

**THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
APPLICATION FOR GRANTS
CHAPTER 42F, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES
Fiscal Year 2026**

Type of Request: Operating

Submitted By:



Contact Persons:

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

Type of Grant Request:

☒ Operating

☐ Capital

Legal Name of Requesting Organization or Individual: Db a:

He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna

Amount of State Funds Requested: \$ 168,650.00

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

If awarded this grant, we will launch a one-year pilot program called Kumu Ho'ohalike (Mentor) which will provide trauma-informed and culturally relevant peer mentoring services to struggling women and female-identifying individuals (aged 18 and over) in the East Hawai'i area of the Big Island, including Puna and South Hilo. These rural communities have poverty rates exceeding County and State averages and are dealing with increasing violent crime rates, a shortage of mental health and substance abuse services, and insufficient access to supportive resources.

We pledge to help 20 program participants achieve their goals, which may include engaging in substance abuse and/or mental health treatment, enrolling in higher education, obtaining sustainable employment, and finding stable housing. Our hope is that this pilot project will achieve an 80% success rate and that its unique approach will become a model for the State. We see its usefulness in programs providing services for mental health and/or substance use disorders, homelessness, gender identity issues, domestic violence, physical disabilities, and criminal justice involvement.

Amount of Other Funds Available:

State: \$ 0
Federal: \$ 34,837.00
County: \$ 0
Private/Other: \$ 15,206.00

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

\$ 0

Unrestricted Assets:

\$ 3,906.00

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:

260 Kamehameha Avenue

City: State: Zip:
Hilo HI 96720


Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application

Name:
Jessica Ipina

Title:
Executive Director

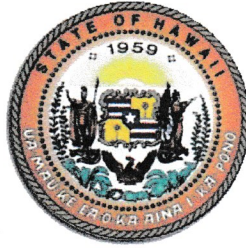
Email:
jessica@cockrellelectric.com

Phone:
(808) 557-3933


Authorized Signature

Jessica Ipina, Executive Director
Name and Title

January 17, 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: HE HO'OMAKA HOU'ANA 'O PUNA INC.

Issue Date: 12/31/2024

Status: Compliant

Hawaii Tax#:

New Hawaii Tax#:

FEIN/SSN#: XX-XXX2490

UI#: XXXXXX7918

DCCA FILE#: 321290

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 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.

He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna

(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)



(Signature)

Jessica Ipina, Executive Director

(Typed Name)

January 17, 2025

(Date)

January 17, 2025

(Title)

Statement of Public Purpose

[+]§42F-102[+] Applications for grants and subsidies.

Requests for grants and subsidies shall be submitted to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature at the start of each regular session of the legislature. Each request shall state:

(1) The name of the requesting organization: He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna

(2) The public purpose, including a description of the problem or need to be addressed:

The public purpose for this grant is to mitigate significant socioeconomic hardships for vulnerable and marginalized populations in the rural communities of Puna and East Hawai'i on the Big Island. These regions experience high levels of poverty, crime, domestic abuse, substance addiction, and homelessness. Geographic isolation and vulnerability to natural disasters compounded with inadequate access to mental and medical health resources leave residents with limited opportunities to thrive, and perpetuates intergenerational cycles of trauma and despair.

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

With this grant, He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna will launch a pilot project called *Kumu Ho'ohālike*, the Hawaiian word for "Mentor." This phrase has its roots in the Hawaiian language's rich cultural history with the word "kumu" long being associated with teachers and sources of knowledge in Hawaiian culture, while "ho'ohālike" describes the process of making things similar or likening them to one another.

Through a holistic support model that merges modern mental health practices with the wisdom of cultural traditions, *Kumu Ho'ohālike* will provide peer mentors with lived experience to establish a mutually trusting and empathetic relationship with their mentees, bridging the gap where traditional mental health services fall short. We believe that this program will uplift and empower survivors through connections to vital resources such as counseling, legal aid, housing, and wellness programs, catalyzing a ripple effect of healing and strength throughout their families and communities.

(4) The target group:

We seek to serve women and female-identifying individuals, aged 18 and older, who face formidable challenges, including but not limited to:

- Victims and survivors of all crime types, with a particular focus on those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault,
- Victims of intergenerational trauma,
- Justice-involved or formerly incarcerated individuals who have been impacted by homelessness, mental illness, and/or substance use disorders,
- Individuals who experience the adverse effects of ethnic and racial inequality, an entrenched issue within our target regions.

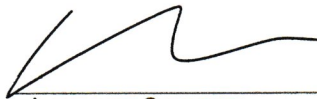
(5) The cost of the grant: **\$168,650.00** and the budget: **\$218,690.20**

Applicant He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna

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

Jessica Ipina, Executive Director

PRINT NAME AND TITLE

January 17, 2025

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.

He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna's Hawai'i Compliance Express Certificate is located immediately after the Thirtieth Legislature Application for Grants Cover Page.

2. Declaration Statement

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

He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna's Declaration Statement Of Applicants for Grants pursuant to [Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes](#), signed by Executive Director, Jessica Ipina, is located after the Certificate of Vendor Compliance.

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](#).

He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna's Public Purpose Statement pursuant to [Section 42F-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes](#) is located after the Declaration Statement.

Application for Grants: Narrative Section

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 February 2022, He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering healing and empowering individuals through culturally tailored programs in the rural East Hawai'i region of Hawai'i County, including the Puna and Hilo districts. Grounded in ancestral wisdom, we provide culturally sensitive peer-to-peer mentorship, enabling participants to process trauma, build self-esteem, and reclaim their lives.

Our approach is unique in its focus on integrating cultural heritage and lived experiences into healing processes. Mentors foster meaningful connections, provide empathetic support, and guide participants to various community resources. By addressing trauma in a culturally respectful manner, we empower survivors to overcome adversity, break cycles of intergenerational trauma, and contribute positively to their communities.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request

Goals:

1. Launch a pilot program called ***Kumu Ho'ohālike*** (Mentor). This Hawaiian phrase describes a mentor as a teacher or source of knowledge who helps to guide their mentee and make them similar to themselves. Ultimately, our number one goal is to assess the effectiveness of this program while improving and refining the process in order to demonstrate long-term viability to help the target population on a larger scale. All other goals are causally related to this primary goal.

NOTE: Mentorship has played a significant role in Hawaiian culture for centuries. Hawaiian mentorship is not just about passing down knowledge and skills, but also about instilling important values and beliefs. Hawaiian mentors are responsible for guiding and shaping the lives of their mentees, helping them to develop a sense of identity and purpose.

2. Reduce victimization in East Hawai'i by leveraging peer-to-peer mentoring rooted in culturally relevant practices.
3. Empower women and female-identifying individuals by fostering self-esteem, enabling them to disengage from abusive relationships, substance abuse, intergenerational trauma, and recidivism.
4. Promote healing and resilience through culturally based trauma-informed care to mitigate intergenerational trauma and facilitate progressive development.

5. Enhance mental health and substance use treatment by providing the linkage to low- or no-cost services for victims and survivors of mental illness, substance use disorders, trauma and/or crime.
6. Strengthen family relationships and promote social wellness within the community.

Objectives:

- Peer-to-peer mentorship: Provide trained peer mentors to allow participants to learn from those who have lived experiences. Peer mentors, equipped with personal experiences and professional training, help mentees identify specific recovery goals and create actionable plans to achieve them. Through shared understanding, respect, and mutual empowerment, peer mentors help their mentees stay engaged in the recovery process.
- Safe Spaces: Provide private, consistent meeting locations for participants to express deep-rooted emotions and process trauma safely.
- Monthly Group Sessions: Facilitate monthly group sessions, incorporating culturally based KukaKuka (courageous conversations), for mentees.
- Cultural Grounding: Utilize culturally based activities and practices such as *Hei*, a native Hawaiian modality to capture and ensnare energies. It is a genealogy tie to native Hawaiian chants and stories through images of a string. These activities will help participants develop a sense of identity, belonging, and connection to ancestral wisdom.
- Healing Conversations: Facilitate KukaKuka that address deep-seated issues, challenge negative thought patterns, and encourage growth.
- Link program participants to community resources that will address areas of concern and facilitate the growth process.

3. The public purpose and need to be served

Public Purpose:

This pilot program will directly address a variety of critical and intersecting challenges present in East Hawai'i, particularly in the rural communities of Puna and Hilo. These regions face significant socio-economic hardships, including high rates of poverty, crime, domestic abuse, substance addiction, and homelessness, compounded by inadequate access to mental and medical health resources. Puna has the highest poverty rate in Hawai'i County, with nearly one-third of its residents living below the Federal Poverty Level and disproportionately high rates of households reliant on public assistance. This systemic inequality—exacerbated by geographic isolation and vulnerability to natural disasters—leaves residents with limited opportunities to thrive and perpetuates intergenerational cycles of trauma and despair.

Other key issues include:

- High Rates of Crime: Violent crime has risen by 7% from 2012 to 2022, with rape increasing by 90%. Puna, a rural district, has a disproportionate concentration of poverty and crime, including some of the most dangerous areas in Hawai'i.

- **Systemic Barriers:** The region lacks sufficient mental and medical health care, limiting access to critical care.
- **Intergenerational Trauma:** Persistent poverty, violent crime, and systemic inadequacies have compounded trauma across generations, particularly for female survivors of abuse and violence.

The public purpose of this request is to provide a lifeline to underserved populations through a holistic support model that merges modern mental health practices with the wisdom of cultural traditions. This peer-based approach, rooted in trust and empathy, bridges the gap where traditional mental health services fall short, especially in rural, medically underserved regions. Additionally, the program uplifts survivors through connections to vital resources such as counseling, legal aid, housing, and other wellness programs, catalyzing a ripple effect of healing and strength throughout their families and communities.

Need to be Served:

The need for this program cannot be overstated. The rural communities of East Hawai'i rank among the most underserved in the State, with a scarcity of medical and mental health professionals. Hawai'i County has been federally designated as a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area and lacks sufficient safe spaces for trauma recovery. These deficiencies leave many survivors without the services they need to rebuild their lives, perpetuating cycles of poverty, crime, and trauma.

By addressing systemic inadequacies, this program offers a solution to the region's challenges, empowering communities, and raising awareness of the interconnections between culture, mental health, and resilience.

4. Describe the target population to be served

During this one-year pilot program period, ***Kumu Ho'ohālike*** will provide vital peer-to-peer mentoring services to twenty (20) underserved and marginalized women and female-identifying individuals aged 18 and older in rural East Hawai'i, with a primary focus on the districts of South Hilo and Puna.

We seek to serve individuals who face formidable challenges, including but not limited to:

- Victims and survivors of all crime types, with a particular focus on those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault,
- Victims of intergenerational trauma,
- Justice-involved or formerly incarcerated individuals who have been impacted by homelessness, mental illness, and/or substance use disorders,
- Individuals who experience the adverse effects of ethnic and racial inequality, an entrenched issue within our target regions.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

Kumu Ho'ohālike will focus on the Puna and South Hilo districts of East Hawai'i, with

the hope of becoming available islandwide in the future. Spanning roughly 4,087 square miles—nearly twice the size of all other Hawaiian islands combined—Hawai'i Island presents unique challenges tied to both its geography and demographics.

East Hawai'i is home to a diversity of ethnic groups, with Native Hawaiians making up 32% of Puna's population, compared to 21% statewide. The region also has an active LGBTQ+ community and many residents identifying as "alternative-type" or non-mainstream. However, with higher poverty rates than most areas in the state—nearly one-third of Puna's residents live at or below the Federal Poverty Level—this region faces critical economic and social hurdles. This includes issues like housing insecurity, limited infrastructure, healthcare shortages, and substance use disorders.

Additionally, East Hawai'i faces heightened vulnerability to natural disasters such as hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, and lava flows due to its position on an active volcanic area. This increases the complexity of supporting this community. Many homes in Puna rely on wells or rainwater catchments for water, highlighting widespread infrastructure limitations.

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

Scope of Work

The ***Kumu Ho'ohālike*** pilot program will provide culturally relevant, trauma-informed care to our target population through peer-to-peer mentoring. Peer mentors will encourage the development of coping strategies and positive habits while connecting mentees to essential resources, ensuring that they have access to the tools necessary for long-term success.

Through regular meetings, peer mentors will promote self-reflection, accountability, and open communication, fostering a safe environment for sharing aspirations and difficulties. This relationship reduces feelings of isolation and despair while enhancing a sense of identity and belonging—essential for effective recovery. By providing survivors with safe spaces to process their trauma and draw upon ancestral cultural practices, program participants can reclaim their dignity, build confidence, and move toward personal empowerment.

Tasks and Responsibilities

The success of this program requires diligent effort across the following key areas:

- Facilitating Peer-to-Peer Mentorship by training mentors with lived experience to provide empathetic and relatable guidance, and to link mentees to local resources such as mental health care, food distribution programs, and housing support.
- Cultural Tailoring of Support Groups by incorporating ancestral practices into

support groups to enhance meaning, foster healing, and create a sense of belonging for program participants.

- Building Supportive Communities by:
 1. Hosting bi-monthly safe spaces where program participants can share experiences, track their progress, and discuss emotional challenges.
 2. Extending collaborative partnerships with local organizations such as Hope Services Hawai'i to enhance service delivery for attendees.
- Promoting Growth and Development by:
 1. Facilitating learning activities aligned with program participants' unique cultural contexts.
 2. Planning huaka'i, or specialized excursions, to deepen personal development and cultural connection.

We will also seek the expansion of staff and services to scale our impact as follows:

- Compensation for Peer Mentors to ensure sustainability
- Supplies and Training Costs to enhance program delivery
- Honorariums for Cultural Practitioners and Guest Speakers—a vital component for meaningful, culturally specific learning sessions
- Outreach Materials and Travel Costs to promote accessibility and program expansion

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

Our 12-month timeline is structured around four key phases, ensuring a steady progression toward sustainable results. Through consistent engagement and collective effort, we aim to empower participants, foster healthier communities, and create lasting societal impact.

Phase 1 (Months 1–3): Establishing the Foundations

This foundational phase sets the stage for program success, prioritizing preparation and establishing strong partnerships.

- Recruit and train two Peer Mentors using trauma-informed and culturally relevant best practices to provide impactful, empathetic support.
- Establish and build collaborative partnerships with three organizations (2 local and 1 national) to streamline access to much-needed resources.
 1. Hope Services Hawai'i, Inc.
 2. Neighborhood Place of Puna
 3. National Center for Victims of Crime
- Host one orientation event to introduce participants to the program and create a sense of community.
- Host twelve monthly support group sessions to provide ongoing peer support and nurture connections.

Phase 2 (Months 4–6): Scaling Outreach and Engagement

This phase focuses on reaching more participants and deepening the cultural and personal development of those we serve.

- Conduct targeted outreach efforts across South Hilo and Puna through handouts
- and community referrals to engage at least 20 participants, ensuring diverse representation across the community.
- Facilitate two culturally-based activities to deepen participants' connection to community and self, promoting healing and a sense of belonging.
- Organize at least two huaka'i (specialized cultural excursions) to strengthen personal growth and cultural ties.

Phase 3 (Months 7–9): Tracking Impact and Refining Process

During this period, we will focus on evaluating participants' progress, making improvements as needed, and increasing our capacity to help more individuals.

- Conduct a mid-year impact survey utilizing a Likert scale integrated with the Quality-of-Life Inventory (QOLI) to assess participants' progress and program impact; achieve an 80% success rate.
- Introduce one new mentoring cohort to increase the reach of services.
- Use survey results to make informed adjustments that ensure the program's ongoing relevance and effectiveness.

Phase 4 (Months 10–12): Sustaining and Expanding Impact

The final phase emphasizes celebration, sustainability, and securing future opportunities for growth.

- Host a year-end hui (gathering) with at least an 80% participant attendance to celebrate achievements and foster continued community connections.
- Pilot digital mentorship tools and assess their initial effectiveness.
- Produce a comprehensive impact report for funders and stakeholders, detailing program outcomes and lessons learned.
- Secure future funding and partnerships for expansion.

Anticipated Outcomes

By the end of the 12-month pilot program, we envision achieving lasting change through the following outcomes:

- Self-Empowerment for 20 program participants, supporting their transition from victims to survivors and advocates for themselves and others. Surveys will measure participant satisfaction and self-reported empowerment levels.
- Healthier Communities driven by shared cultural experiences, collaborative action, and strengthened peer connections. QOLI assessments will be conducted at the beginning of the program, after 3 months of program participation, after 6 months of program participation, and upon completion of the program.

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

Quality Assurance and Evaluation

He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna will conduct structured assessments before and after participation in this pilot program to track measurable changes in participants' well-being, skills, and personal growth. Indicators such as self-esteem, relationship-building, problem-solving skills, and emotional stability will be assessed using standardized tools.

Program participants will maintain detailed journals to capture shifts in mindset, confidence, and self-awareness. Simultaneously, attendance records will provide insights into engagement levels by tracking participant demographics, transportation access, discussion topics, and rates of active participation.

Detailed video interviews will be conducted at key milestones: before, during, and after the pilot program to document personal journeys. These interviews will illuminate participants' qualitative experiences and provide visual proof of their transformation.

Testimonies from program participants will highlight tangible impacts, allowing us to validate the effectiveness of our methods and adjust program methodology to better meet participants' needs.

Regular focus groups and surveys will gather feedback from program participants and their mentors, ensuring their voices play a central role in shaping program activities and delivery.

Given our reliance on community partnerships, we will also track outcomes related to these collaborations. Metrics will include the number of partnerships initiated, the types of resources provided through partnerships, and the impact these resources have on program success. Metrics and individual stories will be reviewed regularly.

Improvement Strategies:

Quality assurance is not a static process but a commitment to continuous evolution based on lessons learned. Our strategies to refine and enhance our results include:

- Expanding Data-Driven Insights - We aim to build a broader impact framework by incorporating metrics from additional data sources, such as regional crime statistics and health care access improvements.
- Community-Engaged Review - Key stakeholders, including program participants, mentors, and nonprofit partners, will be actively involved in program evaluations. Their input will fuel iterative adjustments, ensuring the program remains effective, responsive, and relevant.
- Refining Trauma-Informed Methods - Feedback will guide adjustments to the trauma-informed care model to better meet participants' emotional and psychological needs. This includes improving methodologies for handling sensitive conversations and supporting deeper healing.
- Scaling Partnership Engagement - To address the high poverty and crime rates in districts like Puna, we will bolster collaborations, especially with organizations

offering low-cost or no-cost mental health services. Partnerships with Hope Services Hawai'i and similar nonprofits will be further deepened.

- Adaptive Curriculum Design – This pilot program's curriculum will evolve as we gather insights from participant journals, assessments, and testimonials. By integrating cultural wisdom with modern practices, we will ensure learning activities foster identity, belonging, and empowerment.
- Training and Development - To maintain high standards, we will invest in the continuous training of peer mentors. This will include workshops on advanced trauma-informed care, cultural competency, and strategies for increasing participant engagement.
- Expanding Access through Infrastructure – Our plans include the establishment of a community-based health center in Puna to provide additional meeting spaces for healing, growth, and support. This will increase accessibility and opportunities for individuals in need to join the program.

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, the measure(s) of effectiveness will need to be updated and transmitted to the expending agency.

The following measures will provide clear, transparent data to showcase ***Kumu Ho'ohālike***'s success.

1. Participant Growth and Transformation

- Improvements in self-esteem, emotional stability, and problem-solving skills, assessed through pre- and post-program evaluations.
- Increased ability to safely disengage from harmful relationships and develop self-empowerment as evidenced through exit interviews and participant testimonials.
- Shared personal stories via video interviews documenting significant behavioral and attitudinal changes, including greater cultural awareness and resilience.

2. Participation and Engagement

Attendance records, peer mentor and mentee surveys, peer mentor case and supervision notes, mentee journals and other tracking tools will reflect the following:

- At least 80% attendance in group sessions
- 100% participation in one-on-one peer mentorship sessions
- Active engagement in discussions and cultural reconnection exercises

as observed and monitored by peer mentors

- Detailed journaling in personal reflection, addressing goals, identifying barriers and challenges, creating coping strategies, and recognizing and acknowledging progressive growth

3. Community Integration and Impact

- Cultural Connection: A measurable increase in program participants actively reflecting on and engaging with Hawaiian cultural practices, captured through qualitative insights from focus groups and journaling
- Broader Community Building: Evidence of program participants forming meaningful bonds within the program through their connections with mentors, facilitators, and peers
- Increased involvement in community activities, mentorship roles, or volunteer opportunities to promote the building of a stronger network of empowered women
- Reduced rates of re-victimization and improved independence in a majority of program participants

4. Access and Collaboration Success

- Removal of barriers to accessing services, with metrics such as:
 1. Transportation challenges addressed through detailed tracking
 2. Increased access to necessary resources such as food, mental health services, and housing
- Expanded community partnerships, with metrics including:
 1. Number and diversity of collaborations established
 2. Specific resources provided through partnerships and their impact on participant outcomes
- Strengthened community care network demonstrated by enhanced access to low-cost or no-cost services for participants

5. Success Metrics for Program Design and Delivery

- Program expansion:
 1. Conducting 12 KukaKuka sessions with regular, structured engagement
 2. Holding 1,972 contact hours with facilitators and peer mentors for personalized support
- Long-term outcomes captured through:
 1. Indicators of improved coping skills and resilience post-program
 2. Self-reported increases in confidence and the ability to leverage community resources

6. Public Narrative and Storytelling: Qualitative Impact Stories

- Testimonials from participants as a direct reflection of personal growth and

- program effectiveness
- Visual storytelling through documented video interviews highlighting individual journeys of healing and empowerment
- Stakeholder Feedback
- Constructive input from participants, mentors, and community partners through regular surveys and focus groups

7. Continuous Monitoring and Improvement

- Feedback-driven iterations of the program based on insights from:
 1. Participant surveys and feedback
 2. Stakeholders, including local partners like Hope Services Hawai'i
- Building a sustainable model for culturally rooted peer mentorship programs by consistently refining trauma-informed care methods, curriculum, and mentor training.

By employing a mixed-methods approach—encompassing quantitative data collection and qualitative insight gathering—the effectiveness of the ***Kumu Ho'ohālike*** pilot program will be evaluated with transparency and accountability.

IV. Financial

1. Budget forms are **attached** after the narrative section.
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
\$42,162.50	\$42,162.50	\$42,162.50	\$42,162.50	\$168,650.00

3. The applicant shall provide a listing of all other sources of funding that they are seeking for fiscal year 2026.
 - County of Hawai'i Nonprofit Grants-in-Aid: Waiwai Grant Program for FY 2025-26
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. **N/A**
5. The applicant shall provide a listing of all federal, state, & county government contracts and grants it has been and will be receiving for program funding.
 - U. S. Department of Justice: \$34, 837.00
6. The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2024. **\$3906.00**

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. 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.

Our team demonstrates a unique blend of lived experience, professional expertise, and deep-rooted connections to the community, making us exceptionally equipped to provide the proposed services. We are united by a shared mission to empower women who are overcoming challenges such as domestic violence, homelessness, substance abuse, and trauma.

- Jessica Ipina, Executive Director: With 15+ years' experience in finance, human resources, and innovation, Jessica ensures efficient operations and scalability of our programs. Her expertise in grant writing and community engagement allows us to secure funding and maintain focus on providing tangible support to those we serve.
- Renee Rivera, MSW, Co-Director: Renee's personal experiences overcoming homelessness, addiction, domestic violence, and trafficking deeply inform her compassionate approach to service. With a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and a Master's in Social Work from the University of Hawai'i, she combines academic knowledge with practical expertise. Currently teaching Human Services, Sociology, and Psychology at Hawai'i Community College, Renee is committed to education and empowerment. Her leadership as a board member for the Hawai'i County Service Area Board on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hope Services Hawai'i, and Hawai'i Island United Way demonstrates her ability to cultivate impactful community relationships and programs. Her combination of lived experience and academic credentials enables her to create inclusive and safe spaces for healing and growth.
- Dr. Dayna Schultz, Psy.D., LSW, CSAC, Lead Mentor: A Native Hawaiian survivor of domestic violence and sexual assault, Dr. Schultz brings unmatched trauma-informed and addiction-recovery expertise. She has led innovative programs, including Hawaii CARES' 24/7 Suicide Crisis and Substance Use Disorder hotline and the Hō'oikaika 'Ohana, a culturally responsive initiative for survivors of domestic violence. Most notably, Dr. Schultz co-founded the first Native Hawaiian Resource Center on Domestic Violence and implemented culturally based, trauma-informed interventions. Her ability to bridge Indigenous and Western approaches is instrumental in aligning our programs with the community's diverse needs.

Relevant Projects and Accomplishments

1. Hope Services Hawai'i Collaborative Initiatives (2021 - Present): Our team worked in partnership with Hope Services Hawai'i to implement programs addressing housing

instability for women overcoming domestic violence and substance abuse. Renee's lived experience and Dr. Schultz's trauma-informed framework guided our holistic approach, delivering immediate support paired with sustainable solutions such as skills training.

2. Hō`oikaika `Ohana (2022 - Present): This culturally responsive, trauma-informed program, directed by Dr. Schultz, provides critical intervention for Native Hawaiian women. It emphasizes healing through Indigenous practices alongside Western psychological frameworks, creating a pioneering model of care for survivors of domestic violence and addiction.

3. First Native Hawaiian Resource Center on Domestic Violence (2021-2023): Dr. Schultz played a foundational role in establishing this federally funded center, which provides tailored guidance and intervention for Native Hawaiian survivors of domestic violence. This project evolved into a benchmark for culturally attuned care, blending clinical expertise with Indigenous wisdom.

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.

At present, our operations are based at 260 Kamehameha Ave., Suite 208, Hilo, Hawaii 96720. This space offers both office and meeting areas, enabling us to connect with the community, hold vital discussions, and effectively organize our services. While humble in size, this location serves as a foundation for our ongoing efforts to foster meaningful change and provide support to those we serve.

Looking toward the future, we are guided by a larger vision—a comprehensive health center in the Puna District. This space will be more than just a facility; it will embody safety, inclusivity, and healing for women in need. Our goal is to expand our services, create employment opportunities within the district, and build a bridge between cultural traditions and modern healing practices.

This future center will not only benefit the individuals who walk through its doors, but also the wider community. It will act as a sanctuary where women can reclaim their stories, develop resilience, and inspire generations to come. Together, we hope to create a sustainable space that uplifts, transforms, and celebrates every woman's unique path to hope and healing.

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.

He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna is organized as a community based, non-profit

organization led by a six-member Board of Directors. Staff positions include the following:

- Executive Director – Jessica Ipina
- Co-Director – Renee Rivera, MSW
- Lead Mentor – Dr. Dayna Schultz, Psy.D., LSW, CSAC

To be hired:

- Two Peer Mentors to provide peer mentorship for program participants
- One Program Assistant to handle day-to-day administrative and clerical tasks

Each mentorship role will support up to five program participants annually through bimonthly one-on-one meetings and monthly group sessions. The impact of peer-to-peer mentoring in this context is multifaceted—it not only aids in reducing feelings of isolation and stigma but also enhances motivation and resilience through the sharing of powerful insights, lived wisdom, and a supportive network.

Staff Qualifications and Expertise

Our team is composed of seasoned professionals who combine academic credentials and lived experience to address the dynamic needs of our community.

- Jessica Ipina

Jessica brings 15 years of experience in operational leadership, financial management, and resource mobilization. Her strategic mindset is vital to sustaining and scaling the programs of He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna.

- Renee Rivera, MSW

Renee's personal drive and academic foundation equip her to inspire and mentor our participants authentically. Her leadership roles in human services, coupled with her lived experiences of overcoming hardships such as homelessness and substance abuse, bring invaluable insight to our program.

- Dr. Dayna Schultz, Psy.D., LSW, CSAC

A survivor and advocate for trauma-informed care, Dr. Schultz pairs clinical expertise with a culturally sensitive approach. She blends Indigenous practices with evidence-based methodologies, ensuring innovative programming tailored to Puna's unique needs.

Each staff member approaches their role with empathy and a shared vision of empowerment, ensuring every interaction contributes to meaningful change.

Supervision and Accountability Framework

- Weekly Leadership Meetings: Leaders will convene regularly to align on goals, address programmatic challenges, and integrate participant feedback into practical improvements.
- One-on-One Support: Ongoing mentorship by Renee Rivera and Dr. Schultz will provide staff with the guidance needed to approach complex cases thoughtfully and ethically.

- Performance Evaluations: Regular staff evaluations will ensure accountability and open channels for professional growth and skill refinement.

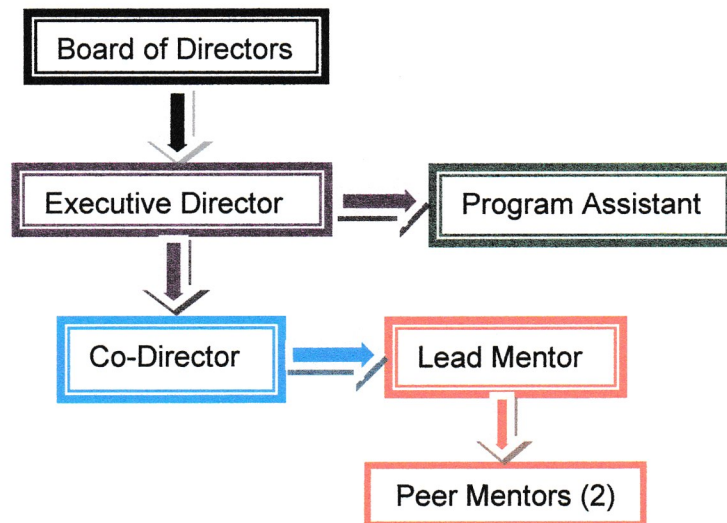
Training and Professional Development

Developing a culturally competent, trauma-informed team requires clear training initiatives. Our interactive workshops, live demonstrations, and continued education focus on critical areas such as:

- CPR/First Aid Certification – To provide functional preparedness in emergencies
- Trauma-Informed Care – To equip staff with the skills needed to address program participants' needs with empathy, sensitivity, and awareness
- Motivational Interviewing – To strengthen communication for the enhancement of participant engagement
- Cultural Competence – Led by Renee Rivera, this focuses on integrating Indigenous and Western practices
- Crisis Intervention – To train staff to handle high-stakes incidents with safety and competence
- Ethical Boundaries – To address the unique challenges of multi-layered mentor-mentee relationships
- Evidence-Based Practices – To keep staff up-to-date with the latest research-driven approaches

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.



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.

1. Executive Director: \$60,000
2. Co-Director: \$56,000
3. Lead Mentor: \$52,000

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. **N/A**

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.

- Co-Director: Renee Rivera, MSW
- Lead Mentor: Dr. Dayna Schultz, Psy. D., LSW, CSAC

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. **N/A**

4. Future Sustainability Plan

We firmly believe that ***Kumu Ho'ohālike***'s unique approach of peer-to-peer mentorship infused with culturally relevant practices effectively extends the reach of treatment beyond the clinical setting into the everyday environment, thereby promoting a successful and sustained recovery process.

This grant will allow He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna the opportunity to prove that the outcomes from this pilot program can be demonstrated and replicated. Hopefully, this will provide the ability to leverage broader funding through possible contracts with the State Department of Health, Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD) and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD). Other State agencies that may benefit from this program include the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) and the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Federal agencies that recognize the value of peer mentoring include the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Programs (DOJ, BJA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Upon the completion of this pilot program, He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna will seek grant opportunities with these federal agencies as well as the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Native Americans (ANA).

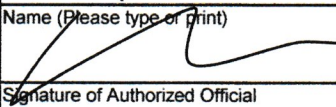
We will also continue to pursue grant opportunities from charitable foundations and other public and private sources.

In addition, He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna will maintain our partnerships with local community organizations. Much of the work of He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna is provided by volunteers and can be considered as in-kind contributions. These valuable contributions will continue regardless of our funding situation.

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna

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	\$ 124,800.00	\$ 19,069.00		\$ 5,621.00
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	\$ 15,790.00	\$ 4,768.00		\$ 1,405.00
3. Fringe Benefits (Health Ins for FTEs)	\$ 12,000.00			
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	\$ 152,590.00	\$ 23,837.00		\$ 7,026.00
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island	\$ -	\$ 920.00		\$ 1,525.00
2. Insurance	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -		\$ -
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
4. Lease/Rental of Space	\$ 4,560.00	\$ 7,440.00		\$ -
5. Staff Training	\$ 1,600.00	\$ -		\$ -
6. Supplies	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00		\$ 2,400.00
7. Telecommunication	\$ 1,920.00	\$ 720.00		\$ -
8. Utilities	\$ 1,260.00	\$ -		\$ -
9. Accounting Services	\$ 720.00	\$ 720.00		\$ 360.00
10. Accounting Software	\$ 3,600.00	\$ -		\$ -
11. Cultural Supplies	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 3,895.00
12				
13				
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20				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	\$ 16,060.00	\$ 11,000.00		\$ 8,180.00
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES				
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES				
E. CAPITAL				
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	\$ 168,650.00	\$ 34,837.00		\$ 15,206.00
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> (a) Total State Funds Requested \$ 168,650.00 (b) Total Federal Funds Requested \$ 34,837.00 (c) Total County Funds Requested \$ - (d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested \$ 15,206.00 </div> <div> Jessica Ipina Name (Please type or print)  Signature of Authorized Official Jessica Ipina, Executive Director Name and Title (Please type or print) </div> <div> 808-557-3933 Phone 1/17/2025 Date </div> </div>		
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 218,693.00			

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna

POSITION TITLE	FULL TIME EQUIVALENT	ANNUAL SALARY A	% OF TIME ALLOCATED TO GRANT REQUEST B	TOTAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED (A x B)
Executive Director	0.50	\$30,000.00	80.00%	\$ 24,000.00
Co-Director	1.00	\$56,000.00	60.00%	\$ 33,600.00
Lead Mentor	1.00	\$52,000.00	60.00%	\$ 31,200.00
Peer Mentor	0.50	\$18,000.00	100.00%	\$ 18,000.00
Peer Mentor	0.50	\$18,000.00	100.00%	\$ 18,000.00
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
TOTAL:				124,800.00

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: The Executive Director (ED) at .50 FTE will spend 16 hours weekly on the Kumu Ho'ohālike program, providing general oversight and supervision of the program by tracking and evaluating outcomes, making programmatic changes as needed, and preparing reports. The Co-Director will work closely with the Lead Mentor (both of whom will dedicate 24 hours weekly to this program) in recruiting and training peer mentors, working directly with program participants, providing mentorship to 5 mentees each, planning and implementing cultural activities, conducting participant interviews, and reporting outcomes to the ED. This lead staff will assess, evaluate, plan, and implement any changes that they deem necessary to participants' progress and growth. Peer mentors will provide trauma-informed, culturally sensitive one-on-one mentoring services to help their mentees access services that they need and stay engaged in the recovery process. They will provide safe and comfortable settings to allow program participants to have deep, meaningful, and healing conversations. Peer mentors will dedicate 20 hours weekly to working with 5 mentees each. Peer Mentors will also participate in de-briefing sessions with the Lead Mentor and Co-Director as needed.

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna

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

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

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna

NOT APPLICABLE

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:						

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

Applicant: He Ho'omaka Hou Ana O' Puna

Contracts Total: \$ 76,338.00

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1	Peer-to-Peer Support for Survivors of Crime	9/1/24- 8/31/26	Department of Justice	U.S.	\$ 75,000.00
2	Domestic Violence Summit	10/1/24 - 11/1/24	Office of the Prosecuting Attorney	Hawai'i County	\$ 1,338.00
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