



RiseHI Foundation

**STATE OF HAWAII GRANT IN AID APPLICATION**

**2025-2026**

RiseHI Foundation  
Gabe Amey, Executive Director  
111 Hekili Street #102  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734  
(808) 227-0299

## 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

Gabe Amey, ED

PRINT NAME AND TITLE

1/17/25

DATE



RiseHI Foundation

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**2025-2026**

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RiseHI Foundation  
Gabe Amey, Executive Director  
111 Hekili Street #102  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734  
(808) 227-0299

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:

RISEHI FOUNDATION

Amount of State Funds Requested: \$ 98,000

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

RiseHI Foundation has been a successful Hawaii nonprofit for over six years now, focused on primarily Hawaii's Title I schools. RiseHI provides mentorship to students to build essential life skills - fostering resilience, creativity, and a strong sense of community. The mentorship provided encourages emotional learning, significantly builds self-confidence, and empowers our students to identify and pursue life goals. RiseHI's program "Make it Happen" is curriculum tailored for grades 6-9. For slightly older students, RiseHI's Future Career Planning program - 'Oihana Career Exploration Courses - introduces students to detailed information about potential careers in Hawaii, and helps them to focus on future education and career planning. RiseHI has been embraced by Hawaii schools because of both the effectiveness of the curriculum, and the low cost, which remains at \$40 or less annually per student for high quality materials and state-of-the-art video class support. Current participating schools include: Kapa'a Middle School, Niu Valley Middle School, Kalama Intermediate, Ilima Intermediate, St. Louis School, Waimea High School, Aiea High School, and Maui High School.

This GIA application is written primarily to produce the materials needed to expand classes to additional schools that are excited about the program, thereby making these resources available to students across the state.

Amount of Other Funds Available:

State: \$ 0

Federal: \$ 0

County: \$ 0

Private/Other: \$ 30,318

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

\$ 0

Unrestricted Assets:

\$ 30,318

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:

111Hekili Street, #102

City:

Kailua

State:

HI

Zip:

96734

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application

Name:

Gabe Amey

Title:

Executive Director

Email:

Gabe@RiseHI.com

Phone:

808-227-0299



Executive Director

1/17/2025

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: RISEHI FOUNDATION

DBA/Trade Name: RISEHI Collective

Issue Date: 01/06/2025

Status: Compliant

Hawaii Tax#:

New Hawaii Tax#: GE-0268048896-01

FEIN/SSN#: XX-XXX0434

UI#: XXXXXX6322

DCCA FILE#: 279268

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

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date:

**MAR 22 2019**

RISEHI FOUNDATION  
C/O GABE AMEY  
105B N KAINALU DR  
KAILUA, HI 96734

Employer Identification Number:  
82-2170434  
DLN:  
17053206302008  
Contact Person:  
JOSEPH LAUX ID# 31077  
Contact Telephone Number:  
(877) 829-5500  
Accounting Period Ending:  
December 31  
Public Charity Status:  
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)  
Form 990/990-EZ/990-N Required:  
Yes  
Effective Date of Exemption:  
May 19, 2017  
Contribution Deductibility:  
Yes  
Addendum Applies:  
No

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to [www.irs.gov/charities](http://www.irs.gov/charities). Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Letter 947

RISEHI FOUNDATION

Sincerely,

*Stephen A. Norton*

Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements

Letter 947

RiseHI Foundation  
111 Hekili Street #102  
Kailua, HI 96734  
EIN: 82-2170434  
(808) 227-0299

Declaration Statement  
Under Section 42F-102 and  
42F-103 Hawaii Revised Statutes

RiseHI Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Hawaii nonprofit. RiseHI's public purpose is to provide mentorship, and emotional learning for Hawaii students, build essential life skills and empower them to identify and pursue life goals.

RiseHI Foundation is licensed in Hawaii (GE-0268048896-01); is incorporated under the laws of the State, and has the experience and skills to conduct the activities or provide the services proposed in the RiseHI 's 2025-2026 application for Hawaii State Grant in Aid Funding.

RiseHI Foundation hereby certifies that they comply 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.

RiseHI Foundation hereby certifies that, if funded, they will never use state funds for unrelated entertainment or any lobbying activities; and will allow full and unfettered access to the State Agency which funds the grant to allow auditors of their choosing to access RiseHI's records, reports, files, and other related documents and information for the purpose of monitoring, measuring the effectiveness, and ensuring the proper expenditure of the grant.

RiseHI Foundation has a recognized Governing Board whose members have no material conflict of interest, and who each serve without compensation.



GABE AMEY, Executive Director



BILLY PIEPER, Chairman, Board of Directors

RiseHI Foundation  
111 Hekili Street, # 102  
Kailua, HI 96734  
EIN: 82-2170434  
(808) 227-0299

State of Hawaii Grant in Aid Application  
2025-2026

## **RiseHI Program Descriptions And Hawai'i Needs Addressed**

### **The Struggle**

*Forty-four percent of families in Hawai'i face financial hardship\*, living paycheck to paycheck. Our keiki witness these struggles, creating a belief system where hardship feels inevitable, and dreams seem out of reach. \*Source: 2024 ALICE Index by Aloha United Way.*

### **Who We Are**

*We're RiseHI – a transformative local non-profit – and we're here to create optimism and catalyze the talents in every keiki, providing them with a pathway to grow, succeed, and thrive in their island home.*

### **What We Do**

*Harnessing the power of storytelling, we bring kama'āina leaders from diverse fields into the spotlight to share their real-life career journeys with students, illuminating the courage, perseverance, and decisive actions needed to overcome challenges.*

### **How We Do It**

*Make IT Happen Courses:*

*Our curriculum features thirty-two video case studies within eight video modules, each paired with an interactive workbook. Through immersive topics such as "Visualizing Your Future" and "Overcoming Fears," students build essential life skills, empowering them to make their dreams happen.*

*'Oihana Career Exploration Courses:*

*Building on this optimism and newfound skills, students are introduced to a wide range of career possibilities. By exploring what each role entails and the actions needed to achieve them, students gain the clarity and confidence to take decisive steps toward their professional futures.*

### **Why It Works**

*Our career stories are told by individuals students can truly relate to – kama'āina who have grown up in Hawai'i, attended local schools, and understand the unique culture and challenges of island life. These role models, spanning diverse backgrounds and professions, serve as living proof that success is within reach for those who dare to dream and take action.*

### **Our Vision**

*At RiseHI, we see a future where every keiki has the tools, opportunities, and belief in their potential to rise above challenges and create thriving futures for themselves and their community.*

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## I. Introduction

RiseHI's "Make IT Happen" curriculum, adapted for middle schools in Hawai'i, offers an innovative approach to supplement Advisory classes, focusing on social-emotional learning and positive mindset development. This engaging program uses real-life examples from local entrepreneurs and community changemakers to inspire students, encouraging them to visualize their futures, overcome challenges, and embrace their unique paths. The curriculum is designed to equip students with essential life skills, encouraging resilience, creativity, and a strong sense of community, fostering personal and academic growth.

## II. About RiseHI

RiseHI's mission is to cultivate equity and access in education by leveraging the powerful stories of kama'āina leaders and changemakers. This initiative aims to inspire and empower Hawai'i's keiki, bridging geographical and socioeconomic divides to offer every child the opportunity to see and realize their potential. By providing a platform that democratizes access to influential kama'āina narratives and resources, we are committed to expanding the horizons of our youth, enabling them to thrive and innovate within their communities in Hawai'i. Our vision is to unlock the untapped potential of the keiki, fostering a transformative impact on their perceptions of opportunity and self-capability.

Established in 2016, RiseHI is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization based in Hawai'i. Committed to enriching the educational experience and sparking inspiration among Hawai'i's keiki, RiseHI has been instrumental in enhancing curricula across various schools in Hawai'i, including Waimea High School, Maui High School, Kealahou Intermediate, Niu Valley Middle School, Kapa'a Middle School, Saint Louis School and UH West 'Oahu.

## III. "Make IT Happen" Program Details

The "Make IT Happen" curriculum and framework was developed for 6th-9th graders and designed as a comprehensive, eight-module program, spanning from 24 - 32 weeks, with each module dedicated to a specific theme:

1. Visualize Your Future
  2. Overcome Your Fears
  3. Vulnerability Creates Opportunity
  4. Take Action
  5. Think Outside the Box
-

6. Small Steps Lead to Big Outcomes
7. Level Up
8. Perseverance to See It Through

The curriculum features engaging video case studies of local changemakers, interactive student workbooks for in-depth exploration, and optional classroom activities facilitated by teachers. This structure aims to create a multisensory learning experience, fostering a deep understanding of key life skills and social-emotional competencies.

### **Unique Features of the Curriculum: Kama'āina Video Case Studies**

A distinguishing feature of the "Make IT Happen" curriculum is its incorporation of video case studies featuring 24 esteemed kama'āina from diverse fields. These individuals, ranging from artists and chefs to entrepreneurs and environmentalists, share their personal journeys of conceiving ideas and overcoming challenges to realize their visions. Each story is captured in an engaging 5-7 minute video, bringing these narratives vividly to life.

### **Featured Kama'āina and Their Contributions**

Here is the list of the 24 kama'āina, along with their affiliations, whose stories enrich our curriculum:

1. Aaron Kai - Artist
2. Alex Le - Entrepreneur | The Pig & the Lady
3. Austin Kino - Hōkule'a Navigator
4. Blaine Apo - Entrepreneur | Maui Crisps
5. Carissa Moore - World Champion Surfer & Olympic Gold Medalist
6. Duane DeSoto - Non-Profit Founder | Nā Kama Kai
7. Jasper Wong - Artist & Co-Founder of World Wide Walls (formally POW! WOW!)
8. Zion Thompson - Musician | The Green
9. Kahi Pacarro - Non-Profit Founder | Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii
10. Keoni Lee - Non-Profit Founder | 'Ōiwi TV
11. Keola Rapozo - Entrepreneur | FITTED Hawaii
12. Kimié Miner - Musician
13. Lauren Spalding - Champion Paddler & Olympian
14. Mahina Paishon-Duarte - Non-Profit Founder | Paepae o He'eia & Waiwai Collective
15. Mark Noguchi "Chef Gooch" - Chef Hui | The Pili Group
16. Meli James - Entrepreneur | Mana Up
17. Michelle Jaime - Entrepreneur | The Vanguard Theory
18. Nainoa Langer - Filmmaker

19. Ryan Chun - Entrepreneur | ELITE Parking
20. Shar Tuiasoa - Artist | Punky Aloha Studio
21. Sheldon Simeon - Chef & Entrepreneur | Tin Roof Kitchen & Tiffany's Maui
22. Tiana Gamble - Entrepreneur | Bikini Bird & Good Merch Supply
23. Zak Noyle - Water Photographer
24. Xavier Cummings - Comedian & Influencer

### **Engaging Storytelling and Relatability**

These videos serve not just as educational tools but as sources of inspiration, illustrating the real-world application of the skills and mindsets discussed throughout the curriculum. By showcasing local figures such as Chef Sheldon Simeon and Carissa Moore, the curriculum bridges the gap between theoretical learning and practical implementation. The choice of kama'āina underscores the curriculum's commitment to cultural relevance and relatability, fostering a stronger connection between the students and the lessons.

### **Comprehensive Learning Experience**

Each case study is tailored to complement specific modules of the curriculum, such as "Visualize Your Future" or "Perseverance to See It Through," providing concrete examples of how these concepts are applied in various professional contexts. This integration ensures that students not only learn about these skills but also see how they are enacted by successful individuals within their community.

These video case studies are more than just lessons; they are invitations to the students of Hawai'i to envision their potential and aspire to influence their world positively. Through this innovative approach, RiseHI aims to empower students to navigate their futures with confidence and creativity, equipped with the stories of those who have made significant impacts in their fields.

## **IV. Program Rationale & Need**

The necessity for social-emotional learning and positive mindset development in middle school education is paramount, particularly during these formative years when students undergo significant personal and social growth. Integrating these components into the curriculum addresses the holistic needs of students, equipping them with the resilience, empathy, and problem-solving skills essential for navigating academic challenges, interpersonal relationships, and the complexities of adolescence. This foundational approach fosters not only academic success but also the well-being and personal development of each student, preparing them for a successful transition into high school and beyond.

## V. Desired Outcomes Per Module

### Module 1: Visualize Your Future

This module encourages students to define their personal and professional aspirations, fostering a proactive approach to goal setting and future planning.

- **Goal Setting:** Students will learn to set clear, personal goals, fostering a sense of direction and purpose in both their academic and personal lives.
- **Growth Mindset Development:** Encourages the development of a growth mindset, enabling students to see beyond current limitations and aspire for greater achievements.

### Module 2: Overcome Your Fears

Focuses on identifying and addressing personal fears, enabling students to build confidence and embrace challenges as opportunities for growth.

- **Builds Courage:** Students will learn to identify their fears and develop strategies to overcome them, building courage and confidence to face new challenges.
- **Enhances Risk-Taking Abilities:** Encourages students to step out of their comfort zones and take calculated risks, essential for personal growth and leadership development.

### Module 3: Vulnerability Creates Opportunity

Highlights the strength found in vulnerability, teaching students how openness can lead to deeper connections and collaborative opportunities.

- **Emotional Intelligence Enhancement:** Promotes emotional intelligence by teaching students the strength in vulnerability, leading to deeper connections and empathy within the school community.
- **Supportive Environment Creation:** Facilitates a supportive environment where students feel safe to share their ideas and challenges, enhancing collaborative learning.

### Module 4: Take Action

Emphasizes the importance of moving from planning to action, instilling a sense of initiative and accountability in pursuing personal goals.

- **Promotes Initiative:** Teaches students the importance of taking the first step towards their goals, turning ideas into actions, and fostering a proactive mindset.
- **Cultivates Accountability:** Students will understand the role of personal responsibility in achieving success and the impact of their actions on their goals and the broader community.

#### **Module 5: Think Outside the Box**

Encourages innovative thinking and problem-solving, urging students to approach challenges creatively and stand out through unique solutions.

- **Creative Thinking:** Fosters creative thinking and problem-solving skills, preparing students to approach academic and life challenges with innovative solutions.
- **Uniqueness and Confidence:** Encourages students to embrace their uniqueness and contribute original ideas, enhancing their self-esteem and peer respect.

#### **Module 6: Small Steps Lead to Big Outcomes**

Teaches the value of breaking complex goals into manageable steps, emphasizing patience and persistence in achieving long-term success.

- **Encourages Incremental Progress:** Students will learn the value of breaking larger goals into manageable tasks, promoting consistent progress through small, achievable steps.
- **Instills Patience and Persistence:** Highlights the importance of patience and perseverance in achieving long-term goals, reinforcing that success often comes from persistence.

#### **Module 7: Level Up**

Inspires continuous personal and professional development, showing how dedication and high standards can attract valuable networks and opportunities.

- **Fosters Continuous Improvement:** Encourages students to continually seek self-improvement and personal development, equipping them with the mindset to always strive for the next level.



- **Expands Networks and Opportunities:** Teaches students how dedication and hard work can attract mentors and opportunities, expanding their networks and enhancing their potential for success.

**Module 8: Perseverance to See It Through**

Focuses on building resilience and a strong work ethic, enabling students to persist through challenges and achieve sustained success.

- **Resilience Building:** Instills resilience in students, enabling them to navigate setbacks with a positive attitude and a determination to succeed.
- **Persistence and Hard Work:** Teaches the value of persistence and hard work, which are critical for achieving long-term goals and overcoming academic and personal obstacles.

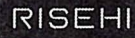
**VI. Correlation With DOE's General Learner Outcomes**

Additionally, these four modules correlate to the DOE General Learner Outcomes (GLO's) as outlined below:

Module #1: Visualize Your Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>GLO #1 (Self-Directed Learner):</b> by encouraging students to set and manage personal learning goals</li><li>● <b>GLO #3 (Complex Thinker):</b> through the development of forward-thinking and goal-setting skills.</li></ul>
Module #2: Overcome Your Fears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>GLO #1 (Self-Directed Learner):</b> Learning to identify and manage fears is a part of self-regulation and personal learning responsibility.</li><li>● <b>GLO #3 (Complex Thinker):</b> Developing strategies to overcome fears involves critical thinking and problem-solving.</li></ul>
Module #3: Vulnerability Creates Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>GLO #2 (Community Contributor)</b> by fostering an environment of mutual respect and empathy</li><li>● <b>GLO #5 (Effective Communicator)</b> by promoting open and honest communication.</li></ul>
Module #4:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>GLO #1 (Self-Directed Learner):</b> Taking initiative</li></ul>

<b>Take Action</b>	<p>directly involves managing one's learning and actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GLO #4 (Quality Producer):</b> Understanding the impact of one's actions and taking responsibility ensures the production of quality outcomes.</li> </ul>
<b>Module #5 Think Outside the Box</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GLO #3 (Complex Thinker)</b> by encouraging creative problem-solving</li> <li>• <b>GLO #4 (Quality Producer)</b> through the emphasis on innovative and quality outputs.</li> </ul>
<b>Module #6: Small Steps Lead to Big Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GLO #3 (Complex Thinker):</b> Planning and executing small steps to achieve a larger goal involves complex thinking and strategic planning.</li> <li>• <b>GLO #4 (Quality Producer):</b> Breaking goals into manageable tasks and focusing on incremental progress produces quality outcomes.</li> </ul>
<b>Module #7: Level Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GLO #2 (Community Contributor):</b> Expanding networks and seeking personal development contribute to community growth and individual success.</li> <li>• <b>GLO #4 (Quality Producer):</b> Striving for excellence and continuous improvement attracts mentors and collaborators, showcasing the drive and quality of work that leads to enhanced opportunities and partnerships.</li> </ul>
<b>Module #8 Perseverance to See It Through</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GLO #1 (Self-Directed Learner):</b> by emphasizing the importance of persistence in achieving personal learning goals</li> <li>• <b>GLO #4 (Quality Producer):</b> Persistence often leads to high-quality results as students learn to overcome obstacles and produce their best work.</li> </ul>

## VII. Conclusion and Collective Invitation



The "Make IT Happen" curriculum presents a transformative opportunity for middle schools throughout Hawai'i. It promises to enrich the educational experience by embedding social-emotional learning within the fabric of advisory classes. This initiative not only aligns with Hawai'i's educational standards but also honors local culture and values, ensuring students develop essential life skills for their personal and academic journeys.

We cordially invite your school to join us in this innovative journey. By integrating RiseHI's Make IT Happen curriculum for your advisory classes, you are providing your students with the tools to unlock their potential and the inspiration to envision a successful future right here in Hawai'i. This program offers unique, real-world learning experiences that promote youth resilience, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit, preparing them to meet tomorrow's challenges with confidence and ingenuity.

For more information and to explore partnership opportunities, please contact us directly:

Website: <http://risehi.com>  
Email: [gabe@risehi.com](mailto:gabe@risehi.com)  
Phone: 808-227-0299



## Project Overview & Vision: 'Oihana Career Exploration Courses

### **About RiseHI:**

At the core of RiseHI's mission is the sharing of stories from local creators, entrepreneurs, and change-makers to inspire and empower Hawai'i's keiki. This initiative is designed to nurture a sense of empowerment and broaden their perspectives on the potential and opportunities available within Hawai'i, irrespective of their geographical or socioeconomic backgrounds. Our vision is to unlock the untapped potential in the keiki, enabling them to live and thrive in Hawai'i. By creating a platform that provides access to resources and shares the narratives of kama'āina creators, entrepreneurs, and leaders, RiseHI is dedicated to transforming the mindset of the youth regarding their capabilities and the opportunities available in Hawai'i.

Website: <http://risehi.com>

### **Project Overview:**

The 'Oihana Career Exploration Courses initiative is a transformative program designed to empower Hawaii's youth by giving them unique access to various career paths and local role models. Delivered as asynchronous online courses, this project ensures that students can explore various professions at their own pace, regardless of their geographic location. By bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world applications, these courses enable students to discover different career opportunities within their community.

### **Why This Matters:**

The 'Oihana Career Exploration Courses are vital in promoting equity and access in education. By offering online courses, the initiative ensures that all students, irrespective of their geographical or socioeconomic backgrounds, have the opportunity to explore diverse careers. This approach not only broadens their perspectives on potential career paths but also strengthens their connection to local culture and the economy, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in their future careers.

**Initial Career Pathways:** The project encompasses the creation of nine distinct courses, each centered around a specific profession, to provide a broad spectrum of career exploration opportunities for students. The professions include:

- Pharmacy Technician
  - Hospital Aide
  - Graphic Designer
-



- Construction Management
- Commercial Driver
- Entrepreneur
- Independent Filmmaker
- Culinary Chef
- Fashion Designer

### Future Vision

The future of the 'Oihana Career Exploration Courses is focused on expanding and enriching the educational opportunities available to Hawaii's youth. By the summer of 2026, we aim to increase the number of courses from nine to 80, offering an extensive library that covers a wide array of career options.

**Expanded Career Pathways:** The upcoming courses will encompass the 13 career pathways prioritized by the Department of Education within our public schools. These pathways are designed to align with key industry sectors and provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the opportunities available in each field. The pathways include:

1. Advanced Manufacturing
2. Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
3. Architecture Design & Engineering Tech
4. Building & Construction
5. Business Management, Marketing & Finance
6. Culture, Arts, Media & Entertainment
7. Education
8. Energy
9. Health Services
10. Hospitality, Tourism & Recreation
11. Information Technology & Digital Information
12. Public, Law & Safety
13. Transportation Services

By aligning with these priority pathways, 'Oihana will offer students valuable insights into essential industries, preparing them for future careers that meet both personal and community needs. This expansion will continue to promote equity and access, ensuring that all students have the tools and resources necessary to explore and succeed in their chosen fields.



## Impact For Students

- **Promotes Equity and Access:** The courses ensure that all students, regardless of geographic or socioeconomic backgrounds, have equal opportunities to explore various careers.
- **Expands Career Perspectives:** By offering a wide range of career paths, the courses broaden students' understanding and awareness of potential future professions.
- **Strengthens Local Connections:** The courses help students connect with local culture and the economy, fostering a sense of belonging and relevance in their career exploration.
- **Equips for Future Success:** Students gain essential skills and knowledge needed to thrive in their chosen careers, preparing them for successful futures.

## The 'Oihana Way

- **Local Focus:** The professionals featured in each course are from Hawai'i, providing students with relatable and reliable role models who understand the unique cultural and economic landscape of the islands. This local connection enhances the relevance and impact of the courses.
  - **Engaging Content:** Our courses are crafted with engaging, rich video and interactive elements designed to captivate students' attention and facilitate deeper learning. This dynamic format ensures that students are not only informed but also inspired by the content.
  - **Asynchronous Learning:** The courses are delivered in an asynchronous format, allowing students the flexibility to engage with the material on their own schedule. This approach caters to diverse learning styles and paces, making it accessible to all students regardless of their commitments.
  - **Extensive Offerings:** By the summer of 2026, 'Oihana aims to offer a library of 80 courses covering 80 different professions. This extensive range ensures that students can explore a wide variety of career paths, equipping them with the knowledge to make informed decisions about their futures.
-

**Invitation to Hawai'i Schools to Participate**

We cordially invite your school to join us in this groundbreaking journey. Integrating the 'Oihana Career Exploration Courses into your curriculum will provide your students with invaluable insights into their potential futures and reinforce the connection between their education and their aspirations.

For more information and to explore partnership opportunities, please visit our website or contact us directly:

Website: <http://risehi.com>

Email: [gabe@risehi.com](mailto:gabe@risehi.com)

Phone: 808-227-0299

RiseHI Foundation  
111 Hekili Street, # 102  
Kailua, HI 96734  
EIN: 82-2170434  
(808) 227-0299

### III. SERVICE SUMMARY AND OUTCOMES

#### 1. Service Summary

RiseHI seeks to advance educational equity and inspire Hawai'i's youth through two very successful flagship curriculum initiatives: (1) the 'Oihana Career Exploration Courses and (2) the Make IT Happen program. With the support of this Grant-in-Aid, RiseHI will implement a transformative learning experience designed to empower middle and high school students by exposing them to diverse career pathways and fostering essential life skills.

**The 'Oihana Career Exploration Courses** aim to connect students in grades 7-12 to local industries and role models through interactive, online courses. Each course offers an immersive exploration of professions vital to Hawai'i's economy, such as construction management, healthcare, and entrepreneurship. By providing a platform that bridges the gap between classroom education and real-world application, we aim to inspire students to envision and pursue meaningful careers in their communities. The project includes the development and dissemination of nine career pathway courses in the first year, with a goal to expand to 80 courses by 2026, covering the Hawai'i Department of Education's 13 CTE pathways.

**The Make IT Happen Curriculum** complements this effort by integrating social-emotional learning and personal development into middle school advisory classes. Featuring eight modules, including "Visualize Your Future" and "Perseverance to See It Through," this program equips students with critical skills such as goal setting, resilience, and creative problem-solving. Anchored in the stories of kama'āina changemakers, it inspires students to embrace their cultural identity and take actionable steps toward their aspirations.

#### 2. Outcomes & Measures of Effectiveness:

- Increased student awareness of local career opportunities and pathways.
- Strengthened life skills and social-emotional competencies, as evidenced by pre- and post-program surveys.
- Enhanced alignment between educational content and Hawai'i's economic needs, demonstrated by student participation and feedback metrics.

Together, these initiatives will foster a generation of confident, culturally grounded, and community-minded individuals prepared to lead Hawai'i into a brighter future.

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## State of Hawaii Grant in Aid Application 2025-2026

### **Planned Annual Timeline** **October 2025 - September 2026**

#### **October 2025**

- Finalize funding allocation and confirm project milestones.
- Initiate pre-production planning for five new 'Oihana Career Exploration courses, including recruitment of featured professionals and content outlines.
- Begin outreach to schools to assess workbook needs for the Make IT Happen curriculum.

#### **November 2025**

- Develop scripts and secure filming locations for the new 'Oihana courses.
- Procure and distribute an initial batch of Make IT Happen workbooks to priority schools.
- Begin onboarding and training the Program Coordinator to oversee implementation.

#### **December 2025**

- Conduct filming and interviews for the first two 'Oihana courses.
- Continue outreach to additional schools to expand workbook distribution.

#### **January 2026**

- Complete post-production for the first two courses; finalize and review content.
- Distribute a second batch of Make IT Happen workbooks.
- Program Coordinator begins scheduling workshops and check-ins with participating schools.

#### **February 2026**

- Film and produce the remaining three 'Oihana courses.
- Monitor the impact of workbook usage and gather initial feedback from educators and students.

#### **March 2026**

- Begin post-production for the remaining three courses.
  - Compile feedback on workbook implementation to inform future iterations.
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- Organize mid-year program progress meetings to review milestones and address challenges.

#### **April 2026**

- Launch the first two new 'Oihana courses and make them available to participating schools.
- Coordinate with schools to integrate the courses into their curriculum.

#### **May 2026**

- Finalize and distribute the remaining three 'Oihana courses to schools.
- Program Coordinator works with educators to facilitate course integration and engagement.

#### **June 2026**

- Begin gathering feedback from students and educators on the impact of both the 'Oihana courses and Make IT Happen workbooks.
- Conduct community outreach to promote the availability of the new courses.

#### **July 2026**

- Organize professional development sessions for teachers on effectively utilizing the new resources.
- Conduct internal review and data analysis to assess program progress and success.

#### **August 2026**

- Complete final round of workbook distribution for the upcoming school year.
- Begin planning for the next phase of curriculum expansion.

#### **September 2026**

- Submit a comprehensive program report summarizing outcomes, challenges, and successes.
  - Use findings to refine strategies for future course production and workbook distribution.
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IV. FINANCIAL

(1) Budget Documents IV. 1 a-e SEE ATTACHED.

(2) Requested Funding Distribution

Quarter 1: \$45,000

Quarter 2: \$25,000

Quarter 3: \$14,000

Quarter 4: \$14,000

Total Request \$98,000

(3) Other Funding:

Application submitted to Hawaii Native Corporation for \$125,000

Currently awaiting funding decision.

(4) Tax Credits – list of state or federal tax credits granted to RiseHI Foundation: Zero

(5) Balance of Unrestricted Assets as of December 31, 2024: \$30,318.70

(6) Other Federal, State or County Grants received over past three years:

RiseHI Foundation has received no federal, state or county grants over the past three (3) years.


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BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Appli

RiseHI Foundation

BUDGET CATEGORIES	Total State Funds Requested (a)	Total Federal Funds Requested (b)	Total County Funds Requested (c)
A. PERSONNEL COST			
1. Salaries	20,000	0	0
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments		0	0
3. Fringe Benefits		0	0
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	20,000	0	0
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. Student Workbooks	30,500	0	
10.'Oihana Career Explorations Course Production	47,500	0	
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	78,000	0	
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	0	0	
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES	0	0	
E. CAPITAL	0	0	
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	98,000	0	0
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:	
(a) Total State Funds Requested	98,000	Gabe Amey, Executive Director	
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested	0	Name (Please type or print)	
(c) Total County Funds Requested	0	 1/15/2025	
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	0	Signature of Authorized Official	
TOTAL BUDGET	98,000	Gabe Amey, Executive Director	
		Name and Title (Please type or print)	

## Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

POSITION TITLE		FULL TIME EQUIVAL ENT	ANNUAL SALARY A	% OF TIME ALLOCATED TO GRANT REQUEST	TOTAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED (A x B)
Executive Director			\$30,000.00	0.00%	\$ -
Program Coordinator			\$48,000.00	42%	\$ 20,000.00
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
<b>TOTAL:</b>					20,000.00
Executive Director is volunteering his time until additional (non-State) funding is available to cover his salary.					

**BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES**

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

RISEHI FOUNDATION

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

DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	NO. OF VEHICLES	COST PER VEHICLE	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:				
No Equipment or Motor Vehicles will be purchased for with State GIA monies.				

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

RISEHI FOUNDATION

FUNDING AMOUNT REQUESTED						
TOTAL PROJECT COST	ALL SOURCES OF FUNDS RECEIVED IN PRIOR YEARS		STATE FUNDS REQUESTED	OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS REQUESTED	FUNDING REQUIRED IN SUCCEEDING YEARS	
	FY: 2023-2024	FY: 2024-2025	FY: 2025-2026	FY: 2025-2026	FY: 2026-2027	FY: 2027-2028
PLANS	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND ACQUISITION						
DESIGN						
CONSTRUCTION						
EQUIPMENT						
TOTAL:						
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:						
RISEHI Foundation Programs WILL NOT use State Grant in Aid monies for Capital Expenses.						

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

App

RISEHI FOUNDATION

Contracts Total: -

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1	RISEHI FOUNDATION CURRENTLY HAS NO				
2	GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND/OR GRANTS IN AID				
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
27					
28					
29					
30		10			Application for Grants

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### **V. Necessary Skills and Experience**

RiseHI has the expertise, experience, and community connections necessary to successfully execute this project. Our team comprises skilled educators, curriculum developers, and program coordinators with a deep understanding of Hawai'i's unique educational landscape. We specialize in creating culturally responsive, place-based curriculum that connects kama'āina stories to real-world opportunities, fostering engagement and inspiring students to envision their futures.

RiseHI's curriculum and programming have been successfully implemented in schools across Hawai'i, including:

- Kapa'a Middle School
- Niu Valley Middle School
- Kalama Intermediate
- Ilima Intermediate
- Saint Louis School
- Waimea High School
- Aiea High School
- Maui High School

These partnerships have provided valuable opportunities to refine our approach, ensuring our resources align with the unique needs of educators and students. By leveraging our proven track record in project management, curriculum development, and community engagement, RiseHI is well-positioned to produce high-quality programs and deliver impactful results for Hawai'i's keiki.

### **Facilities**

RiseHI's provides all services on site at the schools we directly work with. To date that includes the schools listed above, but we are prepared to expand quickly with the legislatures support to buy necessary learning materials for each student.

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VI. PERSONNEL: Project Organization and Staffing

(1) Staffing Pattern and Service Capacity

To ensure the success of the program funded under this grant, RiseHI will rely on a lean and effective staffing structure, consisting of the Executive Director, Gabe Amey, and a dedicated Program Coordinator.

As Executive Director, Gabe Amey brings extensive experience in nonprofit leadership, program development, and community engagement. With a proven track record of managing educational initiatives and partnerships with schools across Hawai‘i, Gabe will oversee all aspects of the program, providing strategic direction, ensuring alignment with organizational goals, and fostering relationships with stakeholders. Gabe’s expertise in managing diverse teams and initiatives ensures that this program will be delivered on time and to the highest standards.

The Program Coordinator (TBD when grant is funded) will play a critical role in the day-to-day implementation of the grant-funded programs. This individual will be responsible for coordinating the production of the five new ‘Oihana Career Exploration courses, managing the distribution of 6,100 Make IT Happen student workbooks, and serving as the primary point of contact for schools integrating the curriculum.

The coordinator will have experience in educational program management, logistics, and community outreach. They will also be skilled in supervising and training school liaisons, as well as providing ongoing administrative support to ensure program goals are met effectively.

This staffing pattern allows RiseHI to maximize efficiency and impact, leveraging the combined skills of leadership and program coordination to successfully deliver high-quality resources and meaningful educational experiences to Hawai‘i’s keiki.

(2) Organizational Chart - See Attached

(3) Compensation

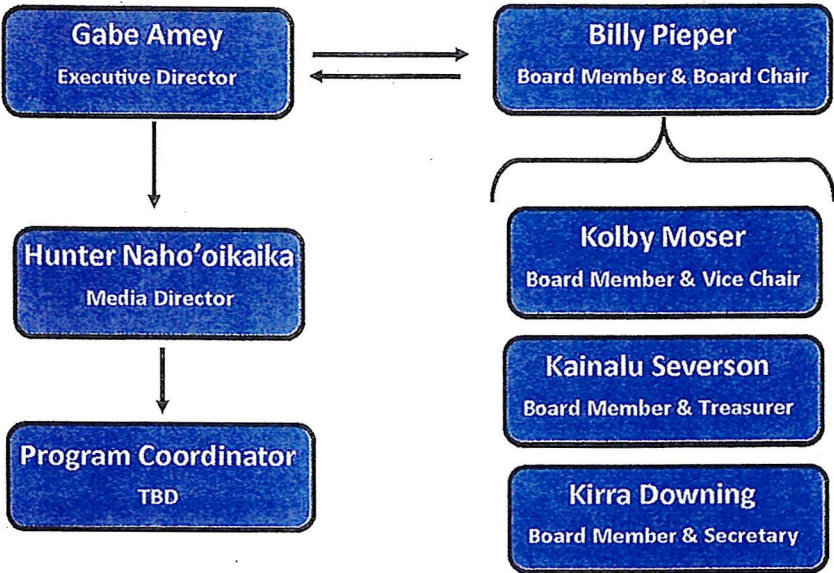
Executive Director -	\$30,000
Media Director -	\$42,000
Program Coordinator (TBD) -	\$48,000

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RiseHI Foundation  
Organizational Chart



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VII. OTHER

1. Litigation – RiseHI Foundation has never been party to any litigation or legal judgments.
2. Licensure or Accreditation - RiseHI Foundation does not provide services that require a Hawaii State professional license or accreditation.
3. Private Educational Institutions –

All services administered under this grant will be provided to children who attend Hawaii Public Schools.

4. Future Sustainability Plans -

RiseHI is prepared to expand from our current list of schools quickly. Our largest challenge has been providing the workbooks each student needs to participate. The costs are barely \$40 per student per school year. Unfortunately, the costs are not part of most schools' current budget.

*We are respectfully asking the Legislature through this grant to simply provide "seed money" for the workbooks so each child can participate. With 2,000 or more students enrolled, we can provide a true "Proof of Concept" for a thorough evaluation by the Hawaii Department of Education, and demonstrate what we have already seen – overwhelmingly positive results, excited teachers and students, and a carefully planned program that can be delivered to each of Hawaii's public school students for an annual cost that is less than providing school lunch for the same student for two weeks.*

*Thank you for considering our application.*