

## 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



J. Kukui Maunakea-Forth, Executive Director  
PRINT NAME AND TITLE

1/17/25  
DATE

THE TWENTY-LEGISLATURE  
APPLICATION FOR GRANTS  
CHAPTER 425, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

Type of Grant Request:



Operating



Capital

Legal Name of Requesting Organization or Individual: DBA:

Waianae Community Re-Development Corporation

MA'O Organic Farms

Amount of State Funds Requested: \$133,397.00

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

The requested State GIA funding will support our farm expansion efforts, enabling us to scale up the production of fresh, local, organic food for our community and the State. Specifically, this funding will be used to purchase essential farm equipment, which includes a tractor and a harvest trailer. These investments will enhance our capacity to grow and harvest high-quality, nutritious, and certified organic products, increasing the availability of fresh food for families and communities across the Waianae coast and Hawaii.

Amount of Other Funds Available:

State: \$50,000.00

Federal: \$1,750,951.00

County: \$0

Private/Other: \$250,000.00

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

\$623,339.00

Unrestricted Assets:

\$2,854,047.27

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:

PO BOX 441

City:

Waianae

State:

HI

Zip:

96792

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application

Name:

J. Kukui Maunakea-Forth

Title:

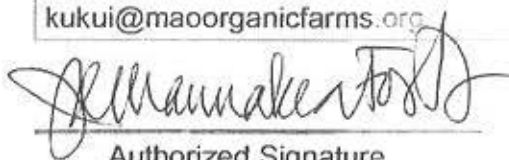
Executive Director & Program Director

Email:

kukui@maoorganicfarms.org

Phone:

(808) 696-5569



Authorized Signature

J. Kukui Maunakea-Forth

Name and Title

1/17/25

Date Signed

## Application for Grants

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

### **I. Certification – Please attach immediately after cover page**

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

Compliance Express Certificate Attached

**2. Declaration Statement**

Declaration Statement Attached

**3. Public Purpose**

The requested State GIA funding will be used for a public purpose under Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as detailed in Section II (3). This funding will directly support MA'O Mā'ona's farm expansion efforts, enabling us to significantly increase the production of fresh, local, organic food for our community and the State of Hawai'i. Specifically, the funding will be allocated to purchasing essential farm equipment: a tractor and a harvest trailer. These investments will enhance our capacity to cultivate and harvest high-quality, nutritious, certified organic produce, allowing us to increase organic fresh food production by 25% within one year. This expansion will improve food availability for families and communities across the Wai'anae coast and throughout Hawai'i nei.

### **II. Background and Summary**

**A brief description of the applicant's background:**

In 2000, the Wai'anae Community Re-Development Corporation (WCRC) founded MA'O Organic Farms (MA'O), a social enterprise designed to reconnect our community's primary assets-youth, land, and rural heritage. MA'O engages youth in restoring abundance to our moku (region) through an experiential learning environment rooted in real-world work. Over the past 25 years, this culturally grounded organization has grown into one of Hawai'i's largest diversified organic farms and a nationally and internationally recognized leader in youth leadership, entrepreneurship, and workforce training.

As a modern-day embodiment of traditional Hawaiian values and practices, MA'O's mission is to connect young people to their heritage while cultivating a future of mā'ona (plenty). We achieve this mission through college-career pathways, community-based social entrepreneurship, organic farming, and the daily practice of aloha' āina (stewardship of the land that nourishes). *Ma ka hana ka 'ike*, a traditional saying that translates to: through the work comes knowledge, reflects one of the many ways we connect our staff and the youth we serve to meaningful work and shared practices.

Since its inception, MA'O has supported 1,961 Wai'anae youth. Among them, 172 have earned an Associate's Degree, 73 have completed a Bachelor's degree, and 6 have attained a Master's degree



and 1 a Doctorate. Additionally, 32 participants are currently pursuing higher education. These graduates enter the workforce equipped with the knowledge and skills to advance Hawai'i's diverse community-based economy, with a particular focus on sustainable food systems.

The organic produce grown by MA'O's youth mahi'ai (farmers) directly contributes to the health and resilience of the Wai'anae and O'ahu communities. Interns immerse themselves in an environment where fresh, locally grown produce is grown, harvested, and shared, encouraging healthier dietary habits. Many Interns bring surplus harvests home, improving their families' well-being. Preliminary results from a study conducted by researchers at UH John A Burns School of Medicine and UH Economic Research Organization affirm that within a year on the farm, over 60% of MA'O interns reduced their lifetime chance of contracting Type 2 diabetes.

From its humble beginnings on a 5-acre leased plot in 2001, MA'O has expanded its operations to 281 acres as of 2019. Most recently, in 2024, MA'O acquired an additional 249 acres of land in Mākaha, West O'ahu, further enhancing its capacity to grow food and empower youth. In 2024 alone, MA'O produced approximately 164 tons of fresh organic fruits and vegetables, supplying local markets, grocers, institutions, food hubs, and restaurants across O'ahu. The farm grows more than 50 varieties of fruits and vegetables, including salad greens, root crops, cooking greens, herbs, seasonal tropical fruits, and a growing number of tree crops such as avocados, mangoes, 'ulu, and citrus. This diversified production is vital in strengthening food security for our community and Hawai'i nei.

**The goals and objectives related to the request:**

The requested State GIA funding will support the expansion of the WCRC-MA'O Mā'ona strategic plan, specifically through the MA'O Mā'ona Expansion initiative. This initiative focuses on increasing farm operations and production to enhance food security and resilience across Hawai'i.

**Goal:** Purchase essential farm equipment to further mechanize harvest operations with a tractor and harvest trailer.

**Objectives:**

- Increase organic fresh local produce by 25% within a year of implementing equipment to operations.
- Expand distribution of fresh local organic produce to local markets, schools, and community organizations.
- Foster workforce development and create employment opportunities focused on harvest efficiency and farm management.

**The public purpose and need to be served**

This farm expansion initiative enables MA'O to maximize community benefits through increased agricultural production, workforce development, and environmental stewardship. Hawai'i currently relies on imported food for an estimated 85–90% of its supply, leaving the state vulnerable to global supply chain disruptions. This initiative reduces our dependency on imported food and fosters sustainable, climate-smart agricultural practices, strengthening Hawai'i's food security and self-sufficiency.

The project serves a public purpose in three primary areas:

1. **Food Security and Resiliency:** Expanding local organic food production to reduce Hawai'i's reliance on imports and build a more resilient food system.
2. **Workforce Development and Cultural Revitalization:** Creating employment opportunities, cultivating a skilled workforce, and integrating Native Hawaiian practices into agricultural education.
3. **Sustainable Harvesting Practices:** Improving harvest efficiency through mechanization and training, ensuring a productive, scalable operation that meets increasing demand.

### **Food Security and Resiliency**

The impacts of climate change, global conflicts, and supply disruptions from COVID-19 have highlighted Hawai'i's urgent need to address food security. Hawai'i imports at least 85% of its food, underscoring the importance of increasing local farming and food production as a sustainable and thriving industry.

Currently, MA'O produces 6,300 pounds of organic produce weekly, with plans to increase this to 22,250 pounds over the next five years. This growth is possible with the layering of major assets to our organization:

- 2019 - Purchase of additional 257 acres of land.
- 2019 - 2026 - Ongoing land improvements to include: removing invasive species and debris; creating farm roadways, designing and installing berms to manage rainwater runoff, plotting row crop fields, installing 2 inch irrigation systems and planting trees for both fruit production and windbreaks.
- 2025 - 7,500 sq ft Post Harvest Food Processing Facility with automated washing equipment, 2,300 sq ft in chiller space and water recycling system.
- Increase and investment into our staffing.
- Investment in mechanizing our organic production processes to allow for an increase in throughput.

Approximately 20% of this volume directly serves vendors, grocers, and families on the Wai'anae Coast, contributing significantly to community food security. At full capacity, MA'O has the potential to generate an estimated \$10 million annually in organic produce sales, helping to bridge the \$106 million unrealized market opportunity for locally grown vegetables.

This expansion is a critical step toward strengthening Hawai'i's food system, reducing reliance on imports, and ensuring access to organic food for communities in need.

### **Workforce Development and Cultural Revitalization**

Academic success is vital to career growth, but equipping young people with leadership and workforce readiness skills is equally important. MA'O's farm expansion creates opportunities for hands-on training



in organic farm management, including skills like land preparation and the use of specialized equipment.

Graduates of MA'O programs emerge as skilled leaders, equipped with practical experience in climate-smart agriculture and essential life skills. They break cycles of generational poverty, uplift their families, and strengthen their communities. MA'O bridges the gap between economic opportunity and cultural revitalization by fostering leadership and grounding youth in cultural practices.

By expanding organic farming practices and building the capacity of young leaders, MA'O creates long-term environmental benefits while fostering a resilient and empowered community. This holistic approach ensures the initiative will sustain its impact for future generations.

**Describe the target population to be served; and**

MA'O is embedded in and primarily serves the Wai'anae community, one of the poorest and most food-insecure regions of Hawai'i. Much of the community struggles with the impacts of intergenerational poverty, including preventable diseases, homelessness, and hunger. The region's socio-economic disparities, compared to the State, disproportionately impact native Hawaiians, who comprise 58% of the community, compared to 21% of the State's population.

The region's poverty is deeply tied to low educational attainment and low income. With 16% of the region's adult population lacking a high school diploma (compared to 11% statewide) and 88% lacking a Bachelor's degree (compared to 69% statewide), well-paying jobs are out of reach for the majority. Wai'anae's per capita income is \$17,800, compared to the State's \$29,500. Coupled with an unemployment rate that is three times that of the State, these low wages push a quarter of the community to live under the 100% federal poverty level, more than double the statewide poverty rate of 11%. Over half of Wai'anae households with children receive public assistance, compared to a quarter statewide.

Research shows a clear correlation between educational attainment and increased income levels. An individual in Wai'anae without a high school diploma earns an average annual salary of \$21,731, which rises to \$29,182 with a high school diploma and \$40,179 with a Bachelor's degree. Therefore, interventions that promote college enrollment, retention, and attainment are critical to building community wealth on the Leeward Coast.

The inverse of Wai'anae's deficits is a tremendous opportunity: to empower and educate Wai'anae youth to lead the community to a healthy and prosperous future by creating a culturally rooted sustainable food system. Over the past 24 years, MA'O has developed innovative strategies to do just this, growing young leaders within the cultural and socioeconomic context of the Wai'anae community, and contributing to holistic health and well-being.

**Describe the geographic coverage.**

WCRC and MA'O Organic Farm operate in Lualualei Valley, Wai'anae, O'ahu, within the City & County of Honolulu, State of Hawai'i. The majority of our youth participants come from the Wai'anae moku, which includes Nānākuli, Mā'ili, Wai'anae, Mākaha, and Kapolei. The region's population is 47,260, with

39% of residents under 24. Wai'anae has the highest concentrations of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the State, with 41% of residents in the Census Designated Places (CDPs) identifying as such, compared to 10% statewide. Native Hawaiians are particularly concentrated in Homesteads in Nānākuli, Mā'ili, and Wai'anae.

The region struggles with significant socio-economic challenges, with a per capita income of \$21,300, compared to \$35,600 statewide. Food insecurity rates exceed 30% in Wai'anae, much higher than the statewide average of 20.5% among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Youth in Wai'anae experience "at-risk" socio-economic behaviors, such as high rates of school absenteeism and teenage onset of diabetes, exacerbating the community's challenges. For those over 25 years old, only 13% of Wai'anae residents possess a Bachelor's degree, compared to 33% statewide. MA'O focuses on serving Native Hawaiian youth in this context, addressing the educational and employment disparities that affect their long-term well-being.

In addition to our primary focus on Wai'anae, MA'O also serves the broader O'ahu community by providing fresh, organic produce at various outlets, including Kaka'ako, Pearlridge, and Wai'anae farmer's markets. Our co-producers, such as Foodland, Whole Foods Market, and Down to Earth, support purchasing local organic food from us. These markets span from Wai'anae to Kapolei, Pearl City, metro Honolulu, Aiea, and Kailua, reaching nearly two dozen restaurants across O'ahu that incorporate our produce into their menus.

### **III. Service Summary and Outcomes**

#### **MA'O Expansion Initiative**

The initiative enhances Hawai'i's food security through education and workforce development rooted in sustainability and community well-being. It benefits the public by increasing access to local organic food, providing leadership training, and promoting environmental stewardship.

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

This project aims to mechanize harvest operations to improve efficiency and increase production throughput. In 2024, the organization successfully integrated an identical unit into operations, resulting in significant efficiency improvements. Harvest teams now operate more effectively, completing tasks at a faster rate. With the addition of new acres of land now in production, acquiring a second unit has become critical to sustaining and expanding operational capacity.

#### **Tasks & Responsibilities**

##### **1. Procure Equipment**

Purchase and secure hauling and shipping services for the new harvest unit.

Responsibility: Director of Farm Operations & CFO



2. Onboard and Training

Train new staff and Interns on safe operation and proper use of harvest equipment.

Responsibility: Director of Farm Operations, Harvest Manager, & Production Manager

3. Track Harvest Progress

Monitor and document harvest efficiency metrics (e.g., pounds harvested per hour)

Responsibility: Harvest Manager

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

**Projected Annual Timeline**

To support the project's success and expanded production goals, land improvement work will continue throughout the project period. Additionally, the organization will focus on hiring additional staff, and recruiting interns to ensure adequate support and participation in training programs

**January - March 2025: Facility Transition & Planning**

- Transition operations into the new facility
- Finalize equipment specifications and secure vendor agreements
- Arrange shipping logistics for the equipment

**April - June 2025: Equipment Acquisition & Setup**

- Receive and inspect equipment
- Conduct setup, field testing, and safe operation and maintenance of the equipment
- Facilitate hands-on training sessions in the field under direct supervision

**July - September 2025: Training and Onboarding**

- Train staff and interns on safe operation and maintenance of equipment
- Facilitate hands-on training workshops in the field

**October - December 2025: Full Integration and Monitoring**

- Integrate equipment into daily harvest operations
- Begin tracking harvest progress and efficiency metrics (e.g., pounds harvested)
- Assess and report on operational impact and efficiency improvements

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

Farm enterprise management conducts weekly meetings to review progress and address needs (maintenance, tools, training, etc.). Farm staff, including farm apprentices, attend these weekly meetings to share their insights, request assistance as needed, and provide feedback on farm operations and their work/educational experience. Management integrates this input to continuously improve farm operations and on-farm training. Weekly and quarterly review of farm sales ensure regular assessment of business performance.



**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.**

Project effectiveness will be assessed through key milestones and objectives, as outlined in Section III (2), and will be reported accordingly:

- Within 1 month of grant contract - place harvest trailer and tractor order with vendors.
- By the end of the 2nd Quarter - Train 10 additional staff and 40 interns on how to leverage harvest equipment to increase efficiency.
- 3rd - 4th quarter/ongoing - Harvest manager to collect harvest data to track effectiveness of equipment. Achieve 25% increase in pounds of produce harvested per harvest hour.

#### **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 - [attached](#)
  - b. Personnel salaries and wages - Not applicable
  - c. Equipment and motor vehicles - [attached](#)
  - d. Capital project details - Not applicable
  - e. Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid - Not applicable

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
\$150,000	0	0	0	\$150,000

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

- Sullivan Family Foundation, \$250,000
- USDA Organic Market Development Grant, 2024 - 2026 - \$250,951
- DOD Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Challenge 2025 - 2026, \$1,500,000

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.**

- DHHS - Administration for Native Americans (ANA) 2021-2023 \$1,112,277
- USDA Natural Resource and Conservation Service 2022 - 2024 \$693K
- Kaulunani Grant 2023 - 2024 - \$48,339
- USDA Natural Resource and Conservation Service 2024 - 2025 \$697K
- USDA Organic Market Development Grant, 2024 - 2026 - \$1.6M
- State GIA FY24 \$50,000 - land clearing
- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, America the Beautiful 2025 - 2027, \$1,499,365.91
- DOD Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Challenge 2025 - 2026, \$1,500,000

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

Unrestricted Current Assets as of 12/31/24: \$2,854,047.27 (unaudited)

## **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.

MA'O's capacity is grounded in our deep experience in educational program design and implementation, our organic farming expertise, and our partnerships with key allies. Over the course of our 24 year history, we have successfully navigated several earlier chapters of substantial expansion, during which we have grown educational programming and improved intern retention rates, while using additional acreage to scale up organic food production.

WCRC and MA'O Organic Farms can demonstrate years of verifiable experience in the performance of the specific work, activities and tasks related to this project in the areas of youth leadership development, agricultural and farm enterprise training, program & organizational capacity building.

As mentioned previously, to date MA'O has served 1,961 Wai'anae youth through the YLT internship and High School programs; of these participants, 172 have graduated with an Associate's Degree, 73 have secured a Bachelor's degree, 6 have received his/her Master's degree, and 1 a Doctorate. Additionally, 32 Interns/Staff are currently pursuing and working towards their higher educational goals. This success is grounded in the unique strategies to engage, retain, and graduate interns that successfully counter the structural impediments facing Wai'anae youth. The organization's approach includes acculturating students to college attainment and lifelong learning by maximizing peer-to-peer



engagement, balancing providing support with giving kuleana (farm work that requires responsibility), empowering youth to generate action-oriented goals, and providing individualized mentorship.

Successful youth recruitment, matriculation and graduation also requires close coordination with community and educational partners. To this end, we have built and maintained strong relationships with the area's public, private and charter high schools, Leeward Community College, and the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu.

MA'O also has a strong track record as a production-oriented organic farm. MA'O is the largest certified organic diversified farm on O'ahu, and has served as a source of expertise and inspiration for organic farmers throughout the state and beyond, as well as the site of numerous training and research projects conducted by University of Hawai'i. In 2024, MA'O produced 163 tons of fresh organic fruits and vegetables per year at area markets, as well as grocers, institutions, food hubs and restaurants island-wide.

## **2. Facilities**

In 2001, MA'O began its farm operations and educational programming on five leased acres with minimal infrastructure. Over time, the organization has grown significantly:

- 2008: Purchased an 11-acre property adjacent to the original farm.
- 2011: Acquired an additional 8 acres, bringing the Puhawai campus to a total of 24 acres.

The Puhawai campus now includes:

- Repurposed farm structures: Three 7,500-square-foot steel truss buildings have been adapted to serve as offices, classrooms/meeting spaces, kitchen/break areas, and facilities for equipment storage and maintenance.
- Modular office trailer: Provides additional office space, with Wi-Fi connectivity enabling farm management and online training.
- Post-harvest processing and training facility: Completed in 2021, this 11,500-square-foot facility processes over 10,000 pounds of certified organic fruits and vegetables weekly.

In 2019, MA'O expanded further, acquiring a 257-acre property approximately 5 miles from the Puhawai campus, known as "Palikea." Since then, MA'O has:

- Activated 40 acres of the land for row crop and agroforestry production.
- Constructed two shade cloth nurseries to support seedling cultivation.

Most recently, in 2024, MA'O was gifted nearly 250 acres of land in Mākaha, West O'ahu. This extraordinary opportunity allows MA'O to transition the land into productive agricultural use, fostering community benefit and furthering its mission to support food sovereignty and sustainable farming.

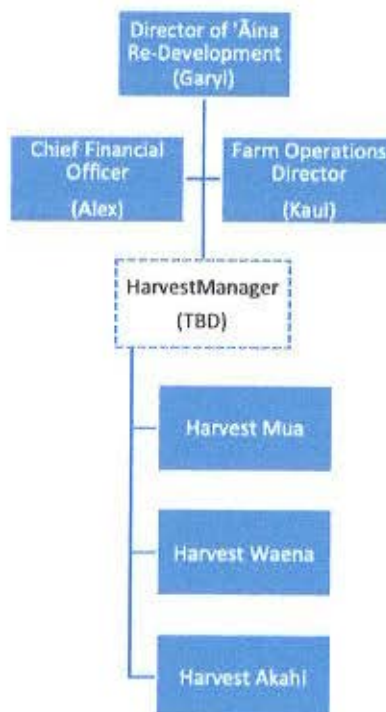
## **VI. Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing**

### **Proposed Staffing, Staff Qualifications, Supervision and Training**

The project team is composed of experienced professionals with diverse expertise to ensure successful implementation and alignment with organizational goals. As previously described, MA'O has successfully navigated several periods of significant scaling in farming operations and educational programming. The organization's seasoned co-founders, J. Kukui Maunakea-Forth, Executive & Programs Director, and Gary Maunakea-Forth, are prepared to lead a strong staff through this next chapter of expansion, including the work organized under this capital improvement project.

- **Gary Maunakea-Forth, Director of 'Āina Re-Development:** Oversees the processes of bringing 'āina back into agricultural production. Responsible for staffing the project team, ensuring team members meet the required qualifications, and providing overall supervision and training to ensure the project's success and alignment with organizational goals.
- **Alexandra Kazlauskys, CFO:** Oversees the financial management of the project, ensures fiscal compliance, and provides financial training and support to the project team.
- **Cheryse Sana, Farm Operations Director:** Oversees the Mahi'ai (farmers) who will serve as mentors, trainers, and supervisors for our workforce and participants in planning and operational training, and ensures alignment with farm-based programming.
- **TBD, Harvest Manager:** Organizes and manages all aspects of the harvest operations.

## 2. Organization Chart





### **3. Compensation**

The Executive Director, Farm Operations Director, & Chief Financial Officer are paid between \$100,000 and \$130,000 annually.

## **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 nonsectarian 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
- (b) Not received by the applicant thereafter.

The GIA grant period and project fall in years 7-8 of MA'O's ten-year strategic plan (2018-2027), which encompasses the expansion and scaling of our farming operations. The plan builds on the organization's 24 year history of robust operations and successful incremental expansion of acreage cultivated and youth served. It reflects our core strengths: a proven theory of change, experienced and dedicated staff, committed co-producers (customers), and mutually-enriching partnerships with community institutions.

We are confident of our ability to persist in this work. As a social enterprise, our operating budget includes both earned revenue and funds from philanthropic and civic partners. We have a history of successful fundraising, with over \$44 million secured in the past 24 years. Meanwhile, the percentage of MA'O's operating budget contributed by earned revenue has grown steadily from 20% in 2008 to 36% in 2023, driven by the farm's expansion.

Growth of MA'O's earned revenue and farm sales requires strong partnerships with our co-producers. To this end, we are in constant dialogue with our grocery partners at Foodland, Whole Foods Market and Down To Earth, and with our key restaurant partners. Sales projections, planting schedules and crop selection are all developed in communication with our co-producers, ensuring that production and market demand are aligned. Demand continues to far outstrip local supply, and all indicators suggest that MA'O will continue to enjoy a strong market demand and associated revenue growth.

Ultimately, MA'O's success depends on the youth at the core of both the farm and educational aspects of the program. Our core capacity is therefore that of the staff to motivate, support and push the youth to succeed on the farm and in their studies. As described previously, key staff have the necessary expertise and experience, and a proven record of success. Several key staff members are 25-40 years of age, allaying concerns regarding the organization's future viability and succession planning.



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

The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies the following:

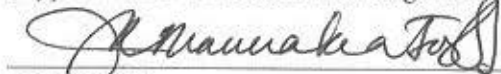
- 1) The applicant meets and will comply with all of the following standards for the award of grants pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes:
  - a) Is licensed or accredited, in accordance with federal, state, or county statutes, rules, or ordinances, to conduct the activities or provide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

**Wai'anae Community Re-Development Corp. DBA MA'O Organic Farms**

(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)



(Signature)

1/17/2024

(Date)

J. Kukui Maunakea-Forth

Executive Director

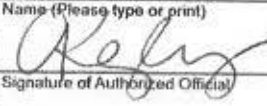
(Typed Name)

(Title)

# BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Applicant: Wai'anae Community Re-Development Corporation

BUDGET CATEGORIES	Total State Funds Requested (a)	Total Federal Funds Requested (b)	Total County Funds Requested (c)	Total Private/Other Funds Requested (d)
<b>A. PERSONNEL COST</b>				
1. Salaries				
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments				
3. Fringe Benefits				
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL COST</b>				
<b>B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES</b>				
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. Indirect 10% De Minimis	12,127			
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
<b>TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES</b>	12,127			
<b>C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES</b>	121,270	1,750,951	0	250,000
<b>D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES</b>				
<b>E. CAPITAL</b>				
<b>TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)</b>	133,397	1,750,951	0	250,000
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDING</b>		Budget Prepared By: Alexandra Kazlauskis 808-354-4373 Name (Please type or print) Phone  Signature of Authorized Official Date 1/17/2025 Alexandra Kazlauskis, CFO Name and Title (Please type or print)		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	133,397			
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested	1,750,951			
(c) Total County Funds Requested	0			
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	250,000			
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>2,134,348</b>			



## BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Applicant: Waianae Community Re-Development Corporation

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
Harvest Pro - 18ft ProVeyor Wagon EX17 with the HarvestPro 30ft Conveyor	1.00	\$16,200.00	\$ 16,200.00	\$ 23,061.50
John Deere 5095M Tractor	1	\$75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 98,210.70
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:	2		\$ 91,200.00	\$ 121,272.20

## JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

Harvest Pro Wagon + Conveyor - Unit cost is \$16,200. Total Budget includes \$5,000 hauling and shipping from Pennsylvania + \$763.34 GET (4.0712%) + \$1,098 Contingency (5%).

John Deere 5095M Tractor - Unit cost estimate is \$75,000. Total Budget includes \$15,000 hauling and shipping from continental US + \$3,534 GET (4.0712%) + \$4,676.70 contingency (5%).

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

## JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:



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:** WAI'ANAE COMMUNITY RE-DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**DBA/Trade Name:** WAI'ANAE COMMUNITY RE-DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**Issue Date:** 01/10/2025

**Status:** **Compliant**

Hawaii Tax#: 40484254-01

New Hawaii Tax#:

FEIN/SSN#: XX-XXX0803

UI#: XXXXXX3675

DCCA FILE#: 119748

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



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

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **APR 29 2005**

WAI-ANAE COMMUNITY RE-DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION  
PO BOX 441  
WAIANAE, HI 96792-0000

Employer Identification Number:  
99-0350803

DLN:  
17053078767025

Contact Person:  
DAN W BERRY

ID# 31122

Contact Telephone Number:  
(877) 829-5500

Public Charity Status:  
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Dear Applicant:

Our letter dated FEBRUARY 2001, stated you would be exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and you would be treated as a public charity, rather than as a private foundation, during an advance ruling period.

Based on the information you submitted, you are classified as a public charity under the Code section listed in the heading of this letter. Since your exempt status was not under consideration, you continue to be classified as an organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

Publication 557, Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization, provides detailed information about your rights and responsibilities as an exempt organization. You may request a copy by calling the toll-free number for forms, (800) 829-3676. Information is also available on our Internet Web Site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

If you have general questions about exempt organizations, please call our toll-free number shown in the heading between 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Eastern time.

Please keep this letter in your permanent records.

Sincerely yours,



Lois G. Lerner  
Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 2509  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date:

Employer Identification Number:  
99-0350803

DLN:

17053272040040

Contact Person:

SHAWNTEL R MCGUIRE

ID# 31456

Contact Telephone Number:

(877) 829-5500

WAI-ANAE COMMUNITY RE-DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION  
C/O GARY FORTH  
95-751 KAUPUNI PL.  
WAIANAE, HI 96792

Accounting Period Ending:

December 31

Foundation Status Classification:

509(a)(1)

Advance Ruling Period Begins:

August 24, 2000

Advance Ruling Period Ends:

December 31, 2004

Addendum Applies:

No

Dear Applicant:

Based on information you supplied, and assuming your operations will be as stated in your application for recognition of exemption, we have determined you are exempt from federal income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3).

Because you are a newly created organization, we are not now making a final determination of your foundation status under section 509(a) of the Code. However, we have determined that you can reasonably expect to be a publicly supported organization described in sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Accordingly, during an advance ruling period you will be treated as a publicly supported organization, and not as a private foundation. This advance ruling period begins and ends on the dates shown above.

Within 90 days after the end of your advance ruling period, you must send us the information needed to determine whether you have met the requirements of the applicable support test during the advance ruling period. If you establish that you have been a publicly supported organization, we will classify you as a section 509(a)(1) or 509(a)(2) organization as long as you continue to meet the requirements of the applicable support test. If you do not meet the public support requirements during the advance ruling period, we will classify you as a private foundation for future periods. Also, if we classify you as a private foundation, we will treat you as a private foundation from your beginning date for purposes of section 507(d) and 4940.

Grantors and contributors may rely on our determination that you are not a private foundation until 90 days after the end of your advance ruling period. If you send us the required information within the 90 days, grantors and

Letter 1045 (DO/CG)



## WAI-ANAE COMMUNITY RE-DEVELOPMENT

contributors may continue to rely on the advance determination until we make a final determination of your foundation status.

If we publish a notice in the Internal Revenue Bulletin stating that we will no longer treat you as a publicly supported organization, grantors and contributors may not rely on this determination after the date we publish the notice. In addition, if you lose your status as a publicly supported organization, and a grantor or contributor was responsible for, or was aware of, the act or failure to act, that resulted in your loss of such status, that person may not rely on this determination from the date of the act or failure to act. Also, if a grantor or contributor learned that we had given notice that you would be removed from classification as a publicly supported organization, then that person may not rely on this determination as of the date he or she acquired such knowledge.

If you change your sources of support, your purposes, character, or method of operation, please let us know so we can consider the effect of the change on your exempt status and foundation status. If you amend your organizational document or bylaws, please send us a copy of the amended document or bylaws. Also, let us know all changes in your name or address.

As of January 1, 1984, you are liable for social security taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act on amounts of \$100 or more you pay to each of your employees during a calendar year. You are not liable for the tax imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Organizations that are not private foundations are not subject to the private foundation excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Internal Revenue Code. However, you are not automatically exempt from other federal excise taxes. If you have any questions about excise, employment, or other federal taxes, please let us know.

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

Donors may deduct contributions to you only to the extent that their contributions are gifts, with no consideration received. Ticket purchases and similar payments in conjunction with fundraising events may not necessarily qualify as deductible contributions, depending on the circumstances. Revenue Ruling 67-246, published in Cumulative Bulletin 1967-2, on page 104, gives guidelines regarding when taxpayers may deduct payments for admission to, or other participation in, fundraising activities for charity.

You are not required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax, if your gross receipts each year are normally \$25,000 or less. If you receive a Form 990 package in the mail, simply attach the label provided, check the box in the heading to indicate that your annual gross receipts are

WAJ-ANAE COMMUNITY RE-DEVELOPMENT

period, you should file Form 990 for each year in your advance ruling period that you exceed the \$25,000 filing threshold even if your sources of support do not satisfy the public support test specified in the heading of this letter.

If a return is required, it must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your annual accounting period. A penalty of \$20 a day is charged when a return is filed late, unless there is reasonable cause for the delay. However, the maximum penalty charged cannot exceed \$10,000 or 5 percent of your gross receipts for the year, whichever is less. For organizations with gross receipts exceeding \$1,000,000 in any year, the penalty is \$100 per day per return, unless there is reasonable cause for the delay. The maximum penalty for an organization with gross receipts exceeding \$1,000,000 shall not exceed \$50,000. This penalty may also be charged if a return is not complete. So, please be sure your return is complete before you file it.

You are not required to file federal income tax returns unless you are subject to the tax on unrelated business income under section 511 of the Code. If you are subject to this tax, you must file an income tax return on Form 990-T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return. In this letter we are not determining whether any of your present or proposed activities are unrelated trade or business as defined in section 513 of the Code.

You are required to make your annual information return, Form 990 or Form 990-EZ, available for public inspection for three years after the later of the due date of the return or the date the return is filed. You are also required to make available for public inspection your exemption application, any supporting documents, and your exemption letter. Copies of these documents are also required to be provided to any individual upon written or in person request without charge other than reasonable fees for copying and postage. You may fulfill this requirement by placing these documents on the Internet. Penalties may be imposed for failure to comply with these requirements. Additional information is available in Publication 557, Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization, or you may call our toll free number shown above.

You need an employer identification number even if you have no employees. If an employer identification number was not entered on your application, we will assign a number to you and advise you of it. Please use that number on all returns you file and in all correspondence with the Internal Revenue Service.

If we said in the heading of this letter that an addendum applies, the addendum enclosed is an integral part of this letter.

Because this letter could help us resolve any questions about your exempt status and foundation status, you should keep it in your permanent records.



WAI-ANAE COMMUNITY RE-DEVELOPMENT

If you have any questions, please contact the person whose name and telephone number are shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Steven T. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Steven T. Miller  
Director, Exempt Organizations

Enclosure(s):  
Form 872-C

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **APR 29 2005**

WAI-ANAE COMMUNITY RE-DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION  
PO BOX 441  
WAIANAE, HI 96792-0000

Employer Identification Number:  
99-0350803

DLN:

17053078767025

Contact Person:

DAN W BERRY

ID# 31122

Contact Telephone Number:

(877) 829-5500

Public Charity Status:

170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Dear Applicant:

Our letter dated FEBRUARY 2001, stated you would be exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and you would be treated as a public charity, rather than as a private foundation, during an advance ruling period.

Based on the information you submitted, you are classified as a public charity under the Code section listed in the heading of this letter. Since your exempt status was not under consideration, you continue to be classified as an organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

Publication 557, Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization, provides detailed information about your rights and responsibilities as an exempt organization. You may request a copy by calling the toll-free number for forms, (800) 829-3676. Information is also available on our Internet Web Site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

If you have general questions about exempt organizations, please call our toll-free number shown in the heading between 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Eastern time.

Please keep this letter in your permanent records.

Sincerely yours,



Lois G. Lerner  
Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements