

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:

Amount of State Funds Requested: \$ _____

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

Amount of Other Funds Available:

State: \$ _____

Federal: \$ _____

County: \$ _____

Private/Other: \$ _____

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

\$ _____

Unrestricted Assets:

\$ _____

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:

City:

State:

Zip:

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application

Name:

Title:

Email:

Phone:

Charish Kawshionapua Miller

Authorized Signature

Name and Title

Date Signed

Application Submittal Checklist

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

- ☒ 1) 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](#))
 - d) Capital project details ([Link](#))
 - e) Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid ([Link](#))
- ☒ 7) Experience and Capability
- ☒ 8) Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing

Charish Kawehionapua Miller
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

Charish Miller Founder/Vice-Chair
PRINT NAME AND TITLE

01/14/2025
DATE



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: **Alaula Life Foundation**

Issue Date: **01/17/2025**

Status: **Compliant**

Hawaii Tax#:

New Hawaii Tax#:

FEIN/SSN#: XX-XXX6003

UI#: No record

DCCA FILE#: 276886

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 REVISED STATUTES**

The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies the following:

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

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

(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)

Charish Kawehionapua Miller
(Signature)

(Date)

(Typed Name)

(Title)

Application for Grants

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

I. Certification – Please attach immediately after cover page

1. Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate (If the Applicant is an Organization)

If the applicant is an organization, the applicant shall submit one (1) copy of a Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate from the Comptroller of the Department of Accounting and General Services that is dated no earlier than December 1, 2024.

2. Declaration Statement

The applicant shall submit a declaration statement affirming its compliance with [Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes](#).

3. Public Purpose

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

This grant will be used for a public purpose pursuant to Section 42F-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

II. Background and Summary

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

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

Founded in 2021, ALF is a Native-Hawaiian-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to combating climate change by championing sustainability and green technology in Hawai'i's deathcare sector. This mission aligns with Hawai'i's formal sustainability commitments, including the 2050 Hawai'i Sustainability Plan, the Aloha+ Challenge, and the Climate Action Plan Committee.

Traditional burial and flame cremation practices significantly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and water toxicity, posing a direct threat to Hawai'i's 'āina (land) and lāhui (community). ALF seeks to transform these practices, ensuring that Hawai'i protects its environment and addresses the pressing challenges of climate change through innovative, culturally grounded solutions.

The Alaula Life Foundation (ALF) is driving sustainability in Hawai‘i’s deathcare industry while advancing its parallel mission of reviving and modernizing traditional Hawaiian burial practices. ALF’s adoption of green cremation technologies not only reduces pollution but also mirrors essential tenets of Hawaiian burial traditions, preserving the iwi (bones) so they can be returned to the care of surviving families. By expanding access to these eco-friendly options, ALF aims to provide all Hawai‘i residents with affordable, culturally grounded end-of-life celebrations that honor the diverse cultures and religions of the islands in a sustainable way.

In addition to its work in green technology, ALF is actively engaged in the development of a memorial garden in Lahaina to honor the lives lost in the devastating fires and provide a sacred space for healing and reflection. This garden project reflects ALF’s commitment to cultural preservation and community resilience, ensuring the people of Lahaina have a meaningful site that embodies the spirit of their traditions and offers solace to future generations.

ALF is particularly committed to supporting disadvantaged communities that may lack the means to afford these services. This ensures everyone in Hawai‘i, regardless of economic status, can choose deathcare practices that align with their cultural values, environmental priorities, or financial needs.

Co-founded and led by Native Hawaiian entrepreneur C. Kawehi Miller—President of Aloha Mortuary and COO of Pacific Funeral Holdings, Inc.—ALF benefits from the expertise of its partner organization, Aloha Mortuary, which provides facilities, guidance, and resources. The foundation is overseen by a board of directors comprising community members with decades of experience in mortuary services, climate change mitigation, cultural preservation, and community engagement. Together, ALF’s leadership and mission make it uniquely suited to lead a transformation of Hawai‘i’s deathcare sector and support restorative projects like the Lahaina memorial garden.

ALF actively engages both locally and nationally, collaborating with a network of experts in environmentally responsible cremation technologies and traditional Hawaiian funeral rites. Among its advisors are members of the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), Hawaiian Civic Clubs, O‘ahu Island Burial Council, Mayo Clinic, UCLA Donated Bodies Program, National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA), and the Cremation Association of North America (CANA). This network offers invaluable insight as ALF works to integrate the most suitable green cremation solutions into Hawai‘i’s cultural and regulatory landscape.

For over 150 years, Hawai‘i’s deathcare options were limited to embalming and burial in overcrowded cemeteries or flame cremation, both of which carry significant environmental costs. Neither method aligns with the sacred Hawaiian tradition of preserving the iwi. Historically, kūpuna (elders) placed the deceased in an imu (earth oven) for steaming, preserving the iwi, which were then wrapped and stored with reverence by the family. These burial rites, decriminalized in 2015 through the efforts of Hawaiian Civic Clubs and burial councils, lacked the technological support to make them viable in modern contexts—until now.

In 2022, ALF played a pivotal role in legalizing alkaline hydrolysis, or “water cremation,” in Hawai‘i. This technology is far more sustainable than traditional methods and closely aligns with Hawaiian funeral practices, while adhering to modern health and environmental regulations. Building on this success, ALF plans to:

- Establish Hawai‘i’s first water cremation center on O‘ahu.
- Launch an educational campaign to raise awareness about the cultural and ecological benefits of water cremation.
- Implement a needs-based subsidy program to assist disadvantaged communities.
- Conduct research and due diligence for the Lahaina memorial garden, collaborating with cultural practitioners, community leaders, and environmental experts to design a meaningful and restorative space.

As expressed by ALF co-founder C. Kawehi Miller “How we handle death can make a difference to whether generations to come have a livable planet. At this time, against a landscape of too many loved ones lost to COVID-19 and other tragedies, it’s time to rethink burial and cremation practices and embrace water cremation—an eco-friendly, far gentler alternative to conventional methods. And just as we rethink these practices, we must also prioritize community healing through projects like the Lahaina memorial garden.”

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;

The goals of this funding request are to establish an environmentally-responsible pathway for the people of Hawai‘i to access an alternative end-of-life process that is aligned with established cultural protocols, gentler on deceased's remains, and magnitudes better for Hawai‘i’s air and water quality compared to conventional burial and flame creation. Alkaline Hydrolysis provides that environmentally cleaner and responsible process. In addition, the facilitated development of this water cremation sector will allow ALF to offer a significant number of water cremations “at cost,” greatly reducing the financial hardship and burden placed on Hawai‘i’s most disadvantaged. For some, the costs to lay a loved one to rest are so impossible that they feel they have no choice but to rely on the State’s Unclaimed Bodies Program to receive cremation, which costs the State more than \$500,000 annually, and delays access to the remains for months. If the objectives of this proposed Program are met, hundreds of local people from diverse backgrounds will have a greater opportunity for dignity and expanded choice in how their bodies are handled in death, knowing their choice is helping Hawai‘i fight climate change and preserve our shared, sacred spaces.

Alkaline hydrolysis, also called aquamation, or water cremation, involves the use of a heated, water-based solution containing 5% potassium hydroxide to accelerate the decomposition of human remains. The carbon footprint of the technology is smaller, using up to one twelfth the energy of fire cremation with none of the heat and carbon emissions, or risk of groundwater contamination like in cemetery burials. The process uses recyclable water, and what is left over from this process is sterilized, free of any bionutrients, and can be sent untreated down the drain into our wastewater system. This program aims to serve target populations seeking culturally-authentic cremation services, deathcare that doesn’t negatively affect Hawai‘i’s land, air, and water, and those that are in most financial need. These populations have overlap in their needs and desires, which will allow ALF to create the most positive impact and achievement of public good. Water cremation offers a superior and beneficial alternative to conventional funeral options, and establishing this sector in Hawai‘i benefits not only its people, but the State itself in meeting its sustainability and green technology sector goals through avoided emissions, pollution, costly cremations, and answering the conundrum of crowded, poorly maintained cemeteries.

This proposed program aims to jumpstart the adoption and use of water cremation in Hawai‘i by establishing a water cremation center on O‘ahu, educate and engage on water cremation’s alignment with traditional Hawaiian burial rites and efforts to slow climate change, and develop an application program for disadvantaged populations that issues a financial subsidy per water cremation to ensure that these vital services are accessible to those who need them most. This program will build

the foundations of a new choice in after-life care, which will meet the needs of so many who have either felt cut off from their traditions for generations due to modern laws and regulations, have no financial means to choose the more dignified handling of their remains, or those who simply wish to have an alternative from the polluting practices of embalming and burial, or cremation by flame.

The Objections of this project are:

- 1) Purchase and house an alkaline hydrolysis unit on O‘ahu that is setup, tested, and ready for use in this program. (Budgeted under a separate CIP application)
- 2) Apply for and receive approved permitting for wastewater disposal and mortuary license amendments through Hawai‘i Department of Health. (Budgeted under a separate CIP application)
- 3) Receive training and certification for an alkaline hydrolysis license to operate in Hawai‘i.
- 4) Through consultation with respected Hawaiian burial councils and kūpuna, create formalized protocols and guidelines around handling of remains, and the transfer of bound iwi and remaining bionutrients to living ‘ohana.
- 5) Create an application process and forms for disadvantaged Hawai‘i residents to complete and apply for subsidized water cremation through this program.
- 6) Formalize a network of advocacy agents and groups such as: The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), Hawai‘i Dept. of Human Services, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Dept. of the Medical Examiner, and the Hawai‘i Climate Change Commission, who will direct those who prefer alternative, sustainable cremation technology, desire Hawaiian burial protocols, and those who may need financial assistance to receive deathcare, to Alaula Life Foundation’s Program.
- 7) Conduct a water cremation educational campaign, presenting to community groups, environmental nonprofits and clubs, and relevant agencies on the environmental and cultural benefits of alkaline hydrolysis technology. Encourage sharing of educational resources to their members and networks, especially with populations who may qualify for financial assistance through ALF’s program.
- 8) Provide water cremation services for members of the target populations upon their request, including a target number of subsidized services for selected disadvantaged community members. For those eligible and approved for a financial subsidy, ALF has a target of personally providing \$1,500 per person (of a base \$2,500 water cremation service) to 25% of the total number of persons being cremated by fire every month in Hawai‘i (~600). ALF estimates 4 to 5 months of operational time during fiscal year 2025, for a total of ~3,000 conventional flame cremations targeted for replacement by alkaline hydrolysis within the grant period. 25% of 3,000 statewide cremations amounts to 750 persons selected to receive subsidized water cremation services through ALF’s Program; a cumulative savings of at least \$1,125,000 for needy ‘ohanas, the State of Hawai‘i’s Unclaimed Body Program, and the U.H. Burns School of Medicine’s Willd Body Program. The objectives would be to establish access to financially-subsidized water cremation for three target populations that would most benefit from access to water cremation technology:
 - a) 70% (524 persons) water cremations for economically disadvantaged persons (Indigenous or non-Indigenous Hawaiian)
 - b) 15% (113 persons) through the Hawai‘i Dept. of the Medical Examiner’s Unclaimed Bodies Program, where the State of Hawai‘i funds the disposal of bodies by flame cremation
 - c) 15% (113 persons) from the Hawai‘i University of Hawai‘i Burns School of Medicine Willd Body Program

3. The public purpose and need to be served;

Hawai‘i is a world leader in sustainability efforts and actively rising to the challenge of the coming climate crisis. Hawai‘i has committed to ambitious measures to reduce carbon, and in 2018

became the first state to announce a goal of becoming 100% carbon neutral, meaning the state would have to offset all of its carbon emissions by 2045. The state has also set a bold goal of achieving 100% clean energy by 2045. Hawai‘i is already feeling climate change’s disastrous effects. Beach homes are collapsing into the sea along its coastlines and experts are also keeping a watchful eye on population centers like Waikiki, a major tourist destination where high-rises hug the coastline, and sea level rise is inevitable to disastrous effect. All of this is to highlight that responding to climate change and reducing its drivers locally, is a top priority for Hawai‘i, and measures such as establishing green technologies like alkaline hydrolysis serves the ultimate public purpose.

Notably, the effects of climate change could have a disproportionate impact on the state’s Indigenous community, says Maria Antonia Tigre, a fellow at Columbia Law School’s Sabin Center for Climate Change Law. Native Hawaiians, who make up about [22]% of Hawai‘i’s population, are especially vulnerable to sea level rise and ocean acidification, which threaten traditional food sources – eroding salt-gathering sites and fish ponds – as well as burial grounds and sacred cultural sites. Climate change-linked increases in the number and intensity of tropical storms and drought can damage forest resources, making them more susceptible to wildfires and invasive species.

In response to those threats the Hawai‘i Legislature made the state the first in the nation to declare a climate emergency in 2021, asserting that the right to a healthy environment is a basic human right, as proclaimed decades earlier in the state constitution. “Hawai‘i is in a climate emergency and the State bears a constitutional duty to limit greenhouse gas emissions to prevent additional global warming,” wrote then-Hawaii Supreme Court Justice Michael D. Wilson. Wilson adds that climate change is “a human rights issue at its core,” and it disproportionately harms youth, future generations and Native peoples.

Over the course of a typical year, Hawai‘i sees approximately 15,000 deaths. 73% of these remains are directed to flame cremation (~10,000 to 11,000), while 27% are conventionally buried in cemeteries or crypts (~4,000). Since the overthrow and colonization of Hawai‘i, nearly 150 years ago, only two conventional options for managing the dead have been available: the full body burial with embalming, or flame cremation in crematoriums. Both of these methods have negative and lasting impacts on the ‘āina and directly contribute to the climate crisis facing Hawai‘i and the world. In the case of conventional burial, bodies are embalmed with carcinogenic fluids to preserve the body. Formaldehyde, menthol, phenol, and glycerin are just a few of the toxins that make up the embalming solution. It’s estimated that 800,000 gallons of formaldehyde are placed in the ground each year (nationwide) due to conventional burials. These chemicals pose a true risk to Hawai‘i’s groundwater supply as buried materials decay and are absorbed into the earth. Additionally, burial locks up valuable land in perpetuity that is then often unmaintained and neglected due to lack of municipal funding and staffing. With limited land, and a consistently increasing population, the continuation of burials is not feasible, practical, or ethical.

Flame cremations, which are now the predominant choice for managing human remains in Hawai‘i, addresses the problem of land use, but generates numerous other negative impacts. The process of flame cremation is inherently a violent process. A body placed in a furnace has propane or natural gas introduced, and incinerated by temperatures reaching 1,800 degree Fahrenheit. The body is reduced to unsterilized ash, while carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, sulfur oxide, hydrogen chloride, hydrogen fluoride and mercury are released through smokestacks. The pollutants and carcinogens then are aerosolized from flame crematoriums can cause short and long term health problems, in addition to the environmental detriment. Mercury emissions alone can have devastating health impacts, including harming an unborn child. In addition, 534 lbs of CO² per body are released as greenhouse gas emissions that drive climate change. At current flame cremation rates in Hawai‘i, 5.9 million pounds of CO² are being released into the atmosphere annually.

Alkaline Hydrolysis, or water cremation, is an established and proven technology that mitigates the most harmful of these conventional methods. According to Kawehi Correa, board member

of Alaula Life Foundation, and president of Aloha Mortuary, “alkaline hydrolysis is the natural process that a body will undergo after burial, which can take up to 25 years. Water cremation essentially accelerates this natural process to two to three hours in a very quiet, self-contained, controlled environment. The process consumes one twelfth the energy of a flame crematory and results in 75% lower carbon emissions (134 lbs of CO² compared to 534 lbs per cremation). It protects the operator, destroys pathogens, and returns a safe by-product to the family that can be used to fertilize a memorial garden. No DNA is left in the water or cremated remains. No mercury amalgam is emitted into the atmosphere. There is no groundwater contamination from cemeteries and no need to extract pacemakers and implants prior to cremation to avoid explosions. Additionally, if desired, many of the implants can be recycled.” In a case of equipment failure, the water cremation machine is self contained. So, there is no risk of toxins being released into the air or environment by aerosolization, leakage or spillage. As Hawai‘i is the leader of safe, “green,” and renewable energy, water cremation fits perfectly in Hawai‘i's goals of keeping our people and our ‘āina safe.

Water Cremation is a technological solution that Hawai‘i will need to embrace in earnest as it ramps up comprehensive efforts to reduce its contributions to the climate crisis. At a minimum, this Program will result in the reduction of 300,000 lbs of carbon emissions going into the air, in addition to the elimination of particulate matter and other harmful emissions and toxins released from every converted cremation. This proposed project serves the essential public purpose of establishing a new cremation service sector that can offer an alternative to the conventional methods, which create a host of negative environmental, financial, and municipal problems for Hawai‘i. Water cremation will directly contribute to Hawai‘i meeting its formal sustainability goals of reduced GHG emissions and the support of green, sustainable technologies.

Public purpose: facilitate the establishment of a functional water cremation center that reduces the barriers to access for Indigenous Hawaiians to traditional burial rites, addressing the disconnection Hawaiians have with this aspect of their culture, and fostering the continued Hawaiian renaissance that began in the 1970s.

The traditional Hawaiian burial practices are well known & documented. The bodies of the deceased were steamed in an imu (earth oven), and the long bones were removed, wrapped, and taken away to a secret location known only to the family. Any additional remains were taken to the sea. Traditional Hawaiian burial practices vary between the islands, but a commonality among the practices is a reverence for the iwi, or bones. “The iwi is the most sacred thing to the Hawaiian people,” said Leialoha “Rocky” Kaluhiwa, vice president of the Ko‘olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club. “You can get the mana (spirit) from the iwi.”

For generations, Hawaiians have not been able to bury their loved ones and preserve the iwi in accordance with ancient practices. Only two conventional options have been available: the full body burial with embalming preferred by Christians, or flame cremation, preferred especially by Asian Buddhists. Flame cremation by fire leaves the bones brittle, and they break apart easily making the recovery of iwi impossible. Conventional Christian burial does not allow for recovery of the iwi, and the bodies are buried whole in crowded and often unmaintained cemeteries where there is no guarantee that families will be laid to rest together. These options do not give Hawaiians the desired outcome: clean, sterilized long bones that can be placed with reverence in a land crypt or burial cave. The old way of steaming the dead body in an imu (earth oven) yielded this outcome.

Hawaiians have not been able to engage in these practices because there was no technology available in Hawai‘i that could provide the desired results in a sanitized, safe and culturally appropriate way, while adhering to modern laws and regulations. For too long, customary Hawaiian burial rites, while decriminalized since 2015, did not have the benefit of access to the alkaline hydrolysis technology to make those rites possible in ways that are consistent with current health and environmental standards and expectations. Today we have both the technology and the expertise. Water

Cremation is quickly gaining in popularity, now legalized in 22 states, with Hawai‘i as the latest as of 2022. Alkaline Hydrolysis has been proven to be superior to flame cremation and burial with a significantly lower carbon footprint, no generation of toxic byproducts, and it allows the body to be treated in a manner consistent with Hawaiian burial practices. Unlike conventional flame cremation, the process better preserves bones, making it a good option for ceremonial wrapping and other traditional protocols.

The technique of alkaline hydrolysis is also useful as an example of how the fundamental concept in an ancient custom (bone cleaning in imu) can be updated to modern technology (alkaline hydrolysis with high heat), so that ethnic Hawaiians can feel comfortable that using the new method is consistent with the ancient method and therefore is not a desecration and will have the blessings of their ancestors. The creation of an alkaline hydrolysis operation in Hawai‘i provides the pathway and means to access this after-life care and reconnect Hawaiians to their culture, fostering the continued gains of the Hawaiian renaissance started in the 1970s.

As articulated by Carmen “Hulu” Lindsey (OHA, Trustee, Maui), “Change is always daunting and burial rites are matters that touch at the core of who we are and how we choose to express our final farewell to our loved ones who have passed on. This is an intensely personal and emotional matter and it is reassuring to know that water cremation may soon be available as a way to honor and abide by our traditional values and beliefs, not only in life but also in death. As the late Dr. George Kanahele reminded us, this technology will allow us to ‘enjoy the look back into the future.’ It is time for us to use contemporary technology to preserve all that we cherish in our culture, including the traditions that help us manage our departure as well as the departure of our loved ones from our earthly world. I look forward to seeing water cremation become available as another means to prepare the remains of our loved ones for their final resting place consistent with our Hawaiian traditions.”

Public purpose: establish awareness in the Hawai‘i community of alternative funeral rites that are less detrimental to the ‘āina and gentler on loved ones’ bodies

The development of water cremation infrastructure (installation of the machine with permitted, licensed operation) and compliance with local regulations is a crucial first step in reviving traditional Hawaiian burial rites. From there, an awareness campaign will be essential to ensuring that the target populations, Indigenous Hawaiians and the economically disadvantaged in Hawai‘i, are informed and educated of these services being offered, as well as the subsidized costs being offered to those who apply through the Alaula Life Foundation’s Program for financial assistance. An educational campaign with learning resources will be developed by ALF to achieve the public purpose of educating the target populations on this newly-available, safe and “green” alternative to conventional burial and flame cremation.

Public Purpose: reduce the number of bodies that the State of Hawai‘i is responsible for cremating under the Unclaimed Body Program

When a deceased person is found and no family can be located, their body becomes a part of the State’s Unclaimed Body Program in which the State becomes liable for the costs of cremation, at an approximate cost greater than \$500,000 a year. In many cases, these are homeless individuals; in some cases, financially-disadvantaged families will choose to leave loved ones unclaimed because they do not have the means to pay for flame cremation or conventional burial, which could cost them \$3,000 to \$25,000 for cremation or cemetery burial, respectively. Doing so requires these families to wait months before the deceased’s ashes are released and available to claim. One of the purposes of the proposed water cremation subsidy program through ALF would be to offer reduced costs services and consultations to these ‘ohanas so they are more likely to be able to claim the bodies officially and afford to pay directly, reducing the management and cost responsibilities to the State by tens of thousands of dollars.

Public Purpose: create infrastructure redundancy and alternatives in the case of future pandemics (backlogs), and concerns over pathogen contamination risk

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Hawai‘i experienced a spike in the number of bodies requiring cremation. In the midst of the panic and grief of this pandemic, the counties’ mortuaries were unable to process remains quickly enough, and a crisis over storage and pathogen contamination flared; a 6-month backlog formed. The establishment of a water cremation operation introduces another level of redundancy to the State’s available cremation service providers that would help prevent another crippling cremation backlog, should another pandemic or natural disaster occur. Additionally, unlike flame cremation, alkaline hydrolysis produces sterilized byproducts proven to fully eliminate pathogens that could be feared to persist in conventionally processed remains. This technology benefits the State’s efficacy and public health management in the face of disasters, allowing us to learn and better prepare from previous crises.

4. Describe the target population to be served; and

This project seeks to serve three primary and three secondary target populations. The first are community members across the islands who have, until recently, not had the opportunity or access to traditional Hawaiian burial rites that align with their beliefs and customs. The formation of a water cremation center and service will now be accessible for those who wish to have their remains processed in a way that will allow their surviving ‘ohanas to receive their whitened, sterile bone fragments and optional bionutrients that could be used to fertilize a home garden or memorial tree. Members of this group receiving water cremation services may be elderly, or they may have received a terminal diagnosis requiring them and their ‘ohanas to prepare for after-life care. This target population will likely be primarily composed of Native Hawaiians, but non-ethnically Hawaiians who wish to practice these burial customs in accordance with their beliefs will not be excluded.

The secondary target population are Hawai‘i residents who reject the conventional methods of flame cremation and embalming burial, and wish to have their remains treated with a sustainable, green technology like water cremation. Thanks to ALF’s leadership and advocacy, the 2022 legalization of alkaline hydrolysis in Hawai‘i makes water cremation the most sustainable option for green cremation technology and deathcare available locally. ALF seeks to serve this target population in creating reasonable, affordable access through the establishment of its proposed water cremation center on O‘ahu.

The third primary target population are those who are economically disadvantaged and historically unable to afford preferable deathcare services like water cremation, without leaving behind considerable debt for their surviving ‘ohana. The Aloha United Way released its most recent “ALICE Report” that tracks how local people are doing financially. It found the number of people living in poverty in Hawai‘i grew from 9% in 2018 to 15% in 2022. “Over 200,000 are now under the poverty level,” said Aloha United Way CEO John Fink. Members of this population would be eligible to apply for and receive subsidized water cremation services through ALF’s proposed Program.

The secondary populations to be served with this Program are the City & County of Honolulu (C&C), the University of Hawai‘i John A. Burns School of Medicine Willed Body Program, and persons whose cremations are handled by the State’s Unclaimed Bodies Program. Unlike flame cremation and burial with embalming, the water cremation process does not generate harmful and toxic emissions and carcinogenic effluent that poses a risk to the groundwater. The byproducts of water cremation are sterilized, benign, pathogen and toxin-free. The only byproducts for disposal are sterilized water that will be returned to the C&C’s wastewater systems for water reclamation. The alkaline nature of the byproduct water has been proven to be a benefit to municipal water lines as it breaks down pipe blockages and actually improves the quality of the water merging in the pipes. From the Cremation Association of North America, “Because of the contents of the effluent, water treatment

authorities generally like having the water come into the system because it helps clean the water as it flows back to the treatment plant. In some cases, the water is diverted and used for fertilizer because of the potassium and sodium content.”

The U.H. Willard Body program has been selected as a target population to be served. ALF aims to receive persons who have donated their bodies for medical education to receive the water cremation service. Water cremation is ideal for medical donation programs as remains become fully sterilized and reduce contagion risk to the public, unlike flame cremation currently used for processing. Water cremation is endorsed and supported by Steven Labrash, the director of the U.H. Willard Body Program, saying that water cremation would benefit his program both from the perspective of public health, as well as financially, and “there is no more environmentally friendly technology available today than alkaline hydrolysis for human disposition.”

The State’s Unclaimed Bodies Program has also been selected as a beneficiary target population because the unclaimed bodies are typically homeless individuals or those who are too impoverished to afford taking on cremation costs along with their families. Establishing the pathway of water cremation as an alternative cremation service will provide a reduction of financial burden on the State, and provide demonstration of the technology’s efficacy for continued use by the Unclaimed Bodies Program. Additionally, water cremation is a more compassionate process for the bodies of those who likely suffered in life, and are due compassion and dignity in death.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

The proposed water cremation center will be based on O‘ahu, however the availability of the service and opportunity to apply for need-based subsidization will be open to each of the main Hawaiian islands: Kaua‘i, Ni‘ihau, O‘ahu, Maui, Lana‘i, Molokai, and Hawai‘i island.

The outreach and awareness efforts, such as presentations to environmental nonprofits, Indigenous Hawaiian community groups and Civic Clubs, as well as agencies like the Dept. of Human Services, will be conducted on O‘ahu and neighbor islands in-person, or virtually. Practitioners and cultural historians from each island will be consulted for the development of the guidelines and protocols that will be created to ensure that the water cremation process is as closely aligned with traditional Hawaiian funeral rites, as possible.

III. Service Summary and Outcomes

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

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

The scope of work for this proposed project will fall under the objectives outlined earlier in this application, and are listed below. Note that Section A & B's scope and tasks are a part of the overall proposed project, but budgeted for in a CIP GIA grant application submitted separately.

A. Purchase and house an alkaline hydrolysis unit on O'ahu that is setup, tested, and ready for use in this program. (Budgeted under a separate CIP application)

B. Apply for and receive approved permitting for wastewater disposal and mortuary license amendments through Hawai'i Department of Health. (Budgeted under a separate CIP application)

C. Receive training and certification for an alkaline hydrolysis license to operate in Hawai'i.

D. Through consultation with respected Hawaiian burial councils and kūpuna, create formalized protocols and guidelines around handling of remains, and the transfer of bound iwi and remaining bionutrients to living 'ohana.

E. Create an application process and forms for disadvantaged Hawai'i residents to complete and apply for subsidized water cremation through this program.

F. Formalize a network of advocacy agents and groups such as: The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), Hawai'i Dept. of Human Services, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Dept. of the Medical Examiner, and the Hawai'i Climate Change Commission, who will direct those who prefer alternative, sustainable cremation technology, desire Hawaiian burial protocols, and those who may need financial assistance to receive deathcare, to Alaula Life Foundation's Program.

G. Conduct a water cremation educational campaign, presenting to community groups, environmental nonprofits and clubs, and relevant agencies on the environmental and cultural benefits of alkaline hydrolysis technology. Encourage sharing of educational resources to their members and networks, especially with populations who may qualify for financial assistance through ALF's program.

H. Provide water cremation services for members of the target populations upon their request, including a target number of subsidized services for selected disadvantaged community members. For those eligible and approved for a financial subsidy, ALF has a target of personally providing \$1,500 per person (of a base \$2,500 water cremation service) to 25% of the total number of persons being cremated by fire every month in Hawai'i (~600). ALF estimates 4 to 5 months of operational time during fiscal year 2025, for a total of ~3,000 conventional flame cremations targeted for replacement by alkaline hydrolysis within the grant period. 25% of 3,000 statewide cremations amounts to 750 persons selected to receive subsidized water cremation services through ALF's Program; a cumulative savings of at least \$1,125,000 for needy 'ohanas, the State of Hawai'i's Unclaimed Body Program, and the U.H. Burns School of Medicine's Willed Body Program. The objectives would be to establish access to financially-subsidized water cremation for three target populations that would most benefit from access to water cremation technology:

- a. 70% (524 persons) water cremations for economically disadvantaged persons (Indigenous or non-Indigenous Hawaiian)
- b. 15% (113 persons) through the Hawai'i Dept. of the Medical Examiner's Unclaimed Bodies Program, where the State of Hawai'i funds the disposal of bodies by flame cremation
- c. 15% (113 persons) from the Hawai'i University of Hawai'i Burns School of Medicine Willed Body Program

Tasks for above scope of work objectives:

- A. Alkaline Hydrolysis machine purchase and installation:
 - Task 1: Confirm team of advisors, manufacturers, and suppliers necessary to facilitate the purchase of an alkaline hydrolysis machine best suited for the needs of this project and as part of a future network of machines. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Program Director of Water Cremation)
 - Task 2: Identify the selected machine, confirm pricing and purchase terms. Confirm shipping logistics for delivery. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Program Director of Water Cremation)
 - Task 3: Purchase machine, and solicit plans and design for the refurbishment of the building from which it will be operating. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Program Director of Water Cremation, Architecture & Engineering Advisor)
 - Task 4: Complete any required construction, electrical, water collection upgrades on the machine's building prior to delivery. Complete final checks to ensure proper function. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Program Director of Water Cremation, Architecture & Engineering Advisor)
- B. Apply for and receive required permitting and licenses to operate alkaline hydrolysis machine:
 - Task 1: Apply for wastewater discharge permits and amended mortuary licenses through Hawai'i Department of Health. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Permitting & Compliance Advisor)
 - Task 2: Complete any required site visits, spot checks, and recommended adjustments to receive permitting. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Permitting & Compliance Advisor)
 - Task 3: Receive machine and situate in built space. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Architecture & Engineering Advisor)
- C. Receive training and certification for an alkaline hydrolysis license to operate in Hawai'i.
 - Task 1: Hire and train staff to operate the hydrolysis machine. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Program Director of Water Cremation)
- D. Creation of formal water cremation protocols to align with traditional Hawaiian burial rites:
 - Task 1: Utilizing relationships and networks created during the 2022 legislative session in which alkaline hydrolysis was legalized for practice in Hawai'i, ALF will convene 2 to 3 sessions of community members knowledgeable of traditional Hawaiian burial protocols to determine the essential protocols that must be done before, during, and after the alkaline hydrolysis process to ensure persons requesting it can receive the treatment of their body in a way that best honors their traditions and cultural practices. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Cultural Advisor, Outreach & Education Specialist)
 - Task 2: After reaching consensus with the advisory group, drafting guidelines for review and approval. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Cultural Advisor, Outreach & Education Specialist)
 - Task 3: Formalizing, printing, and publishing the protocols for a

- traditional Hawaiian burial in conjunction with the alkaline hydrolysis machine. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Outreach & Education Specialist)
- E. Create an application process with forms and a dedicated web portal for disadvantaged Hawaiians and Hawai'i residents to complete and apply for subsidized water cremation through this program:
- Task 1: Determine the factors that will qualify an applicant for subsidized water cremation services. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Data & Tech Integration Specialist)
 - Task 2: Draft an application form and an application portal for beta testing. Conduct tests to ensure the application process is clear and functional. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Data & Tech Integration Specialist)
 - Task 3: Publish the form on a host site in preparation for launch and distribution. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Data & Tech Integration Specialist)
- F. Formalize a project support and advocacy team from community stakeholders:
- Task 1: Make a list of partners and advocates who supported the passage of the 2022 Alkaline Hydrolysis legislation, and invite to a session to review the project milestones already achieved, planned rollout of water cremation subsidy program, developed and approved Hawaiian burial protocols, and target objectives for offering water cremation services to 750 persons who qualify as economically-disadvantaged and/or requesting traditional Hawaiian burial rites. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Cultural Advisor, Outreach & Education Specialist)
 - Task 2: Provide advocacy team with the protocol guidelines, request-for-subsidy application form, and other resource materials to distribute to their networks and spread awareness of the technology and financial assistance program. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Outreach & Education Specialist)
 - Task 3: Solicit feedback from the advocacy team on which groups, clubs, or organizations may be interested in receiving a presentation and answer session as part of the planned educational campaign to learn about the project and potentially apply. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Outreach & Education Specialist)
- G. Conduct an educational campaign and presentation series on O'ahu and neighbor islands
- Task 1: Develop presentation materials and source references to utilize during an educational campaign. Develop press release and media release materials to solicit media coverage. Target: Generate a minimum of 3 radio, print, and/or television pieces covering the project and sharing the application portal for qualifying recipients. (Responsible Parties: Cultural Advisor and Outreach & Education Specialist)
 - Task 2: Create a calendar and schedule of presentation sessions and media requests. The target total is 8 presentations to identified target population groups over the fiscal year, engaging with a minimum of 150 direct participants and 300 indirect participants through resource shares and distributions. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator,

Cultural Advisor, and Outreach & Education Specialist)

- Task 3: Catalog outreach metrics and progress toward engagement goals with the education campaign and the application portal. (Responsible Parties: Outreach & Education Specialist)

H. Provide cremation services to selected individuals through the project's application process:

- Task 1: Review completed and submitted applications for subsidized water cremation service, and identify individuals to approve based on established criteria, and target population distribution goals in Section H Scope of Work above. Communicate approval or denial to applicants and communicate next steps for both groups. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator)
- Task 2: Schedule consultation sessions with approved applicants (or their representatives) to review protocol guidelines, sign agreements for service, and answer any questions. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Cultural Advisor, Office Administrator)
- Task 3: Perform water cremations for selected applicants as their time arrives to leave this world (according to their wishes for adherence to Hawaiian burial rites or a conventional water cremation). (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Program Director of Water Cremation, Cremation Technician) The target number of services is:
 - 70% (524 persons) water cremations for economically disadvantaged persons (Indigenous or non-Indigenous Hawaiian)
 - 15% (113 persons) through the Hawai'i Dept. of the Medical Examiner's Unclaimed Bodies Program, where the State of Hawai'i funds the disposal of bodies by flame cremation
 - 15% (113 persons) from the Hawai'i University of Hawai'i Burns School of Medicine Willed Body Program

Maintain records of scheduled and completed water cremations by target population, compile testimonials and feedback. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator)

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

Projected Annual Timeline for FY 2025

Quarter 1: July – September 2025

- **Task A (Hydrolysis Machine Setup)**
 - Finalize team of advisors and confirm machine purchase, shipping logistics, and site preparation.
- **Task B (Permitting and Licensing)**
 - Submit wastewater discharge and mortuary license amendment applications.
- **Task C (Training and Certification)**
 - Hire and train staff for hydrolysis machine operations.
- **Task D (Cultural Protocols)**
 - Convene first advisory sessions with kūpuna and burial councils to develop water cremation protocols.

Quarter 2: October – December 2025

- **Task A**
 - Complete machine installation and site upgrades. Conduct final testing.
- **Task B**

- Obtain permits and licenses after completing required adjustments and inspections.
- **Task D**
 - Finalize and publish culturally aligned burial protocols.
- **Task E (Subsidy Application Development)**
 - Finalize application criteria and beta test the portal for user feedback.
- **Task F (Advocacy Network)**
 - Assemble a project advocacy team to guide outreach and program rollouts.

Quarter 3: January – March 2026

- **Task G (Educational Campaign)**
 - Begin educational presentations and media coverage. Aim for at least four presentations and three media stories.
- **Task H (Cremation Services)**
 - Start providing subsidized water cremation services to approved applicants.

Quarter 4: April – June 2026

- **Task G**
 - Complete the remaining presentations and outreach activities.
- **Task H**
 - Achieve the target of 750 subsidized cremations. Maintain comprehensive records and collect testimonials.

Scope of Work

A. Purchase and Installation of Hydrolysis Machine

1. **Confirm advisors, manufacturers, and suppliers** for the machine purchase.
2. **Identify machine specifications and logistics** for procurement and delivery.
3. **Complete site upgrades**, including electrical and water system adjustments.
4. **Install, test, and finalize the machine** for operational readiness.

B. Permitting and Licensing

1. Submit applications for **wastewater discharge and mortuary licenses**.
2. Complete site visits and adjustments to meet regulatory requirements.
3. Position the machine at the designated site.

C. Training and Certification

1. Hire and train staff to obtain the necessary **certifications for hydrolysis machine operation**.

D. Development of Cultural Protocols

1. Convene advisory sessions with kūpuna and burial councils to ensure **culturally appropriate protocols**.
2. Draft, review, and publish formal guidelines for water cremation in alignment with Hawaiian burial traditions.

E. Subsidy Application Process

1. Develop and beta test an **application portal** for disadvantaged Hawai‘i residents.
2. Launch the finalized portal with clear eligibility criteria and user support.

F. Advocacy Network Formation

1. Identify and engage stakeholders to support outreach and program implementation.
2. Distribute educational and application materials through advocacy channels.

G. Educational Campaign

1. Develop educational content and conduct presentations on **eco-friendly and cultural benefits of water cremation**.
2. Secure media coverage to maximize awareness and program participation.

H. Water Cremation Services

1. **Review and approve applications** for subsidized services based on eligibility.
2. Schedule and conduct consultations with approved applicants.
3. Perform water cremations for target populations, ensuring adherence to cultural protocols.
 - **524 persons:** Economically disadvantaged.
 - **113 persons:** Hawai‘i Dept. of Medical Examiner’s Unclaimed Bodies Program.
 - **113 persons:** UH Burns School of Medicine Willed Body Program.
4. **Maintain records** of services, collect feedback, and compile impact data.

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

Quality Assurance and Evaluation Plans

The Alaula Life Foundation (ALF) is committed to ensuring the successful implementation and measurable impact of both its water cremation program and the Lahaina Memorial Garden project. The following strategies will be employed to monitor, evaluate, and continuously improve the program’s outcomes.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

1. Performance Metrics

ALF will track progress using clearly defined milestones and deliverables for both the water cremation program and the Lahaina Memorial Garden project, including:

- Number of subsidized cremations completed.
- Completion of Lahaina Memorial Garden design research and community engagement sessions.
- Adherence to project timelines for memorial garden site evaluation and conceptualization.
- Number of stakeholders, kūpuna, and community members involved in design consultations.

2. Monthly Progress Reviews

- ALF will convene monthly meetings with staff, advisory teams, and stakeholders to review progress, address challenges, and refine approaches for both initiatives.

3. Community Feedback Mechanisms

- Lahaina Memorial Garden: Collect feedback from local residents, cultural practitioners, and community leaders during every phase of the garden’s development to ensure it aligns with community needs and values.
- Water Cremation Program: Conduct surveys and collect testimonials from participants and advocacy partners to ensure the program remains accessible, effective, and culturally sensitive.

4. Technology-Assisted Monitoring

- Use data tools to analyze participation metrics in cremation services and

educational outreach.

- Digitally catalog feedback and design proposals for the Lahaina Memorial Garden to track engagement and ensure all perspectives are considered.

5. Independent Evaluation

- For the memorial garden, ALF will consider engaging landscape architects, cultural experts, and environmental consultants for third-party reviews of the garden's proposed design and feasibility.

Quality Assurance Processes

1. Standardized Procedures

- Formalize protocols for conducting cremation services in alignment with Hawaiian burial traditions.
- Develop a structured framework for memorial garden consultations, ensuring diverse community representation.

2. Compliance and Environmental Standards

- Ensure the Lahaina Memorial Garden meets local zoning and environmental requirements, and that its design incorporates sustainable landscaping principles.
- Adhere to Hawai'i Department of Health regulations for cremation operations.

3. Continuous Improvement

- Incorporate feedback from stakeholders, kūpuna, and community members into the memorial garden's evolving design.
- Regularly update program materials and processes based on challenges or feedback identified during implementation.

Reporting and Outcome Evaluation

1. Quarterly Progress Reports

- Memorial Garden: Provide updates on milestones achieved, including completed design research, site evaluations, and engagement sessions.
- Water Cremation: Summarize the number of services delivered, community engagement metrics, and operational improvements.

2. End-of-Year Evaluation

- Memorial Garden: Deliver a comprehensive report summarizing research outcomes, community input, finalized conceptual designs, and next steps for funding and implementation.
- Water Cremation: Evaluate the program's success in delivering 750 subsidized cremations, educating the public, and reducing environmental impact.

3. Community Impact Assessment

- Memorial Garden: Assess the project's alignment with Lahaina

community needs, including feedback on its cultural and emotional significance.

- Water Cremation: Measure the program’s environmental impact, cost savings for beneficiaries, and accessibility for disadvantaged populations.

4. **Future Sustainability Planning**

- For the memorial garden, ALF will outline a phased implementation plan with long-term maintenance strategies and potential funding sources.
- For the water cremation program, ALF will explore partnerships and alternative revenue streams to sustain the subsidy initiative.

Summary of Key Measures of Success

Water Cremation Program

- 750 subsidized water cremations delivered to target populations.
- Educational outreach to 450 individuals and 8 presentations completed.
- Positive feedback from participants, confirming cultural sensitivity and program accessibility.

Lahaina Memorial Garden Project

- Completion of site evaluation and conceptual design aligned with community input.
- Active participation from at least 30 Lahaina stakeholders, kūpuna, and cultural practitioners.
- A finalized design report outlining actionable next steps, including cost projections and implementation strategies.
- Positive community feedback indicating alignment with cultural values and healing goals.

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

The Alaula Life Foundation (ALF) will report the following **measures of effectiveness** to the State agency to objectively assess the program’s achievement and accomplishments. These metrics are designed to align with the goals of the project and provide clear benchmarks for success:

1. Water Cremation Program Metrics

- **Subsidized Cremations Provided**

- Target: 750 subsidized water cremation services provided to economically disadvantaged individuals, individuals from the Unclaimed Bodies Program, and participants in the UH Burns School of Medicine's Willed Body Program.
- Reported Data: Number of subsidized cremations completed, broken down by target populations (economically disadvantaged individuals, Unclaimed Bodies Program participants, and Willed Body Program participants).
- **Environmental Impact Reduction**
 - Metric: Estimated reduction in carbon emissions compared to traditional cremation practices.
 - Reported Data: Total carbon footprint reduction based on the number of water cremations performed.
- **Community Outreach and Education**
 - Metric: Number of educational presentations conducted, and the number of attendees reached directly and indirectly.
 - Reported Data: Number of presentations, total attendance, and the distribution of educational materials.
- **Program Accessibility**
 - Metric: Number of completed and approved applications for subsidized cremation services.
 - Reported Data: Application portal metrics, including number of applicants, approval rates, and processing times.

2. Lahaina Memorial Garden Project Metrics

- **Community Engagement**
 - Metric: Number of consultations conducted with Lahaina community members, kūpuna, and cultural practitioners.
 - Reported Data: Participation statistics, including demographics and diversity of stakeholders involved.
- **Design Milestones Achieved**
 - Metric: Completion of site evaluation, conceptual design, and community-vetted garden plans.

- Reported Data: Documentation of finalized designs and feedback summaries from community stakeholders.
- **Alignment with Community Needs**
 - Metric: Percentage of stakeholders who express satisfaction with the proposed memorial garden design.
 - Reported Data: Survey results and qualitative feedback collected during consultations.

3. Financial and Administrative Metrics

- **Utilization of Grant Funds**
 - Metric: Percentage of allocated grant funds utilized for intended purposes.
 - Reported Data: Detailed financial reports, including breakdowns of spending on equipment, educational outreach, community consultations, and subsidized cremations.
- **Operational Readiness**
 - Metric: Timeliness of project milestones, such as hydrolysis machine installation, permitting, and staff training.
 - Reported Data: Project timeline adherence, with explanations for any deviations.

Reporting Process

ALF will provide the expending agency with:

- **Quarterly Reports:** Summarizing progress toward key performance indicators (KPIs), financial expenditures, and adjustments made to overcome challenges.
- **Annual Summary Report:** A comprehensive evaluation of program outcomes, including quantitative and qualitative data to measure the program's impact and effectiveness.

In the event of a difference in the appropriation level, ALF will update these measures and submit them to the expending agency, ensuring alignment with adjusted program goals and objectives.

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 (PDF attached below in addendum)
 - b. Personnel salaries and wages ((PDF attached below in addendum)
 - c. Equipment and motor vehicles ((PDF attached below in addendum)
 - d. Capital project details ((PDF attached below in addendum)
 - e. Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid ((PDF attached below in addendum)
2. The applicant shall provide its anticipated quarterly funding requests for the fiscal year 2026.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
\$250,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$850,000.00

3. The applicant shall provide a listing of all other sources of funding that they are seeking for fiscal year 2026.
 - A. Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)
 - B. Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA)
 - C. Ke Ali'i Pauahi Foundation
 - D. Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF)
 - E. Direct exempt donations to support the Program
 - F. Federal Grants
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 Granted

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 2026 for program funding.

None previously or currently granted

6. The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2024.
 - A. Unrestricted cash assets: \$250,000
 - B. Value of a donated transport vehicle: \$50,000

V. Experience and Capability

1. Necessary Skills and Experience

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

Alaula Life Foundation has an expert team assembled to ensure that this Program is executed effectively and inline with the scope of work described in this application. ALF's team has several decades of experience in mortuary and cremation services and systems management, overseeing the management and processing of bodies donated for medical research, community engagement and education, and preservation of traditional Hawaiian burial and spiritual practices. The organization's Director and Founder has operated Aloha Mortuary for several years, serving thousands of local families and guiding them through the process of selecting their preferred funeral services grounded in their beliefs and needs. ALF's team includes two experienced, licensed embalmers and crematory operators, who are also water cremation certified, that will consult on the water cremation services offered and assist with the development of the cremation center's functionality on O'ahu.

The team also benefits from the consultation of Dean Fisher, former funeral director of Fisher & Associates, resident at the Mayo Clinic, and Director of the UCLA Donated Bodies Program. Fisher is considered a renowned expert and pioneer on alkaline hydrolysis and will lend his considerable expertise to the portions of the Program relating to machine selection, siting, operation, and the process of working with Donated or Willed Body Programs. ALF's Director and its team's cultural and spiritual advisors on Hawaiian burials bring additional decades of experience with preserving the rites of Hawaiian burial in order to facilitate the resurgence of these practices in a modern context. All of this knowledge and experience was invaluable in statewide policy change; first in 2015 when the law was changed formally decriminalizing Hawaiian burial rites and customs, and again in 2022 when the ALF team, along with numerous community organizations and residents, lobbied for alkaline hydrolysis to become legal in the State of Hawai'i. The partnerships and connections formed with these other community organizations such as: CNHA, Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Office of Hawaiian Affairs

(OHA) trustees, and the UH Willd Body Program, will be pivotal in executing the proposed Program; specifically honoring authentic burial protocols, interfacing with donated and unclaimed body programs, and identifying those most in need of financial support for water cremation.

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.

The applicant shall provide a description of its facilities and demonstrate its adequacy in relation to the request. If facilities are not presently available, describe plans to secure facilities.

The proposed site for the water cremation center is in Lower Kapalama Area warehouse district, and covers 1,500 square feet of building space. The lot is zoned Industrial 2 and the activities described in this application are compliant with the City & County of Honolulu's land use and zoning. Architecture designs have been drawn out to meet the capacity of dual water cremation units, so there is ample room for the single alkaline hydrolysis machine proposed in this Program. These facilities will be leased by an established, licensed mortuary, Aloha Mortuary. Aloha Mortuary, as a partner organization to ALF, also provides office and consultation spaces for the nonprofit that will allow it to hold check-in meetings with the Program team and professional service contractors, as well as family members reviewing the cultural protocols (if requested) and expectations for the services.

VI. Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing

1. Proposed Staffing, Staff Qualifications, Supervision and Training

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

The Program Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the advisory team and the personnel in their responsibilities when executing the Program's tasks. Staffing positions for this Program will be:

1. Program Coordinator
2. Program Director of Water Cremation
3. Water Cremation Technician
4. Office Administrator
5. Data & Tech Integration Specialist
6. Cultural Advisor
7. Outreach & Education Specialist

The Program Coordinator will be dedicating approximately 50% of her time to managing this program in addition to continuing her other duties at ALF's partner organization, Aloha Mortuary. This Coordinator position requires experience with leadership and supervising staff, which she has done for years at her Native Hawaiian, woman-owned businesses. In addition, she

has more than a decade of experience in systems operations, and is herself a licensed crematory operator. This is a priority program for ALF, and the Program Coordinator has committed ample capacity to this work to oversee and direct personnel and the advisory teams. The Program Director of Water Cremation is a renowned expert on the alkaline hydrolysis process, pioneering the technology at the Mayo Clinic and continuing the work at the UCLA Donated Bodies program. He develops water cremation centers nationwide and will be pivotal in moving the O‘ahu water cremation center forward and ready to offer services for this Program. He has dedicated 50% of his available time to this role. The Water Cremation Technician is a current Licensed Embalmer and Licensed Crematory Operator who will receive his additional alkaline hydrolysis training and license to operate in Hawai‘i, and will commit nearly 60% of work hours to the execution of the machine selection, operation, and cremation services described in this application. The Cremation Technician will also assist the Program Director of Water Cremation with training any additional cremation support staff, under the supervision of the Program Coordinator.

The Office Administrator is a seasoned administrative employee with decades of experience coordinating cremation services, family consultations, service scheduling, office management, and assisting staff. This position will dedicate 50% of available work hours to aiding this Program. The Data & Tech Integration Specialist primarily focuses on IT services, but will dedicate 30%-50%, as needed, to the creation of web pages, application forms, and application portals, as well as the collection of application data for use by the Program Coordinator, in association with the subsidized water cremation services program. The positions of Cultural Advisor and Outreach and Education Specialist will dedicate 50% - 70% of their available hours to supporting the Operational tasks. These positions will work together in partnership, but report directly to the Program Coordinator.

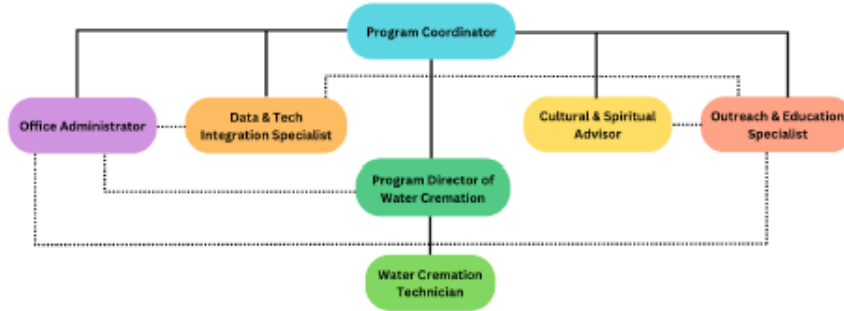
2. Organization Chart

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

The Program’s included personnel all report directly to the Program Coordinator, who is responsible for their supervision and efficacy in meeting the Program’s tasks and measures of effectiveness.

1. Program Coordinator
2. Program Director of Water Cremation
3. Water Cremation Technician
4. Office Administrator
5. Data & Tech Integration Specialist
6. Cultural Advisor
7. Outreach & Education Specialist

Within these positions, outside of the direct report to the Program Coordinator, there is interplay and consultation between the Program Director of Water Cremation and the Office Administrator; the Water Cremation Technician reports directly to the Program Director of Water Cremation; the Cultural Advisor and the Outreach & Education Specialist; the Office Administrator and the Outreach & Education Specialist; and between the Data & Tech Integration Specialist and the Outreach & Education Specialist. Chart of following page.



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.

Alaula Life Foundation does not have compensated officers or directors, the Board of Directors operates on a voluntary basis. The nonprofit does not have any paid employees. The personnel budgeted for in this application will represent a new phase of development for the organization through this comprehensive program.

VII. Other

1. Litigation

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

Not applicable

2. Licensure or Accreditation

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

Not applicable

3. Private Educational Institutions

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

Funds will not be used to support or benefit a sectarian or nonsectarian private educational institution.

4. Future Sustainability Plan

The applicant shall provide a plan for sustaining after fiscal year 2026 the activity funded by the grant if the grant of this application is:

- (a) Received by the applicant for fiscal year 2026, but
- (b) Not received by the applicant thereafter.

To sustain the subsidized water cremation services for disadvantaged Indigenous Hawaiians and non-Indigenous Hawaiians beyond fiscal year 2024-2025, if GIA funds are no longer granted, Alaula Life Foundation would look into revenue generation from leasing or educational programs utilizing its water cremation equipment.

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Applicant: Alaula Life Foundation

BUDGET CATEGORIES	Total State Funds Requested (a)	Total Federal Funds Requested (b)	Total County Funds Requested (c)	Total Private/Other Funds Requested (d)
A. PERSONNEL COST				
1. Salaries	250,000			50,000
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	25,000			5,000
3. Fringe Benefits				
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	275,000			55,000
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island	25,000			5,000
2. Insurance	20,000			10,000
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment				
4. Lease/Rental of Space	60,000			5,000
5. Staff Training	15,000			1,000
6. Supplies	10,000			10,000
7. Telecommunication				
8. Utilities	12,000			6,000
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	142,000			37,000
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	430,000			100,000
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES				
E. CAPITAL				
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	847,000			192,000
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	847,000	Charish Miller 8084369297		
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested		Name (Please type or print) Phone		
(c) Total County Funds Requested		45,673		
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	192,000	Signature of Authorized Official Date		
TOTAL BUDGET	1,039,000	Name and Title (Please type or print)		

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: Alaula Life Foundation

POSITION TITLE	FULL TIME EQUIVALENT	ANNUAL SALARY A	% OF TIME ALLOCATED TO GRANT REQUEST B	TOTAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED (A x B)
Program Coordinator	Yes	\$80,000.00	50.00%	\$ 40,000.00
Program Director for Lahaina Memorial	Yes	\$75,000.00	50.00%	\$ 37,500.00
Program Director for Water Cremation	Yes	\$75,000.00	50.00%	\$ 37,500.00
Office Administrator	Yes	\$60,000.00	50.00%	\$ 30,000.00
Data & Tech Integration Specialist	Yes	\$75,000.00	50.00%	\$ 37,500.00
Cultural Advisor	Yes	\$75,000.00	50.00%	\$ 37,500.00
Outreach & Educaiton Specialist	Yes	\$75,000.00	50.00%	\$ 37,500.00
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
TOTAL:				257,500.00
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:				

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: Alaula Life Foundation

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
Resomation Water Cremation Equipment	1.00		\$ 450,000.00	750000
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:	1		\$ 450,000.00	750,000
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, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: Alaula Life Foundation

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: 2023-2024	FY: 2024-2025	FY: 2025-2026	FY: 2025-2026	FY: 2026-2027	FY: 2027-2028
PLANS						
LAND ACQUISITION						
DESIGN						
CONSTRUCTION						
EQUIPMENT			450000	100000	200000	200000
TOTAL:			450,000		200,000	200,000
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:						

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

Applicant: Alaula Life Foundation

Contracts Total: -

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
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27					
28					
29					
30		10			