

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

Type of Grant Request:

☐

Operating

☐

Capital

Legal Name of Requesting Organization or Individual: DbA:

Amount of State Funds Requested: \$ _____

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

Amount of Other Funds Available:

State: \$ _____

Federal: \$ _____

County: \$ _____

Private/Other: \$ _____

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

\$ _____

Unrestricted Assets:

\$ _____

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

Type of Business Entity:

☐

501(C)(3) Non Profit Corporation

☐

Other Non Profit

☐

Other

Mailing Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application

Name:

Title:

Email:

Phone:



Authorized Signature

Name and Title

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: HO`ĀHU ENERGY COOPERATIVE MOLOKAI

Issue Date: 01/16/2025

Status: **Compliant**

Hawaii Tax#:

New Hawaii Tax#: GE-0727366144-01

FEIN/SSN#: XX-XXX9697

UI#: XXXXXX0723

DCCA FILE#: 318864

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 REVISED STATUTES**

The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies the following:

- 1) The applicant meets and will comply with all of the following standards for the award of grants pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is licensed or accredited, in accordance with federal, state, or county statutes, rules, or ordinances, to conduct the activities or provide the services for which a grant is awarded;
 - b) Complies with all applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, or disability;
 - c) Agrees not to use state funds for entertainment or lobbying activities; and
 - d) Allows the state agency to which funds for the grant were appropriated for expenditure, legislative committees and their staff, and the auditor full access to their records, reports, files, and other related documents and information for purposes of monitoring, measuring the effectiveness, and ensuring the proper expenditure of the grant.
- 2) If the applicant is an organization, the applicant meets the following requirements pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is incorporated under the laws of the State; and
 - b) Has bylaws or policies that describe the manner in which the activities or services for which a grant is awarded shall be conducted or provided; and
- 3) If the applicant is a non-profit organization, it meets the following requirements pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is determined and designated to be a non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service; and
 - b) Has a governing board whose members have no material conflict of interest and serve without compensation.
- 4) The use of grant-in-aid funding complies with all provisions of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii (for example, pursuant to Article X, section 1, of the Constitution, the State cannot provide "... public funds ... for the support or benefit of any sectarian or nonsectarian private educational institution...").

Pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for grants used for the acquisition of land, when the organization discontinues the activities or services on the land acquired for which the grant was awarded and disposes of the land in fee simple or by lease, the organization shall negotiate with the expending agency for a lump sum or installment repayment to the State of the amount of the grant used for the acquisition of the land.

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

(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)

(Signature)

(Date)

(Typed Name)

(Title)



§ 42F-102 Applications for grants. Requests for grants 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 or individual;

Ho'āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai

(2) The public purpose for the grant;

Providing access to the benefits of renewable energy to low-income families and/or Native Hawaiian homestead families on the island of Molokai under HECO's Community Based Renewable Energy RFP for Molokai.

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

Services include renewable energy provided to low income and/or Native Hawaiian Homestead households by Molokai's first utility-scale renewable energy projects at HECO's Pāla'au facilities and the parking lot of the County of Maui's Kualapu'u Recreation Center.

(4) The target group; and

Low income and/or Native Hawaiian Homesteaders on the island of Molokai

(5) The cost of the grant and the budget

\$1,000,000 for the grant, out of \$20,609,053 for the total project budget

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher O'Brien'.

Christopher O'Brien
Executive Director
Ho'āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai
M: (808) 634-0174
christopher@hoahuenergy.coop

Application for Grants

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

I. Certification – Please attach immediately after cover page

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

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

2. Declaration Statement

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

3. Public Purpose

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

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;

Ho‘āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai (Ho‘āhu) was established in 2020 by Molokai community advocates with the mission of empowering the local community to design, own, and benefit from renewable energy projects on the island. Organized as a 501(c)(12) rural energy cooperative, Ho‘āhu prioritizes community control, equity, and sustainability in all its endeavors.

The cooperative’s inaugural initiative involved designing two community-based renewable energy (CBRE) projects in response to Hawaiian Electric’s CBRE Request for Proposals. Through an extensive and inclusive community engagement process—including over 40 public workshops—Ho‘āhu successfully secured two solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery energy storage system (BESS) projects. These projects, located at Kualapu‘u and Pālā‘au, represent the first community-owned solar projects in Hawaii, highlighting Molokai as a leader in community-driven renewable energy solutions.

Workforce development is a cornerstone of Ho‘āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai’s mission to build a sustainable and locally driven energy future. To date, Ho‘āhu has completed several

rounds of workforce training programs, focusing on diverse aspects of the renewable energy industry, including solar PV installation, microgrid design, and battery energy storage system (BESS) maintenance. These programs have successfully graduated over 37 participants, equipping them with the technical skills and knowledge required for employment in the energy sector. By fostering a highly skilled local workforce, Ho‘āhu ensures that the economic and technical benefits of its renewable energy projects remain within the community, contributing to long-term economic resilience on Molokai.

In addition to workforce development, Ho‘āhu is at the forefront of deploying innovative energy solutions that address the unique needs of Molokai’s residents. The cooperative is currently deploying 15 nanogrid systems to low-income households, primarily serving Native Hawaiian homestead residents. These systems provide reliable and localized energy solutions, enhancing energy independence and resilience for underserved communities. Building on the success of this initiative, Ho‘āhu plans to roll out an additional 45 nanogrid systems over the next two years, further expanding access to clean and affordable energy on the island.

Through its workforce development and nanogrid initiatives, Ho‘āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai is empowering the community with both the tools and opportunities to actively participate in and benefit from the renewable energy transition, paving the way for a more self-sufficient energy future for the island.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;

The funding requested will support Ho‘āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai in advancing the development and successful implementation of its two Community-Based Renewable Energy (CBRE) projects, the first community-owned community solar initiatives in Hawai‘i. These projects are designed to empower Molokai residents by providing access to affordable, renewable energy while strengthening local community ownership and resilience.

Goals

1. **Maximize Community Participation and Ownership:**
Engage the Molokai community to ensure broad participation and ownership in the CBRE projects, fostering a sense of empowerment and shared responsibility for the island’s energy future.
2. **Provide Affordable Renewable Energy:**
Deliver significant savings on electricity bills to subscribers by offering locally owned and operated renewable energy solutions.
3. **Enhance Local Energy Resilience:**
Create a reliable and sustainable energy infrastructure through the development of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems paired with battery energy storage systems (BESS), with a focus on community benefit.

Objectives

1. **Develop a Comprehensive Subscriber Recruitment Program:**
Design and implement an outreach plan to engage residents, educate them on the benefits of the CBRE projects, and maximize subscriber enrollment. The program will

include a mix of in-person and virtual events, direct communication campaigns, and targeted messaging to ensure inclusivity.

2. **Complete Regulatory and Permitting Requirements:**

Finalize all necessary permitting and compliance activities for both the Kualapu‘u and Pālā‘au CBRE projects, including environmental assessments, state and federal consultations, and local building and zoning approvals.

3. **Engage the Community Through Outreach and Education:**

Conduct regular workshops, meetings, and events to keep residents informed and involved in the development of the CBRE projects, ensuring transparency and community buy-in throughout the process.

4. **Deploy the Kualapu‘u and Pālā‘au CBRE Projects:**

Implement the two CBRE projects, which include a 250 kW AC PV system paired with a 1 MWh BESS at Kualapu‘u Park and Community Center, and a 2.2 MW AC PV system paired with a 10.1 MWh BESS at Pālā‘au Power Plant, ensuring both projects are constructed and operational to meet the community’s energy needs.

By achieving these goals and objectives, Ho‘āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai aims to provide Molokai residents with access to affordable, renewable energy while fostering community ownership and resilience for the long term.

3. The public purpose and need to be served;

The two Community-Based Renewable Energy (CBRE) projects proposed by Ho‘āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai serve a critical public purpose by addressing key energy, economic, and environmental challenges facing the island of Molokai. As the first community-owned renewable energy projects in Hawai‘i, these initiatives aim to transform the local energy landscape, providing tangible benefits to residents while fostering sustainable development and self-reliance.

Public Purpose

1. **Increase Energy Affordability:**

Molokai residents currently face some of the highest electricity costs in the nation, straining household budgets and exacerbating economic challenges. These CBRE projects will provide participating households with a 10–25% reduction in electricity bills, easing financial burdens and improving quality of life for subscribers.

2. **Empower Local Ownership and Control:**

By transitioning energy generation to community ownership, the projects put decision-making power in the hands of Molokai residents, fostering a sense of empowerment and ensuring energy solutions align with local needs and values.

3. **Support Environmental Sustainability:**

The projects will generate clean, renewable energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels. By doing so, the CBRE initiatives contribute to Hawai‘i’s goal of achieving 100% renewable energy by 2045 and support global efforts to combat climate change.

4. **Strengthen Energy Resilience:**

The inclusion of battery energy storage systems (BESS) in these projects will provide a more reliable and resilient energy supply, mitigating the impacts of extreme weather events and grid instability on Molokai’s vulnerable energy infrastructure.

Need to Be Served

1. **High Energy Costs and Economic Strain:**

With electricity rates far exceeding the state and national averages, many Molokai households struggle to afford basic energy needs. These projects will help alleviate this burden by offering a cost-effective, locally owned alternative to conventional energy sources.

2. **Energy Equity and Inclusion:**

The CBRE model ensures equitable access to renewable energy, prioritizing participation from low-income households and Native Hawaiian residents who have historically faced barriers to affordable energy solutions.

3. **Sustainable Economic Development:**

The projects will create local job opportunities in renewable energy, from construction and installation to maintenance and operations, supporting the island’s economy and workforce development. Our contracts with developers, general contractors, etc. require the hiring of local workforce from the Molokai community.

4. **Community Resilience:**

By increasing energy independence and reliability, the projects will enhance Molokai’s capacity to withstand and recover from natural disasters, grid outages, and other challenges.

Through these CBRE projects, Ho‘āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai seeks to address pressing energy and economic challenges while fostering a sustainable and resilient future for the Molokai community. This initiative aligns with the broader public interest by promoting energy equity, environmental stewardship, and economic opportunity for generations to come.

4. Describe the target population to be served; and

The two Community-Based Renewable Energy (CBRE) projects proposed by Ho‘āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai are designed to serve the diverse and vibrant community of Molokai, with a focus on addressing the unique energy needs of the island’s residents. The target population includes:

1. **Molokai Residents**

• **Households Facing High Energy Costs:**

Molokai residents currently endure some of the highest electricity rates in the United States, placing significant financial strain on families. The CBRE projects aim to provide direct bill savings to participating households, reducing electricity costs by 10–25%.

• **Low-Income Families:**

A significant portion of the island’s population lives below the median income level. The CBRE subscription model prioritizes these households, ensuring equitable access to renewable energy benefits and helping alleviate energy poverty.

2. **Native Hawaiian Population**

• **Cultural and Economic Inclusion:**

Molokai has a high concentration of Native Hawaiians, many of whom live on Hawaiian Homestead lands or in communities with limited access to affordable energy solutions. The projects specifically target these residents, empowering them with locally owned renewable energy solutions and prioritizing their inclusion in the subscription base.

3. Rural and Underserved Communities

- **Energy Equity for Rural Residents:**

As a rural island community, Molokai's residents often face challenges in accessing reliable and affordable energy. These projects provide a much-needed alternative to traditional utility services, offering community-driven solutions tailored to the island's unique needs.

4. Broader Molokai Community

- **Energy Resilience for All:**

While the projects directly benefit subscribing households, they also strengthen the broader community by enhancing grid resilience and providing reliable energy infrastructure. For example, the Kualapu'u CBRE project will support the Kualapu'u Park and Community Center, a potential resilience hub for the area.

5. Workforce Development Participants

- **Local Job Creation:**

By emphasizing workforce development and training programs, the CBRE projects will serve residents seeking employment in the renewable energy sector. Over 37 participants have already graduated from Ho'āhu's training programs, and future efforts will continue to build skills and create local job opportunities.

The CBRE projects are structured to ensure that the benefits of renewable energy reach all segments of the Molokai community, with particular attention to underserved and vulnerable populations. Through this inclusive approach, Ho'āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai aims to promote energy equity, economic opportunity, and environmental sustainability for the island and its people.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

The geographic area is the entire island of Molokai with the project sites located at Pāla'au and Kualapu'u. The Kualapu'u location is the Maui County Recreation Center's parking lot, which will provide the public facing portion of our project allowing it to serve as a place for community education and interaction with their renewable energy generation systems.

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;

Ho‘āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai (Ho‘āhu) seeks funding to advance its two Community-Based Renewable Energy (CBRE) projects: the Kualapu‘u and Pālā‘au solar PV and battery energy storage projects. These projects aim to increase energy affordability, enhance community resilience, and promote local energy self-sufficiency. The scope of work is designed to ensure successful development, community engagement, and implementation of these renewable energy initiatives.

1. Project Development and Management

- **Finalize Permitting and Compliance:**
Complete all necessary permits, including building, grading, and environmental compliance, ensuring adherence to local, state, and federal regulations.
- **Vendor and Contractor Coordination:**
Manage partnerships with contractors for the design, construction, and installation of the solar PV systems and battery energy storage systems (BESS).
- **System Design and Construction Oversight:**
Ensure that the system designs meet technical, environmental, and community needs. Oversee construction and testing to guarantee systems perform as intended.
- **Grid Integration and Collaboration:**
Work closely with Hawaiian Electric to integrate the systems into Molokai’s grid seamlessly.

2. Community Engagement and Subscriber Recruitment

- **Community Awareness Campaigns:**
Conduct outreach through virtual and in-person workshops, social media, flyers, and print media to educate the community about the CBRE projects and their benefits.
- **Subscriber Recruitment Strategy Development:**
Develop an equitable recruitment plan, ensuring fair access for Molokai residents, particularly low-income households and Hawaiian Homestead communities.
- **Feedback and Adaptation:**
Solicit community feedback throughout the development process and incorporate input into project planning to reflect community priorities.

3. Workforce Development and Local Hiring

- **Training and Employment:**
Continue implementing workforce training programs to prepare local residents for employment in renewable energy installation, maintenance, and operations.
- **Employment Opportunities:**
Prioritize local hiring, particularly for the construction and long-term operation of the projects, creating high-quality jobs for Molokai residents.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Outcomes Tracking:**
Develop metrics to evaluate the financial, environmental, and social impacts of the projects, including subscriber savings, energy production, and workforce outcomes.

- **Project Reporting:**
Regularly update funders and stakeholders on progress, challenges, and achievements through detailed reports.

Responsibilities

- **Ho‘āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai:**
Oversee overall project development, community engagement, and partnerships. Manage compliance, permitting, and grid integration.
- **Contractors:**
Provide technical expertise for the design, construction, and installation of the solar PV and BESS systems. Handle permitting applications where applicable.
- **Community Partners:**
Support subscriber recruitment, community outreach, and workforce training efforts.
- **Funders and Stakeholders:**
Provide financial support and guidance, participate in project updates, and review progress reports.

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

Q1: July 2025 – September 2025

Objective: Finalize permitting, ramp up community engagement, and prepare for construction.

- **Permitting and Compliance:**
 - Finalize any additional documentation or updates for permits submitted earlier in 2025.
 - Address regulatory reviews to ensure permits are issued by Fall 2025.
- **Subscriber Recruitment and Outreach:**
 - Launch subscriber recruitment campaign, including social media, email, flyers, and local ads.
 - Host informational events (both virtual and in-person) to educate residents about subscription benefits and requirements.
 - Begin outreach to targeted groups, such as low-income households and Native Hawaiian homestead communities.
- **Vendor and Construction Preparation:**
 - Confirm construction schedules with contractors and align with permitting timelines.
 - Conduct pre-construction site evaluations and finalize procurement of materials.

Q2: October 2025 – December 2025

Objective: Begin construction and continue community engagement.

- **Permitting Approval and Construction Start:**
 - Receive permitting approvals and initiate site preparation at both Kualapu‘u and Pālā‘au project locations.
 - Begin grading, initial infrastructure work, and utility interconnection setup.
- **Subscriber Recruitment and Outreach:**

- Continue recruitment campaign with targeted outreach through workshops, ads, and social media.
- Offer enrollment incentives, such as branded merchandise or gift cards, to encourage early subscriptions.
- **Community Updates:**
 - Host public site tours and virtual updates to share progress and gather feedback.
- **Workforce Training:**
 - Begin training programs for Molokai residents in solar installation and maintenance.

Q3: January 2026 – March 2026

Objective: Advance construction and intensify recruitment efforts.

- **Construction Progress:**
 - Install solar PV arrays and battery energy storage systems at both sites.
 - Conduct periodic inspections and ensure compliance with safety and environmental standards.
- **Subscriber Recruitment and Outreach:**
 - Continue engaging community members through outreach events and targeted communication.
 - Conduct virtual and in-person workshops to address questions about subscription terms and benefits.
- **Community Involvement:**
 - Launch volunteer opportunities or small events to increase community ownership and pride in the project.

Q4: April 2026 – June 2026

Objective: Complete construction, finalize subscriber enrollment, and prepare for project launch.

- **Project Completion:**
 - Finalize construction, conduct system testing, and secure post-construction certifications.
 - Begin the transition to operational readiness.
- **Subscriber Enrollment Push:**
 - Execute final recruitment efforts, focusing on achieving subscription targets.
 - Provide personalized support to subscribers during enrollment and onboarding processes.
- **Evaluation and Reporting:**
 - Compile data on outreach success, construction milestones, and community feedback.
 - Submit final project reports to stakeholders and funders.

Key Milestones and Timeline Summary

- **Summer 2025:** Subscriber recruitment campaign launches.
- **Fall 2025:** Permitting approval; construction begins.
- **Winter 2026:** Construction progresses; recruitment intensifies.
- **Spring 2026:** Construction completed; subscription onboarding finalizes.

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

Monitoring Progress

- **Project Management Oversight:**
 - Utilize project management software to track tasks, timelines, and deliverables for permitting, construction, and subscriber recruitment.
 - Conduct biweekly team meetings to review progress against key milestones.
- **Permitting and Construction:**
 - Engage third-party inspectors to oversee construction quality and compliance with permitting requirements.
 - Ensure alignment with all safety, environmental, and cultural preservation standards during construction.
- **Community Engagement:**
 - Track engagement metrics such as attendance at outreach events, website traffic, social media engagement, and subscription inquiries.

Evaluation Metrics

- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):**
 1. **Subscriber Recruitment:** Measure the percentage of target subscribers successfully enrolled in the program.
 2. **Construction Milestones:** Monitor adherence to construction timelines and budgets.
 3. **Community Feedback:** Collect qualitative and quantitative feedback from community members regarding outreach efforts and project progress.
 4. **Workforce Development:** Track the number of local residents employed and trained for project-related roles.
 5. **Environmental Compliance:** Ensure that all permits and environmental safeguards are met without delays or violations.

Data Collection Methods

- **Community Feedback Surveys:**
 - Distribute surveys at community workshops, virtual meetings, and via email to gauge satisfaction and gather input on outreach and project development.
- **Progress Reports:**
 - Require monthly progress updates from contractors, consultants, and internal team members to identify and address potential bottlenecks.
- **Subscription Data Analysis:**
 - Analyze subscriber demographics, engagement levels, and enrollment trends to refine recruitment strategies.

Continuous Improvement Process

1. **Regular Review Cycles:**
 - Conduct quarterly evaluations of project progress and results with internal teams and stakeholders.

- Compare actual outcomes against projected goals to identify gaps and areas for improvement.
- 2. **Community Input Integration:**
 - Regularly incorporate community feedback into project adjustments to ensure alignment with local needs and expectations.
- 3. **Corrective Actions:**
 - Address identified issues promptly by revising strategies, reallocating resources, or adjusting timelines as needed.
- 4. **Post-Project Assessment:**
 - Conduct a comprehensive review at the end of the project period to evaluate successes, challenges, and lessons learned.
 - Publish an outcomes report to share findings with funders, stakeholders, and the community.

Quality Assurance Responsibility

- A dedicated **Quality Assurance Team** will be formed to oversee all aspects of monitoring, evaluation, and improvement. This team will consist of:
 - Project management staff
 - Community engagement specialists
 - Independent technical and financial advisors
- 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.

. Subscriber Recruitment and Engagement

- **Target Metric:** Achieve at least 75% subscription capacity for each CBRE project by the end of the recruitment period.
- **Data Collection:**
 - Monthly updates on subscriber enrollment rates.
 - Demographic data on subscribers to ensure equitable access across the community.
- **Evaluation Method:** Comparison of actual subscription numbers against the subscription capacity for each project.

2. Permitting and Construction Milestones

- **Target Metric:** Secure all necessary permits by Fall 2025 and commence construction immediately thereafter.

- **Data Collection:**
 - Permitting application submissions and approval timelines.
 - Construction progress reports from contractors.
- **Evaluation Method:** Track adherence to the permitting and construction schedule outlined in the project timeline.

3. Community Engagement Effectiveness

- **Target Metric:** Conduct at least 10 community outreach events (in-person and virtual) during the project period and achieve a minimum 80% positive feedback rating from participants.
- **Data Collection:**
 - Attendance records for workshops, meetings, and events.
 - Post-event surveys measuring participant satisfaction and understanding of the project.
- **Evaluation Method:** Analyze attendance trends and survey results to gauge community engagement effectiveness.

4. Workforce Development

- **Target Metric:** Employ and/or train at least 10 local residents for project-related roles by the start of construction.
- **Data Collection:**
 - Employment records and training program completion certificates.
 - Participant feedback on workforce development opportunities.
- **Evaluation Method:** Compare the number of local hires and trainees against the workforce development goals.

5. Financial Accountability

- **Target Metric:** Ensure that project expenditures remain within the approved budget and achieve at least 100% compliance with State and federal funding requirements.
- **Data Collection:**
 - Monthly financial reports.
 - Audit reports detailing compliance with grant requirements.

- **Evaluation Method:** Monitor financial performance against the project budget and review audit findings for compliance verification.

6. Environmental and Cultural Compliance

- **Target Metric:** Meet all environmental and cultural compliance requirements with no significant issues or delays.
- **Data Collection:**
 - Reports from environmental and cultural assessments.
 - Documentation of mitigation strategies for any identified impacts.
- **Evaluation Method:** Verify compliance through agency approvals and feedback from cultural practitioners and environmental consultants.

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](#))
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
400,000	250,000	200,000	\$150,000	\$1,000,000

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

N/A

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.

Previous Tax Credits (Past Three Years):

- Ho‘āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai has not been granted any state or federal tax credits in the prior three years.

Anticipated Tax Credits (Pertaining to CBRE Projects):

- **Federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC):** Ho‘āhu anticipates receiving a 50% ITC for the Community-Based Renewable Energy (CBRE) projects. This includes base ITC rates along with bonus adders.
- **State Tax Credits:** Ho‘āhu is not receiving any state tax credits directly, as these credits are allocated to Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) under the terms of the project agreements.

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.

Previous Grants (Past Three Years):

- 2022-23 County of Maui EP&S Grant \$30,000 PV Panel Reuse and Storage

Current Grants:

- 2024-26 FY'23 Congressionally Directed Spending Grant Department of Energy EERE \$3,000,000 Community Based Renewable Energy Projects
- 2024-25 County of Maui Department of Environmental Management Green Grant \$100,000 Molokai's Microgrid and Workforce Development Project
- 2023-24 County of Maui EP&S Grant \$12,000 PV Panel Reuse and Storage
- 2023-24 County of Maui EP&S Grant \$24,000 Reuse PV Panel Garden

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

Unrestricted Current Assets: \$337,161

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.

Ho‘āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai's Capabilities

Ho'āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai (Ho'āhu) has developed significant expertise in renewable energy project planning, development, and community engagement, making it uniquely qualified to lead the proposed CBRE projects. Over the past three years, Ho'āhu has:

- Completed the design and feasibility studies for the two CBRE projects on Molokai, which include solar PV and battery energy storage systems (BESS).
- Conducted extensive environmental and cultural assessments to ensure alignment with Molokai's values and sustainability goals.
- Trained over 37 individuals through multiple rounds of energy workforce development programs, empowering Molokai residents with skills in solar installation, microgrid management, and battery storage systems.
- Begun the deployment of 15 nanogrid systems to low-income and Native Hawaiian homestead households, with plans to expand to 45 systems in the next two years.

These accomplishments highlight Ho'āhu's ability to navigate the technical, regulatory, and community-focused aspects of renewable energy development.

Shake Energy Collaborative

Shake Energy Collaborative (Shake Energy) is a key partner supporting Ho'āhu's efforts. Shake Energy has extensive experience in community energy planning, project development, and stakeholder engagement. Shake Energy's track record includes:

- Securing contracts from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for community energy planning on Molokai.
- Supporting Ho'āhu in its successful bids for Hawaiian Electric's CBRE RFP.
- Consulting on another CBRE project for the Waianae community, demonstrating a commitment to community-led renewable energy solutions across Hawaii.

Mana Pacific

Mana Pacific contributes expertise in renewable energy project financing and development. Their team has extensive experience, including:

- Leadership in the financing and execution of medium- and large-scale renewable energy projects through its CEO, Joe Reed. Projects include the Lemoore Naval Air Station and Maduru Oya Solar Power Station.
- Consulting expertise in structuring financial models, negotiating financing agreements, and managing project development risks.

HNU Energy

HNU Energy, the contractor for the Ho'āhu CBRE projects, brings over 15 years of experience designing and constructing renewable energy systems throughout Hawaii and the Pacific Rim. Notable achievements include:

- **UH Maui College Ground Mount System:** 1.58 MW DC system generating 3 GWh annually.
- **UH Maui College Carport:** A 753 kW DC system covering over an acre of space and generating 1 GWh annually.

- **Auwahi Windfarm BESS:** Installed 11 MW of lithium battery storage and associated infrastructure, showcasing expertise in battery energy storage systems critical to CBRE projects.
- **University of Hawaii Molokai:** A 65 kW DC system installed with a focus on workforce development, providing hands-on training for local interns.

HNU’s extensive portfolio of renewable energy projects, including solar PV, battery storage, and workforce training, directly supports the successful execution of the Ho‘āhu CBRE projects.

Morikawa and Associates

Morikawa and Associates serve as the electrical engineers for the CBRE projects, contributing decades of experience in industrial and commercial electrical engineering. Their expertise includes:

- **Industrial Facilities:** Extensive work on water and wastewater reclamation and treatment plants, power generation facilities, and SCADA systems for clients such as the County of Maui and Guam Water Authority.
- **Institutional Projects:** Engineering solutions for healthcare, educational, and correctional facilities, including Maui Memorial Medical Center and Seabury Hall.
- **Commercial Projects:** Designing electrical systems for retail stores, restaurants, and shopping centers like Queen Kaahumanu Center and Whalers’ Village.
- **Residential and Custom Projects:** Specializing in high-end custom-built homes, integrating advanced computer lighting controls and power distribution.

Morikawa and Associates' extensive portfolio and proven track record ensure the technical soundness and operational reliability of the Ho‘āhu CBRE projects.

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.

Ho‘āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai has secured adequate and strategically located facilities to support the proposed CBRE projects:

1. **Kualapu‘u Recreation Center Parking Lot:** Ho‘āhu has secured a long-term lease agreement with the County of Maui for the use of the parking lot at the Kualapu‘u Recreation Center. This site will host a 250 kW AC solar PV carport system paired with a 1 MWh battery energy storage system (BESS). The location is centrally situated in the community, ensuring accessibility and reinforcing its role as a community hub.
2. **Pāla‘au Property:** Ho‘āhu holds a long-term lease for the use of Hawaiian Electric's property at Pāla‘au, adjacent to the island's only substation. This site will host a 2.2 MW AC ground-mounted solar PV array paired with a 10.1 MWh BESS. The proximity to the substation optimizes interconnection efficiency and minimizes transmission losses.

Both sites have been selected and secured with long-term leases to ensure the sustainability of the CBRE projects and to meet operational and community needs effectively. The Pāla‘au location was offered by HECO in its RFP.

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.

1. Christopher O’Brien, Executive Director:

- **Role:** Serves as the principal project director, responsible for overseeing all aspects of the CBRE projects, including planning, implementation, compliance, and community engagement.
- **Background and Expertise:**
 - Extensive experience securing and managing federal, county, and private foundation grants, totaling around \$15 million, with a focus on financial compliance and programmatic success.
 - Strong knowledge of cooperative and nonprofit management, as well as expertise in renewable energy project development.
 - Holds a Master’s in Accounting, a Juris Doctor law degree, and a Bachelor’s in Political Science and English.
 - Currently pursuing an Executive MBA at the Shidler College of Business, enhancing leadership, strategic management, and financial acumen.

2. Finance Manager (Currently Hiring):

- **Role:** Oversees financial management, including budgeting, tracking expenditures, grant compliance, and reporting for the CBRE projects.
- **Preferred Qualifications:**
 - Expertise in nonprofit and cooperative accounting, with experience using QuickBooks Online or similar accounting systems.
 - Familiarity with federal grant requirements and auditing standards.
- This position will provide critical support for maintaining financial transparency and compliance throughout the project duration.

3. Leimana Ritte-Camara, Marketing and Outreach Coordinator:

- **Role:** Leads community engagement and subscriber recruitment efforts for the CBRE projects.
- **Key Responsibilities:**
 - Develops and executes outreach campaigns, including social media, public workshops, and targeted communications.
 - Acts as a liaison between Ho‘āhu and the Molokai community, ensuring clear communication and inclusive participation in the projects.
- **Background:** Deeply connected to the Molokai community, bringing valuable local insights and cultural knowledge to enhance engagement strategies.

Support from Strategic Partners

1. Shake Energy Collaborative (Shake):

- Provides expertise in renewable energy project design, permitting, and compliance.
- Offers technical support to ensure adherence to CBRE program requirements and smooth project implementation.

2. Mana Pacific (Mana):

- Assists with technical project components, including the integration of solar PV and battery energy storage systems (BESS).
- Supports project execution through their extensive experience in renewable energy development across Hawaii and the Pacific.

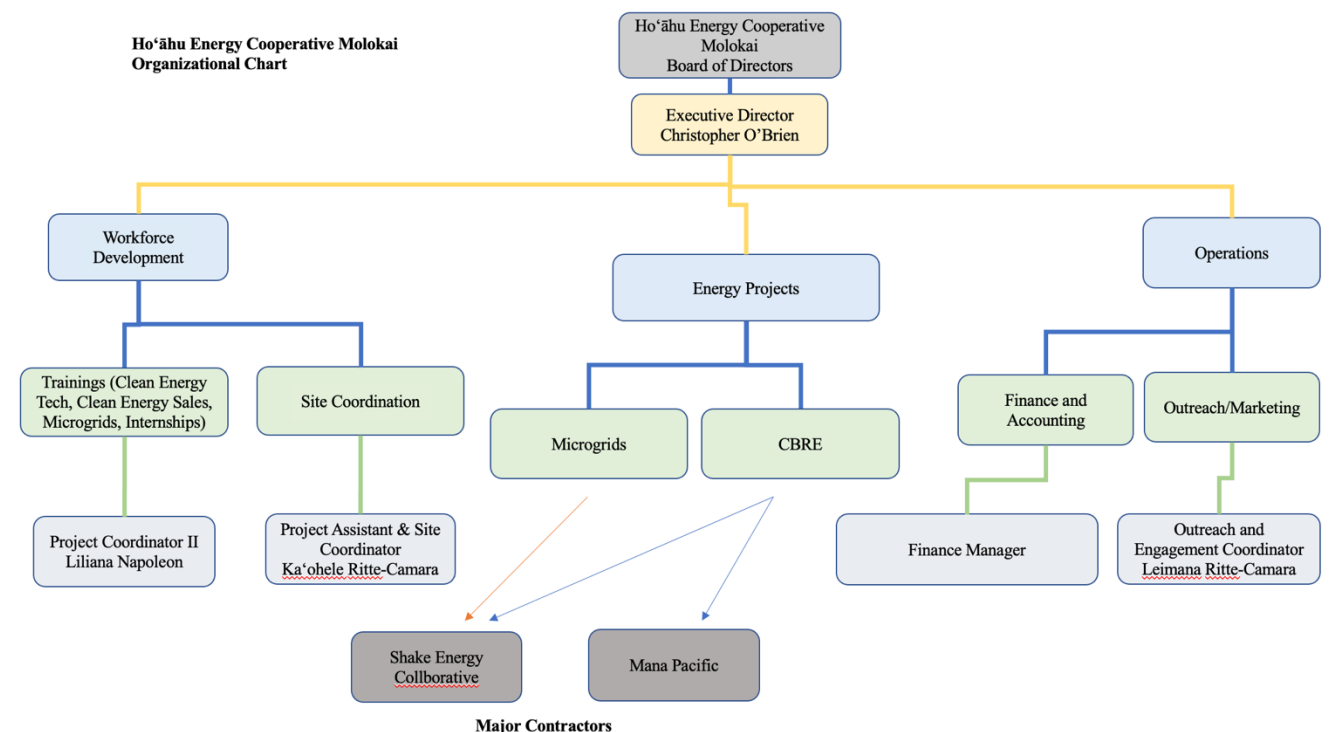
Supervision and Administrative Direction

- As Executive Director, Christopher O’Brien will provide oversight for all staff and contractors and ensure alignment with project goals, timelines, and regulatory requirements.
- Shake and Mana will offer additional technical guidance and project support to complement the core team’s capabilities.

Training and Development

- Staff members will receive targeted training in areas such as federal grant compliance, renewable energy project management, and community engagement strategies.
- Participation in workshops and training opportunities will ensure that all team members remain informed of best practices and emerging trends in renewable energy development.

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.

The annual salary ranges for the three highest-paid positions within Ho‘āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai are as follows:

1. **Executive Director:** \$124,800 annually (based on \$60/hour and 40 hours/week).
2. **Finance Manager:** \$72,800 annually (based on \$35/hour and 40 hours/week).
3. **Marketing and Outreach Coordinator:** \$52,000 annually (based on \$25/hour and 40 hours/week).

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.

N/A

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

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.

If this grant application is received for fiscal year 2026 but not received thereafter, Ho‘āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai has a comprehensive plan to ensure the sustainability of the funded activities and the long-term success of our CBRE projects:

1. Revenue Generation from CBRE Projects:

- Following the completion of the grant period, the two CBRE solar projects will become operational. Subscriber payments and compensation from Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) will flow directly into the Cooperative, creating a steady and reliable revenue stream.
- This revenue will be utilized to pay down project financing, support ongoing maintenance and operations, and generate profits for reinvestment in cooperative initiatives and community benefits.

2. Grant and Funding Strategy:

- Ho‘āhu plans to apply for a \$50 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) to further expand renewable energy projects and build organizational capacity.
- Additional federal funding opportunities, including grants from agencies such as the USDA and DOE, will be pursued to diversify funding sources and provide financial stability for future projects.

3. Operational Efficiencies and Cost Management:

- With operational revenues secured, Ho‘āhu will implement cost-effective management practices to ensure efficient use of resources. This includes regular evaluation of operational processes and leveraging local expertise to maintain low operating costs.

4. Community Engagement and Support:

- As a community-driven cooperative, Ho‘āhu will continue fostering strong relationships with its members and the broader Molokai community. This ensures transparency, trust, and ongoing support for subscription retention and project sustainability.

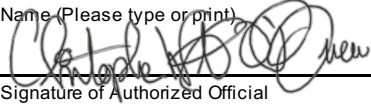
5. Scalable Project Development:

- In addition to sustaining current operations, Ho‘āhu will focus on expanding its renewable energy portfolio, including further deployment of nano- and microgrid systems. This diversification will not only enhance energy resilience on Molokai but also strengthen the Cooperative’s financial foundation.

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: Ho'āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai

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	\$ 46,800.00	\$ 15,600.00		
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	\$ 6,079.00	\$ 2,014.00		
3. Fringe Benefits	\$ 13,711.00	\$ 3,847.00		
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	\$ 66,590.00	\$ 21,461.00		
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island				
2. Insurance				
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment				
4. Lease/Rental of Space				
5. Staff Training				
6. Supplies				
7. Telecommunication				
8. Utilities				
9. Contractual				
10. Indirect (Federal De Minimis Rate 15% of MD	\$ 39,989	\$ 167,115		\$ 294,241
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	\$ 39,989.00	\$ 167,115.00		\$ 294,241.00
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES				
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES				
E. CAPITAL	\$ 893,421.00	\$ 2,811,424.00		\$ 18,949,818.80
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 3,000,000		\$ 19,244,060
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By: Christopher O'Brien 808-634-0174 Name (Please type or print) Phone  1/17/25 Signature of Authorized Official Date Christopher O'Brien, Executive Director Name and Title (Please type or print)		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	\$ 1,000,000			
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested	\$ 3,000,000			
(c) Total County Funds Requested				
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	\$ 19,244,060			
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 23,244,060			

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: Ho'āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai

POSITION TITLE		FULL TIME EQUIVALENT	ANNUAL SALARY A	% OF TIME ALLOCATED TO GRANT REQUEST B	TOTAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED (A x B)
Executive Director		0.25	\$124,800.00	12.50%	\$ 15,600.00
Finance Manager		0.25	\$72,800.00	25.00%	\$ 18,200.00
Marketing and Outreach Coordinator		0.25	\$52,000.00	25.00%	\$ 13,000.00
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
TOTAL:					46,800.00
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: Annual salary does not include Fringe and Payroll Fees. Please see budget for breakdown.					

Applicant: Ho'āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai

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

DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	NO. OF VEHICLES	COST PER VEHICLE	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:				

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: Ho‘āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai

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				\$ 1,830,006		
LAND ACQUISITION						
DESIGN			\$ 200,000	\$ 1,456,000		
CONSTRUCTION				\$ 9,607,249		
EQUIPMENT			\$ 693,421	\$ 9,056,564		
TOTAL:			\$ 893,421	\$ 21,949,819		
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS State funds requested Design include costs of developer fee agreement for Shake and Mana Pacific; Construction includes costs for installation and for HNU our contractor; equipment costs includes inverters, solar panels, and battery storage system (BABA compliant). All other sources of fund include Plans, which include permitting and engineering costs. Costs are based on quotes or signed contracts (Design, Plans, some of Construction, and Equipment) or are based on estimates ahead of signing contracts or obtaining quotes (subcontractors and other contractors).						

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

Applicant: Ho'āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai

Contracts Total: \$ 3,136,000.00

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1	Congressionally Directed Spending Grant	1/1/24-6/30/26	US Department of Energy EERE	Federal	3,000,000
2	Molokai's Microgrid and Workforce Development Project	7/1/24-6/30-25	Maui County DEM	County	100,000
3	PV Panel Reuse and Storage	7/1/23-6/30-25	Maui County EP&S	County	12,000
4	Reuse PV Panel Garden	7/1/23-6/30-25	Maui County EP&S	County	24,000
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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

Christopher O'Brien, Executive Director

PRINT NAME AND TITLE

1/17/2025

DATE