacific Islands Forestry
US Dept of Interior, National Park Service
and Fish & Wildlife Service
US Dept. of the Army- Pohakuloa
Hawaii Emergency Management
Hawaii Department of Hawaiian Homelands
University of Hawaii at Manoa

Natural Resources and Agriculture

Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Haleakala Ranch
Parker Ranch
Uhiwai O Haleakala
Mauna Kahalawai Watershed Partnership
Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership
Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance
The Kohala Center

Community Associations and Community-based Nonprofits:

'Aina Alliance (Anahola, Kauai)
Get Fit Kauai, H.E.A.L. (Healthy Eating Active
Living) Community Coalition of Kauai County
Livable Hawaii Kai Hui
Lanikai Association
Maui Meadows Community Association
Luniupoko, Maui Firewise Committee
Waikoloa Village
Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders Association

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

GAVIN L.M. FUJIOKA
Deputy Fire Chief



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732
www.maui-county.gov

January 16, 2024

Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

To Whom It May Concern:

SUBJECT: HAWAII WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION'S 2024 GRANT-IN-AID APPLICATION

I am Bradford K. Ventura, Fire Chief of the County of Maui, Department of Fire & Public Safety also known as the Maui Fire Department. I am writing this letter in support of the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and utilized by many, including the Maui County Dept of Fire and Public Safety (MFD).

HWMO leads and coordinates many wildfire prevention activities. They lead meetings amongst the county fire departments to share experiences and procedures throughout the state. They attend community meetings to help the community understand everyone's role in wildfire prevention. In Maui County they have written Community Wildfire Protection Plans for several regions of our county. They have also co-lead Symposiums where Council Members and the public were invited to attend.

We are working to address wildfire-related priorities by creating risk assessment maps to guide wildfire prevention efforts. In addition to that, HWMO has assisted MFD with applying for other wildfire grants.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee

January 16, 2024

Page 2

Wildfire has always been a known threat for Hawaii but after the recent wildfires on Maui it is now on the forefront of everyone's mind. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii.

Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the Fire Chief at (808) 270-7561.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Ventura".

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Deanna S. Sako
Managing Director



Kazuo S. K. L. Todd
Fire Chief

Eric H. Moller
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: Kazuo Todd, Hawaii Fire Department

Date: January 11, 2024

Aloha,

I am writing in my capacity as Fire Chief of the Hawaii Fire Department (HFD) to extend our full support for the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's (HWMO) 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

For over two decades, HWMO has been instrumental in bolstering wildfire preparedness and resilience across Hawaii. Their commitment to wildfire mitigation, comprehensive planning, and community education has been invaluable, not only to the state at large but also to the Hawaii Fire Department. HWMO's unique expertise and resources are critical components in our shared goal of protecting our communities and natural treasures from the escalating threat of wildfires.

At HFD, we are continuously engaged in addressing and prioritizing wildfire-related issues. Our collaboration with HWMO has been pivotal in these efforts. This includes our joint initiatives in community risk assessment, development of firefighting strategies tailored to Hawaii's unique topography, and conducting educational programs aimed at enhancing wildfire awareness among our residents.

HWMO's extensive work in developing Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans has been a cornerstone in our operational planning and community engagement strategies. Their technical expertise and the comprehensive wildfire planning and educational programming outlined in their GIA application are assets that will significantly enhance our capabilities, as well as those of other agencies and organizations across the state.

As wildfires continue to pose a significant threat to our islands, it is imperative that organizations like HWMO are equipped with the necessary resources to expand their reach and impact. Their work not only complements our efforts at HFD but also greatly contributes to the overall protection and safety of Hawaii's communities and natural landscapes.

We, at the Hawaii Fire Department, are committed to continuing our partnership with HWMO, striving together towards a vision of a wildfire-ready and resilient Hawaii. Their ability to provide statewide technical assistance in wildfire management is essential and deserves your support.



Mahalo for your consideration of this vital 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or require further information.

Warm regards,

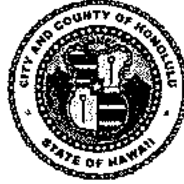
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kazuo Todd', written in a cursive style.

KAZUO S. K. L. TODD
Fire Chief, Hawaii Fire Department
kazuo.todd@hawaiicounty.gov

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT
KA 'OIHANA KINAI AHI O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

636 SOUTH STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 723-7139 • FAX: (808) 723-7111 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



SHELDON K. HAO
FIRE CHIEF
LUNA NUI KINAI AHI

JASON SAMALA
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
HOPE LUNA NUI KINAI AHI

January 17, 2024

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz
The State Senate
415 South Beretania Street, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Dela Cruz:

Subject: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's (HWMO) 2024 Grant-In-Aid (GIA) Application

As the Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD), I am writing to demonstrate support for the abovementioned subject.

The HWMO serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawai'i. For over 20 years, the HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state and are essential and utilized by many, including the HFD.

We are working to address wildfire-related priorities within the HFD and being cochair of the City and County of Honolulu's Wildland Fire Working Group.

The HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. The HWMO has developed the majority of Hawai'i's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support the HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work and the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawai'i.

Addressing wildfire is a high priority for us. We intend to continue as a partner with the HWMO by working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawai'i.

Ensuring the HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this proposal.

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz
Page 2
January 17, 2024

Should you have questions, please contact Assistant Chief Craig Uchimura of our Support Services division at cuchimura@honolulu.gov or 808-723-7105.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheldon K. HAO". The signature is written in a cursive style.

SHELDON K. HAO
Fire Chief

SKH/CU:ns

KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT

MICHAEL R. GIBSON, FIRE CHIEF

ROGER MILLS, DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

January 17, 2024

To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee

Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application

From: Michael R Gibson, County of Kaua'i Fire Department

As Fire Chief for the County of Kaua'i I am writing to demonstrate support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, including the Kaua'i Fire Department.

We are working to address wildfire-related priorities such as updating our Community Wildfire Protection Plan, helping us engage and inspire our community to adapt a Fire Wise and Fire Safe Community. The HWMO also continues to be a very strong resource, partner, and advocate for the Kaua'i Fire Department in convincing our County Leadership that a very robust Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Program is needed.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

Addressing wildfire is a high priority for us. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii.

Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

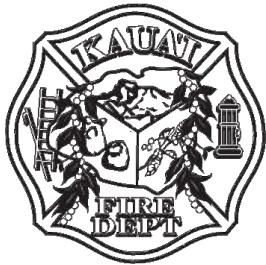
Please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,

Michael R Gibson

Fire Chief

County of Kaua'i Fire Department



To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: Justin Kao Kinoshita, Kauai Fire Department – Prevention Captain
Date: January 17, 2024

Aloha,

This letter is not intended to be a Pulitzer Prize but rather one of honesty and facts. Let me introduce myself, my name is Kao Kinoshita and I am the prevention captain for the Kauai Fire Department. When the west Maui fires occurred, I was 6 months on the job with no prior prevention experience. Amid diving in headfirst with fire codes, plan review, fire investigation, inspections, public education, and too many other functions to name, our bureau like many others had to pivot towards wildfire. We (myself & Chief Staff) found ourselves in several weekly zoom meeting regarding wildfires here locally, statewide, and nationally. It was during this time when I first saw Elizabeth Pickett & Nani Barretto from HWMO in action. They were able to break down and model the wildland problem from a perspective based in research and facts during a time when many (understandably so) were emotional. In zoom meetings, I found myself fist pumping the air in agreement that it takes an "all hands-on deck" approach to mitigate wildland risks in each community. They have been a tremendous asset for me and our department ever since. In addition to many online meetings and support sessions, they have made several trips to Kauai-

- Wildland Training at KEMA
- HWMO Information Booth @ KFD 1st annual Kick-Off to Fire Prevention Week Event
- Presentation and Presence at our Annual Chief Conference
- Presentation and support at KFD Wildland Stakeholder Meeting

In 2024 we are amending our local fire code, mainly our wildland codes. Typically, our prevention bureaus statewide have discussions on our fire codes to gain ideas and ensure we are unified on areas when possible. The one constant in these discussions is HWMO. All counties reach out and look to HWMO for guidance. This, I believe is the greatest asset that HWMO provides. They act as statewide conduit for Wildfire. Hawaii doesn't have a state fire Marshal to act as a glue & to ensure we are operating on the same page. HWMO fills that void for the Wildfire problem in Hawaii.

Let me close by saying the wildland mitigation problem has been one of the greatest challenges for our department in 2023. We look forward to working with HWMO to make our community safer.

Mahalo,

Kao Kinoshita

KFD Prevention Bureau Captain

Ph. (808) 241-4982 Email: jkinoshita@kauai.gov

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 723-8960 • FAX: (808) 768-1492



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

HIROKAZU TOIYA
DIRECTOR

JENNIFER M. WALTER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

January 17, 2024

Dear Hawai'i Grant in Aid Committee,

SUBJECT: Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA Application

As the Director of Emergency Management for the City and County of Honolulu, I am writing to express my support for Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid (GIA) application.

The Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) and their work have become more prominent in the aftermath of the Maui wildfires, but for over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education in our state. They have a unique combination of experience, knowledge, professional network, and community relationships that support wildfire preparedness and protection all across Hawai'i. Their work is essential to the many organizations around the state including the City and County of Honolulu (City).

Under Mayor Blangiardi's leadership, the City has established a Wildfire Preparedness working group in the aftermath of the Maui wildfires to ensure that our plans reflect the latest risk assessments. Our work includes identifying opportunities for both short and long term risk reduction strategies, enhancing wildfire response capabilities, and increasing collaboration for public education and engagement. HWMO's prior work helps inform the City's efforts, and their current participation with our working group ensure that we are effectively coordinating future efforts.

Addressing wildfire is a high priority for us. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawai'i. While I marvel at how HWMO has sustained and grown their operations with the highest quality professional programs, HWMO must be appropriately resourced to meet the growing needs of our communities and address our increasing risks to wildfires. I humbly ask for your support of HWMO's GIA application to allow them to continue their work and to allow them to continue their collaboration with fire departments, emergency management agencies, academia, land managers, and community organizations in order to serve the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.
Hawai'i Grant in Aid Committee

January 17, 2024
Page 2

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (808)723-8951 or htoiya@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

Hirokazu Toiya
Director

KAUA'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY


ELTON S. USHIO, ADMINISTRATOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee

FROM: Elton S. Ushio, Emergency Management Administrator 

DATE: January 12, 2024

RE: **Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA Application**

I am writing in support of the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The HWMO promotes the important emergency management and resiliency goals of increasing the State's wildfire preparedness and protection. For over 20 years, the HWMO has served as the State's premier hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their expertise, information, and programs are essential to communities across the State and are utilized by many State and County agencies, including the Kauai Emergency Management Agency (KEMA).

The County of Kauai is working to implement activities that address the wildfire-related priorities in a number of County Plans, such as the Multi-Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan, the Wildfire Annex to our Emergency Operations Plan, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, the Wildfire Hazard Assessment, the Climate Adaptation and Action Plan and the Pre-Disaster Recovery Framework. The HWMO participates in the County's Wildland Coordination Group and presented valuable information at recent meetings, sharing crucial wildfire information, including available resources and educational material that included preparedness, protection, and mitigation actions. The HWMO continues to be a crucial partner in our whole community wildfire preparedness, protection and mitigation efforts.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. Their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our work, as well as increase the resilience of the communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

Addressing the wildfire hazard is a high priority for us. We intend to continue to partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii. Therefore, enhancing HWMO's capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance.

We humbly ask you to support HWMO's GIA application and thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.



Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Lee E. Lord
Managing Director

Robert H. Command
Deputy Managing Director

Talmadge J. Magno
Civil Defense Administrator

County of Hawaii
CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCY

920 Ululani Street • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3958
(808) 935-0031

To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: County of Hawaii, Civil Defense Agency

Date: January 11, 2024

To Hawaii Grant in Aid Committee,

As Administrator of the County of Hawaii Civil Defense Agency, I am writing to demonstrate support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, including our Civil Defense Agency.

We are working to address wildfire-related priorities such as public outreach and education for protection and mitigation to wildfire threats in the County of Hawaii with HWMO. We also coordinate efforts with HWMO and all other Fire Response Agencies to provide a unified effort.

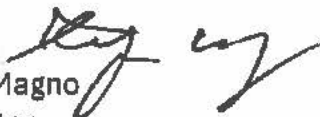
HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

Addressing wildfire is a high priority for us. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii.

Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

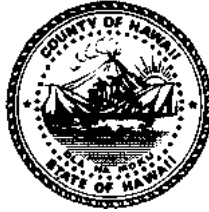
Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Talmadge Magno', written in a cursive style.

Talmadge Magno
Administrator

HEATHER L. KIMBALL
COUNCIL CHAIR
Council District 1 (North Hilo,
Hāmākua, and portion of Waimea)



Phone: (808) 961-8828
Fax: (808) 961-8912
Email: Heather.Kimball@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402.
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

January 16, 2024

State of Hawai'i Grant-in-Aid Committee
Hawai'i State Legislature
via application submission process only

RE: 2024 GIA – Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization

Dear State of Hawai'i Grant-in-Aid Committee:

As the sitting Council Member for District 1, and the current Council Chairperson of the Hawai'i County Council, I understand the grant-in-aid process and the excellent opportunity it provides our island state's nonprofit organizations. I also understand the need for continued wildfire mitigation statewide.

Entities such as the Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO), a 20+ year nonprofit out of Kawaihae in the County of Hawai'i, provide critical information, data and public awareness across the entire state. Serving as a hub of wildfire prevention, mitigation, and planning for the Hawai'i-Pacific region, HWMO is dedicated to outreach, education and technical assistance, as well as regional focused research and data collection in efforts to prevent wildfires, mitigate wildfire impacts and aid in post-fire recovery. Prior to the Lāhaina devastating fire, addressing wildfire was and remains a high priority for our island state, and HWMO continues its unwavering commitment to a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawai'i.

Ensuring HWMO has the capacity to continue its technical wildfire assistance across the state is imperative, and therefore, I strongly support their application for critical funding from the 2024 State of Hawai'i Grant-in-Aid program.

Should you desire to discuss my knowledge of HWMO further, please contact me directly.

With Aloha,

HEATHER L. KIMBALL

HLK:dbk

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair
Addison Bulosan
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Felicia Cowden
Bill DeCosta
Ross Kagawa



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
Email: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawaii 96766

January 16, 2024

Ms. Elizabeth Pickett
Via Email: elizabeth@hawaiiwildfire.org

To Hawai'i Grant In Aid Committee,

**RE: HAWAII WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION GRANT 2024
GIA APPLICATION**

As Kaua'i County Council Committee Chair for Public Safety, I am writing to demonstrate support for Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawai'i. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, including Kaua'i's Public Safety team of Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency, Kaua'i Fire Department and our first responder team. The experience of the Lahaina fire has inspired a sense of urgent awareness for the need for evacuation routes, fire breaks and neighborhood safety strategies.

We are working to address wildfire-related priorities such as working with regional community and business associations, as well as large landowners to create collaborative fire prevention and mitigation plans. HWMO is a central partner in coordinating and connecting information across the island.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawai'i's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawai'i.

Addressing wildfire is a high priority for us. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawai'i. Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

Councilmember, Kauai County Council

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

January 16, 2024

Dear Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee,

**SUBJECT: HAWAII WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION'S 2024
GIA APPLICATION**

As the representative for West Maui on the Maui County Council, I am writing to demonstrate support for the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role in increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state and are essential. I fear that their resources and expertise will only become more critical as we continue to adapt to climate change.

As the Maui community, we are working to address wildfire-related priorities such as *reducing wildfire risk, increasing wildfire preparedness, and growing our resilience*. Moreover, we are also committed to supporting our brothers and sisters across the pae 'āina, so that no one else would endure the loss we have in Lahaina.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

Obviously, in Maui County, addressing wildfire preparedness and reducing our risk is a top priority for us and will continue to be long into the future. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii.

January 16, 2024
Page 2

Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is absolutely crucial and of the utmost importance. Thank you for considering this vital 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

If you have any questions, please contact me at tamara.paltin@mauicounty.us or at (808) 295-2967. Thank you for supporting my community.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamara A. M. Paltin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

TAMARA PALTIN
Councilmember



To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: Jonathan Bruno, Coalitions and Collaboratives

Date: January 2024

Dear Hawaii Grant in Aid Committee,
I trust this letter finds you well. It is with great honor and enthusiasm that I write to express our unwavering support for the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO). As the leader of Coalitions and Collaboratives, Inc (COCO), an organization entrusted with significant public funding from the USDA to address wildland fire hazards nationwide, I feel compelled to share the profound impact that HWMO has had on our collective mission over the past decade.

In the challenging landscape of mitigating wildland fire risks, HWMO has emerged as a beacon of resilience, innovation, and community support. Despite facing adversity and limited access to funding, HWMO has stood tall, embodying the spirit of dedication and determination. For over 20 years, HWMO has tirelessly built programs, developed plans, and educated hundreds on the critical actions required to prepare for impending fires. It is our firm belief that HWMO is one of the nation's foremost leaders in wildfire resiliency.

COCO takes pride in its role as a leader in the development of the National Mitigation Infrastructure, particularly focusing on a system akin to the incident management system. Our collective mitigation activities, including the establishment of the [USDA Community Mitigation Assistance Team](#) and the creation of the groundbreaking [Community Wildfire Mitigation Best Practices course](#), underscore our commitment to effective wildland fire risk mitigation.

HWMO's inclusive and collaborative approach to wildland fire resiliency makes them a shining example in our field. The proposed activities outlined in the Grant in Aid application will undoubtedly play a crucial role in safeguarding communities and natural resources across Hawaii. Moreover, these initiatives align seamlessly with our overarching goals of directly addressing communities at the highest risk of wildland fire.

COCO is not merely a supporter; we are dedicated partners and friends of HWMO. Our commitment extends beyond words to tangible actions, including the provision of funding, collaborative partnerships, and the sharing of vital resources. Together, we form a powerful alliance in the pursuit of wildfire mitigation and community protection.

In conclusion, I urge the Hawaii Grant in Aid Committee to consider the immense value that HWMO brings to the forefront of wildfire resiliency. The proposed activities are not just initiatives; they are lifelines for communities and natural landscapes. Your support for HWMO is an investment in the safety and well-being of Hawaii's residents and the preservation of its unique environment. Thank you for your time, consideration, and ongoing commitment to supporting initiatives that make a lasting impact on our communities. Sincerely,

Jonathan Bruno
Chief Executive Officer



WILDLAND FIRE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL WESTERN REGION

January 11, 2024

To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee

Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application

From: Katie Lighthall, Western Region, Wildland Fire Leadership Council

Dear Committee Members,

As Coordinator for the Western Region of the Wildland Fire Leadership Council, I am writing to lend support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's (HWMO) 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

Hawaii is within the boundary of our Western Region and serves as a constant reminder that wildfire is not just a mainland issue. Almost two decades ago, I connected with Elizabeth Pickett and Miles Nakahara from the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization over our mutual attention to communities living in fire-prone environments. Since that time, the HWMO has grown into its important role as the leading resource, forum and hub for communities, agencies and organizations in Hawaii seeking to become more prepared to receive, respond to and recover from wildfire. There is no greater testimony to this fact than the role HWMO has played since August 8, 2023. HWMO is committed to using a proactive, collaborative approach with communities, government agencies and private parties. The work they do is unique and essential. HWMO's wildfire projects are based on high priority partner needs, and include pre-fire planning, mitigation, and education. Their information, programs and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are considered essential by those of us relying on them to meet their mission.

The Wildland Fire Leadership Council is the steward of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The Cohesive Strategy, as it is called, was developed with a vision for learning to live with wildland fire around the goals of landscape resiliency, community fire

adaptation and resiliency, and a safe, effective, risk-based wildfire response. HWMO engages interest- and rights-holders across the islands at the local level to facilitate collaborative action that makes meaningful progress towards these goals. Their success with Firewise Communities and risk mitigation has facilitated not just measurable results but also propagated the notion that a large part of the responsibility for lowering the risk of wildfire devastation and preparing for wildfire lies with individuals, neighborhoods and communities. HWMO's collaborative partnerships with state and federal management agencies are a model component of their success as well. Through their strong working relationships and collaborative atmosphere, the HWMO demonstrates that we can do so much more together than one agency or person can do alone. These attitudes and actions are directly rooted in their success and that of the Cohesive Strategy.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist and support these never-more-important efforts is crucial. They have developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire risk information, educational programs and fire plans. We fully support HWMO's GIA application and ask that you fund their request because their partnership, technical expertise, and wildfire and educational programming will greatly support implementation of the Cohesive Strategy, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

The Western Region of the Wildland Fire Leadership Council will continue to partner with HWMO as they lead the planning, preparedness, and mitigation efforts across Hawaii.

Please contact me with any questions.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,



Kate Lighthall
Coordinator, Western Region
Wildland Fire Leadership Council
National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy
541-408-3048
coordinator@wildfireinthewest.org



To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: Emily Troisi, Fire Adapted Communities Network / The Watershed Center

Date: January 16 2024

To Hawaii Grant in Aid Committee,

As the Director for the Fire Adapted Communities Network (FAC Net), I have had the great pleasure of working with Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization for over 6 years. I am writing to issue my support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential. As a national program that supports organizations across the United States, HWMO has additionally served as a thought leader and inspiration for many other communities working on wildfire in their own places.

At FAC Net, we support and connect people and communities working on wildfire resilience. We support community-based leaders resources, tools and connections to reduce their wildfire risk and increase community resilience and HWMO has been an active, participatory and vibrant member representing Hawaii for many year. FAC Net is a catalyst for spreading fire adaptation practices and innovations nationwide, and HWMO is an important voice.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly support the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

We intend to continue being a partner to HWMO, and hope to see investment and support in their important work continue to grow. Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

Please contact me with any questions.

Emily Troisi, FAC Net & CNP Director

(240)-533-1856, emily@thewatershedcenter.com

The Watershed Research & Training Center / Fire Adapted Communities Network



WESTERN FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

25030 SW Parkway Ave., Suite 330
Wilsonville, OR 97070

(800) 785-3473 • wfca@wfca.com • www.wfca.com

To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: Bob Roper, Sr, Wildfire Policy Advisor

Date: January 2024

To: Hawaii Grant in Aid Committee,

As Senior Wildfire Policy Advisor for the Western Fire Chiefs Association (WFCA) that represents the eleven western states including the Pacific Islands, I am writing to demonstrate support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are well received by NGOs, community groups and fire departments in Hawaii, including the Western Fire chiefs Association.

The WFCA actively tries to represent its members needs at the national level and the HWMO has been instrumental in providing such feedback for Hawaii. The WFCA also distributes national wildfire information to Hawaii's fire departments and the HWMO. We have been working with Elizabeth Pickett and attended several joint meetings in December 2022. I also serve on the Congressional Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission and Elizabeth has been a key representative for your state. The WMO feedback is represented within the WFMMC's findings and recommendations.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall

ALASKA

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ARIZONA

azfirechiefs.org

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calchiefs.org

HAWAII

hawaiifirechiefs.org

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washingtonfirechiefs.com

WESTERN PACIFIC ISLANDS

wpiafc.com



WESTERN FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

25030 SW Parkway Ave., Suite 330
Wilsonville, OR 97070

(800) 785-3473 • wfca@wfca.com • www.wfca.com

protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

Addressing wildfire is a high priority for us. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii.

Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

Please contact me with any questions at (805) 377-0493 or roper@wfca.com.

Sincerely,

Bob Roper

Bob Roper, Western Fire Chiefs Association, Sr. Wildfire Policy Advisor

ALASKA

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WESTERN PACIFIC ISLANDS

wpiafc.com



To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: Megan Fitzgerald-McGowan, National Fire Protection Association

Date: January 2024

To Hawaii Grant in Aid Committee,

As the Firewise USA® Program Manager at the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), I am writing to demonstrate support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, and ties in directly with the mission of NFPA in the wildfire space.

NFPA's Wildfire Division has been engaged in work with the built environment and wildfire since the mid-1980s. Looking back fires from that time and more recent events, the threat to structures and potential devastation is top of mind and our focus through all that we do, whether it is policy, codes & standards, training, public education, or community engagement through our flagship Firewise USA® Recognition Program.

HWMO is our primary partner in Hawaii supporting the Firewise USA Program. Launched in 2002 in partnership with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, Firewise USA is a voluntary recognition program that seeks to address engage the residential piece of the wildfire disaster problem. It provides a framework to help residents get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and community. Through a set of initial requirements and annual renewal criteria, it encourages and reminds residents that work around their home requires an ongoing commitment. The staff at HWMO facilitates the program across the islands and with our support tailors it to fit the needs of local communities. Their leadership has encouraged 17 communities to commit to action with many more starting the process, joining a family of over 2,300 communities across the country.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

Addressing wildfire is a high priority for us. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii.



Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

Please contact me with any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Megan Fitzgerald-McGowan'.

Megan Fitzgerald-McGowan
Firewise USA® Program Manager
(303) 903-3486
Mfitzgerald-mcgowan@nfpa.org



U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region
Fire and Aviation Management



Caring for the land and serving people

To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: Barb Geringer, Assistant Director – Cooperative Fire, US Forest Service Fire

Date: January 17, 2024

To Hawaii Grant-in-Aid Committee,

As Assistant Director of US Forest Service Region 5's Cooperative Fire program, I am writing to demonstrate support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, including all deputy branches of the US Forest Service serving Hawaii and the US Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI).

We are working with HWMO to address wildfire-related priorities by leveraging grant funding and providing technical assistance. Areas of focus include fire mapping across Hawaii and the API, conducting fire risk assessments, and developing Firewise communities.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed most of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

Addressing wildfire is a high priority for us. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii.

Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

Respectfully, Barb Geringer



**The Institute of Pacific
Islands Forestry**
60 Nowelo Street
Hilo Hawaii 96720
808-933-8121

**Forest
Service**

**Pacific
Southwest
Research Station**



To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: Susan Cordell, Director, USDA Forest Service, Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry

Date: January 16, 2024

To Hawaii Grant in Aid Committee,

As Director of the USDA Forest Service, Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry (IPIF), I am writing to demonstrate support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, including all deputy branches of the USDA Forest Service serving Hawaii and the US Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI).

We are working to address wildfire-related priorities such as the development of a National Wildfire Plan for Palau. Funds from the USDA Forest Service are supporting HWMO to write and implement the plan together with the Ebiil Society – a conservation non-profit organization in Palau. In addition, IPIF and HWMO oversee a wildfire mapping program in Hawaii and the USAPI. These maps have been a critical tool in outlining the fire problem in these areas.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

Addressing wildfire is a high priority for us. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii.

Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

Please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully, Susan Cordell



Ka mālama 'ana i ka 'āina – Ka kōkua 'ana i nā kānaka

Caring for the Land and Serving People

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Susan Cordell, PhD
Director and Research Ecologist

USDA Forest Service
Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, Pacific Southwest Research Station

p: 808-854-2601
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60 Nowelo Street
Hilo, HI 96720
www.fs.usda.gov/psw



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
Post Office Box 52
Hawaii National Park, Hawai'i 96718



January 11, 2024

To: Hawai'i Grant-In Aid Committee

From: Fire Management Officer, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

Subject: Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application

As the Fire Management Officer of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, I am writing to demonstrate support for Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their efforts encourage collaboration and coordination between local, state, and federal firefighting agencies. They have a unique ability to speak with a consolidated voice on behalf of cooperating firefighting agencies.

The National Park Service is working to address wildfire-related priorities such as creating resilient landscapes, fire adapted communities and a safe and effective wildfire response. HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial in the State of Hawai'i.

HWMO has developed the majority of public wildfire information and educational programs in Hawai'i. They have been instrumental in updating Hawaii's Community Wildfire Protection Plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawai'i. Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

Please contact me with any questions.

Greg Funderburk
Fire Management Officer
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
Greg_funderburk@nps.gov





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND-PACIFIC
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA
P. O. BOX 4607
HILO, HAWAII 96720-0607

AMIM-HIP-ZA

10 January 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee

Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA Application

As Commander, Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA), I concur with Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's effort seeking a 2024 Grant-In-Aid.

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, including PTA.

PTA has been impacted by multiple fires in the past few years. Ongoing efforts to synchronize wildfire prevention and mitigation efforts remain a focus for the community of Hawaii including many federal, state, and county entities who play a role in fire preparation, prevention, and response. The HWMO provides a collective forum to allow for synergistic cooperation during disaster events such as wildfires. The PTA Fire Department and Natural Resources team participate in the forum to offer our role and resources which are tied into the overall prevention and response efforts ICW State and County.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial and very beneficial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. Addressing wildfire is a high priority for PTA. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Timothy Alvarado".

Timothy L. Alvarado
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
PHONE (808) 733-4300
FAX (808) 733-4287

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
4204 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4420

January 17, 2024

Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency Letter of Support
Hawai'i Grant-In-Aid Fiscal Year 2025
Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization Grant Application

To Hawai'i Grant In-Aid Committee,

I am writing to demonstrate support for the Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization's (HWMO) Fiscal Year 2025 Grant-In-Aid application. HWMO serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness, protection, and mitigation in Hawai'i. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, including the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA).

We are working to implement wildfire-related community preparedness and hazard mitigation such as partnering with the Hawai'i County Fire Department and HWMO on a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation grant for defensible space and hazardous fuels reduction. Additionally, HWMO statewide wildfire mapping initiatives informed the risk analyses in the 2023 State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

HWMO's ability to collaborate and support with these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and community fire plans. HI-EMA strongly supports HWMO's application because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the application will be integrated into our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawai'i.

Addressing wildfire preparedness and hazard mitigation are among HI-EMA's priorities, especially as we continue to respond and recover from the recent wildfire disaster. HI-EMA intends to continue partnering with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawai'i.

Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the State is integral in building our community's resilience. Thank you for considering this important 2025 Grant-In-Aid proposal. If you have questions, please contact me at james.barros@hawaii.gov, or 808-733-4300 ext. 570.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J.D.S. Barros".

JAMES DS. BARROS
Administrator of Emergency Management

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawaii*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina
'o Hawaii*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRMAN, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. DUCATT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN
Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawaii'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

January 10, 2024

To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
From: Kali Watson, Chairman, Hawaiian Homes Commission
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application

Dear Hawaii Grant in Aid Committee,

As the Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) I am writing to demonstrate support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state and are essential and utilized by many, including the Department of Hawaiian Homeland.

We are working with HWMO to establish DHHL's Fire Response Plan, which at its core, will be the certification of our homestead communities as nationally recognized Firewise communities. DHHL is also partnering with HWMO to sponsor a Wildfire Response Symposium this summer for homesteaders to educate them on best practices to protect themselves and their property from wildfires. It cannot be overstated how valuable HWMO's service is to DHHL.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

Addressing wildfires is a high priority for us. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii.

Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

Please contact me with any questions at 808-620-9501.

Aloha,

Kali Watson
Chairman, Hawaiian Homes Commission

January 15, 2024

To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: Kay Fukuda, PLACES Director 

To Hawaii Grant in Aid Committee,

As Director of the University of Hawai'i PLACES (Place-based Learning and Community Engagement in Schools), I am writing to demonstrate support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

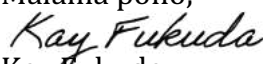
The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, including the University of Hawai'i at Manoa (UHM).

We are working to address wildfire-related priorities such as educating Wai'anae Coast teachers and students with the goal of preparedness and protection. For the past three summers, we have collaborated with HWMO to educate Wai'anae students on the causes and prevention of wildfires through a five-week youth leadership program. Currently, it is a priority of the Hawai'i Department of Education Wai'anae Complex Superintendent, to educate all teachers and students on the issue. HWMO is playing a critical role in the process. We expect that wildfire education will become a part of every teachers' curriculum over the next couple of years.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

Addressing wildfire is a high priority for us. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii. Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

Please contact me at klfukuda@hawaii.edu or (808) 561-0427 with any questions.

Malama pono,

Kay Fukuda



To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: Hawaii Cattlemen's Council

Date: January 11 2024

To Hawaii Grant in Aid Committee,

As Managing Director of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) I am writing to express support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application. HCC is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. We have worked well with HWMO to align on wildfire mitigation needs and their expertise and outreach is valuable for the community.

Addressing wildfire mitigation is a priority for HCC. As ranchers steward over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or almost 20% of the State's total land mass., it is important for ranch managers to be prepared to fight and prevent fires through fuel load reduction, access to water, and knowledge of the landscape. Continual education and access to resources is key in keeping ranch managers up to date and prepared. It is also important that HCC works with partners to advocate for the importance of managed lands to control fire fuel loads.

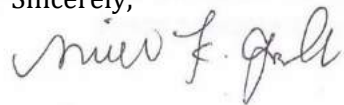
HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.



Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nicole Galase".

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



HALEAKALA RANCH
• EST. MAUI 1888 •

Date: January 10, 2024

To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: Haleakala Ranch Company

To Hawaii Grant in Aid Committee,

As Vice President and Land Manager at Haleakala Ranch I am writing to express our strong support for the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

In the wake of the recent Wildfires on Maui, Haleakala Ranch has been putting significant effort into developing a comprehensive wildfire management program which includes installation and maintenance of firebreaks, installation of dip-tanks to aid in fire suppression efforts, creation of a dedicated fire tool/equipment cache, and collaboration with adjacent landowners to create more Firewise communities on a regional scale. ***HWMO has helped us through every step of this process.*** In addition, HWMO recently assisted three Maui ranches and an associated non-profit with the development and submission of a US Forest Service Community Wildfire Defense Grant. In past years HWMO similarly provided guidance and support for a Wildland/Urban Interface grant (WUI), which Haleakala Ranch was awarded in 2017.

Addressing wildfire is clearly a high priority for Haleakala Ranch, and HWMO is a key partner. We ask that you support their GIA application.

Please contact me at your convenience with any questions you may have regarding this important matter.

Respectfully,

Jordan W. Jokiel
Vice President and Land Manager

cc: J. Scott Meidell, President and CEO



To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: Zachary Judd – Parker Ranch Forestry Manager

Date: January 16, 2024

To Hawaii Grant in Aid Committee,

As Parker Ranch's Forestry Manager, I am writing to demonstrate support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, including Parker Ranch.

We are currently working to address numerous wildfire related priorities such as hazard fuel reduction and mitigation, emergency access improvements, fuel breaks, water infrastructure to support fire mitigation, and native forest restoration in close coordination with HWMO and other partners. Many of these efforts have been going on for many years and would not have been possible without HWMO's consistent support and direction.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

Addressing wildfire is a high priority for us. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii.

Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

Please contact me with any questions.

Zachary Judd
Parker Ranch – Forestry Manager
Jud.z@pri-hi.com
(808)-825-2127



To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: Andrea Buckman, Uhiwai O Haleakalā

Date: January 16, 2024

Aloha Members of the Hawaii Grant in Aid Committee,

As Executive Director of Uhiwai O Haleakalā (Uhiwai), I am writing to demonstrate support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application. The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, including Uhiwai. HWMO has helped us with several fire prevention and planning projects across the partnership that continue to be instrumental in our efforts on leeward Haleakalā and across Maui.

Uhiwai is working to address wildfire-related priorities by implementing fuel reduction projects and increasing our native seed collection activities to ensure there will be sufficient availability of native seeds that will be required for large scale restoration efforts on the leeward slopes of Haleakalā.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

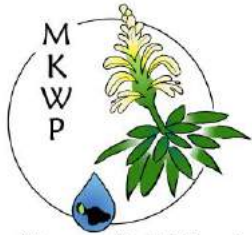
Addressing wildfire is a high priority for us. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii. Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Buckman".

Andrea Buckman
Uhiwai O Haleakalā, Executive Director



Mauna Kahalawai
Watershed Partnership

P.O. Box 13240
Lahaina, Hawai'i 96761
Phone (808) 661-6600
Fax: (808) 661-6604
Westmauiwatershed.org

Watershed Partners

County of Maui
Hanaula Ranch, LLC
Ka'anapali Land
Company, LLC
Kahoma Land, LLC
Kahoma Land
Holdings, LLC
Kamehameha Schools
Makila Land Co., LLC
Maui County
Department of Water
Supply
Maui Land & Pineapple
Company Inc.
State of Hawaii
Dept. of Land & Natural
Resources
The Nature
Conservancy
U.S. Fish & Wildlife
Service
Wailuku Water Co. LLC

Mauna Kahalawai Watershed Partnership

May 4th, 2023

To: Hawaii Grant In Aid Committee
SUBJECT: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA Application

Aloha, I am writing to show our strong support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, including most lead agencies on Maui and MKWP.

MKWP will need HWMO's assistance to continue our programs in addressing wildfire-related priorities such as site-specific wildfire action plans, fire mitigation programs, fuel breaks, fuel mitigation, education and promotion of Firewise communities and further grant making. HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. Their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

Addressing wildfire is a high priority for us. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii. Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance.

Mahalo nui loa for your thoughtful consideration of this request. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Chris Brosius, MKWP Program Manager at brosius@maunakahalawai.org or (808)-661-6600.

Sincerely,

Chris Brosius



KO'OLAU MOUNTAINS WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

2674 Waimano Home Road, Pearl City HI, 96782

To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: Jesse Adams, Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership (KMWP)

Date: January 16th 2024

To Hawaii Grant in Aid Committee,

As the Planner at Koolau Mountains Watershed Partnership (KMWP) I am writing to demonstrate support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, including KMWP.

We are working to address wildfire-related priorities such as installing vegetated fuel brakes, removing fire adapted/prone invasive species, and including wildland fire preparedness in our watershed management unit/preserve plans. Additionally, we have been in contact with HWMO to join their Oahu large landowner working group and for their assistance in convening a meeting with the Department of Land and Natural Resources—Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DLNR-DOFAW) Fire and the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) to streamline access and improve infrastructure for these fire response organizations on our partner's land.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

Addressing wildfire is a high priority for us. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii.

Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

Please contact me with any questions.

Jesse W. Adams—Planner
Koolau Mountains Watershed Partnership (KMWP)
kmwplnr@hawaii.edu

January 16, 2024



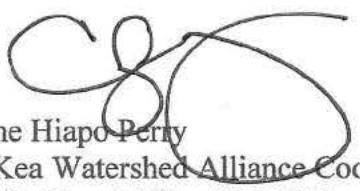
Aloha Hawai'i Grant in Aid Committee,

As the Manager for the Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance, I am writing to express our support for the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application. The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, including the Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance (MKWA). The MKWA partnership includes ten partners and partner lands spans over 416,000 acres across the upper elevation Mauna Kea landscape. The Alliance is composed of Federal and State of Hawai'i Agencies, Land Trusts, Non-Profits, and Ranchlands. Our shared vision is to protect and enhance watershed ecosystems, biodiversity and resources through responsible management, while promoting economic sustainability and providing recreational, subsistence, educational and research opportunities. We are working to address wildfire-related priorities on Watershed Partnership lands by conducting landscape scale planning, on the ground management such as fuels reduction, and refurbishing existing stock ponds to provide water for firefighting and other uses.

The needs for protection and restoration of Hawaiian lands to support healthy function continue to be tremendous and require partnership and innovation. The Hawaiian Islands have extraordinary biological and cultural diversity that encompass the full range of Pacific forest values including rare native forest birds, ecosystem services, and cultural practices. We must collaboratively develop our capacity and infrastructure to stabilize and improve forests resulting in healthier and sustainable Hawaiian ecosystems and protects source waters. We support this proposal that greatly improves our preparedness for wildfire and identifies areas that need improvements to ensure the overall health of forests throughout the area.

Please consider the Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance as a strong advocate and partner for the proposed work.

mahalo,


Cheyenne Hiapo Perry
Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance Coordinator
60 Nowelo Street, Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 937-5170



To: Hawai'i Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui, The Kohala Center

January 10, 2024

We are honored to have this opportunity to support Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, including The Kohala Center.

The Kohala Center is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2000 with a mission to respectfully engage the island of Hawai'i. We are working to address wildfire-related priorities such as planting of wildfire- (and drought-) tolerant native plants as green strips, fuel load reduction through silvopasture, Kohala watershed management initiatives, and community engagement in the greater Kawaihae Region (very fire-prone region) around wildfire planning.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawai'i.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 887-6411. We look forward to growing the strength and breadth of our relationship with HWMO to respectfully engage Hawai'i, our 'āina and kānaka, our people and our land.

Na'u me ka ha'aha'a

Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui
President & Chief Executive Officer

JEREMIE MAKEPA
PRESIDENT,
'ĀINA ALLIANCE



DEVIN MEDEIROS
SECRETARY,
'ĀINA ALLIANCE

GARY CUMMINGS, JR
VICE PRESIDENT
'ĀINA ALLIANCE

SANDRA CUMMINGS
TREASURER,
'ĀINA ALLIANCE

P. O. BOX 30858
ANAHOLA, HAWAII 96703

To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: Jeremie Makepa, Aina Alliance

Date: January 13, 2024

To Hawaii Grant in Aid Committee,

As Board President, I am writing to demonstrate support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

My experience with the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) started three years ago in my position as Fire Captain in charge of the Fire Prevention Bureau. They have helped me organize community stakeholder meetings and successfully apply for grants in both the Kaua'i Fire Department and my nonprofit, Aina Alliance. HWMO serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii.

We are working to address wildfire-related priorities such as flammable vegetation reduction, establishing and maintaining fire breaks and emergency access roads, hazard mitigation, abandoned vehicle fires, white goods fires, and illegal dumping reduction. All of these have increased the fire risk for Anahola, Kauai.

We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

Addressing wildfire is a high priority for us. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii.

Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

Please contact me by email at aina.alliance.808@gmail.com with any questions.

Sincerely, 

Jeremie Makepa
BOARD PRESIDENT,
'ĀINA ALLIANCE



P.O. Box 392, Kilauea, Kauai, HI, 96754

PHONE: (808) 212-4765 • FAX: (808) 828-2027 • E-MAIL: bbrody1@hawaii.rr.com • WEB SITE: www.getfitkauai.com

To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: Get Fit Kauai

Date: January 10, 2024

To Hawaii Grant in Aid Committee,

As the Director of Get Fit Kauai, I am writing to demonstrate support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, including Get Fit Kauai.

We are working to address wildfire-related priorities such as working closely with the County of Kauai Planning Department to update zoning codes that would prevent wildfires as well as support cross-boundary partnerships to create a more holistic approach to land management.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

Addressing wildfire is a high priority for us. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii.

Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,
Bev Brody
Get Fit Kauai – Director
H.E.A.L. (Healthy Eating Active Living) Community Coalition of Kauai County
(808) 212-4765



Ka Iwi Coalition

Mauka to Makai



2023
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President

Allen Tateishi
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Interim Treasurer

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Community Outreach

Dylan Ramos
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Operations

Website
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@kaiwicoast (FB only)

YouTube & LinkedIn
Livable Hawaii Kai Hui

Livable Hawaii Kai Hui is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, community organization serving East Honolulu since 2004. We strive to promote sensible growth, respect for cultural & natural resources, and upholding the integrity of the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan.

January 11, 2024

Aloha Hawaii Grant in Aid Committee,

Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization’s 2024 GIA application

As president of Livable Hawaii Kai Hui, I am writing to demonstrate support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization’s 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, including our organization which is part of the designated **Kamilonui Valley – Mariners Cove Firewise Community**.

Since the summer wildfires of 2017 and 2018 (over 15 wildfires) in Kamilonui Valley, our community has benefited from HWMO leadership on the completion of an assessment, action plan, guidance on the development of firebreaks and support of our annual community educational firewise outreach and workdays. Together with Hawaii Kai Strong, we have maintained our national designation of being a Firewise Community since 2018. We would not have been able to maintain this designation without ongoing guidance from HWMO.

HWMO’s ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii’s wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO’s GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

Addressing wildfire is a high priority for us. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii.

Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

Please contact me with any questions, (808) 864-8081.

Mālama pono,

Elizaeth Reilly
President

Letter From the Lanikai Association in Support of the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's Application for A State Grant in Aid

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The Lanikai Association is made up of hundreds of homeowners and other residents of Lanikai. Our Association is not government funded and relies on its members and supporters to continue our work. The Association is governed by a volunteer board of directors.

With the horrific wildfire destruction of Lahaina, Maui, our Association's board of directors has created an Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Committee (EPPC) to face the existential threat posed by the same adverse environmental and geographic factors that destroyed Lahaina.

In seeking immediate support, expertise, and understanding, the EPCC turned to the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) for assistance. The HWMO and its expert and sympathetic staff offered immediate help for wildfire education, planning and mitigation. Within days of seeking HWMO's assistance, representatives of the organization personally attended our first EPCC meeting, sharing their expertise and Aloha. In order to continue to assist the Lanikai Association and other communities in preventing and preparing for the dire wildfire threat posed by climatic changes affecting our environment, they will need as much funding as possible.

Addressing wildfire is of the utmost importance for us. We will continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii. Ensuring that HWMO has the resources to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Please do everything possible to support the HWMO's efforts at helping to protect our community and other Hawaii communities with a generous and much needed State Grant-in Aid for 2024-5.

If you need additional information from our Association in support of the HWMO application for state funding, please feel free to contact me directly.

Aloha!

Tom Cestare, President, Lanikai Association (808-387-8706)



To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: Caleb Harper, Maui Meadows Neighborhood Association

Date: January 2024

To Hawaii Grant in Aid Committee,

As Vice President of the Maui Meadows Neighborhood Association (MMNA), I am writing to demonstrate support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, including the MMNA.

We are working to address wildfire-related priorities such as working with neighbors and members of MMNA in Maui Meadows in Kihei, Maui to better educate and become a safer community. Kihei receives very little rain and is very prone to fires, we hope to work with HWMO to assist members in the Maui Meadows community to become aware and take whatever necessary actions to reduce the risk of fire. HWMO presented at the MMNA's annual meeting on January 15th and we hope to further interact with them to assist our community and to prevent another catastrophic fire.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

Addressing wildfire is a high priority for us. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii.

Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

Please contact me with any questions.

Caleb Harper, Maui Meadows Neighborhood Association, e-mail: mauimeadowsna@gmail.com

Launiupoko Firewise Committee

To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: Gordon Firestein, co-chair

Date: January 2024

To Hawaii Grant in Aid Committee,

As co-chair of the Launiupoko Firewise Committee, I am writing to demonstrate support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, including our Firewise group.

Hawaii Wildfire got us started in 2015 on the path to addressing wildfire-related priorities in our neighborhood, including ensuring safe evacuation routes, encouraging homeowners to harden their properties against wildfire, and reducing hazardous vegetation around and within our neighborhood. As a community adjacent to Lahaina, the burn zone came right to the edge of our neighborhood. We are working on several fronts to improve our preparedness for the next fire. Hawaii Wildfire is an essential partner in this work. In fact, I would go so far as to say that without Hawaii Wildfire's assistance and encouragement, we would be unlikely to make the kind of progress we so urgently need.

We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

In sum, I can't think of a more deserving organization for your support. Please feel free to get in touch if you would like me to elaborate on any of the above.



Gordon Firestein, co-chair
Launiupoko Firewise Committee
186 Paia Pohaku Pl.
Lahaina, HI 96761
gfirestein@seapact.com
510-384-2376



68-1792 MELIA STREET
P.O. BOX 383910
WAIKOLOA, HAWAII 96738
www.waikoloa.org

To: Hawai'i Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: David Berg, President, Waikōloa Village Association

Date: January 11, 2024

To Hawai'i Grant-in-Aid Committee,

As President of the Waikōloa Village Association, I am writing to demonstrate the Waikoloa Village Association's support for Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

The Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawai'i. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, including our residents and our association.

We are working to address wildfire-related priorities such as fuel mitigation projects in and around the village. HWMO has provided assistance in this effort through their support of helping us to retain our Firewise USA® certification. They directly support our residents through the training they offer for HWMO community ambassadors and wildfire home assessors. These HWMO volunteers offer free risk mitigation advice and education.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawai'i's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawai'i.

Addressing wildfire is a high priority for us. To address this priority, we have designated part of our annual membership fees for fuel mitigation work. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawai'i.

HWMO Letter of Support

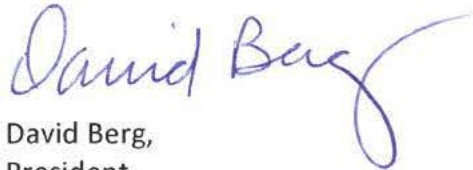
January 11, 2024

Page 2 of 2

Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

Please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



David Berg,
President

Waikoloa Village Association

WAIMEA HAWAIIAN HOMESTEADERS' ASSOCIATION INC
PO BOX 126
KAMUELA, HI 96743
808 640-3453
waimeahomestead@gmail.com

January 11, 2024

To: Hawaii Grant-In-Aid Committee
Re: Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's 2024 GIA application
From: Michael Hodson, President

To Hawaii Grant in Aid Committee,

As President of Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association, I am writing in support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization's (HWMO) 2024 Grant-In-Aid application.

HWMO serves an important role toward increasing wildfire preparedness and protection in Hawaii. For over 20 years, HWMO has served as the hub for wildfire mitigation, planning, and education. Their information, programs, and expertise are some of the only in the state, and are essential and utilized by many, including our Homestead.

WHA has been working on mitigating plans and funding to execute the mitigation for our Puukapu Ahupuaa of the Waimea Nui Region of Hawaiian Home Lands. We have worked with this organization in the past and they have been instrumental in assisting with our national certification under NFPA Firewise USA. They have also assisted with guidance towards a Federal Forestry mitigation grant that our organization has applied for. We have several Homestead Beneficiaries certified with them to do fire assessment mitigation plans that our homestead has been taking advantage of, free of charge.

As you are aware, back in 2021 Puukapu was devastated by the largest wildfire in State's history, and we are still rebounding from the losses.

HWMO's ability to engage, assist, and support these efforts is crucial. HWMO has developed the majority of Hawaii's wildfire information, educational programs, and fire plans. We ask you to support HWMO's GIA application, because their partnership, technical expertise, and the wildfire planning and educational programming proposed within the GIA application will greatly aid our own work, as well as the overall protection of communities and natural resources across Hawaii.

Addressing wildfire is a high priority for us. We intend to continue as a partner with HWMO, working together toward a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient Hawaii.

Ensuring that HWMO has the capacity to meet the increased need for technical wildfire assistance across the state is of great importance. Thank you for considering this important 2024 Grant-In-Aid proposal.

Michael L.K. Hodson
Michael Hodson
President