

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

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

If the applicant is an organization, the applicant shall submit one (1) copy of a Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate from the Comptroller of the Department of Accounting and General Services that is dated no earlier than December 1, 2023.

PDF attached below in addendum Section 1

### **2. Declaration Statement**

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

PDF attached below in addendum Section 2

### **3. Public Purpose**

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

This grant will be used for a public purpose pursuant to Section 42F-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

## **II. Background and Summary**

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

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

In 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, "alaula" is a sacred space where the first light of day awakens, and the last light of dusk disappears. Kānaka Maoli believe this to be the portal to their maker, Akua and the 'Aumakua, residing on the other side of the portal light. The Alaula Life Foundation's (ALF) vision of Alaula is the manifestation of a sacred place where "heaven meets earth." This sacredness is reflected in ALF's priorities and mission. ALF is a Native-Hawaiian lead 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, founded in 2021, that seeks to combat the drivers of climate change by ushering in a new era of sustainability and green technology in Hawai'i's deathcare sector. These goals align with Hawai'i's numerous, formal commitments to sustainability and climate change mitigation, including: The 2050 Hawai'i Sustainability Plan, the Aloha+ Challenge, and The Climate Action Plan Committee. Conventional burial and flame cremation industries are major contributors of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs), air particulate matter pollution, and water toxicity, and a direct threat to the preservation of our planet. These practices must be overhauled to ensure that Hawai'i's 'āina and lāhui are protected, and the existential threat of climate change is addressed by all means and technologies available.

ALF's push for sustainability in Hawai'i's deathcare industry directly supports its parallel mission of reviving and facilitating traditional Hawaiian burial practices in a modern context. Beyond the positive benefit of reducing pollution, ALF's identified green cremation technologies also mimic the essential tenets of Hawaiian burial practices, preserving the bones so that they may be returned to the care of the surviving family. In expanding access to this technology for *all* of Hawai'i's people, ALF is working to

ensure that there is equal, affordable access to culturally-grounded end-of-life celebrations that reflect the nuances of Hawai'i's cultures and religions in the most sustainable way possible. And, with widespread adoption, ALF is committed to developing support programs for Hawai'i's disadvantaged communities that may not have the means to afford these options that are gentler on the bodies of their loved ones, and the 'āina. All of Hawai'i's people, from every background and circumstance, should have the chance to choose deathcare services that best align with their wishes, whether it be motivated by cultural practice, sustainability, or economic need.

Alaula Life Foundation is co-founded and run by Native-Hawaiian woman C. Kawehi Correa, president of Aloha Mortuary, and COO of Pacific Funeral Holdings, Inc. Aloha Mortuary is an ALF partner organization dedicated to supporting ALF's mission and providing expertise, facilities, and guidance, as needed. ALF is overseen by a board of directors composed of community members with decades of experience in mortuary services, climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, community engagement, systems operations, and Hawaiian historical preservation. Alaula Life Foundation's background, mission, and team make it best suited to lead an overhaul of Hawai'i's deathcare sector in the pursuit of a more sustainable, equitable, and compassionate industry for the benefit of all.

The Alaula Life Foundation has been active in Hawai'i, as well as the continent, seeking expertise for the most environmentally-responsible cremation technologies most aligned with traditional Hawaiian funeral rites that can be implemented locally. ALF now counts advisors to the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), Hawaiian Civic Clubs, O'ahu Island Burial Council, Mayo Clinic, UCLA Donated Bodies Program, National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA), and the Cremation Association of North America (CANA) among the network of experts that can be called upon to offer insight and guidance. In regards to traditional burial practices, for over a hundred and fifty years in Hawai'i, the only acceptable and legal means to manage the dead was the embalming and burial in crowded and expensive cemeteries, or flame cremation that pollutes the air and is a violent treatment of the remains. Neither of these methods allow for the preservation of the iwi (bones), which are the primary physical embodiment of a person and considered sacred. Without the iwi, Hawaiians have been unable to fully honor the burial customs of their kūpuna in which the deceased would be placed in an imu for steaming, and the iwi preserved and wrapped for the family to store them in reverence.

In 2015, advocates from the Hawaiian Civic Clubs and burial councils successfully passed a law formally decriminalizing Hawaiian burial rites and customs. In 2022, ALF, alongside many advocates from CNHA, Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) trustees, responsible mortuaries, and citizen cultural practitioners, successfully passed a law allowing for alkaline hydrolysis, or "water cremation," to be a legal and recognized means of managing a deceased person in Hawai'i. This established technology is vastly more sustainable than conventional methods, and most closely aligns with traditional Hawaiian funeral rites, while still in compliance with modern laws and regulations. The Alaula Life Foundation will capitalize on these victories to achieve its mission, establishing a water cremation center based on O'ahu, developing an education and awareness campaign on the numerous eco and cultural benefits of this technology, and establishing a needs-based subsidy program for disadvantaged communities.

Best put by C. Kawehi Correa, "how we handle death can make a difference to whether generations to come have a livable planet. At this time, against a landscape of too many loved ones lost to COVID-19, it is time to look at ways we can make our exit from life kinder to the 'āina. It's time to rethink burial and cremation practices. It's time to understand and embrace water cremation — an eco-friendly, far gentler alternative to conventional cremation."

## 2. The goals and objectives related to the request;

The goals of this funding request are to establish an environmentally-responsible pathway for the people of Hawai'i to access an alternative end-of-life process that is aligned with established cultural protocols, gentler on deceased's remains, and magnitudes better for Hawai'i's air and water quality compared to conventional burial and flame creation. Alkaline Hydrolysis provides that environmentally cleaner and responsible process. In addition, the facilitated development of this water cremation sector will allow ALF to offer a significant number of water cremations "at cost," greatly reducing the financial hardship and burden placed on Hawai'i's most disadvantaged. For some, the costs to lay a loved one to rest are so impossible that they feel they have no choice but to rely on the State's Unclaimed Bodies Program to receive cremation, which costs the State more than \$500,000 annually, and delays access to the remains for months. If the objectives of this proposed Program are met, hundreds of local people from diverse backgrounds will have a greater opportunity for dignity and expanded choice in how their bodies are handled in death, knowing their choice is helping Hawai'i fight climate change and preserve our shared, sacred spaces.

Alkaline hydrolysis, also called aquamation, or water cremation, involves the use of a heated, water-based solution containing 5% potassium hydroxide to accelerate the decomposition of human remains. The carbon footprint of the technology is smaller, using up to one twelfth the energy of fire cremation with none of the heat and carbon emissions, or risk of groundwater contamination like in cemetery burials. The process uses recyclable water, and what is left over from this process is sterilized, free of any bionutrients, and can be sent untreated down the drain into our wastewater system. This program aims to serve target populations seeking culturally-authentic cremation services, deathcare that doesn't negatively affect Hawai'i's land, air, and water, and those that are in most financial need. These populations have overlap in their needs and desires, which will allow ALF to create the most positive impact and achievement of public good. Water cremation offers a superior and beneficial alternative to conventional funeral options, and establishing this sector in Hawai'i benefits not only its people, but the State itself in meeting its sustainability and green technology sector goals through avoided emissions, pollution, costly cremations, and answering the conundrum of crowded, poorly maintained cemeteries.

This proposed program aims to jumpstart the adoption and use of water cremation in Hawai'i by establishing a water cremation center on O'ahu, educate and engage on water cremation's alignment with traditional Hawaiian burial rites and efforts to slow climate change, and develop an application program for disadvantaged populations that issues a financial subsidy per water cremation to ensure that these vital services are accessible to those who need them most. This program will build the foundations of a new choice in after-life care, which will meet the needs of so many who have either felt cut off from their traditions for generations due to modern laws and regulations, have no financial means to choose the more dignified handling of their remains, or those who simply wish to have an alternative from the polluting practices of embalming and burial, or cremation by flame.

The objectives of this project are:

- 1) Purchase and house an alkaline hydrolysis unit on O'ahu that is setup, tested, and ready for use in this program. (Budgeted under a separate CIP application)
- 2) Apply for and receive approved permitting for wastewater disposal and mortuary license amendments through Hawai'i Department of Health. (Budgeted under a separate CIP application)
- 3) Receive training and certification for an alkaline hydrolysis license to operate in Hawai'i.

- 4) Through consultation with respected Hawaiian burial councils and kūpuna, create formalized protocols and guidelines around handling of remains, and the transfer of bound iwi and remaining bionutrients to living 'ohana.
- 5) Create an application process and forms for disadvantaged Hawai'i residents to complete and apply for subsidized water cremation through this program.
- 6) Formalize a network of advocacy agents and groups such as: The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), Hawai'i Dept. of Human Services, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Dept. of the Medical Examiner, and the Hawai'i Climate Change Commission, who will direct those who prefer alternative, sustainable cremation technology, desire Hawaiian burial protocols, and those who may need financial assistance to receive deathcare, to Alaula Life Foundation's Program.
- 7) Conduct a water cremation educational campaign, presenting to community groups, environmental nonprofits and clubs, and relevant agencies on the environmental and cultural benefits of alkaline hydrolysis technology. Encourage sharing of educational resources to their members and networks, especially with populations who may qualify for financial assistance through ALF's program.
- 8) Provide water cremation services for members of the target populations upon their request, including a target number of subsidized services for selected disadvantaged community members. For those eligible and approved for a financial subsidy, ALF has a target of personally providing \$1,500 per person (of a base \$2,500 water cremation service) to 25% of the total number of persons being cremated by fire every month in Hawai'i (~600). ALF estimates 4 to 5 months of operational time during fiscal year 2025, for a total of ~3,000 conventional flame cremations targeted for replacement by alkaline hydrolysis within the grant period. 25% of 3,000 statewide cremations amounts to 750 persons selected to receive subsidized water cremation services through ALF's Program; a cumulative savings of at least \$1,125,000 for needy 'ohanas, the State of Hawai'i's Unclaimed Body Program, and the U.H. Burns School of Medicine's Willed Body Program. The objectives would be to establish access to financially-subsidized water cremation for three target populations that would most benefit from access to water cremation technology:
  - a) 70% (524 persons) water cremations for economically disadvantaged persons (Indigenous or non-Indigenous Hawaiian)
  - b) 15% (113 persons) through the Hawai'i Dept. of the Medical Examiner's Unclaimed Bodies Program, where the State of Hawai'i funds the disposal of bodies by flame cremation
  - c) 15% (113 persons) from the Hawai'i University of Hawai'i Burns School of Medicine Willed Body Program

3. The public purpose and need to be served;

This Program serves multiple public purposes, which are identified and discussed individually below.

*Public purpose: jumpstart a new mortuary sector that will address negative funeral inputs that are driving climate change and creating water and air pollution and toxicity; create a better alternative to crowded, unmaintained, and expensive cemeteries in Hawai'i.*

Hawai'i is a world leader in sustainability efforts and actively rising to the challenge of the coming climate crisis. Hawai'i has committed to ambitious measures to reduce carbon, and in 2018 became the first state to announce a goal of becoming 100% carbon neutral, meaning the state would have to offset all of its carbon emissions by 2045. The state has also set a bold goal of achieving 100% clean energy by 2045. Hawai'i is already feeling climate change's disastrous effects. Beach homes are collapsing into the sea

along its coastlines and experts are also keeping a watchful eye on population centers like Waikiki, a major tourist destination where high-rises hug the coastline, and sea level rise is inevitable to disastrous effect. All of this is to highlight that responding to climate change and reducing its drivers locally, is a top priority for Hawai'i, and measures such as establishing green technologies like alkaline hydrolysis serves the ultimate public purpose.

Notably, the effects of climate change could have a disproportionate impact on the state's Indigenous community, says Maria Antonia Tigre, a fellow at Columbia Law School's Sabin Center for Climate Change Law. Native Hawaiians, who make up about [22]% of Hawai'i's population, are especially vulnerable to sea level rise and ocean acidification, which threaten traditional food sources – eroding salt-gathering sites and fish ponds – as well as burial grounds and sacred cultural sites. Climate change-linked increases in the number and intensity of tropical storms and drought can damage forest resources, making them more susceptible to wildfires and invasive species.

In response to those threats the Hawai'i Legislature made the state the first in the nation to declare a climate emergency in 2021, asserting that the right to a healthy environment is a basic human right, as proclaimed decades earlier in the state constitution. "Hawai'i is in a climate emergency and the State bears a constitutional duty to limit greenhouse gas emissions to prevent additional global warming," wrote then-Hawaii Supreme Court Justice Michael D. Wilson. Wilson adds that climate change is "a human rights issue at its core," and it disproportionately harms youth, future generations and Native peoples.

Over the course of a typical year, Hawai'i sees approximately 15,000 deaths. 73% of these remains are directed to flame cremation (~10,000 to 11,000), while 27% are conventionally buried in cemeteries or crypts (~4,000). Since the overthrow and colonization of Hawai'i, nearly 150 years ago, only two conventional options for managing the dead have been available: the full body burial with embalming, or flame cremation in crematoriums. Both of these methods have negative and lasting impacts on the 'āina and directly contribute to the climate crisis facing Hawai'i and the world. In the case of conventional burial, bodies are embalmed with carcinogenic fluids to preserve the body. Formaldehyde, menthol, phenol, and glycerin are just a few of the toxins that make up the embalming solution. It's estimated that 800,000 gallons of formaldehyde are placed in the ground each year (nationwide) due to conventional burials. These chemicals pose a true risk to Hawai'i's groundwater supply as buried materials decay and are absorbed into the earth. Additionally, burial locks up valuable land in perpetuity that is then often unmaintained and neglected due to lack of municipal funding and staffing. With limited land, and a consistently increasing population, the continuation of burials is not feasible, practical, or ethical.

Flame cremations, which are now the predominant choice for managing human remains in Hawai'i, addresses the problem of land use, but generates numerous other negative impacts. The process of flame cremation is inherently a violent process. A body placed in a furnace has propane or natural gas introduced, and incinerated by temperatures reaching 1,800 degree Fahrenheit. The body is reduced to unsterilized ash, while carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, sulfur oxide, hydrogen chloride, hydrogen fluoride and mercury are released through smokestacks. The pollutants and carcinogens then are aerosolized from flame crematoriums can cause short and long term health problems, in addition to the environmental detriment. Mercury emissions alone can have devastating health impacts, including harming an unborn child. In addition, 534 lbs of CO<sup>2</sup> per body are released as greenhouse gas emissions that drive climate change. At current flame cremation rates in Hawai'i, 5.9 million pounds of CO<sup>2</sup> are being released into the atmosphere annually.

Alkaline Hydrolysis, or water cremation, is an established and proven technology that mitigates the most harmful of these conventional methods. According to Kawehi Correa, board member of Alaula Life Foundation, and president of Aloha Mortuary, "alkaline hydrolysis is the natural process that a body will

undergo after burial, which can take up to 25 years. Water cremation essentially accelerates this natural process to two to three hours in a very quiet, self-contained, controlled environment. The process consumes one twelfth the energy of a flame crematory and results in 75% lower carbon emissions (134 lbs of CO<sup>2</sup> compared to 534 lbs per cremation). It protects the operator, destroys pathogens, and returns a safe by-product to the family that can be used to fertilize a memorial garden. No DNA is left in the water or cremated remains. No mercury amalgam is emitted into the atmosphere. There is no groundwater contamination from cemeteries and no need to extract pacemakers and implants prior to cremation to avoid explosions. Additionally, if desired, many of the implants can be recycled.” In a case of equipment failure, the water cremation machine is self contained. So, there is no risk of toxins being released into the air or environment by aerosolization, leakage or spillage. As Hawai'i is the leader of safe, “green,” and renewable energy, water cremation fits perfectly in Hawai'i's goals of keeping our people and our 'āina safe.

Water Cremation is a technological solution that Hawai'i will need to embrace in earnest as it ramps up comprehensive efforts to reduce its contributions to the climate crisis. At a minimum, this Program will result in the reduction of 300,000 lbs of carbon emissions going into the air, in addition to the elimination of particulate matter and other harmful emissions and toxins released from every converted cremation. This proposed project serves the essential public purpose of establishing a new cremation service sector that can offer an alternative to the conventional methods, which create a host of negative environmental, financial, and municipal problems for Hawai'i. Water cremation will directly contribute to Hawai'i meeting its formal sustainability goals of reduced GHG emissions and the support of green, sustainable technologies.

*Public purpose: facilitate the establishment of a functional water cremation center that reduces the barriers to access for Indigenous Hawaiians to traditional burial rites, addressing the disconnection Hawaiians have with this aspect of their culture, and fostering the continued Hawaiian renaissance that began in the 1970s.*

The traditional Hawaiian burial practices are well known & documented. The bodies of the deceased were steamed in an imu (earth oven), and the long bones were removed, wrapped, and taken away to a secret location known only to the family. Any additional remains were taken to the sea. Traditional Hawaiian burial practices vary between the islands, but a commonality among the practices is a reverence for the iwi, or bones. “The iwi is the most sacred thing to the Hawaiian people,” said Leialoha “Rocky” Kaluhiwa, vice president of the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club. “You can get the mana (spirit) from the iwi.”

For generations, Hawaiians have not been able to bury their loved ones and preserve the iwi in accordance with ancient practices. Only two conventional options have been available: the full body burial with embalming preferred by Christians, or flame cremation, preferred especially by Asian Buddhists. Flame cremation by fire leaves the bones brittle, and they break apart easily making the recovery of iwi impossible. Conventional Christian burial does not allow for recovery of the iwi, and the bodies are buried whole in crowded and often unmaintained cemeteries where there is no guarantee that families will be laid to rest together. These options do not give Hawaiians the desired outcome: clean, sterilized long bones that can be placed with reverence in a land crypt or burial cave. The old way of steaming the dead body in an imu (earth oven) yielded this outcome.

Hawaiians have not been able to engage in these practices because there was no technology available in Hawai'i that could provide the desired results in a sanitized, safe and culturally appropriate way, while adhering to modern laws and regulations. For too long, customary Hawaiian burial rites, while decriminalized since 2015, did not have the benefit of access to the alkaline hydrolysis technology to

make those rites possible in ways that are consistent with current health and environmental standards and expectations. Today we have both the technology and the expertise. Water Cremation is quickly gaining in popularity, now legalized in 22 states, with Hawai'i as the latest as of 2022. Alkaline Hydrolysis has been proven to be superior to flame cremation and burial with a significantly lower carbon footprint, no generation of toxic byproducts, and it allows the body to be treated in a manner consistent with Hawaiian burial practices. Unlike conventional flame cremation, the process better preserves bones, making it a good option for ceremonial wrapping and other traditional protocols.

The technique of alkaline hydrolysis is also useful as an example of how the fundamental concept in an ancient custom (bone cleaning in imu) can be updated to modern technology (alkaline hydrolysis with high heat), so that ethnic Hawaiians can feel comfortable that using the new method is consistent with the ancient method and therefore is not a desecration and will have the blessings of their ancestors. The creation of an alkaline hydrolysis operation in Hawai'i provides the pathway and means to access this after-life care and reconnect Hawaiians to their culture, fostering the continued gains of the Hawaiian renaissance started in the 1970s.

As articulated by Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey (OHA, Trustee, Maui), "Change is always daunting and burial rites are matters that touch at the core of who we are and how we choose to express our final farewell to our loved ones who have passed on. This is an intensely personal and emotional matter and it is reassuring to know that water cremation may soon be available as a way to honor and abide by our traditional values and beliefs, not only in life but also in death. As the late Dr. George Kanahale reminded us, this technology will allow us to 'enjoy the look back into the future.' It is time for us to use contemporary technology to preserve all that we cherish in our culture, including the traditions that help us manage our departure as well as the departure of our loved ones from our earthly world. I look forward to seeing water cremation become available as another means to prepare the remains of our loved ones for their final resting place consistent with our Hawaiian traditions."

*Public purpose: establish awareness in the Hawai'i community of alternative funeral rites that are less detrimental to the 'āina and gentler on loved ones' bodies*

The development of water cremation infrastructure (installation of the machine with permitted, licensed operation) and compliance with local regulations is a crucial first step in reviving traditional Hawaiian burial rites. From there, an awareness campaign will be essential to ensuring that the target populations, Indigenous Hawaiians and the economically disadvantaged in Hawai'i, are informed and educated of these services being offered, as well as the subsidized costs being offered to those who apply through the Alaula Life Foundation's Program for financial assistance. An educational campaign with learning resources will be developed by ALF to achieve the public purpose of educating the target populations on this newly-available, safe and "green" alternative to conventional burial and flame cremation.

*Public Purpose: reduce the number of bodies that the State of Hawai'i is responsible for cremating under the Unclaimed Body Program*

When a deceased person is found and no family can be located, their body becomes a part of the State's Unclaimed Body Program in which the State becomes liable for the costs of cremation, at an approximate cost greater than \$500,000 a year. In many cases, these are homeless individuals; in some cases, financially-disadvantaged families will choose to leave loved ones unclaimed because they do not have the means to pay for flame cremation or conventional burial, which could cost them \$3,000 to \$25,000 for cremation or cemetery burial, respectively. Doing so requires these families to wait months before the deceased's ashes are released and available to claim. One of the purposes of the proposed water

cremation subsidy program through ALF would be to offer reduced costs services and consultations to these 'ohanas so they are more likely to be able to claim the bodies officially and afford to pay directly, reducing the management and cost responsibilities to the State by tens of thousands of dollars.

*Public Purpose: create infrastructure redundancy and alternatives in the case of future pandemics (backlogs), and concerns over pathogen contamination risk*

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Hawai'i experienced a spike in the number of bodies requiring cremation. In the midst of the panic and grief of this pandemic, the counties' mortuaries were unable to process remains quickly enough, and a crisis over storage and pathogen contamination flared; a 6-month backlog formed. The establishment of a water cremation operation introduces another level of redundancy to the State's available cremation service providers that would help prevent another crippling cremation backlog, should another pandemic or natural disaster occur. Additionally, unlike flame cremation, alkaline hydrolysis produces sterilized byproducts proven to fully eliminate pathogens that could be feared to persist in conventionally processed remains. This technology benefits the State's efficacy and public health management in the face of disasters, allowing us to learn and better prepare from previous crises.

#### 4. Describe the target population to be served; and

This project seeks to serve three primary and three secondary target populations. The first are community members across the islands who have, until recently, not had the opportunity or access to traditional Hawaiian burial rites that align with their beliefs and customs. The formation of a water cremation center and service will now be accessible for those who wish to have their remains processed in a way that will allow their surviving 'ohanas to receive their whitened, sterile bone fragments and optional bionutrients that could be used to fertilize a home garden or memorial tree. Members of this group receiving water cremation services may be elderly, or they may have received a terminal diagnosis requiring them and their 'ohanas to prepare for after-life care. This target population will likely be primarily composed of Native Hawaiians, but non-ethnically Hawaiians who wish to practice these burial customs in accordance with their beliefs will not be excluded.

The secondary target population are Hawai'i residents who reject the conventional methods of flame cremation and embalming burial, and wish to have their remains treated with a sustainable, green technology like water cremation. Thanks to ALF's leadership and advocacy, the 2022 legalization of alkaline hydrolysis in Hawai'i makes water cremation the most sustainable option for green cremation technology and deathcare available locally. ALF seeks to serve this target population in creating reasonable, affordable access through the establishment of its proposed water cremation center on O'ahu.

The third primary target population are those who are economically disadvantaged and historically unable to afford preferable deathcare services like water cremation, without leaving behind considerable debt for their surviving 'ohana. The Aloha United Way released its most recent "ALICE Report" that tracks how local people are doing financially. It found the number of people living in poverty in Hawai'i grew from 9% in 2018 to 15% in 2022. "Over 200,000 are now under the poverty level," said Aloha United Way CEO John Fink. Members of this population would be eligible to apply for and receive subsidized water cremation services through ALF's proposed Program.

The secondary populations to be served with this Program are the City & County of Honolulu (C&C), the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine Willard Body Program, and persons whose

cremations are handled by the State's Unclaimed Bodies Program. Unlike flame cremation and burial with embalming, the water cremation process does not generate harmful and toxic emissions and carcinogenic effluent that poses a risk to the groundwater. The byproducts of water cremation are sterilized, benign, pathogen and toxin-free. The only byproducts for disposal are sterilized water that will be returned to the C&C's wastewater systems for water reclamation. The alkaline nature of the byproduct water has been proven to be a benefit to municipal water lines as it breaks down pipe blockages and actually improves the quality of the water merging in the pipes. From the Cremation Association of North America, "Because of the contents of the effluent, water treatment authorities generally like having the water come into the system because it helps clean the water as it flows back to the treatment plant. In some cases, the water is diverted and used for fertilizer because of the potassium and sodium content."

The U.H. Willed Body program has been selected as a target population to be served. ALF aims to receive persons who have donated their bodies for medical education to receive the water cremation service. Water cremation is ideal for medical donation programs as remains become fully sterilized and reduce contagion risk to the public, unlike flame cremation currently used for processing. Water cremation is endorsed and supported by Steven Labrash, the director of the U.H. Willed Body Program, saying that water cremation would benefit his program both from the perspective of public health, as well as financially, and "there is no more environmentally friendly technology available today than alkaline hydrolysis for human disposition."

The State's Unclaimed Bodies Program has also been selected as a beneficiary target population because the unclaimed bodies are typically homeless individuals or those who are too impoverished to afford taking on cremation costs along with their families. Establishing the pathway of water cremation as an alternative cremation service will provide a reduction of financial burden on the State, and provide demonstration of the technology's efficacy for continued use by the Unclaimed Bodies Program. Additionally, water cremation is a more compassionate process for the bodies of those who likely suffered in life, and are due compassion and dignity in death.

Describe the geographic coverage.

The proposed water cremation center will be based on O'ahu, however the availability of the service and opportunity to apply for need-based subsidization will be open to each of the main Hawaiian islands: Kaua'i, Ni'i'hau, O'ahu, Maui, Lana'i, Molokai, and Hawai'i island.

The outreach and awareness efforts, such as presentations to environmental nonprofits, Indigenous Hawaiian community groups and Civic Clubs, as well as agencies like the Dept. of Human Services, will be conducted on O'ahu and neighbor islands in-person, or virtually. Practitioners and cultural historians from each island will be consulted for the development of the guidelines and protocols that will be created to ensure that the water cremation process is as closely aligned with traditional Hawaiian funeral rites, as possible.

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

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

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

The scope of work for this proposed project will fall under the objectives outlined earlier in this application, and are listed below. Note that Section A & B's scope and tasks are a part of the overall proposed project, but budgeted for in a CIP GIA grant application submitted separately.

- A. Purchase and house an alkaline hydrolysis unit on O'ahu that is setup, tested, and ready for use in this program. (Budgeted under a separate CIP application)
- B. Apply for and receive approved permitting for wastewater disposal and mortuary license amendments through Hawai'i Department of Health. (Budgeted under a separate CIP application)
- C. Receive training and certification for an alkaline hydrolysis license to operate in Hawai'i.
- D. Through consultation with respected Hawaiian burial councils and kūpuna, create formalized protocols and guidelines around handling of remains, and the transfer of bound iwi and remaining bionutrients to living 'ohana.
- E. Create an application process and forms for disadvantaged Hawai'i residents to complete and apply for subsidized water cremation through this program.
- F. Formalize a network of advocacy agents and groups such as: The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), Hawai'i Dept. of Human Services, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Dept. of the Medical Examiner, and the Hawai'i Climate Change Commission, who will direct those who prefer alternative, sustainable cremation technology, desire Hawaiian burial protocols, and those who may need financial assistance to receive deathcare, to Alaula Life Foundation's Program.
- G. Conduct a water cremation educational campaign, presenting to community groups, environmental nonprofits and clubs, and relevant agencies on the environmental and cultural benefits of alkaline hydrolysis technology. Encourage sharing of educational resources to their members and networks, especially with populations who may qualify for financial assistance through ALF's program.
- H. Provide water cremation services for members of the target populations upon their request, including a target number of subsidized services for selected disadvantaged community members. For those eligible and approved for a financial subsidy, ALF has a target of personally providing \$1,500 per person (of a base \$2,500 water cremation service) to 25% of the total number of persons being cremated by fire every month in Hawai'i (~600). ALF estimates 4 to 5 months of operational time during fiscal year 2025, for a total of ~3,000 conventional flame cremations targeted for replacement by alkaline hydrolysis within the grant period. 25% of 3,000 statewide cremations amounts to 750 persons selected to receive subsidized water cremation services through ALF's Program; a cumulative savings of at least \$1,125,000 for needy 'ohanas, the State of Hawai'i's Unclaimed Body Program, and the U.H. Burns School of Medicine's Willied Body Program. The objectives would be to establish access to financially-subsidized water cremation for three target populations that would most benefit from access to water cremation technology:
  - a. 70% (524 persons) water cremations for economically disadvantaged persons (Indigenous or non-Indigenous Hawaiian)
  - b. 15% (113 persons) through the Hawai'i Dept. of the Medical Examiner's Unclaimed Bodies Program, where the State of Hawai'i funds the disposal of bodies by flame cremation
  - c. 15% (113 persons) from the Hawai'i University of Hawai'i Burns School of Medicine Willied Body Program

Tasks for above scope of work objectives: \*\*Note: Tasks for Objective A & B below are budgeted under a CIP grant submitted separately. Objectives C through H have funds requested under this Operational grant application\*\*

- A. Alkaline Hydrolysis machine purchase and installation:
  - a. Task 1: Confirm team of advisors, manufacturers, and suppliers necessary to facilitate the purchase of an alkaline hydrolysis machine best suited for the needs of this project and as part of a future network of machines. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Program Director of Water Cremation)
  - b. Task 2: Identify the selected machine, confirm pricing and purchase terms. Confirm shipping logistics for delivery. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Program Director of Water Cremation)
  - c. Task 3: Purchase machine, and solicit plans and design for the refurbishment of the building from which it will be operating. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Program Director of Water Cremation, Architecture & Engineering Advisor)
  - d. Task 4: Complete any required construction, electrical, water collection upgrades on the machine's building prior to delivery. Complete final checks to ensure proper function. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Program Director of Water Cremation, Architecture & Engineering Advisor)
  
- B. Apply for and receive required permitting and licenses to operate alkaline hydrolysis machine:
  - a. Task 1: Apply for wastewater discharge permits and amended mortuary licenses through Hawai'i Department of Health. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Permitting & Compliance Advisor)
  - b. Task 2: Complete any required site visits, spot checks, and recommended adjustments to receive permitting. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Permitting & Compliance Advisor)
  - c. Task 3: Receive machine and situate in built space. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Architecture & Engineering Advisor)
  
- C. Receive training and certification for an alkaline hydrolysis license to operate in Hawai'i.
  - a. Task 1: Hire and train staff to operate the hydrolysis machine. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Program Director of Water Cremation)
  
- D. Creation of formal water cremation protocols to align with traditional Hawaiian burial rites:
  - a. Task 1: Utilizing relationships and networks created during the 2022 legislative session in which alkaline hydrolysis was legalized for practice in Hawai'i, ALF will convene 2 to 3 sessions of community members knowledgeable of traditional Hawaiian burial protocols to determine the essential protocols that must be done before, during, and after the alkaline hydrolysis process to ensure persons requesting it can receive the treatment of their body in a way that best honors their traditions and cultural practices. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Cultural Advisor, Outreach & Education Specialist)
  - b. Task 2: After reaching consensus with the advisory group, drafting guidelines for review and approval. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Cultural Advisor, Outreach & Education Specialist)
  - c. Task 3: Formalizing, printing, and publishing the protocols for a traditional Hawaiian burial in conjunction with the alkaline hydrolysis machine. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Outreach & Education Specialist)

- E. Create an application process with forms and a dedicated web portal for disadvantaged Hawaiians and Hawai'i residents to complete and apply for subsidized water cremation through this program:
  - a. Task 1: Determine the factors that will qualify an applicant for subsidized water cremation services. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Data & Tech Integration Specialist)
  - b. Task 2: Draft an application form and an application portal for beta testing. Conduct tests to ensure the application process is clear and functional. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Data & Tech Integration Specialist)
  - c. Task 3: Publish the form on a host site in preparation for launch and distribution. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Data & Tech Integration Specialist)
  
- F. Formalize a project support and advocacy team from community stakeholders:
  - a. Task 1: Make a list of partners and advocates who supported the passage of the 2022 Alkaline Hydrolysis legislation, and invite to a session to review the project milestones already achieved, planned rollout of water cremation subsidy program, developed and approved Hawaiian burial protocols, and target objectives for offering water cremation services to 750 persons who qualify as economically-disadvantaged and/or requesting traditional Hawaiian burial rites. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Cultural Advisor, Outreach & Education Specialist)
  - b. Task 2: Provide advocacy team with the protocol guidelines, request-for-subsidy application form, and other resource materials to distribute to their networks and spread awareness of the technology and financial assistance program. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Outreach & Education Specialist)
  - c. Task 3: Solicit feedback from the advocacy team on which groups, clubs, or organizations may be interested in receiving a presentation and answer session as part of the planned educational campaign to learn about the project and potentially apply. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Outreach & Education Specialist)
  
- G. Conduct an educational campaign and presentation series on O'ahu and neighbor islands
  - a. Task 1: Develop presentation materials and source references to utilize during an educational campaign. Develop press release and media release materials to solicit media coverage. Target: Generate a minimum of 3 radio, print, and/or television pieces covering the project and sharing the application portal for qualifying recipients. (Responsible Parties: Cultural Advisor and Outreach & Education Specialist)
  - b. Task 2: Create a calendar and schedule of presentation sessions and media requests. The target total is 8 presentations to identified target population groups over the fiscal year, engaging with a minimum of 150 direct participants and 300 indirect participants through resource shares and distributions. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Cultural Advisor, and Outreach & Education Specialist)
  - c. Task 3: Catalog outreach metrics and progress toward engagement goals with the education campaign and the application portal. (Responsible Parties: Outreach & Education Specialist)
  
- H. Provide cremation services to selected individuals through the project's application process:
  - a. Task 1: Review completed and submitted applications for subsidized water cremation service, and identify individuals to approve based on established criteria, and target population distribution goals in Section H Scope of Work above. Communicate approval

or denial to applicants and communicate next steps for both groups. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator)

- b. Task 2: Schedule consultation sessions with approved applicants (or their representatives) to review protocol guidelines, sign agreements for service, and answer any questions. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Cultural Advisor, Office Administrator)
  - c. Task 3: Perform water cremations for selected applicants as their time arrives to leave this world (according to their wishes for adherence to Hawaiian burial rites or a conventional water cremation). (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator, Program Director of Water Cremation, Cremation Technician) The target number of services is:
    1. 70% (524 persons) water cremations for economically disadvantaged persons (Indigenous or non-Indigenous Hawaiian)
    2. 15% (113 persons) through the Hawai'i Dept. of the Medical Examiner's Unclaimed Bodies Program, where the State of Hawai'i funds the disposal of bodies by flame cremation
    3. 15% (113 persons) from the Hawai'i University of Hawai'i Burns School of Medicine Willied Body Program
  - d. Task 4: Maintain records of scheduled and completed water cremations by target population, compile testimonials and feedback. (Responsible Parties: ALF Program Coordinator)
2. Provide a projected annual timeline for accomplishing the results or outcomes of the service;

Fiscal Year 2025, Quarterly Timeline Projections. Section references correspond to scope of work/task list letters A through H above:

**Quarter 3: July 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026**

**July 2026 Completion of Identified Tasks:**

Section A: Task 1 - Gather technical reports and guidance in order to identify the alkaline hydrolysis machine best suited for this program

Section A: Task 2 - Select machine for purchase, confirm shipping, specifications, and purchase details

**August 2026 Completion of Identified Tasks:**

Section A: Task 3 - Purchase and shipping of machine, solicitation of architecture and engineering plans and design to house machine, apply for any required building permits

**September 2026 Completion of Identified Tasks:**

Section A: Task 4 - Complete any required building refurbishment and utilities upgrade

Section B: Task 1 - Submit applications for required permitting and licensing amendments

Section C: Task 1 - Complete water cremation licensing and certification training

**Quarter 2: October 1, 2026 through December 31st, 2026**

**October 2026 Completion of Identified Tasks:**

Section B: Task 2 - Complete site visits and recommended adjustments to receive approved permitting

Section D: Task 1 - Convene cultural advisory group of Hawaiian burial protocols, first & second sessions

Section A: Task 4 Cntd. - Complete any required construction to house the water cremation machine

**November 2026 Completion of Identified Tasks:**

Section D: Task 1 Cntd. - Convene third working session of cultural advisory group

Section D: Task 2 - Draft protocol guidelines for review and finalizing

Section D: Task 3 - Printing and publishing of formalized Hawaiian burial rites + water cremation

Section E: Task 1 - Identify qualification criteria for a needs-based water cremation subsidization program

Section E: Task 2 - Draft an application form and an application portal for beta testing

**December 2026 Completion of Identified Tasks:**

Section E: Task 3 - Publish the form on a host site in preparation for launch and distribution

Section B: Task 3 - Hire and train alkaline hydrolysis staff

Section B: Task 4 - Receive and situate cremation machine in dedicate space

Section E: Task 3 - Publish the application form on a host site in preparation for launch and distribution

**January 1, 2027 through March 31, 2027**

**January 2027 Completion of Identified Tasks:**

Section F: Task 1 - Assemble community stakeholder advocacy team and review project goals

Section F: Task 2 - Provide advocacy team with all resources required to disseminate program information and encourage eligible participants to apply for assistance

Section F: Task 3 - Assemble list of groups, clubs, or organizations that may be interested in receiving a presentation and participate in the educational campaign

Section G: Task 1 - Develop presentation materials and source references to utilize during an educational and media campaign

Section G: Task 2 - Create a calendar and schedule of presentation sessions and media requests, Conduct educational presentations

Section H: Task 1 - Review completed program applications for subsidized water cremation service, and identify individuals to approve based on established criteria

Section H: Task 2 - Schedule consultation sessions with approved applicants (or their representatives) to review protocol guidelines, sign agreements for service, and answer any questions

**February 2027 Completion of Identified Tasks:**

Section G: Task 2 Cntd. - Continue presentations and encouraging completion of the application those interested.

Section G: Task 3 - Catalog outreach metrics and progress toward engagement goals with the education campaign and the application portal

Section H: Task 1 Cntd. - Review completed program applications for subsidized water cremation service, and identify individuals to approve based on established criteria

Section H: Task 2 Cntd. - Schedule consultation sessions with approved applicants (or their representatives) to review protocol guidelines, sign agreements for service, and answer any questions

Section H: Task 3 - Perform water cremations for selected applicants according to their wishes

Section H: Task 4 - Maintain records of scheduled and completed water cremations by target population, compile testimonials and feedback

**March 2027 Completion of Identified Tasks:**

Section H: Task 1 Cntd. - Review completed program applications for subsidized water cremation service, and identify individuals to approve based on established criteria

Section H: Task 2 Cntd. - Schedule consultation sessions with approved applicants (or their representatives) to review protocol guidelines, sign agreements for service, and answer any questions

Section H: Task 3 Cntd. - Perform water cremations for selected applicants according to their wishes

Section H: Task 4 Cntd. - Maintain records of scheduled and completed water cremations by target population, compile testimonials and feedback

**Quarter 4 April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027**

**April 2027 Completion of Identified Tasks:**

Section H: Task 1 Cntd. - Review completed program applications for subsidized water cremation service, and identify individuals to approve based on established criteria

Section H: Task 2 Cntd. - Schedule consultation sessions with approved applicants (or their representatives) to review protocol guidelines, sign agreements for service, and answer any questions

Section H: Task 3 Cntd. - Perform water cremations for selected applicants according to their wishes

Section H: Task 4 Cntd. - Maintain records of scheduled and completed water cremations by target population, compile testimonials and feedback

**May 2027 Completion of Identified Tasks:**

Section H: Task 1 Cntd. - Review completed program applications for subsidized water cremation service, and identify individuals to approve based on established criteria

Section H: Task 2 Cntd. - Schedule consultation sessions with approved applicants (or their representatives) to review protocol guidelines, sign agreements for service, and answer any questions

Section H: Task 3 Cntd. - Perform water cremations for selected applicants according to their wishes

Section H: Task 4 Cntd. - Maintain records of scheduled and completed water cremations by target population, compile testimonials and feedback

**June 2027 Completion of Identified Tasks:**

Section H: Task 1 Cntd. - Review completed program applications for subsidized water cremation service, and identify individuals to approve based on established criteria

Section H: Task 2 Cntd. - Schedule consultation sessions with approved applicants (or their representatives) to review protocol guidelines, sign agreements for service, and answer any questions

Section H: Task 3 Cntd. - Perform water cremations for selected applicants according to their wishes

Section H: Task 4 Cntd. - Maintain records of scheduled and completed water cremations by target population, compile testimonials and feedback

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

The quality assurance evaluation strategies are:

1. Monthly check in meetings with review and feedback sessions with compensated project personnel and advisory team(s)
  2. Multiple independent reviews and workshopping sessions for the burial protocol guidelines and educational campaign resources
  3. Beta testing of program application form and portal to discover areas to strengthen for clarity and ease of use
  4. Requested feedback from presentation participants and recipients
  5. Monthly application portal check to determine if on-track w/number of presentations and media stories planned in Quarter 3
  6. Solicited feedback from 'ohana cremation consultations sessions to improve communication, messaging, and adherence to recipient's wishes during the process
  7. Review of application submissions to stay on-track for distribution of approved cremations between target populations
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.

Measures of effectiveness 1, 2, 4 are for the deliverables budgeted for in the separate CIP application; only items 3, and 5 through 14 should be considered relevant to this Operational application's measures of effectiveness:

**Quarter 1 Measures of Effectiveness:**

1. Selection and purchase of alkaline hydrolysis machine
2. Submission and approval of required wastewater permitting applications
3. Completion of water cremation licensing and certification by Aloha Mortuary staff

**Quarter 2 Measures of Effectiveness:**

4. Completed construction or refurbishment of machinery housing
5. Convene 3 sessions of a cultural advisory group to establish water cremation protocols inline with traditional Hawaiian burial rites
6. Completion of approved burial rites protocols for use in education and consultations
7. Launch of an application program and portal with associated eligibility criteria
8. An installed and operational alkaline hydrolysis machine in place at Aloha Mortuary's premises

**Quarter 3 Measures of Effectiveness:**

9. Completed community stakeholder network list relevant to target populations served
10. Completed packet of resources for educational presentations. Completion of a minimum of 4 of 8 target population presentations
11. Generation of minimum 3 media stories covering the project's operation, benefits, and availability to eligible participants

12. Completed water cremation of 15% of the project's target population participants (113 persons)

**Quarter 4 Measures of Effectiveness:**

13. Completion of remaining 4 target populations' presentations, with a minimum of 150 direct participants and 300 indirect participants through resource shares and distributions total
14. Completion of applicant commitment for water cremation, or successful cremation, of the remaining 85% of the project's target populations' participants (637 persons)

**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 - PDF attached below in addendum section
  - b. Personnel salaries and wages - PDF attached below in addendum section
  - c. Equipment and motor vehicles - PDF attached below in addendum section
  - d. Capital project details - PDF attached below in addendum section
  - e. Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid - PDF attached below in addendum section

2. The applicant shall provide its anticipated quarterly funding requests for the fiscal year 2026.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,000	\$50,000	<b>\$50,000</b>

3. The applicant shall provide a listing of all other sources of funding that they are seeking for fiscal year 2025.

- A. Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)
- B. Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA)
- C. Ke Ali'i Pauahi Foundation
- D. Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF)
- E. Direct exempt donations to support the Program

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.

None granted

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 2025 for program funding.

None previously or currently granted

6. The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2023.

- A. Unrestricted cash assets: \$70,000
- B. Value of a donated transport vehicle: \$50,000

\$120,000 in unrestricted assets

## **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.

Alaula Life Foundation has an expert team assembled to ensure that this Program is executed effectively and inline with the scope of work described in this application. ALF's team has several decades of experience in mortuary and cremation services and systems management, overseeing the management and processing of bodies donated for medical research, community engagement and education, and preservation of traditional Hawaiian burial and spiritual practices. The organization's Director and Founder has operated Aloha Mortuary for several years, serving thousands of local families and guiding them through the process of selecting their preferred funeral services grounded in their beliefs and needs. ALF's team includes two experienced, licensed embalmers and crematory operators, who are also water cremation certified, that will consult on the water cremation services offered and assist with the development of the cremation center's functionality on O'ahu.

The team also benefits from the consultation of Dean Fisher, former funeral director of Fisher & Associates, resident at the Mayo Clinic, and Director of the UCLA Donated Bodies Program. Fisher is considered a renowned expert and pioneer on alkaline hydrolysis and will lend his considerable expertise to the portions of the Program relating to machine selection, siting, operation, and the process of working with Donated or Willed Body Programs. ALF's Director and its team's cultural and spiritual advisors on Hawaiian burials bring additional decades of experience with preserving the rites of Hawaiian burial in order to facilitate the resurgence of these practices in a modern context. All of this knowledge and experience was invaluable in statewide policy change; first in 2015 when the law was changed formally decriminalizing Hawaiian burial rites and customs, and again in 2022 when the ALF team, along with numerous community organizations and residents, lobbied for alkaline hydrolysis to become legal in the State of Hawai'i. The partnerships and connections formed with these other community organizations such as: CNHA, Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) trustees, and the UH Willed Body Program, will be pivotal in executing the proposed Program; specifically honoring authentic burial protocols, interfacing with donated and unclaimed body programs, and identifying those most in need of financial support for water cremation.

## **2. Facilities**

The applicant shall provide a description of its facilities and demonstrate its adequacy in relation to the request. If facilities are not presently available, describe plans to secure facilities.

The proposed site for the water cremation center is in Lower Kapalama Area warehouse district, and covers 1,500 square feet of building space. The lot is zoned Industrial 2 and the activities described in this application are compliant with the City & County of Honolulu's land use and zoning. Architecture designs have been drawn out to meet the capacity of dual water cremation units, so there is ample room for the single alkaline hydrolysis machine proposed in this Program. These facilities will be leased by an established, licensed mortuary, Aloha Mortuary. Aloha Mortuary, as a partner organization to ALF, also provides office and consultation spaces for the nonprofit that will allow it to hold check-in meetings with the Program team and professional service contractors, as well as family members reviewing the cultural protocols (if requested) and expectations for the services.

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

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

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

The Program Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the advisory team and the personnel in their responsibilities when executing the Program's tasks. Staffing positions for this Program will be:

1. Program Coordinator
2. Program Director of Water Cremation
3. Water Cremation Technician
4. Office Administrator
5. Data & Tech Integration Specialist
6. Cultural Advisor
7. Outreach & Education Specialist

The Program Coordinator will be dedicating approximately 50% of her time to managing this program in addition to continuing her other duties at ALF's partner organization, Aloha Mortuary. This Coordinator position requires experience with leadership and supervising staff, which she has done for years at her Native Hawaiian, woman-owned businesses. In addition, she has more than a decade of experience in systems operations, and is herself a licensed crematory operator. This is a priority program for ALF, and the Program Coordinator has committed ample capacity to this work to oversee and direct personnel and the advisory teams.

The Program Director of Water Cremation is a renowned expert on the alkaline hydrolysis process, pioneering the technology at the Mayo Clinic and continuing the work at the UCLA Donated Bodies program. He develops water cremation centers nationwide and will be pivotal in moving the O'ahu water cremation center forward and ready to offer services for this Program. He has dedicated 50% of his available time to this role. The Water Cremation Technician is a current Licensed Embalmer and Licensed Crematory Operator who will receive his additional alkaline hydrolysis training and license to operate in Hawai'i, and will commit nearly 60% of work hours to the execution of the machine selection, operation,

and cremation services described in this application. The Cremation Technician will also assist the Program Director of Water Cremation with training any additional cremation support staff, under the supervision of the Program Coordinator.

The Office Administrator is a seasoned administrative employee with decades of experience coordinating cremation services, family consultations, service scheduling, office management, and assisting staff. This position will dedicate 50% of available work hours to aiding this Program. The Data & Tech Integration Specialist primarily focuses on IT services, but will dedicate 30%-50%, as needed, to the creation of web pages, application forms, and application portals, as well as the collection of application data for use by the Program Coordinator, in association with the subsidized water cremation services program. The positions of Cultural Advisor and Outreach and Education Specialist will dedicate 50% - 70% of their available hours to supporting the Operational tasks. These positions will work together in partnership, but report directly to the Program Coordinator.

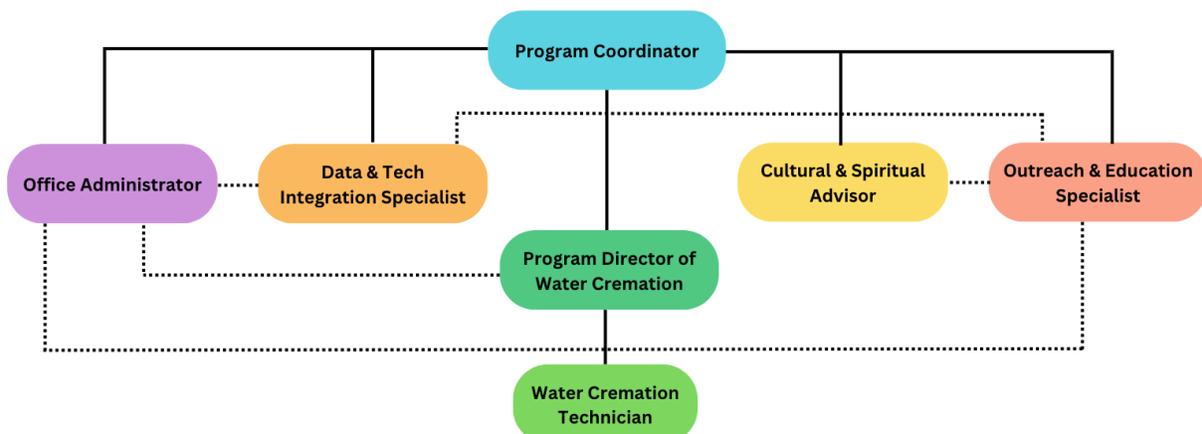
## 2. Organization Chart

The applicant shall illustrate the position of each staff and line of responsibility/supervision. If the request is part of a large, multi-purpose organization, include an organization chart that illustrates the placement of this request.

The Program's included personnel all report directly to the Program Coordinator, who is responsible for their supervision and efficacy in meeting the Program's tasks and measures of effectiveness.

1. Program Coordinator
2. Program Director of Water Cremation
3. Water Cremation Technician
4. Office Administrator
5. Data & Tech Integration Specialist
6. Cultural Advisor
7. Outreach & Education Specialist

Within these positions, outside of the direct report to the Program Coordinator, there is interplay and consultation between the Program Director of Water Cremation and the Office Administrator; the Water Cremation Technician reports directly to the Program Director of Water Cremation; the Cultural Advisor and the Outreach & Education Specialist; the Office Administrator and the Outreach & Education Specialist; and between the Data & Tech Integration Specialist and the Outreach & Education Specialist.



### **3. Compensation**

The applicant shall provide an annual salary range paid by the applicant to the three highest paid officers, directors, or employees of the organization by position title, not employee name.

Alaula Life Foundation does not have compensated officers or directors, the Board of Directors operates on a voluntary basis. The nonprofit does not have any paid employees. The personnel budgeted for in this application will represent a new phase of development for the organization through this comprehensive program.

## **VII. Other**

### **1. Litigation**

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

N/A

### **2. Licensure or Accreditation**

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

### **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.

Funds will *not* be used to support or benefit a sectarian or nonsectarian private educational institution.

### **4. Future Sustainability Plan**

The applicant shall provide a plan for sustaining after fiscal year 2025-26 the activity funded by the grant if the grant of this application is:

- (a) Received by the applicant for fiscal year 2025-26, but
- (b) Not received by the applicant thereafter.

To sustain the subsidized water cremation services for disadvantaged Indigenous Hawaiians and non-Indigenous Hawaiians beyond fiscal year 2024-2025, if GIA funds are no longer granted, Alaula Life Foundation would look into revenue generation from leasing its water cremation infrastructure to other mortuaries operating in the Hawaiian Islands.