

**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:

Hawaiian Volcano Education and Resilience Institute

HVERI, Hawaii Tracker

Amount of State Funds Requested: \$ 100,000

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

The overarching goal is to implement community-based disaster preparedness, response and recovery through Digital Resilience Hubs (DRHs), taking the validated model of the 2018 eruption response centered around social media and expanding it island-wide. DRHs assist physical Resilience Hubs in the Vibrant Hawai'i Network with online communications and activities, collect and fact-check information from the community, escalate actionable information to Hawai'i County Civil Defense Agency, correct rumors and misinformation, protect their members from online threats and scams, help mobilize community resources, and maintain social cohesion within communities faced with adversity.

Amount of Other Funds Available:

State: \$ 0

Federal: \$ 0

County: \$ 17,000

Private/Other: \$ 11,925

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

\$ 50,000

Unrestricted Assets:

\$ 1,092

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:

P.O. Box 1251

City:

Volcano

State:

HI

Zip:

96785

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application

Name:

Philip Ong

Title:

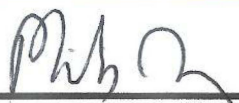
Co-Executive Director

Email:

phil@hver.org

Phone:

808-640-3212


Authorized Signature

Philip Ong, Co-Executive Director

Name and Title

January 14, 2025

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: HAWAIIAN VOLCANO EDUCATION AND RESILIENCE INSTITUTE

DBA/Trade Name: Hawaii Tracker, HVERI

Issue Date: 01/14/2025

Status: Compliant

Hawaii Tax#:

New Hawaii Tax#:

FEIN/SSN#: XX-XXX5317

UI#: No record

DCCA FILE#: 323188

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	Compliant
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 REVISD STATUTES**

The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies the following:

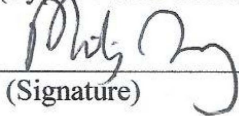
- 1) The applicant meets and will comply with all of the following standards for the award of grants pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is licensed or accredited, in accordance with federal, state, or county statutes, rules, or ordinances, to conduct the activities or provide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

Hawaiian Volcano Education and Resilience Institute

(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)



(Signature)

Philip Ong

(Typed Name)

January 14, 2025

(Date)

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


AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

Philip Ong, Co-Executive Director
PRINT NAME AND TITLE

1/14/25
DATE

Application for Grants

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

I. Certification – Please attach immediately after cover page 1. 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.

See attached Certificate of Vendor Compliance dated January 14, 2025.

2. Declaration Statement

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

See attached signed Declaration Statement.

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](#).

HVERI certifies that this grant will be used for a public purpose pursuant to Section 42-F-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;

The Hawai'i Tracker Project was initially privately funded in 2018 for its response to the Kīlauea eruption, then by Hawai'i County and the Hawai'i Community Foundation's Puna Strong grants under the fiscal sponsorship of Malama O Puna. In 2022, this nonprofit (HVERI) was established to administer the project and formalize programs in Volcano Education and Digital Resilience, and in 2023 it received 501c3 designation along with continuing support from Puna Strong and Hawai'i County's Kīlauea Recovery grants. Thus, the core programs are established in their seventh year of operation with the same core staff, while the nonprofit is in its growth stage and expanding staff capacity to meet management demands.

HVERI is partnered with Vibrant Hawai'i and its network of Resilience Hubs as well as Hawai'i County Civil Defense to facilitate communication and leverage social media during disasters. Hawai'i Tracker has been recognized by the Hawai'i County Council for "dedication in bringing consistent and factual information to our island residents in a timely manner when they needed it most", by the Big Island Press Club's award for "Excellence in Media Innovation", and by USGS research on "Hawai'i resident's perceptions of Kīlauea's 2018 eruption information". For lava-impacted communities, the study scored Hawai'i Tracker highest on relevance, expertise, sincerity and pace compared to other messengers including the USGS, HCCD and traditional media.

Collaboration in advance of the 2022 Mauna Loa eruption led to a joint and improved preparedness campaign and response, as Mayor Roth, the USGS and HCCD successfully engaged Hawai'i Tracker to share information and broadcast interviews and public meetings to broadly reach and alert island residents through social media, in addition to established channels.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;

The overarching goal is to implement community-based disaster preparedness, response and recovery through Digital Resilience Hubs (DRHs), taking the validated model of the 2018 eruption response centered around social media and expanding it island-wide, and building from our 2024-25 State Grant-In-Aid award to grow the emergent network.

DRHs are trusted online communities that are prepared to activate in response to

disasters, but serve varied needs for their communities at other times. They support on-the-ground Resilience Hubs and official responders by gathering, verifying, and distributing information, managing public communication on social media, and addressing rumors and misinformation. They are committed to the training, certification, and upkeep necessary to build the trust of the public, their peers in digital and disaster communities, and responding officials.

During disasters, a DRH empowers a community to stay cohesive through online dialogue regardless of individuals' physical location, whether sheltering in place or displaced due to evacuation or any other reason, while also allowing distant friends and family to stay connected to local developments. Information collected by a DRH from online community members during disaster response, once passing scrutiny and verification, is communicated to emergency managers and other responders through non-public internal channels. This implements two-way communication between officials and the online public, with safeguards in place to eliminate unnecessary distractions for emergency responders.

Furthermore, the coordination of multiple DRHs within the network can distribute the workload for disasters restricted to a specific area, enable resource sharing and maximize the impact of disaster response. A strong island-wide network built through such relationships improves community resilience against future disruptions.

3. The public purpose and need to be served;

The issue at hand is disaster preparedness, response and recovery in Hawai'i, not only from volcanic events like the 2018 eruption but also from the 2023 Maui fires among other types of disasters.

Experience has shown that during disasters communities turn to social media for information, problem-solving and cohesion, but also that social media can harbor misinformation and threats such as scams aided by artificial intelligence. For local government, capacity is lacking for widespread social media monitoring and engagement, and previous initiatives have not produced significant effects.

By mobilizing existing community-based social media groups, a major obstacle is overcome by satisfying the platform algorithms so that emergency messaging is prominent in subscriber feeds, rather than buried and unviewed. Their pre-established popularity is what makes them viable as an avenue of disaster communication – many similar initiatives have had limited impact by trying to create a new forum or public page on social media from scratch, only to fight the algorithms or advertising budgets for views.

The DRH approach essentially crowd-sources the community to keep popular communication channels active during blue-sky periods, maintaining them until they are needed for disaster communications. However, considerable care and training is needed for these groups to produce a consistently positive impact, while mitigating risk and

emotional trauma for its participants.

4. Describe the target population to be served; and

The primary target population are Hawai'i Island residents who use social media, to be served by island-wide Digital Resilience Hubs. In-person outreach brings awareness to other island residents of social media channels that communicate disaster information. Hawai'i Tracker, serving as an established DRH based in Puna, currently serves a subscriber base of over 140,000 people. Of those, 98% are over the age of 25, 88% over age 35, 70% over age 45, 48% over age 55, and 26% over age 65. Women make up from 64% of the younger age group to 70% of those over 65.

Furthermore, as a public group, the information on Hawai'i Tracker is equitably accessible to anyone with internet access, regardless of whether they have a Facebook account. However, only approved Facebook members are able to engage in discussions, offer feedback on community posts, and make their own contributions, which are also subject to vetting and approval before they are made public to the group.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

Analytics and surveys show that over half of Hawai'i Tracker participants are Hawai'i Island residents, complemented by off-island family, friends and others with connections or vested interests. The core region of participants inhabit the Hilo-Keaau-Pāhoa corridor, but with notable concentrations in Kailua-Kona, Ka'u, and Waikoloa as well.

It is notable that despite a focus in Puna resulting from our role in 2018, the ~70,000 Hawai'i Tracker members on-island outnumber the ~20,000 subscribers to Hawai'i County Civil Defense Everbridge alerts. Thus, this service is complimentary to the established alert systems similar to the role of radio stations, with an important difference being that residents can respond and communicate back and forth within Digital Resilience Hubs.

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;

1. Recruit and train a cohort of Digital Resilience Hubs (DRHs). HVERI produced both a DRH Framework and a Social Media Moderator In Disasters training program as part of its recent Puna Strong grant to be used for this purpose, and has identified candidate community groups meeting preliminary standards. The target is to certify at least 4 new DRHs island-wide, which means recruiting a larger number of candidates as not all are expected to complete the training program. New cohort members will supplement the reduced 2024-25 cohort to create a critical mass within the network, enabling all participants to complete more complex training and coordination.
2. Support Hawai'i Tracker's role as a DRH in support of Resilience Hubs and HCCD and as a training ground for candidates. The practical component of DRH training and vetting involves a two week mentorship period on Hawai'i Tracker, which has already been established as a DRH. Participants are expected to conduct social media moderation for one to two hours per day during this period, with guidance and instruction from experienced Hawai'i Tracker moderators.
3. Practice disaster response for DRHs in joint exercises with on-the-ground Resilience Hubs, Vibrant Hawai'i and Hawai'i County Civil Defense. For HVERI to certify a candidate online community as a DRH, it must also successfully participate in simulations and demonstrate its commitment and capacity to respond to disasters.
4. Develop AI tools to assist DRHs process information from social media during disasters. Continuing an ongoing initiative between HVERI and the UH-Hilo Department of Computer Science, the goal is to deploy tools to scrape social media activity and produce situational reports aided by artificial intelligence with fact-checking, which can be relayed to HCCD or other responders as appropriate.
5. Support HVERI's coordination of the DRH network during disaster response. Following the Incident Command System's span of control, HVERI heads the DRH hierarchy and assists as a liaison to Vibrant Hawai'i in their role as Resilience Hub coordinators and subsequently to HCCD's EOC.

6. Purchase disaster preparedness communication equipment and power backups.
To serve as activators of the DRH network, HVERI must have disaster-proof communication systems in place.
7. Broadcast live streams of preparedness and outreach events and programs by various agencies. These may include updates on projects to recover from previous disasters, educational talks on hazards, as well as community outreach events.

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

Quarter 1:

- A. Increase staff capacity of HVERI to enable Hawai'i Tracker to serve as a training ground for candidates and to administer the program
- B. Recruit next cohort of DRHs, complete half-day seminar training component for Social Media Moderation in Disasters
- C. Renew collaboration with UH-Hilo to develop AI tools for DRHs
- D. Purchase equipment and power backups

Quarter 2:

- A. Two-week mentorship of DRH candidates on Hawai'i Tracker, staggered for all groups as possible
- B. Update documentation for HVERI's coordination of the DRH network
- C. Complete collaboration with UH-Hilo to develop AI tools for DRHs

Quarter 3:

- A. Implement internal communication tools between HVERI and the DRH network and practice their use
- B. Train DRH candidates to use AI tools
- C. Organize joint training exercise

Quarter 4:

- A. Joint training exercise for DRH candidates with Vibrant Hawai'i Resilience Hubs and Hawai'i County Civil Defense, with HVERI coordinating the DRH network
- B. Produce certification of candidates and inauguration ceremony as official DRHs
- C. Collect feedback on training and certification program as a whole

Year-long: Broadcast live streams of preparedness and outreach events and programs by various agencies as they occur. For example, in 2024, this included Preparedness Fairs in Hilo, Waimea, Pāhoā & Kailua-Kona, among other events led by Hawai'i County Civil Defense.

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

The request builds upon a pilot program completed for a Puna Strong grant during which feedback was collected from trainees after each session. That prior participant input guides this proposed format and cadence of training, and feedback will be similarly collected from the new cohort as they navigate each of the four training components, one in each quarter. Early evaluations will allow us to adapt subsequent components of the training program for maximum effect on the participant group, offering quality assurance of HVERI as DRH trainers. Feedback will also be solicited for the training and certification program as a whole, to be incorporated into its next iteration.

Furthermore, DRH and social media moderator candidates are evaluated on a one-to-one basis with HVERI trainers over the course of the two-week mentorship component. From pilot training sessions and through experience training moderators for Hawai'i Tracker, not all candidates will be suited to complete this intensive period. Additionally, participation in the network and in joint training is intended to validate a good working dynamic with other disaster responders. This offers quality assurance of the DRHs that HVERI intends to produce.

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 simplest measure is the number of DRHs who achieve certification at the year's end. Similar is the cumulative membership of on-island residents participating in a DRH, and the growth from our present reach.

One important feedback tool is a survey of participants' perceptions of long-term resilience of the Hawai'i Island community and the impact of our work. We plan to conduct pre- and post- surveys with questions on perceptions of digital resilience and the impacts of DRHs and AI training.

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 ([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](#))

See attached pages.

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
30,000	30,000	30,000	10,000	100,000

3. The applicant shall provide a listing of all other sources of funding that they are seeking for fiscal year 2026.

For fiscal year 2026, beyond this request HVERI is seeking funding from the Hawai'i County Waiwai Grant-In-Aid, Atherton Foundation, Cooke Family Foundation, private donors and corporate sponsorships. Funding has been secured from Hawai'i County's Puna Strong Collaboration Grant and Hawai'i Community Foundation's East Hawai'i Fund with effective dates that include a portion of the fiscal year, and where possible will be reapplied for also during a portion of the fiscal year. Funding that specifically also applies to this project has also been secured from Hawai'i County Districts 1 & 4 (with District 5 pending) Contingency Relief Funds - 12k secured with another 5k pending.

4. The applicant shall provide a listing of all state and federal tax credits it has been granted within the prior three years. Additionally, the applicant shall provide a listing of all state and federal tax credits they have applied for or anticipate applying for pertaining to any capital project, if applicable.

Not applicable.

5. The applicant shall provide 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.

Prior to the establishment of HVERI, the Hawai'i Tracker Project was funded through fiscal sponsorship. HVERI began operations in August 2023, since when the nonprofit is funded directly. Starting in 2022 to include only the last 3 years:

- I. July 2022 - June 2023, Hawai'i County Waiwai Grant-In-Aid for \$45,000 under fiscal sponsorship of Malama O Puna
- II. October 2022 - September 2023, Hawai'i County Puna Strong grant for \$50,000 under fiscal sponsorship of Malama O Puna
- III. December 2023 - May 2025, Hawai'i County Puna Strong grant for \$75,000 (to HVERI, as with all subsequent entries.)
- IV. March 2024 - February 2025, Hawai'i County Kīlauea Recovery grant for \$100,000
- V. July 2024 - June 2025, State of Hawai'i Grant-In-Aid for \$50,000
- VI. July 2024 - June 2025, Hawai'i County Waiwai Grant-In-Aid for \$50,000
- VII. November 2024 - June 2025, Hawai'i County District 4 Contingency Relief Funds for \$7,000

VIII. December 2024 - June 2025, Hawai'i County District 1 Contingency Relief Funds for \$5,000

IX. December 2024 - November 2025, Hawai'i County Puna Strong Collaboration grant for \$50,000

6. The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2024.

\$1091.80

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.

Most relevant, HVERI published the "Digital Resilience Hub Framework" in 2023, detailing components and preparation necessary for qualifying social media cohorts to successfully support disaster response on Hawai'i Island. It is drawn in part from the experience, success, and failures of the Hawai'i Tracker Facebook Group, which emerged during the 2018 Kīlauea eruption as the lava-impacted community's most trusted source of information. This is augmented by a host of research on communications and social media in disasters, rooted in disaster responses in Haiti, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Australia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Kenya, Ecuador, Antigua & Barbuda, Mexico, Iceland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, as well as within the United States (including FEMA).

While finding support in this extensive knowledge pool validates the components of this framework, their assemblage as modeled by Hawai'i Tracker since 2018 remains unique and well-suited to Hawai'i Island. The network grew from 3.5k members before the eruption to 50k by the end of 2018, to 125k by the end of 2023, and to 140k by the end of 2024. This latter growth stage stems directly from grant-driven increased content production of our Volcano Education Program and demonstrates the success of our model.

The framework includes the strategies found in both research and in our own experience and institutes Digital Resilience Hub standards for eligibility, training, and operations. This includes a Social Media Moderator In Disasters training program

based on seven years of experience operating Hawai'i Tracker, and adapted to emergent threats aided by artificial intelligence.

The operation of a Digital Resilience Hub in collaboration with the network of physical Resilience Hubs, Vibrant Hawai'i, and Hawai'i County Civil Defense has also been trialed with great promise. Hawai'i Tracker participated in network-wide Resilience Hub Summits in 2022 and 2023, the latter a 3-day joint training exercise with HCCD in advance of the past hurricane season, as well as in 2024. Following the 2023 summit, the nearby pass of Tropical Storm Calvin offered another opportunity to exercise the network's response, and similarly following 2024's with Hurricane Hone. Hawai'i Tracker demonstrated the power of crowd-sourcing situational awareness reports by prompting members for weather reports for their areas, and provided HCCD with actionable information on impacted citizens that had not been detected in any other established way.

It is these recent successes that we intend to build upon as we develop a cutting-edge collaboration between community and official agencies responding to disasters, despite the recent release of our framework. Our 2022-23 Puna Strong grant administered by HCF was the first to focus on our Digital Resilience Program and produced the framework and training program. We are currently conducting the first year of training and certification in 2024-25 with State GIA and County Contingency Relief Funds, for which this request intends to complete the full process of our original unrevised ask.

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.

HVERI rents office space in Hilo, which combines with remote home offices for its normal operation, as most work is conducted online. Rented space facilitates collaboration at key points in our workflow, where two or three employees with laptops work side by side. Disaster-proof, mobile communication equipment such as Starlink receivers and gas generator back-ups are the only facility supplements needed, and can be assigned to any manager's home office or the rented space as needed. In-person outreach events related to this project are typically hosted at community centers or public facilities with the support of other nonprofits and Hawai'i County.

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.

HVERI has two Co-Executive Directors, each doubling as a program director - one in Volcano Education and another in Digital Resilience. Both have degrees and backgrounds in computer science, and have managed and moderated the Hawai'i Tracker Facebook Group since 2018, spanning the Mauna Loa eruption, five eruptions from Kīlauea, and numerous storms and wildfires. In addition, HVERI hired an Executive Manager in 2024 to assist in both programs, who has experience in nonprofit management and fundraising. Organizational funding has been budgeted for a part-time secretary or paid intern, but not to be involved in this request.

The Digital Resilience Program Director will lead this effort with ~40% of their time, while other core project staff support with 20-25% of their time. As the developers of the framework, only the new staff member required training and supervision, which was completed in 2024. This initiative will again compose HVERI's major objective for FY2025-26, with only the Volcano Education Program requiring added outputs from our organization. The staff also have the experience of training candidates in the successful pilot program and the currently operating program.

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.

Co-Executive Director 1 / Digital Resilience Program Manager:

Supervises Executive Manager

Responsible for DRH training program

Responsible for operation of Hawai'i Tracker as a DRH

Support HVERI coordination of DRH network

Co-Executive Director 2 / Education Program Manager:

Responsible for HVERI coordination of DRH network

Responsible for equipment purchases

Responsible for organizing in-person events

Responsible for documentation and reporting

Executive Manager:

Responsible for live stream broadcasts

Support operation of Hawai'i Tracker and DRH training program

Support HVERI coordination of DRH network

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.

Co-Executive Director 1: \$60,000-80,000

Co-Executive Director 2: \$60,000-80,000

Executive Manager: \$60,000-80,000

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.

Not applicable. The grant will not be used to support or benefit a sectarian or non-sectarian private educational institution.

4. Future Sustainability Plan

The applicant shall provide a plan for sustaining after fiscal year 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.

Our original sustainability plan presented last year still applies, but requires this additional funding formerly cut from our original request to seed sufficient numbers for the network to endure and succeed. Our program has benefited from the extended time and experience in this specialized training, but funding only 2 DRH certifications over 2024-25 is insufficient to form a network, thus the request for additional numbers.

The key aspect of standing up a network of Digital Resilience Hubs is to establish an early cohort that can serve as a model and resource to others. The training necessary for certification is a one-time event, after which the online community can maintain the DRH in preparation to respond to disasters. Yearly joint exercises are an industry standard, which in the future we hope to fund through corporate sponsorships and private donations. Each DRH must have a top-level officer complete certification, after which they are able to train other officers within their organization. For additional cohorts of DRHs in the future, the certified DRHs produced by this request are intended to fill the role of mentors and trainers, such that the knowledge can propagate across successive cohorts. Thus, this activity is intended as a one-time start-up campaign, after which HVERI hopes to shift its focus to other aspects of Digital Resilience. This request will also assist HVERI in expanding its staff capacity, which will also benefit fundraising for those efforts.

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: Hawaiian Volcano Education and Resilience Institute

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	72,000		80,000	188,000
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	11,273		12,500	29,000
3. Fringe Benefits	7,227		8,000	10,000
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	90,500		100,500	227,000
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island				
2. Insurance			2,000	
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment				
4. Lease/Rental of Space	5,000		1,000	
5. Staff Training	1,500		2,000	
6. Supplies			1,250	
7. Telecommunication	3,000			
8. Utilities				
9. Accounting			2,000	
10. Legal & board expenses				750
11. Newsletters & outreach promotion			1,250	
12. Outreach expenses, on-island travel				750
13. Banking fees				500
14. ASL interpreters & other subcontracts			2,500	5,000
15. Software services				3,500
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	9,500		12,000	10,500
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES				
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES				
E. CAPITAL				
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	100,000		112,500	237,500
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	100,000	Philip Ong 808-640-3212		
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested		Name (Please type or print) Phone		
(c) Total County Funds Requested	112,500			
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	237,500	Signature of Authorized Official Date 1/14/25		
TOTAL BUDGET	450,000	Philip Ong, Co-Executive Director Name and Title (Please type or print)		

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: Hawaiian Volcano Education and Resilience Institute

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	\$80,000.00	40.00%	\$ 32,000.00
Co-Executive Director	1	\$80,000.00	20.00%	\$ 16,000.00
Executive Manager	1	\$80,000.00	25.00%	\$ 20,000.00
Secretary/Assistant	0.5	\$40,000.00	10.00%	\$ 4,000.00
Youth Development Program Manager	1	\$60,000.00	0.00%	\$ -
				\$ -
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TOTAL:				72,000.00
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:				

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: Hawaiian Volcano Education and Resilience Institute

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: Not applicable.				

DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	NO. OF VEHICLES	COST PER VEHICLE	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: Not applicable.				

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: Hawaiian Volcano Education and Resilience Institute

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						
TOTAL:						
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:						
Not applicable.						

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

Applicant: Hawaiian Volcano Education and Resilience Institute

Contracts Total: 337,000

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1	Puna Strong Collaboration Grant	11/20/24-11/19/25	Kilauea Recovery	Hawai'i County	50,000
2	Contingency Relief Funds, DRHs	11/21/24-6/30/25	Dist.4 Councilmember	Hawai'i County	7,000
3	Contingency Relief Funds, DRHs	12/26/24-6/30/25	Dist.1 Councilmember	Hawai'i County	5,000
4	Waiwai Grant-in-aid (Current)	7/1/24-6/30/25	County Council	Hawai'i County	50,000
5	State Grant-in-aid (Current)	10/1/24-6/30/25	State DOD	State of Hawai'i	50,000
6	Puna Strong 3 Grant	12/1/23-5/31/25	Kilauea Recovery	Hawai'i County	75,000
7	Kilauea Recovery Grant	4/3/24-4/2/25	Kilauea Recovery	Hawai'i County	100,000
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