

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

Type of Grant Request:

☐

Operating

☐

Capital

Legal Name of Requesting Organization or Individual: Db:

Amount of State Funds Requested: \$ _____

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

Amount of Other Funds Available:

State: \$ _____

Federal: \$ _____

County: \$ _____

Private/Other: \$ _____

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

\$ _____

Unrestricted Assets:

\$ _____

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

Type of Business Entity:

☐

501(C)(3) Non Profit Corporation

☐

Other Non Profit

☐

Other

Mailing Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application

Name:

Title:

Email:

Phone:



Authorized Signature

Name and Title

Date Signed

Application Submittal Checklist

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

- ☒ 1) Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate (If the Applicant is an Organization)
- ☒ 2) Declaration Statement
- ☒ 3) Verify that grant shall be used for a public purpose
- ☒ 4) Background and Summary
- ☒ 5) Service Summary and Outcomes
- ☒ 6) Budget
 - a) Budget request by source of funds ([Link](#))
 - b) Personnel salaries and wages ([Link](#))
 - c) Equipment and motor vehicles ([Link](#))
 - d) Capital project details ([Link](#))
 - e) Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid ([Link](#))
- ☒ 7) Experience and Capability
- ☒ 8) Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing



AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

Rainbow Uli'i - Executive Director

PRINT NAME AND TITLE

1/9/25

DATE



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF VENDOR COMPLIANCE

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

Vendor Name: KUALOA-HEEIA ECUMENICAL YOUTH PROJECT

DBA/Trade Name: Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth Project

Issue Date: 01/08/2025

Status: Compliant

Hawaii Tax#: 20282096-01

New Hawaii Tax#:

FEIN/SSN#: XX-XXX8209

UI#: XXXXXX3020

DCCA FILE#: 16166

Status of Compliance for this Vendor on issue date:

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

Status Legend:

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

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

The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies the following:

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

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

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

(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)

Rainbow K. Ulu

(Signature)

(Date)

(Typed Name)

(Title)

Application for Grants

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

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](#).

1. Name of the Requesting Organization:

Kualoa-He'eia Ecumenical Youth Project (KEY Project)

2. Public Purpose for the Grant

The grant supports the Ho'opiliina Youth Program, which serves a critical public purpose by addressing the pressing needs of youth and families in the Windward Coast region of O'ahu, spanning communities from Kāne'ohe to Kahuku. These communities face socioeconomic, educational, and cultural challenges that disproportionately affect their well-being, creating a need for innovative, community-centered programming.

3. Services to Be Supported by the Grant

The grant will fund āina-based education, 'ohana engagement events, and youth development programming focused on cultural learning, sustainable agriculture, and reducing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Key services include transportation support for underserved areas, meal provision to address food insecurity, and collaboration with community organizations to foster protective factors that strengthen family resilience and community ties.

4. Target Group

The Ho'opiliina Youth Program targets youth and families residing in the Windward Coast region of O'ahu, particularly those in underserved and geographically isolated communities such as Ko'olauloa.

5. Cost of the Grant and the Budget

\$230,000

II. Background and Summary

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

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

The Kualoa-He'eia Ecumenical Youth (KEY) Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the Ko'olau O'ahu communities from Northern Ko'olaupoko to Ko'olauloa. Since 1968, KEY has supported youth and families through programs and services that foster cultural, environmental, social, economic, and recreational well-being. The organization serves as a vital grassroots resource that reflects the region's agrarian traditions and multicultural values. KEY Project serves a region with hard-to-reach areas where many residents face barriers to accessing essential resources. For many families, participation in the Ho'opiliina Youth Program depends on the availability of transportation and meal support provided by the organization.

At the heart of KEY's mission is the Ho'opiliina Youth Program, which addresses the needs of local youth by providing opportunities to grow, connect, and thrive within a supportive and culturally rooted environment. This program was created to nurture youth resilience and leadership by promoting 'āina aloha concepts, enhancing cultural identity, and fostering healthy, community-based values. The Ho'opiliina Youth Program also focuses on addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), offering a structured framework to help young people build stronger foundations for emotional, mental, and social well-being.

Through innovative programming, the Ho'opiliina Youth Program integrates protective factors outlined by the CDC (Center for Disease Control), such as mentorship opportunities, peer networks, and family activities. These elements are embedded in multi-generational 'ohana events and 'āina-based cultural learning, providing safe spaces that encourage resilience and well-being. The program is designed to address systemic challenges and ensure that youth and families are equipped to thrive.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;

The primary goal of this grant is to expand the Ho'opiliina Youth Program, which is designed to connect youth with 'āina (land) and foster cultural identity through experiential and intergenerational learning opportunities. The program addresses key challenges identified in a 2021 Community Needs Assessment, including the demand for 'āina-based and culturally grounded programming to build resilience, strengthen families, and cultivate future leaders.

The specific objectives of this funding request are to:

Goal 1: Build cultural identity and empower youth to connect with their 'āina and heritage.

Through 'āina-based programming, 'ōpio will engage in hands-on activities that deepen their understanding of Hawaiian cultural practices and values. Ho'opiliina Youth Program will provide opportunities for participants to work alongside kūpuna, farmers,

and cultural practitioners to learn traditions such as mo'olelo (storytelling), mālama 'āina (caring for the land), and sustainable agriculture. By connecting youth with their ancestral roots and fostering a sense of kuleana (responsibility), this goal ensures that participants develop cultural pride and a lifelong commitment to preserving Hawai'i's rich heritage.

Objective 1. Implement 'āina-based programs and workshops that engage youth in cultural practices and promote intergenerational knowledge transfer.

Objective 2. Provide mentorship opportunities for youth to connect with kūpuna, farmers, and cultural practitioners.

Goal 2: Strengthen family resilience and address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) through 'Ohana engagement opportunities.

The program seeks to strengthen families by offering 'Ohana engagement that creates safe spaces for connection, learning, and collaboration. These events are particularly vital for families in remote areas, where barriers such as food insecurity often limit participation in similar programs. 'Ohana engagement opportunities combine cultural activities, such as lei-making and traditional cooking, with access to community resources and support services to address the unique challenges faced by families. By fostering pilina (relationships) among participants, these events build protective factors that reduce ACEs and enhance resilience across generations, ensuring stronger, healthier communities.

Objective 1. Organize family-centered events that foster pilina (relationships), provide cultural education, and connect families to community resources.

Objective 2. Develop tools and opportunities to support families in building protective factors and reducing ACEs.

Goal 3: Promote agricultural stewardship and sustainability.

To preserve Hawai'i's agricultural lands and traditional practices, this program inspires youth to become active stewards of 'āina through education and hands-on experience. Participants will learn sustainable farming techniques, the cultural and environmental importance of loko i'a (fishponds), and the value of keeping agricultural lands in productive use. By connecting youth to traditional agricultural systems and fostering partnerships with local organizations, this goal addresses pressing challenges like land preservation while cultivating the next generation of cultural and environmental leaders.

Objective 1. Educate youth on sustainable farming practices and the cultural importance of loko i'a and agricultural lands.

Objective 2. Partner with community organizations to provide hands-on learning opportunities that connect youth with traditional agricultural systems.

Objective 3. Introduce tasting opportunities for local produce to increase interest and palatability in our community, strengthening local food systems and improving long-term health outcomes.

3. The public purpose and need to be served;

The Ho'opiliina Youth Program serves a critical public purpose by addressing the pressing needs of youth and families in the Windward Coast region of O'ahu, spanning communities from Kāne'ohe to Kahuku. These communities face a range of socioeconomic, educational, and cultural challenges that disproportionately affect their well-being, creating a need for innovative, community-centered programming.

The Windward Coast is home to many families experiencing economic hardship. Statewide data reveals a poverty rate of 9.5%, with some areas experiencing even higher rates, particularly among families with children (Hawai'i Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, 2021). Food insecurity is a persistent issue, with 48% of Hawai'i families with children reporting difficulty accessing sufficient food and 15% reporting insufficient food in the past week (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, 2023). Housing instability and unemployment further compound these challenges, contributing to mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety (UHERO, 2023).

Educational attainment in the region reflects systemic challenges, with more than 50% of residents in the service district achieving only a high school diploma and limited opportunities for higher education (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020). For youth, barriers such as unstable housing, family stress, and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) exacerbate disengagement from education. Hawai'i youth face disproportionately high rates of mental health challenges, including depression, substance use, and suicide attempts compared to national averages (Hawai'i Department of Health, 2021).

Many Native Hawaiian and local youth report feeling disconnected from their cultural heritage, a factor linked to diminished self-esteem and resilience. Cultural disconnection has also been tied to poorer mental health outcomes and lower community engagement (Shaping Health in Hawai'i, 2023). Restoring a sense of kuleana (responsibility) and belonging is essential for fostering youth who are confident, resilient, and ready to contribute to their communities.

The Ho'opiliina Youth Program was established to address these challenges by offering culturally grounded, 'āina-based programming that empowers youth and families. This program creates safe spaces where participants can connect with their heritage, build meaningful relationships, and develop the tools to overcome adversity. By integrating hands-on activities with mentorship from kūpuna (elders), farmers, and cultural practitioners, the program fosters cultural identity, environmental stewardship, and community resilience.

Key components of the program include:

- **Cultural Identity Building** - Youth participate in activities such as mo'olelo (storytelling), mālama 'āina (land stewardship), and sustainable farming, which reconnect them to their heritage and foster pride in their cultural identity.
- **Family Resilience** - Through 'Ohana engagement opportunities, families are given opportunities to bond, access community resources, and develop protective factors to mitigate the effects of ACE's.

- **Agricultural Stewardship** - The program introduces youth to traditional and sustainable agricultural practices, encouraging the preservation of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and loko i'a (fishponds) while addressing food insecurity and environmental sustainability.

The program also collaborates with the Department of Education Castle Schools Complex, leveraging partnerships to support public school students and improve social determinants of health. By addressing the root causes of systemic challenges, the Ho'opiliina Youth Program contributes to a more resilient and culturally connected community, ensuring that youth and families in the Windward Coast region have the tools they need to thrive.

4. Describe the target population to be served; and
The Ho'opiliina Youth Program primarily serves youth in the Ko'olau O'ahu region, focusing on middle school-aged youth from grades five through eight. The service area extends from Kāne'ohe to Kahuku, providing accessible programming for students and their families within these communities. This subpopulation has the most immediate access to program opportunities and can actively engage in the program's 'āina-based youth activities and 'Ohana services.

Middle school-aged youth represent a critical and often underserved demographic in Windward O'ahu. This age group experiences significant developmental changes and faces unique challenges that require targeted support. Research has shown that middle school is a formative time when youth begin to establish their identity, make decisions about their future, and are particularly vulnerable to negative influences if they lack structured, positive environments. Despite this, there is a notable gap in available programming for middle school students in the region, leaving many without the resources they need to thrive during this tender stage of life.

Connection to 'āina plays a vital role in promoting the health and well-being of Native Hawaiian youth. The region's unique geography, with remote and hard-to-reach areas, creates challenges for families to access resources. Transportation support and meal provision through the Ho'opiliina Youth Program are added benefits and essential services that enable participation and address basic needs. By fostering a deeper relationship with their physical environment, community, and cultural traditions, the program helps build a sense of place and cultural identity that strengthens resilience. The long-standing reputation of the KEY Project in effectively serving the community has enabled the program to engage this specific population through its culturally grounded and innovative approach.

Based on 2019 Census data, the KEY Project service area is home to approximately 5,950 youth. Of this population, an estimated 38% fall within the target age group of grades five through eight, underscoring the need for dedicated programming that supports their development. The Ho'opiliina Youth Program is uniquely positioned to fill this gap by offering tailored, 'āina-based education and cultural programs designed to nurture relationships, foster a sense of community, and promote personal growth during these pivotal years.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

The KEY Project's geographic service area includes the northern Ko'olaupoko region and adjacent semi-rural and urban-fringe communities along the Windward Coast of O'ahu, stretching from Kāne'ohe to Kahuku. Located at 47-200 Waihe'e Road in Kāne'ohe, the KEY Project's location is central to a region renowned for its agrarian traditions, cultural richness, and deep connection to natural resources such as kahawai (streams), lo'i kalo (taro fields), and healthy oceans. This proximity to 'āina fosters a strong foundation for programming that emphasizes sustainability, cultural identity, and community resilience.

While rooted in the Ko'olaupoko district, the KEY Project's reach extends to the neighboring moku of Ko'olauloa, ensuring that families from Ko'olau, O'ahu can access its services. These communities represent a diverse demographic, including long-standing multigenerational families, residents of affordable housing complexes such as those managed by the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority (HPHA), and families grappling with economic instability (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020).

The COVID-19 pandemic profoundly impacted the Windward Coast region, compounding pre-existing socioeconomic vulnerabilities. While Hawai'i's economy has seen some recovery, communities with higher costs of living and reliance on tourism or agriculture, such as those on the Windward Coast continue to experience slower rebounds (UHERO, 2023). Statewide, food insecurity remains a pressing concern, with nearly 2 in 3 adults reporting financial strain during the pandemic, and many struggling to access sufficient and nutritious food (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, 2023). Housing instability has also increased, further exacerbating stress on families (Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice, 2022).

Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations, which comprise a significant portion of the Windward Coast's residents, were disproportionately affected by the pandemic, facing higher rates of COVID-19 infection and mortality (Hawai'i Department of Health, 2021). This health crisis compounded existing disparities, particularly in mental health, as nearly two-thirds of Hawai'i residents reported negative mental health impacts during the pandemic (Shaping Health in Hawai'i Report, UHERO, 2023). The challenges faced by youth in these communities have been especially pronounced, underscoring the need for programs like Ho'opiliina that provide safe spaces, 'āina-based activities, and cultural education to build resilience.

KEY Project's geographic coverage also includes schools within the Castle Complex Area, focusing on engaging youth and families in both northern Ko'olaupoko and Ko'olauloa districts. By addressing the region's unique cultural, economic, and environmental challenges, KEY Project provides critical programming to uplift and sustain communities along the Windward Coast.

III. Service Summary and Outcomes

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

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

The Ho‘opiliina Youth Program addresses critical community needs through ‘āina-based learning, cultural education, and ‘ohana engagement. The program’s objectives are designed to foster youth resilience, strengthen family connections, and promote sustainable practices.

Key tasks and responsibilities include:

- **‘Āina-Based Programming-** Providing hands-on opportunities for youth to connect with Hawaiian cultural practices, including mālama ‘āina (land stewardship), mo‘olelo (storytelling), and sustainable farming.
- **‘Ohana Engagement-** Hosting ‘ohana events twice monthly to encourage multi-generational connections through activities like lei-making, educational movie nights, and cultural workshops. Meals will also be provided at these engagement opportunities to ensure full attendance as most of these events will happen in the evenings to accommodate the majority of ‘ohana.
- **Sustainable Agriculture Education-** Partnering with local organizations to teach sustainable farming techniques and highlight the value of local food systems. Initiatives include tasting opportunities to promote interest in local produce and strengthen health outcomes.
- **Cultural and Community Stewardship-** Incorporating volunteer opportunities that cultivate a sense of kuleana (responsibility) and enhance cultural pride.
- **Enhanced Intersession Programming:** Hosting a single six-week summer intersession program, with weekly cohorts of 10-15 participants, including week-long Fall and Spring intersession programming with 25 participants each. This format expands the program’s reach by enabling 125 youth to join school intersession programming throughout the year while maintaining a personalized and culturally immersive experience. Activities will focus on ‘āina-based cultural education, mentorship, and leadership development. Programming will also include transportation support for participants from underserved areas, such as Ko‘olaupia. Meal provision at these intersession programs also ensures that families, particularly those experiencing food insecurity, can fully participate without the burden of additional costs or logistical challenges. Transportation support is essential for connecting hard-to-reach communities with these critical resources.

Through these activities, the program promotes critical protective factors, such as creating mentorship opportunities for youth, fostering peer networks, and engaging families in collaborative, fun activities. These factors reduce ACEs and build resilience across generations.

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

The timeline reflects the program's seasonal focus and newly expanded summer intersession programming.

Quarter	Services
Quarter 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize program design and partner outreach Participant recruitment Spring Intersession programming implementation 6 'ohana engagement events
Quarter 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and redesign programs for summer session Solidify summer session plans, participant recruitment & registration, and partners Summer intersession programming implementation begins (Week 1-2) 6 'ohana engagement events
Quarter 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer intersession programming implementation ends (Week 3-6) Program review and redesign for fall session Solidify fall session plans 6 'ohana engagement events
Quarter 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fall intersession programming implementation Program review and redesign for following year Year-end evaluation and outcome assessment 6 'ohana engagement events

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

The Ho'opiliina Youth Program incorporates a robust evaluation framework to monitor, evaluate, and continuously improve outcomes.

Planned Data Collection Tools

- Attendance Sheets and Program Registration Forms-** Documents will track quantitative data such as participant registration and attendance for all intersessions and 'ohana engagement programming capturing participation rates.
- Community Hō'ike-** Events will serve as qualitative assessment opportunities, allowing youth participants to present their learnings through artwork, storytelling, and other creative formats. These presentations provide insight into participant growth and cultural engagement.
- Ho'opiliina Pre- and post-program 'ōpio participant surveys-** Surveys are used to capture and evaluate knowledge gained, skills developed, and cultural connections.
- Mākua (Parent) Survey-** Conducted online between intersessions, these surveys capture feedback from parents of youth participants to evaluate program impact on families and ensure alignment with 'ohana needs. Suggestion forms for feedback on program delivery and topics.
- Interview-Based Surveys-** To complement online surveys, interviews will be conducted with participants and families. These will be framed as mo'olelo

(storytelling) to capture qualitative insights and identify opportunities for program enhancement. This culturally relevant approach ensures feedback is meaningful and deeply rooted in the program's values.

- **Partner & Cultural Practitioner Reporting Forms-** These forms will track community engagement and partner organization contributions, including support for 'ohana events and agricultural initiatives.

Evaluation outcomes will inform ongoing program adjustments to enhance accessibility and effectiveness. Surveys and feedback forms will assess the impact of meal provision on participation rates and its role in addressing food security among program participants. Regular feedback from participants and staff will guide continuous improvements, with a focus on addressing transportation barriers and reinforcing protective factors.

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

The following measures align directly with program outputs, outcomes, and objectives to ensure transparency and accountability.

Full-Day Intersession Programming

- **Outputs**
 - Total participants per week - 10 (60 over six weeks).
 - Total participants per contract period - 125 (up from 100 annually).
 - 'Ōpio engaged in cultural learning - 125.
 - 'Ōpio developing protective factors - 125.
- **Outcomes**
 - Participants completing the program - 125 annually.
 - Students exposed to cultural, educational, and 'āina-based concepts - 125 annually.

'Ohana Event Programming

- **Outputs**
 - Individual participants in single-day programs - 200 annually.
 - Total 'ohana events - 18 annually.
 - 'Ōpio and families feeling rooted in Hawaiian identity - 10 per event.
 - Community-based cultural practitioners partnered with - 10 annually.
- **Outcomes**

- Total families reached - 200 annually.
- Families exposed to cultural, educational, and 'āina-based concepts - 200 annually.

These measures ensure alignment with state reporting requirements. Metrics will be revised as needed to reflect any adjustments in funding or program scope.

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
\$57,500	\$57,500	\$57,500	\$57,500	\$230,000

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

5. The applicant shall provide a listing of all federal, state, and county government contracts, grants, and grants in aid it has been granted within the prior three years and will be receiving for fiscal year 2026 for program funding.
 1. 2023
 - a. State of Hawai'i: Grant-in-Aid Program Grant
Amount: \$200,000 Program: Ho'opilina Youth Program
 - b. City and County of Honolulu: Grant-in-Aid Program Grant
Amount: \$200,000 Program: Na Pua O Ko'olau Kūpuna Program
 2. 2024
 - a. State of Hawai'i: Grant-in-Aid Program Grant
Amount: \$150,000 Program: Ho'opilina Youth Program
6. The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2024.

Unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2024, are \$1,558,051.41.

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.

KEY Project has served as a cornerstone of the Kahalu'u community for over 55 years, fostering connections, resilience, and well-being through culturally relevant programming. Recognized as a "kīpuka" or safe haven, the center was founded to provide at-risk youth with mentorship and activities aimed at preventing adverse childhood experiences. Today, it continues to serve 'ohana of all ages, offering programs that deepen cultural roots and build stronger, healthier communities.

KEY Project maintains a highly skilled and competent staff with extensive experience in implementing social services and community development programs. Staff expertise spans cultural education, youth mentorship, family engagement, and community resilience. In addition to our dedicated team, our facilities are equipped to execute the proposed programming, providing a solid foundation for achieving the outlined goals and objectives.

Demonstrated Organizational Capacity

KEY Project's track record in delivering impactful programs includes the following

highlights:

- **National Emergency Rental Assistance Program (2021)-** KEY Project was selected to host community navigators for the State of Hawai'i Rent and Utility Relief Program. Achieving 500% of the intended program enrollment goal, KEY set a precedent for utilizing community-based organizations to expand the reach and effectiveness of federal and state social service initiatives. This success earned recognition for KEY Project as a true resilience hub.
- **Summer Cultural Heritage Program-** A 30-year initiative for elementary-age youth, providing rich cultural and 'āina-based learning experiences.
- **Teen to Work Program-** A decade-long collaboration with Alu Like, Inc., and the Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center, which provided over 25 youth annually with employment and life skills training.
- **Hoohuli Competency-Based High School Diploma Program (CBASED)-** Operated for five years as an alternative path to high school completion for youth aged 16 and above, offering a curriculum focused on practical knowledge, career exploration, and higher education opportunities.

Through these and other initiatives, KEY Project has consistently demonstrated its capacity to deliver high-impact programs that address community needs and foster resilience across generations.

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.

KEY Project is a large, ADA-compliant, multi-purpose community center designed to meet the diverse needs of the Kahalu'u community. Established in the 1960s, the facility supports flexible programming to deliver physical, social, and emotional resources for youth and 'ohana.

Key Features of the Facility

1. **Certified Commercial Kitchen (460 sq. ft.)** - Used for food distribution, program activities, and value-added product creation. It is also available for community member use.
2. **Large Pavilion (Capacity: 250)** - Connected to the kitchen and equipped with audio-visual capabilities for events, conferences, public meetings, and cultural showcases like community hō'ike.
3. **Meeting Rooms** - Various well-equipped spaces to accommodate small to large group sizes.
4. **Classrooms with IT Infrastructure** - Two-story structure with excellent IT capacity, ideal for cooking demonstrations, educational workshops, and community discussions.
5. **Administrative Building** - Central hub for staff offices and walk-in community services.
6. **Outdoor Māla (Farm/Garden)** - A cultivated area for youth, kupuna, and volunteers, featuring a nursery for plant propagation, aquaponics, and other learning opportunities.

7. **Connected Parklands** - The facility is seamlessly integrated with 10,740 sq. ft. of surrounding ADA-accessible parklands, providing additional outdoor learning spaces.

Additional Safety and Accessibility Features

- The facility is situated ma uka of the floodplain, ensuring safety from tsunamis.
- Located near Kahalu'u Fire Station for rapid emergency response.
- Equipped with a certified AED for on-site medical emergencies.

Access to Partner Sites - KEY Project leverages its established partnerships with respected cultural and environmental organizations, enhancing its programming with access to nearby outdoor learning sites. These include:

- Waihe'e Farm
- Paepae o He'eia
- Papahana Kuaola
- Windward Community College
- Kāko'o 'Ōiwi, and more.

These long-standing collaborations allow KEY Project to provide youth and families with enriched learning opportunities, deepening connections to culture, 'āina, and the wider community.

VI. Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing

1. Proposed Staffing, Staff Qualifications, Supervision and Training

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

The success of the Ho'opiliina Youth Program relies on a highly skilled and dedicated team with diverse expertise in program management, cultural education, and community development. The staffing pattern is designed to ensure effective service delivery, administrative oversight, and continuous program enhancement.

Executive Director: Rainbow Uli'i – Rainbow Uli'i brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role as Executive Director of the KEY Project. She graduated from the University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu with two Bachelor's Degrees: one in Social Science with a concentration in Political Science, and another in Applied Science with a concentration in Sustainable Community Food Systems. In May 2022, she earned her Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Rainbow's professional background includes serving as a Hawaiian Studies teacher at Sunset Beach Elementary School, where she integrated 'āina-based education with a focus on cultural identity and community values. She has also worked with Kōkua

Hawai'i Foundation, providing environmental and cultural education to elementary schools across the Windward side of O'ahu.

Most recently, Rainbow served as the University of Hawai'i System Student Basic Needs Coordinator, where she connected college students with essential resources and services, enabling them to meet their basic needs and achieve success. Her leadership and vision have made her a vital asset to the KEY Project team, where she has been Executive Director since December 2022. Rainbow's dedication to fostering resilience, cultural pride, and community well-being drives the mission of the Ho'opiliina Youth Program.

Community Development Coordinator: Joseph Hnatusko Wat – Joseph Hnatusko Wat brings over seven years of experience in leading youth through impactful, hands-on programs that blend nutrition education and gardening. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Language and Culture from Tufts University, earned in 2013.

Joseph's professional journey includes a significant tenure with the Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation, where he co-led 48 farm workdays involving 921 unique volunteers. His innovative approach extended to designing and piloting two internship sessions for high school students, based on the GoFarm Hawai'i Farmer Training program, which served 12 participants in Spring 2021 and 14 participants in Fall 2021. These programs provided youth with real-world agricultural skills and fostered deeper connections to 'āina-based learning.

At KEY Project, Joseph serves as the Community Development Coordinator, where he is responsible for designing and co-facilitating programming and evaluations for the Ho'opiliina Youth Program. His dedication to cultivating culturally rooted, educationally rigorous experiences ensures that participants build skills, resilience, and lasting connections to their communities and environments.

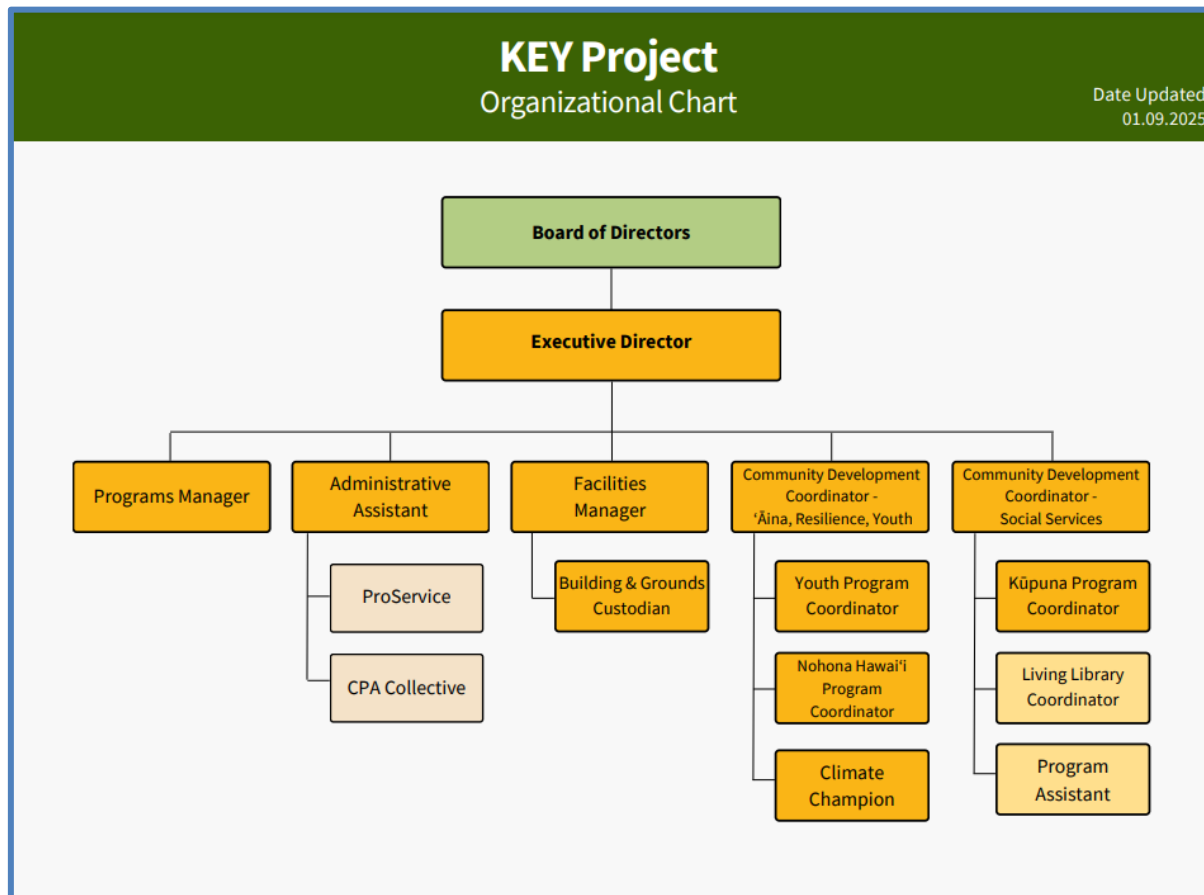
Ho'opiliina Youth Program Coordinator: Ashley Pacheco – Ashley has extensive experience in K-12 teaching, focusing on social emotional learning topics and the implementation of substance abuse prevention curricula at both school and community levels. Her background also includes advocating for victims of domestic violence, academic tutoring, and customer service in the retail and hospitality industries. Ashley holds a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology with an emphasis on school counseling. Her career includes serving as a school counselor at Nanakuli High School & Intermediate School, Kailua High School, and Mokapu Elementary School. Ashley's expertise in counseling and curriculum design plays a pivotal role in supporting the Ho'opiliina Youth Program's mission to foster resilience and well-being among youth.

Program Manager: Mark Murphy – Mark graduated with two bachelor degrees in Media Business and Marketing with a minor in Corporate Communications from Baylor University in 2014. With 2 years of Kūpuna Program coordination, and a background in business management and development, he is equipped to handle grant management and support each KEY Project program where needed. Mark has jumped in and supported all KEY programs as needed due to staff shortages such as chaperoning huaka'i and guiding youth through activities, instructing lei workshops for 'ohana, youth,

and kūpuna, and assisting in the execution of large Living Library screenings.

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.

Executive Director - \$85,000

Programs Manager - \$60,000

Community Development Coordinator - \$60,000

VII. Other

1. Litigation

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

Not applicable.

2. Licensure or Accreditation

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

Not applicable.

3. Private Educational Institutions

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

Not applicable.

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

The deliverables of this project will enhance the network of community care in the Windward O'ahu region by fostering collaboration among programs, schools, care facilities, and service providers. By streamlining access to resources and featuring dependable social services throughout the year, KEY Project will create sustainable, localized support systems for vulnerable populations. This approach reduces the need for residents to travel far for services, strengthening community ties and enhancing accessibility within the neighborhood.

- (b) Not received by the applicant thereafter.

To sustain activities without future State Grant-in-Aid funding, KEY Project will:

1. **Maximize Facility Use** - Continue leveraging our facility as a resource by increasing usage through partnerships with long-term anchor tenants, such as Hālau Na Ki'uwailehua and Shotokan Karate. These collaborations ensure consistent earned income while delivering cultural, social, and educational benefits to the community.
2. **Diversify Revenue Streams** - Strengthen financial infrastructure through

diversified funding sources, including private foundations, government grants, and earned income. Facility rental income will remain critical in covering operational costs not allocated to grant funding.

3. **Community Development Coordination** - The recent addition of a Community Development Coordinator has expanded partnerships and increased the use of KEY facilities, enabling greater community access and support.
4. **Leverage Grassroots Support** - As a grassroots organization, KEY thrives on the strength of its community supporters. Continued engagement with residents, volunteers, and donors ensures a stable foundation for programs and services.
5. **Board Leadership** - KEY's Board of Directors, composed of local leaders and experts, provides strategic guidance in diversifying revenue and aligning programs with organizational goals.

KEY Project's facility remains its largest asset, allowing it to creatively adapt programming and serve as a hub for community-driven initiatives. This focus, combined with a strong community network and dedicated leadership, positions KEY to sustain its mission for years to come.

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth Project

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	112,300			
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	16,845			
3. Fringe Benefits	26,161			
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	155,306			
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	19,694			
7. Telecommunication				
8. Utilities	10,000			
9. Administrative Services	10,000			
10. Contractual Services	25,000			
11. Lease/Rental of Motor Vehicle	10,000			
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	74,694			
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES				
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES				
E. CAPITAL				
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	230,000			
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	230,000	Rainbow Ulii 808-239-5777		
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested		Name (Please type or print) Phone		
(c) Total County Funds Requested		<i>Rainbow K. Ulii</i> 1/14/25		
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested		Signature of Authorized Official Date		
TOTAL BUDGET	230,000	Rainbow Uli'i - Executive Director		
		Name and Title (Please type or print)		

Applicant: Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth Project Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

<p>JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Application for Grants</p>

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth Project

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
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:				

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth Pro

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	Not applicable.					
LAND ACQUISITION						
DESIGN						
CONSTRUCTION						
EQUIPMENT						
TOTAL:						
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:						

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

App: Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth Project

Contracts Total: 350,000

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1	Nā Pua O Ko'olau Kūpuna Program GIA	11/1/23 - 3/30/25	City and County	Honolulu	200,000
2	Ho'opilina Youth Program GIA	7/1/23 - 5/30/25	State	Hawaii	150,000
3					
4					
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