

Application Submittal Checklist

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

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



AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

PRINT NAME AND TITLE

DATE



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF VENDOR COMPLIANCE

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

Vendor Name: Hawaii Island Art Alliance

Issue Date: 07/14/2025

Status: Compliant

Hawaii Tax#: [REDACTED]

New Hawaii Tax#:

FEIN/SSN#: [REDACTED]

UI#: No record

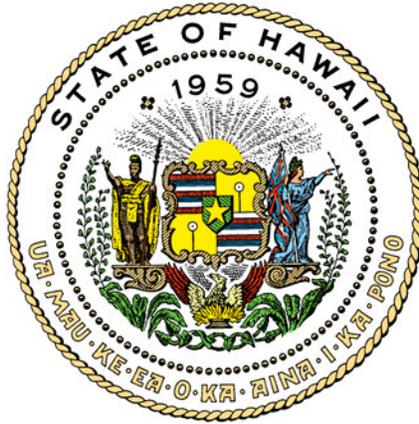
DCCA FILE#:

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



Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

I, the undersigned Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs of the State of Hawaii, do hereby certify that

HAWAII ISLAND ART ALLIANCE

was incorporated under the laws of Hawaii on 06/05/2015 ; that it is an existing nonprofit corporation; and that, as far as the records of this Department reveal, has complied with all of the provisions of the Hawaii Nonprofit Corporations Act, regulating domestic nonprofit corporations.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, at Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dated: November 20, 2025

Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**DECLARATION STATEMENT OF
APPLICANTS FOR GRANTS PURSUANT TO
CHAPTER 42F, HAWAI'I 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, Hawai'i 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, Hawai'i 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, Hawai'i 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, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, for grants used for the acquisition of land, when the organization discontinues the activities or services on the land acquired for which the grant was awarded and disposes of the land in fee simple or by lease, the organization shall negotiate with the expending agency for a lump sum or installment repayment to the State of the amount of the grant used for the acquisition of the land.

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

(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)



(Signature)

(Date)

(Typed Name)

(Title)

Application for Grants

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

I. Certification – Please attach immediately after cover page

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

If the applicant is an organization, the applicant shall submit one (1) copy of a Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate from the Comptroller of the Department of Accounting and General Services that is dated no earlier than December 1, 2025.

(See attached.)

2. Declaration Statement

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

(See attached.)

3. Public Purpose

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

(1) The name of the requesting organization or individual:
Hawai'i Island Arts Alliance

(2) The public purpose of the grant:
The purpose for this grant is to support Hawai'i Island Art Alliance in developing an Arts & Culture Strategic Plan for Hilo to strengthen community well-being, support economic and workforce development, and revitalize underutilized areas, particularly Downtown Hilo, through arts and culture. This planning effort will provide a coordinated public roadmap to increase access to arts and cultural opportunities, strengthen local identity and pride in place, and establish implementation-ready strategies that align with government policy, community priorities, and future investment.

(3) The services to be supported by the grant:
Grant funds will support a community-driven strategic planning process including: project management; stakeholder engagement and community listening sessions; an arts and culture asset inventory and geographic mapping; feasibility assessment for arts district development and adaptive reuse of underutilized commercial spaces; evaluation of public art, exhibitions, and creative activation opportunities; review of zoning and regulatory barriers impacting arts and cultural

activities; and development of a final Arts & Culture Strategic Plan for Hilo with actionable implementation strategies, partnerships, and funding pathways.

(4) The target group:

The target group for this grant includes Hilo community members, with direct benefit to artists and cultural practitioners (Native Hawaiian, kama'āina, and local creatives), youth, arts organizations, creative entrepreneurs, small businesses, nonprofit partners, and residents who will participate in or benefit from expanded arts and culture opportunities and arts-led community revitalization. The project also supports public agencies and policymakers by providing an actionable plan to guide coordinated investment and decision-making.

(5) The cost of the grant and the budget:

Grant: \$325,000 Total Budget: \$325,000

II. Background and Summary

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

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

Since 2016, Hawai'i Island Art Alliance (HIAA) has advanced arts, culture, and creative placemaking as vital drivers of community well-being and economic vitality on Hawai'i Island. HIAA operates from the Wailoa Center, located in the Wailoa River State Recreation Area, and serves as a piko – a foundational hub of creativity – from which artistic practice, cultural expression, and community connection radiate into the surrounding Hilo area.

HIAA's mission is to support arts and culture islandwide. Moving forward, HIAA aims to strengthen and expand an alliance of arts institutions and partners that can sustain a community by pooling resources, knowledge, and audiences to build a stronger, more resilient cultural ecosystem. Through collaboration, participating institutions can reduce costs, expand programming, and increase access to the arts for diverse populations, including underserved groups. As a united network, HIAA can amplify advocacy efforts, strengthening the ability to secure funding, influence policy, and demonstrate the social and economic value of arts and culture. By sharing platforms and expertise, HIAA will encourage innovation, support Native Hawaiian, kama'āina, and local artists, drive cultural tourism, and foster a sense of shared identity and pride, all of which contribute to long-term community vitality and sustainability.

A recent generational transition in leadership ushers in a new era for HIAA – one focused on strengthening the arts industry as a real workforce option and an economic driver for Hawai'i. The organization's Co-Executive Directors – Ashley Kierkiewicz and Miya Tsukazaki – each bring more than a decade of experience in community engagement, arts activation, education, and event coordination, working collaboratively to advance arts-driven initiatives that reflect local identity and community priorities.

With a demonstrated ability to convene diverse audiences, manage public-facing initiatives, and translate community input into actionable outcomes, Kierkiewicz and Tsukazaki – together with HIAA's Board of Directors, which includes leaders in business, philanthropy, arts and culture with strong ties to Hilo and Hawai'i Island – will further strengthen HIAA's leadership role in community. Through this grant, HIAA will lead development of an Arts & Culture Strategic Plan for Hilo, including strategies to leverage the arts in support of economic and workforce development, historic preservation, and revitalization of Downtown Hilo.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;

The primary goal of this request is to develop a comprehensive Arts & Culture Strategic Plan for Hilo that establishes a shared community vision for how arts and culture can strengthen community vitality, support economic development, and enhance quality of life. Key objectives include:

- Establish a long-term vision for arts-led revitalization, with an emphasis on Downtown Hilo, which has experienced increased vacancy, underutilization, and physical deterioration;
- Inventory and map existing arts and culture assets, organizations, programs, venues, and partnerships to identify strengths, gaps, strategic and opportunities;
- Assess the feasibility of an arts district and the adaptive reuse of underutilized commercial spaces for artist live/work housing, flexible incubator spaces, and creative enterprises;
- Identify opportunities for public art, consignment models, shared exhibition space, and creative activation to support local artists, increase community connection, and strengthen pride in place;
- Evaluate the role of arts programming as a strategy to support community wellness and mental health, including identification of partnerships, resources, and engagement approaches;
- Review zoning and land-use regulations to ensure that arts, culture, and creative enterprises are explicitly permitted, supported, and encouraged;

- Evaluate the broader regulatory and permitting environment to identify barriers that may hinder arts and culture development and propose recommendations for improvement;
- Position artists and cultural practitioners as part of the local workforce and small business ecosystem, with strategies that support creative entrepreneurship, sustainable income opportunities, and career pathways within the arts and creative industries.

The strategic plan will bridge long-term visioning with near-term action by identifying implementation-ready strategies that can be advanced through policy alignment, public-private-philanthropic partnerships, and future capital and programmatic investments. This effort will also assess the social and economic value of the arts sector and its role as a revitalization tool, while recognizing arts and culture as essential expressions of community identity, pride, collective well-being, and the living story of our time.

3. The public purpose and need to be served;

In 2025, the Hawai'i Art Alliance (HAA) launched and completed a statewide Strategic Listening Series to understand the needs and aspirations of Hawai'i's arts and culture sector and to hear directly from the people who power Hawai'i's creative economy. Participants across the state expressed a shared long-term vision of a well-funded, visible, and valued arts ecosystem, with stronger access to education, professional pathways, and living-wage creative work. Key priorities consistently surfaced, including multi-year funding stability, workforce development, affordable space, and support structures such as business services, mentorship, and resource hubs — with particular emphasis on strengthening opportunities for Native Hawaiian artists and neighbor island communities.

At the same time, participants identified persistent challenges, including funding instability, the ongoing undervaluing of the arts, and the scarcity of affordable space and housing. Overall, the findings reflect a creative community with tremendous potential, poised to grow through improved coordination, shared resources, and collective action. The resulting HAA's Summary Report provides a roadmap of common themes, values, and patterns, and is presented as a foundation for collective planning and future decision-making.

Arts and culture are sometimes perceived as optional or supplemental; however, they are essential public assets that help build vibrant, attractive, and resilient communities. Art plays a vital role in defining, preserving, and enhancing community character, strengthening sense of place, and improving overall quality of life. Artists – by nature creative, resourceful, and innovative – contribute directly to problem-solving, economic diversification, and community identity. Arts

engagement can also support community wellness and mental health by offering safe, expressive outlets, meaningful connection, and opportunities for healing and belonging. For Hilo, a deliberate strategic plan is needed to integrate arts and culture into future growth and revitalization efforts in an organized and sustained way.

This project serves a clear public purpose by creating a shared, community-driven vision for how arts and culture can contribute to Hilo's future. The strategic planning process will ensure that artists, residents, and cultural practitioners are meaningfully engaged in shaping policies and investments that affect their livelihoods, neighborhoods, and cultural vitality. The resulting plan will serve as a durable, implementation-ready document that provides public agencies, nonprofits, and private-sector partners with a coordinated framework for arts-led community development – one that Hawai'i Island Art Alliance will help steward through partnerships and implementation support.

The creative arts industry represents a meaningful, yet underleveraged component of the local economy. This project will assess and articulate the economic value of arts and culture in Hilo, including its role in generating jobs, supporting small businesses and creative enterprises, strengthening regenerative tourism, increasing property values, and catalyzing Downtown Hilo revitalization. By aligning arts and culture strategies with economic development goals, the plan will position creative industries as a viable tool for revitalization and long-term economic resilience.

To ensure long-term impact, the Arts & Culture Strategic Plan for Hilo will include near-term (1–2 year), mid-term (3–5 year), and long-term (5+ year) actions, with identified lead partners, funding pathways, and policy levers to support sustained implementation beyond the planning period. By producing a coordinated roadmap – not one-time programming – this project ensures that public investment yields lasting community and economic benefit. The plan will serve as a foundation for future grant applications and appropriations, strategic partnerships, and policy initiatives that establish arts and culture as a permanent and valued component of Hilo's development strategy.

4. Describe the target population to be served; and

The target population to be served by this grant includes residents of Hilo and surrounding communities, with direct benefit to individuals and groups who create, sustain, and rely upon arts and culture as part of community life and economic activity. Primary target populations include: local artists and cultural practitioners; creative entrepreneurs and small businesses; arts and culture organizations and institutions; nonprofit organizations; youth and students; community members and

families; and public agencies and community partners. Ultimately, the strategic plan is intended to serve the broader public by increasing access to arts and culture, strengthening pride in place and community identity, and positioning arts-led revitalization as a tool for long-term community and economic well-being in Hilo.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

The Strategic Plan will focus on the Hilo area, with particular emphasis on Downtown Hilo and surrounding neighborhoods, while considering connectivity to broader Hawai'i Island arts and culture ecosystems.

For the purposes of this planning effort, the initial "Hilo" study area is broadly defined as follows and will be further refined and finalized through the planning process: the area generally bounded by Waianuenue Avenue, Kamehameha Avenue (Bayfront), and the Wailoa River, extending inland to include the Aupuni Street corridor, and connecting from Kīlauea Avenue to Mohouli Street up to Komohana Street, which links back to Waianuenue Avenue.

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;

Hawai'i Island Art Alliance will lead the development of a comprehensive Arts & Culture Strategic Plan for Hilo through a structured, community-driven planning process.

The scope of work includes the following core components:

Community Engagement and Input

- Design and facilitate community listening sessions, workshops, and focus groups
- Engage artists, cultural practitioners, residents, youth, nonprofit organizations, and small businesses
- Document community priorities, concerns, and aspirations related to the future of arts and culture in Hilo

Arts & Culture Asset Inventory and Mapping

- Conduct a comprehensive inventory of existing arts and culture assets, including artists, community partners, venues, organizations, events, programs, and cultural spaces

- Map assets geographically to identify concentrations, gaps, service areas, and strategic opportunities
- Analyze how existing assets interact with land use patterns, infrastructure, and commercial activity
- Establish baseline conditions related to arts and culture infrastructure, workforce participation, and the spatial distribution of creative activity to support benchmarking and future evaluation

Policy, Zoning, and Regulatory Review

- Review zoning, land-use regulations, and permitting processes affecting arts, cultural activities, and creative enterprise
- Identify regulatory barriers and opportunities to support arts-led revitalization and adaptive reuse
- Develop policy and zoning recommendations that strengthen the enabling environment for arts and culture in Hilo
- Assess alignment between arts and culture needs and existing County and State policy frameworks, identifying opportunities for integration into adopted plans, ordinances, and funding programs

Feasibility Analysis and Strategic Opportunities

- Assess feasibility of an arts district, arts-focused corridors, and/or creative clusters
- Evaluate adaptive reuse opportunities for underutilized commercial spaces, including potential for creative hubs and shared resource centers, artist live/work housing, incubator and flexible co-working spaces for creative enterprises, flexible production/rehearsal/exhibition venues, and expanded community access to arts and cultural activity

Strategic Plan Development

- Synthesize findings into a clear, actionable Arts & Culture Strategic Plan for Hilo, formatted suitable for adoption, reference, or endorsement by public agencies and community partners
- Define the plan's vision, guiding principles, goals, and priority strategies
- Identify implementation actions sequenced across near-term (1-2 years), mid-term (3-5 years), and long-term (5+ years) horizons
- Identify potential implementation partners, funding pathways, and policy alignments to advance priority strategies

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

Months 1–2: Project Initiation and Planning

- Confirm project scope, deliverables, and detailed work plan
- Develop stakeholder engagement strategy
- Establish project advisory group and meeting schedule
- Finalize project milestones, timeline, and reporting protocols

Months 3–5: Community Engagement and Asset Inventory

- Conduct listening sessions, workshops, and stakeholder interviews
- Engage artists, cultural practitioners, residents, youth, nonprofits, and small businesses
- Compile and document community priorities, concerns, and aspirations
- Complete arts and culture asset inventory and begin geographic mapping and baseline analysis

Months 6–7: Policy and Feasibility Analysis

- Review zoning, land-use regulations, and permitting frameworks affecting arts and cultural activity
- Identify regulatory barriers and opportunities for arts-led revitalization and adaptive reuse
- Conduct feasibility analysis for arts district or arts-focused corridor development; adaptive reuse of underutilized commercial spaces; creative enterprise models (incubators, hubs, shared exhibition venues, artist live/work)
- Begin drafting preliminary recommendations and implementation concepts

Months 8–10: Draft Strategic Plan Development

- Develop draft plan framework, including vision, guiding principles, goals, strategies, and proposed actions
- Draft policy, zoning, and programmatic recommendations
- Circulate draft plan for stakeholder review and collect feedback
- Facilitate review sessions to validate findings and refine priorities

Months 11–12: Final Plan and Reporting

- Finalize Arts & Culture Strategic Plan for Hilo, including implementation-ready strategies and action sequencing
- Present the final plan to the community and key partners (public briefing and/or public meeting format)
- Produce final deliverables, including a public-facing executive summary and implementation tools
- Submit required progress and final reports to the expending agency
- Prepare materials to support adoption, funding alignment, and implementation by policymakers, funders, and community partners

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

Quality assurance will be integrated throughout the project lifecycle to ensure the planning process and final deliverables are accurate, inclusive, and implementation- ready. Key elements include:

- Ongoing Monitoring: Regular directors' check-ins to track progress against milestones, timelines, scope, and budget to ensure responsibilities are completed on schedule.
- Community Validation: Review of draft findings and recommendations by artists, cultural practitioners, partner organizations, youth, and residents to ensure cultural accuracy, relevance, and community alignment.
- Documentation and Transparency: Clear documentation of engagement activities, participation, feedback themes, and decision-making processes.
- Continuous Improvement: Adjustments to outreach and engagement methods to improve participation, accessibility, and representation across communities.

Evaluation will focus on both process quality (inclusivity of engagement, level and diversity of participation, quality of facilitation, and completeness of analysis) and deliverable quality (clarity and usability of the strategic plan, feasibility and practicality of recommendations, and readiness for implementation by public agencies and community partners).

Where feasible, the project will reference comparable peer communities and recognized best practices in arts and culture planning to contextualize findings and support data-informed, realistic recommendations.

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

The following measures of effectiveness will be reported to the State agency through which grant funds are appropriated. These measures provide objective indicators of project progress, achievement, and outcomes, and will be included in required progress and final reports:

- Completion of a finalized Arts & Culture Strategic Plan for Hilo within the grant period, including implementation-ready strategies and recommendations

- Number of community engagement activities conducted (e.g., listening sessions, workshops, focus groups, interviews) and total number of participants engaged
- Completion of a comprehensive arts and culture asset inventory and geographic mapping identifying concentrations, gaps, and opportunities
- Identification of zoning, policy, or regulatory barriers impacting arts and cultural activity, and development of corresponding recommendations to address or reduce barriers
- Identification of feasible strategies related to arts district and/or arts corridor development, adaptive reuse of underutilized spaces, and creative enterprise models
- Inclusion of an implementation framework with prioritized actions, sequencing (near-term, mid-term, long-term), and potential funding pathways and partners
- Documentation of baseline conditions related to arts and culture infrastructure, workforce participation, and spatial distribution of creative activity to support future benchmarking
- Public availability of finalized plan materials, including the Arts & Culture Strategic Plan for Hilo and supporting public-facing summaries and implementation tools

If the level of appropriation differs from the amount requested in this application, the measures of effectiveness will be updated accordingly and transmitted to the expending agency for review and approval.

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
 - b. Personnel salaries and wages
 - c. Equipment and motor vehicles
 - d. Capital project details
 - e. Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid

(Complete budget forms attached.)

- 2. The applicant shall provide its anticipated quarterly funding requests for the fiscal year 2027.**

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
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250,000				
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3. The applicant shall provide a listing of all other sources of funding that they are seeking for fiscal year 2027.

HIAA is pursuing other sources of funding to include County of Hawai'i Waiwai GIA, corporation and private foundation grants totalling \$250,000.

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 2027 for program funding.

No Federal, State, County contracts, grants, and grants in aid were granted to HIAA within the prior three years and no grant funding will be received for FY 2026 for the Arts and Culture Strategic Plan program funding.

6. The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2025.

\$23,676.31

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.

Hawai'i Island Art Alliance possesses the skills, abilities, knowledge, and demonstrated experience necessary to successfully complete the proposed service: development of a comprehensive Arts & Culture Strategic Plan for Hilo.

The organization's leadership team – Ashley Kierkiewicz and Miya Tsukazaki – brings deep expertise in community engagement, arts activation, creative

placemaking, public-private partnership development, and documenting community impact through media. Their work is grounded in Hawai'i Island communities and reflects strong capacity to design and manage initiatives that build civic pride, strengthen community connection, and catalyze revitalization through the arts.

Kierkiewicz and Tsukazaki have collaborated on a series of projects that have expanded access to the arts, increased public participation, demonstrated what is possible through creative activation, and advanced the use of arts as a tool for healing and community well-being. Their combined experience demonstrates strong alignment with the goals of this request, including stakeholder engagement, arts ecosystem development, public art integration, space activation, and cross-sector collaboration.

Collectively, they have proven ability to:

- Convene and engage diverse stakeholders
- Design and produce large-scale arts activations that attract thousands of participants
- Coordinate and deliver creative projects on deadline, within budget, and with measurable outcomes
- Build partnerships across government, philanthropy, the arts sector, and industry
- Document community-driven arts initiatives and translate public input into actionable strategies

Demonstrated Experiences

Activate Hawai'i Series (Annual Community Arts Activation / Creative Placemaking)

- Planning, community engagement, artist coordination, activation design, and production
- Initiated in response to the 2018 Kīlauea eruption, this annual event celebrates Puna's resilience through arts, music, and cultural expression. The initiative includes large-scale community murals, a town celebration/block party, live art exhibits, and cultural performances.
- Average turnout of 5,000–7,000 people; demonstrated ability to produce complex, high-participation arts activations and coordinate artists, partners, logistics, and public engagement.
- Directly supports strategic planning competencies in creative activation, community participation, and arts-led revitalization.

Downtown Hilo Activation – Black & White Night (Creative Activation + Public Space Demonstration)

- Planning and execution support, interactive arts design, community activation
- A Downtown Hilo activation hosted in partnership with existing community programming, including an interactive arts installation in Kalākaua Park and activation at East Hawai'i Cultural Center.
- Demonstrated what is possible in Downtown Hilo through imagination, coordinated planning, and cultural activation – directly aligned with

revitalization goals central to this proposed strategic plan.

The Place that Hurts & Glitters (Artist Residency + Creative Healing Program)

- Temple Children (Miya Tsukazaki) in partnership with Swedish artist Ishtar Bäcklund Dakhil
- Program coordination and facilitation (Tsukazaki); partnership and resource identification, documentation and screening support (Kierkiewicz)
- A six-week creative healing residency led by Swedish artist Ishtar Bäcklund Dakhil, providing arts-based workshops supporting domestic violence survivors.
- Strong outcomes in participant connection, healing, and empowerment; demonstrated ability to manage sensitive, community-centered programming.
- Supports plan objectives related to arts and mental health/community wellness partnerships.

Hawai'i Island Public Art Murals (Multi-year / Ongoing Creative Placemaking Portfolio)

- Co-coordination and project management (artist recruitment, community interface, partner coordination)
- Over the last decade, Kierkiewicz and Tsukazaki have coordinated more than two dozen public art murals across Hawai'i Island, including projects that bring nationally and internationally recognized artists to engage with community and place.
- Strengthened neighborhood identity, community pride, and visual revitalization; established credibility in managing public art initiatives and permissions/partnerships.
- Directly informs planning strategies for public art, place-based identity, cultural tourism, and space activation.

Film and Media Projects Elevating Arts & Creative Ecosystems

- Twisted Braid (Tsukazaki) – film direction/production supporting arts and cultural storytelling; multi-award winning in eight films internationally and part of the Hawai'i International Film Festival Made in Hawai'i Shorts which will screen on Hawaiian Airlines flights.
- That's Sew Hilo (Kierkiewicz) – executive producer of a documentary highlighting local fashion history and community identity
- Demonstrated ability to document arts ecosystems and translate community history and creative identity into public-facing resources—supporting planning goals around visibility, pride, and cultural narrative.

Creative Media Summit (Industry Convening / Workforce and Sector Development)

- Kierkiewicz partnered with County Research & Development, IATSE, Nā Leo TV, and others
- Convened 150+ industry professionals and practitioners to identify strategies to strengthen support systems and workforce pathways in the creative industries.

Directly supports strategic plan objectives related to creative workforce development, economic impact, and cross-sector collaboration.

The proposed strategic planning initiative requires leadership that can engage the public, coordinate cross-sector stakeholders, understand arts infrastructure needs, evaluate barriers and opportunities, and translate community input into implementation-ready recommendations. HIAA's leadership, through the demonstrated work of Kierkiewicz and Tsukazaki, has proven capacity to deliver arts-based community initiatives at scale, build partnerships, and produce meaningful outcomes that align strongly with the proposed Arts & Culture Strategic Plan for Hilo.

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.

Hawai'i Island Art Alliance (HIAA) will utilize the Wailoa Art Center, located within the Wailoa River State Recreation Area, as the primary home base and operational hub for the Arts & Culture Strategic Plan for Hilo. Wailoa Art Center is an established and highly visible public arts facility that provides an appropriate setting for community engagement, convenings, and collaboration in support of this planning effort.

The Wailoa Art Center will serve as a central venue for project administration and stakeholder coordination, as well as a primary location for public-facing engagement activities. Community engagement events will be scheduled to align with and leverage the Wailoa exhibit calendar and visitor traffic, allowing the planning process to build on existing public participation and arts programming.

To ensure broad participation across the community and to engage residents where they live, work, and gather, HIAA will also conduct pop-up listening sessions, activations, and engagement opportunities throughout the defined Downtown Hilo study area and surrounding neighborhoods. These pop-up engagements will be hosted in accessible community settings such as galleries, public spaces, partner venues, schools, and small businesses, enabling diverse participation and increasing outreach to underserved and hard-to-reach populations.

HIAA's combined use of Wailoa Art Center as a stable planning headquarters, paired with decentralized community-based engagements, provides adequate facilities and access to successfully execute the proposed scope of work. Should additional venues be needed for specific meetings or workshops, HIAA will secure facilities through partner organizations and community collaborators to ensure all engagement goals and deliverables are met within the grant period.

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.

Hawai'i Island Art Alliance proposes a staffing structure that is appropriate, sufficient, and well-suited to deliver the scope of work for the development of an Arts & Culture Strategic Plan for Hilo. The project will be led by the organization's Operations Director and Creative Director supported by an experienced Board of Directors, and supplemented by contracted professional services and project-specific consultants as needed. This structure ensures strong leadership oversight, adequate service capacity, and access to specialized expertise while remaining cost-effective.

Board Leadership and Organizational Oversight

The Hawai'i Island Art Alliance Board of Directors includes leaders in community, business, philanthropy, and the arts, providing strategic guidance, governance, and organizational accountability, including:

- Malu Debus, Hawai'i Community Foundation
- Bob Douglas, Abstract Artist and Founding Member of HIAA
- Jason Fujimoto, HPM Building Supply
- Mosese Ohia, Entrepreneur
- Kuha'o Zane, Sig Zane Designs
- Jennifer Zelko-Schlueter, Esq., Hawaiian Electric

Staffing Pattern and Service Capacity

The project will be co-led by Ashley Kierkiewicz (Operations Director) and Miya Tsukazaki (Creative Director). Together, they will oversee project management, community engagement, coordination with partner organizations, and delivery of final outcomes. Additional technical capacity will be provided through contracted facilitators, researchers, and subject-matter consultants to support asset mapping, policy and zoning review, feasibility analysis, and final plan design and production.

Qualifications and Experience of Key Personnel

Ashley Kierkiewicz, Operations Director, brings more than a decade of leadership experience at the intersection of arts, culture, community engagement, public policy, and media. Her background includes executive leadership of a community-based media and arts organization, facilitation of community-driven

planning processes through local government, and extensive experience working with government agencies, nonprofits, artists, and cultural practitioners.

Her expertise includes:

- Strategic planning and implementation
- Community engagement and facilitation
- Arts- and culture-led economic and community revitalization initiatives
- Public-sector coordination and policy analysis
- Grant administration and accountability

Ashley's experience ensures that the project will be grounded in both community priorities and an understanding of regulatory, land-use, and economic development frameworks relevant to arts and culture planning.

Miya Tsukazaki, Creative Director, brings more than a decade of experience in arts programming and education, cultural organizing, and community-based project management in Hilo. Her work has focused on building a platform for artists and collaborators, producing arts activations and events that reflect local values, and fostering inclusive participation across diverse communities. Miya's strengths lie in relationship-building, creative production, and translating community input into practical strategies and deliverables.

Her expertise includes:

- Arts programming, education and event coordination
- Artist and cultural practitioner engagement
- Community outreach and partnership development
- Project coordination and documentation
- Equity-centered and culturally responsive practices

Miya's leadership ensures that the planning process authentically reflects the lived experiences, needs, and aspirations of Hilo's artists and cultural communities.

Supervision, Training, and Administrative Direction

Kierkiewicz and Tsukazaki will jointly provide supervision and administrative direction across all activities. Responsibilities include setting work plans and timelines, managing consultant contracts, monitoring performance toward deliverables, and ensuring compliance with State Grant-in-Aid requirements.

Administrative capacity includes:

- Financial management and grant reporting
- Contract oversight and deliverable review
- Documentation of engagement and outcomes

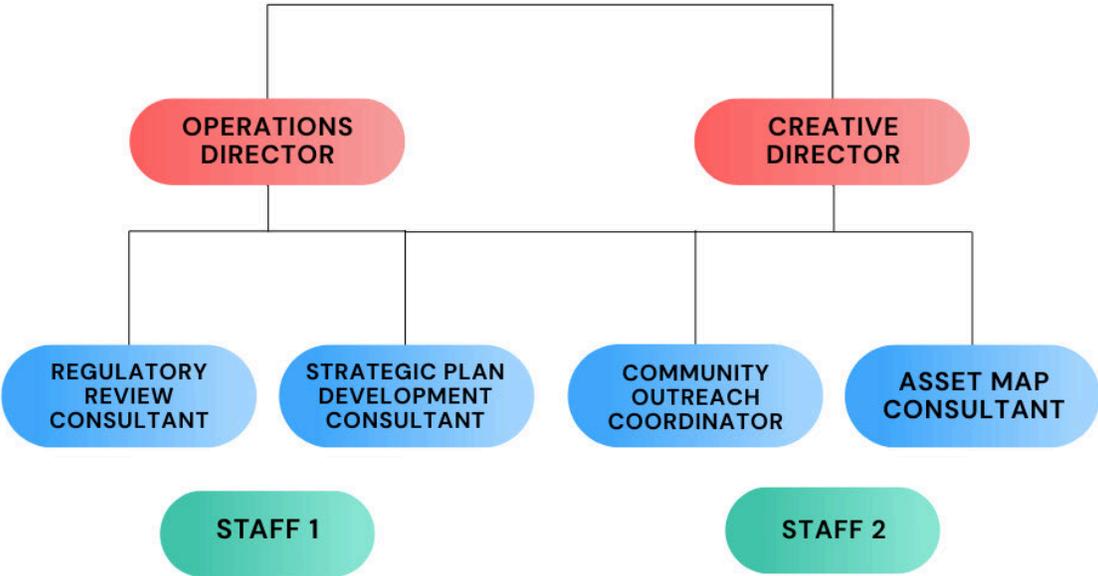
- Coordination with the expending State agency

HIAA has established systems for internal communication, task tracking, and reporting, which will be applied to this project to ensure transparency, accountability, and timely completion. The directors' combined experience in supervising multidisciplinary teams and managing publicly funded initiatives positions the organization to successfully deliver the proposed services.

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.

HIAA ARTS & CULTURE STRATEGIC PLAN ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



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.

Currently, Hawai'i Island Art Alliance (HIAA) has no paid staff; therefore, the organization does not currently pay salaries to officers, directors, or employees. Prior to Ashley Kierkiewicz and Miya Tsukazaki assuming leadership roles, HIAA primarily functioned as a fiscal sponsor supporting activities associated with the Wailoa Art Center. At this time, Kierkiewicz and Tsukazaki are volunteering their time while actively pursuing grant funding and other resources to support staffing capacity and advance the next phase of HIAA's work.

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.

No pending litigation.

2. Licensure or Accreditation

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

N/A

3. Private Educational Institutions

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

HIAA will not use this grant to support or benefit a sectarian or non-sectarian private educational institution.

4. Future Sustainability Plan

The applicant shall provide a plan for sustaining after fiscal year 2027 the activity funded by the grant if the grant of this application is:

- (a) Received by the applicant for fiscal year 2027, but
- (b) Not received by the applicant thereafter.

Hawai'i Island Art Alliance will sustain the activity funded by this grant – implementation and continued use of the Arts & Culture Strategic Plan for Hilo – through the following strategies:

- Financial Diversification. HIAA will pursue diversified funding to advance priority implementation actions, including State and County grant opportunities, private foundation support, individual giving, and corporate sponsorships. HIAA will also expand earned-income strategies through Wailoa Center programming, mission-aligned events, and fundraising activities to support continued implementation.
- Capacity Building. HIAA will strengthen internal organizational capacity to reduce reliance on external consultants by investing in staff and volunteer development, improving internal systems and project management processes, and strengthening technology infrastructure for data tracking and reporting. As resources allow, HIAA will build a membership and volunteer base to support ongoing implementation.
- Partnerships and Shared Ownership. HIAA will formalize partnerships with arts organizations, nonprofits, businesses, and public agencies to advance shared implementation priorities. Broad stakeholder buy-in and community ownership will help ensure continuity beyond the grant term, including coordination with entities positioned to lead specific strategies.
- Implementation Roadmap and Continuous Planning. The Strategic Plan will include sequenced actions (near-, mid-, and long-term), funding pathways, and recommended policy levers, enabling implementation even if the original grant is not renewed. HIAA will use plan data and outcomes to set measurable goals, evaluate progress, and update strategies over time to keep the work active and responsive.

Through these continuity strategies, HIAA will ensure the Strategic Plan remains a durable public resource that guides long-term investment, partnerships, and policy initiatives supporting arts and culture in Hilo and Hawai'i Island.

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Applicant: Hawai'i Island Art Alliance

BUDGET CATEGORIES	Total State Funds Requested (a)	Total Federal Funds Requested (b)	Total County Funds Requested (c)	Total Private/Other Funds Requested (d)
A. PERSONNEL COST				
1. Salaries	175,000			
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments				
3. Fringe Benefits				
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	175,000			
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island				
2. Insurance				
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment				
4. Lease/Rental of Space				
5. Staff Training				
6. Supplies				
7. Telecommunication				
8. Utilities				
9. Community Engagement/Outreach	45,000			
10. Asset Map & Inventory	35,000			
11. Policy/Zoning Analysis	30,000			
12. Plan Design/Materials	20,000			
13. Admin Fee	20,000			
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	150,000			
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES				
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES				
E. CAPITAL				
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	325,000			
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested		Ashley Kierkiewicz & Miya Tsukazaki 808-989-4004 + 808-938-6281		
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested		Name (Please type or print) Phone		
(c) Total County Funds Requested				
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested		Jan. 23, 2026		
		Signature of Authorized Official Date		
TOTAL BUDGET	325,000	Ashley Kierkiewicz, Operations Director		
		Name and Title (Please type or print)		

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES

Period: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Applicant: Hawai'i Island Art Alliance

POSITION TITLE	FULL TIME EQUIVALENT	ANNUAL SALARY A	% OF TIME ALLOCATED TO GRANT REQUEST B	TOTAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED (A x B)
Operations Director	18 hours/week	\$87,500.00	100.00%	\$ 87,500.00
Creative Director	18 hours/week	\$87,500.00	100.00%	\$ 87,500.00
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
TOTAL:				175,000.00
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:				

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Applicant: Hawai'i Island Art Alliance

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

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

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

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Applicant: Hawai'i Island Art Alliance

N/A

FUNDING AMOUNT REQUESTED						
TOTAL PROJECT COST	ALL SOURCES OF FUNDS RECEIVED IN PRIOR YEARS		STATE FUNDS REQUESTED	OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS REQUESTED	FUNDING REQUIRED IN SUCCEEDING YEARS	
	FY: 2022-2023	FY: 2023-2024	FY:2024-2025	FY:2024-2025	FY:2025-2026	FY:2026-2027
PLANS						
LAND ACQUISITION						
DESIGN						
CONSTRUCTION						
EQUIPMENT						
TOTAL:						
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:						

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

Applicant: Hawai'i Island Art Alliance

Contracts Total: -

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1	N/A				
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
27		10			Application for Grants