

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

Type of Grant Request:

Operating Capital

Legal Name of Requesting Organization or Individual: Db:

Hawai'i Keiki Musuem

Amount of State Funds Requested: \$ 772,045

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

The Hawai'i Keiki Museum (HKM) is a hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) education center dedicated to inspiring curiosity, fostering innovation, and connecting Hawai'i Island's keiki to the natural world. Through interactive exhibits, engaging workshops, and real-world learning opportunities, the HKM advances science literacy and workforce-aligned skills across Hawai'i Island.

But the Hawai'i Keiki Museum is more than a museum. It's an experience. At HKM, children and their caregivers explore, discover, create, play, and learn about the 'aina. The HKM is committed to making science-fueled fun available to everyone in our community.

We are seeking capital funding to expand our educational programs to Hilo by renovating a historic building in the culturally significant district of Shinmachi. A Hilo branch will provide dedicated space for exhibits, a destination for school field trips, after-school workshops, and public space for community arts and cultural celebrations. The Shinmachi building, centrally located with ample parking has been vacant for many years and requires restoration to bring it up to

Amount of Other Funds Available:

State: \$ 0

Federal: \$ 0

County: \$ 0

Private/Other: \$ 96,424

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

\$ 179,000

Unrestricted Assets:

\$ 137,159

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

Type of Business Entity:

- 501(C)(3) Non Profit Corporation
- Other Non Profit
- Other

Mailing Address:

69-250 Waikoloa Beach Dr. K104

City: State: Zip:
Waikoloa HI 96738

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application

Name:
Dana McLaughlin

Title:
Founder / Executive Director

Email:
dana@hawaiikekimuseum.org

Phone:
808-987-4181



Dana McLaughlin, Founder / E.D.

1/23/2026

Authorized Signature

Name and Title

Date Signed



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF VENDOR COMPLIANCE

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

Vendor Name: HAWAII KEIKI MUSEUM

Issue Date: 01/19/2026

Status: **Compliant**

Hawaii Tax#:

New Hawaii Tax#:

FEIN/SSN#:

UI#:

XXXXXX6211

DCCA FILE#:

319082

Status of Compliance for this Vendor on issue date:

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

Status Legend:

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

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

The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies the following:

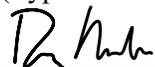
- 1) The applicant meets and will comply with all of the following standards for the award of grants pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is licensed or accredited, in accordance with federal, state, or county statutes, rules, or ordinances, to conduct the activities or provide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

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

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

Dana McLaughlin

(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)



(Signature)

1/18/2026

(Date)

Dana McLaughlin

(Typed Name)

(Title)

I. CERTIFICATION

Statement of Public Purpose

This grant will be used for a public purpose pursuant to Section 42F-102, Hawai'i Revised Statutes:

(1) The name of the requesting organization or individual

Hawai'i Keiki Museum

(2) The public purpose for the grant

The Hawai'i Keiki Museum connects keiki to the Island of Hawai'i through hands-on exploration of island science. The funding will support organizational capacity building to inspire wonderment, ignite curiosity, and expand STEAM learning across ages and across communities. By opening a branch location in Hilo, we aim to bring island science directly into the neighborhoods where keiki live, sharing research happening right here on island, promoting family learning, and nurturing the innovators of tomorrow.

(3) The services to be supported by the grant

The Hawai'i Keiki Museum is a science discovery center in West Hawai'i. It is open to the public 7 days a week and receives an average of 1,813 visitors a month, 58% percent of which are locals, and 51% are keiki aged 0-9 years. This capital improvement funding will support the expansion of our services by establishing a second branch location in Hilo, bringing our proven hands-on STEAM learning experiences to a new community. The grant funding will specifically include the following business activities: renovations and operational expenses to prepare the new space for public use, the creation of career-connected, Hilo-centric hands-on educational exhibits, the development of wayfinding signage to enhance accessibility and the visitor experience, updating our programming so that it is recognizable to keiki who live in Hilo, and aligned with Hawai'i Department of Education standards.

(4) The target group

Museum exhibits and interactives are aimed at younger keiki, aged 0-9 years old. Programs, workshops and classes are for ages 8-14. Internships are offered to students aged 14-21.

(5) The cost of the grant and the budget

The ask is for a one-time \$728,252 grant to support startup costs to open a Hawai'i Keiki Museum in Hilo. Ongoing operational expenses will be covered by admissions, memberships and sustaining support from our foundation partners.

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.

2. Declaration Statement

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

3. Public Purpose

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

II. Background and Summary

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

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

The Hawai'i Keiki Museum (HKM) is a children's science discovery center that welcomes children of all ages and abilities to have science learning experiences. It is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, a grass-roots effort, started by the local community to connect keiki to the natural world in ways they recognize from living on Hawai'i Island. Through interactive exhibits, engaging workshops, and real-world learning opportunities, HKM advances science literacy and workforce-aligned skills across the island.

There is a common sentiment that its hard to have a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) career on the Big Island, which dampens enthusiasm for STEAM learning in West Hawai'i. The Hawai'i Keiki Museum is dedicated to bridging that gap, inspiring local innovation through hands-on, place-based

learning, and brings awareness of opportunities for STEAM careers that exist right here - on island.

The Hawai'i Keiki Museum is a young museum but it has already had a huge impact on the community it serves. HKM opened its first location in Kailua-Kona in fall 2022, and in 2024 HKM opened a second branch location 40 miles away in Waikōloa. For over three years, HKM has continuously offered a safe educational space for 'ohana to bond, career-connected school-out programming, internships for high school students, and community outreach activity tables all across Hawai'i Island. In FY 2025, the HKM conducted 65 days of school-out classes including 8 weeks of summer camp, and conducted micro-learning activities at 26 community celebrations.

The Hawai'i Keiki Museum is so much more than a museum. By grounding STEAM learning in place, with gratitude, HKM prepares keiki not only to recognize local opportunities in STEAM careers, but to succeed - across the pacific, and around the world.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;

Exhibits and programs at the Hawai'i Keiki Museum are designed to develop Island Science Literacy and connect keiki to local STEAM opportunities. The primary goal of this request is to secure funding to renovate the historic Shinmachi building and establish a Hilo branch of the Hawai'i Keiki Museum.

The objectives of this project are to:

- Re-activate the historic Shinmachi building as a safe, accessible, welcoming public space.
- Increase Island Science Literacy by connecting more keiki to the natural world through hands-on, place-based learning: exhibits, programs, and internships
- Create a destination for school field trips, after-school programs, DOE-out classes, cultural celebrations, and safe family learning experiences.
- Build organizational capacity to run multiple branch locations simultaneously, preparing for future expansion to Tahiti, Samoa, and the Marshall Islands.

By renovating the Shinmachi building and opening it to the public, this project will revitalize a historic landmark and establish a cultural educational centerpiece for the Hilo community.

3. The public purpose and need to be served;

The HKM is the only children's science museum in the state of Hawai'i open to the public every day of the week. It is located on the West Coast of Hawai'i Island, also

known as the Big Island. The Big Island of Hawai'i is rural. It is 4,028 square miles in size (for comparison, the state of Connecticut is 4,842 square miles). The population is 209,790 people (July 2024 Census estimate and UHERO Population dashboard) giving it a population density of 52 people per square mile, which is in the lowest quartile for the country.

Hawai'i Island is not only rural, and geographically large, there is very limited STEAM education infrastructure. While world-class scientific research occurs on island, including astronomy, climate science, oceanography, and earth sciences, many keiki lack access to early, engaging science learning opportunities that connect these fields to real, attainable careers. On this island, science is literally “all around us”. It is critical that we show keiki that rewarding opportunities here on the Big Island not only exist, but they are exciting.

For generations, Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners have stewarded knowledge that has been tested, refined, and validated through lived experience and a scientific method grounded in observation, practice, and adaptation. Yet, because this knowledge has not always been documented in Western academic publications, it has too often been dismissed or devalued. (Vibrant Hawaii, 2025)

Opening a branch in Hilo addresses this need by bringing science learning directly into the community where keiki live. The Shinmachi location will serve as a safe, inclusive space for family learning, school partnerships, and community connection. In addition to educational outcomes, the museum has demonstrated social benefits, functioning as a trusted, neutral environment for families navigating foster care transitions, reunification, mental health support, and other sensitive circumstances.

Since opening our doors in 2022, we have also become a much needed “safe space” where vulnerable members of the community connect. This includes foster parents meeting their new child, estranged parents meeting their children for the first time after incarceration or detox, and mental health professionals using the museum as a place to observe their young patients playing and socializing with others. Often, museum staff and other bystanders are not aware of these activities taking place. The folks receiving these services come in as paying visitors and they are able to remain anonymous, which means the activities are natural and the interactions are authentic. We've noticed that dads, in particular, find the museum exhibits to be an easy way to engage with, and talk to their kids. Discussing physical phenomena such as “lift” and “airflow” together brings families closer. The museum is a place of exploration, a unique setting where families can share new experiences, and spend time together in a natural, educational way.

Renovating the Shinmachi building also serves the public by revitalizing a long-vacant historic structure in a culturally significant district, transforming it into a vibrant educational and community asset. Keiki and their caregivers need an accessible place to learn about island science, on their schedule, and the potential opportunities for careers right here - on island.

4. Describe the target population to be served;

The primary target population includes keiki ages 0–18 living on the East side of Hawai'i Island.

There are 46,914 children under the age of 18 living on the Big Island. Hawai'i is an EPSCoR state. All the high schools on Hawai'i Island are Title 1 schools - meaning over 40% of the population is classified as low-income so all students here receive subsidized school meals. Opening a branch location in Hilo will connect families across socioeconomic backgrounds, including those who may not otherwise have access to enrichment programs or informal science learning opportunities.

The Shinmachi location will serve:

- Keiki ages 0–9 through hands-on exhibits and caregiver-supported learning
- Keiki ages 8–14 through workshops, and career-connected programming
- Keiki ages 14-20 through maker space activities, and internships
- Families and caregivers seeking safe, educational, and culturally grounded spaces for shared learning
- Educators and schools seeking field trip destinations aligned with Hawai'i Department of Education standards
- Vulnerable populations, including keiki in foster care, housing-insecure families, and families from Puna and other underserved districts

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

The Hawai'i Keiki Museum headquarters is a 10,000 square foot educational play space in West Hawai'i. HKM additionally maintains an outreach outpost exhibit at the Hawi Library, and runs quarterly programming in Oceanview. We regularly hear from Hilo families on social media and in Google Reviews that its 'worth the drive'. Two years ago, we had a facility in Kailua-Kona, near Target, and in that location, there were hundreds of Hilo families that were annual pass holders. They would drive from Hilo to Costco and stop at the museum for the kids.

A Hilo location is a direct response to this community request, and demonstrated need. This support will allow us to reach out to some of our most vulnerable populations: families living in Puna, keiki in foster care, and the housing insecure. On this Big Island we need to bring STEAM educational experiences, and career-

connected learning opportunities to keiki where they live. Together we can give Big Island keiki the two things they crave the most: **opportunity** and **choice**.

The Hilo location will serve families from:

- Hilo town and surrounding communities
- Puna
- Ka'ū
- Hamakua
- Rural East Hawai'i districts with limited access to informal education resources

By operating on both the west and the east sides of the island, the Hawai'i Keiki Museum becomes an island-wide center for local science learning. Expanding access to STEAM education and reducing transportation barriers for families is the goal. Hawai'i Island's unique geography and cultural richness offer unparalleled opportunities for STEM education. However, very few of the children who are educated on Hawai'i Island choose STEAM-related career pursuits. While the island boasts rich science endeavors and research opportunities, such as the ROV exploring the ocean floor aboard the RV Nautilus, local keiki haven't traditionally been exposed to them. Even entry-level support positions in marine biology, renewable energy, volcanology and astronomy are typically recruited from the mainland, while many high school graduates struggle to find rewarding careers locally. More than half of them resort to moving to the mainland to find steady work and to be able to afford living expenses. From our research, the two main reasons for this disconnect are a lack of exposure to members of the local science industry, and a correlating gap in discipline specific skill sets. This geographic expansion ensures that opportunity and choice are available to keiki regardless of where they live on Hawai'i Island.

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;

Key Issues with the Shinmachi Building:

The Shinmachi building was constructed over 50 years ago, classifying it as an important historical structure. It's size and layout, and ample parking, make it ideal for multipurpose community use. Key features include four large exhibit hall areas that we, and our community partners, would use to host museum exhibits, science lectures, educational workshops, and community events. In addition, it has a

basement workshop area for a maker space, and exhibit fabrication, a commercial kitchen facility that could some day serve a museum café or support a shared community kitchen project, and it also has two stage areas (in different exhibit halls) for plays, demonstrations, performances, educational talks, and cultural celebrations.

- Structural and Cosmetic Repairs

The building requires a new deck, railing, paint touch ups, and updates to cosmetic trim to create a safe and welcoming space.

- Sewer System Overhaul

The existing sewer system has failed and needs a complete restoration, which represents the most significant cost of this renovation. Addressing this issue is critical to the success of the project, as the building cannot currently be opened to the public.

- Electrical Upgrades

The Shinmachi building's electrical wiring needs a routine inspection and minor upgrades to be brought up to current safety codes, owing to its being vacant for so long.

- Community Kitchen

The Shinmachi building once operated as a banquet hall and then as a cafe. It has an extensive commercial kitchen that has fallen into disrepair. The status of the appliances, freezers, and grease traps is unknown. While the kitchen presents an exciting opportunity for community use as a shared food hub prep space, one that members of the Hilo community have been asking for for many years, its refurbishment will be a costly undertaking in its own right. As such, this is considered to be Phase 2 - something to work on next year. As we perform the building occupancy renovation project the year, the kitchen appliances and infrastructure will be assessed to determine if they can be serviced, refurbished, or need to be replaced. This includes performing maintenance on the walk-in fridge and freezer, the gas lines, and the grease traps. With this information, funding for its remediation can be explored next year. For now, the focus of this project remains on addressing the critical renovations needed to open the Shinmachi building to the public and to begin running STEAM educational programming and school-out workshops in Hilo.

The sewer restoration represents the largest portion of the budget to renovate the Shinmachi building. This investment is absolutely critical to the project's success, as the building cannot be safely opened to the public without a functioning sewer system. Addressing this issue not only ensures the facility meets health and safety standards but also protects the long-term viability of the Hilo branch.

The Scope of Work Includes:

- Renovation of the Shinmachi Building to meet public safety, accessibility, and operational requirements: including deck and railing replacement, cosmetic repairs, sewer system restoration, and electrical upgrades.
 - Cleaning, painting, and interior preparation of exhibit halls, public areas, restrooms, and stairwells while preserving key historical elements of the building to honor its cultural significance.
 - Fabrication, relocation, and installation of interactive, Hilo-centric, career-connected STEAM exhibits that reflect local Hawai'i Island ecosystems, culture, and industries.
 - Hire and train new staff in Hilo to manage museum operations, support visitor services, and deliver educational programming
 - Opening the exhibit hall, and launching public programming, including school field trips, after-school workshops, DOE-out classes, and community events.
 - Assessment of the commercial kitchen for future Phase 2 development.
- Release weekly YouTube interviews to document our progress and share this exciting project with a global audience

Proposed Team Approach and Responsibilities:

To successfully tackle the challenges of renovating the Shinmachi building, we are working with a team of experienced professionals:

- The Hawai'i Keiki Museum Leadership Team
 - Coordinates with the construction project manager, manages the grant reporting and compliance requirements, fabricates the interactive exhibits that reflect Hilo's cultural heritage and celebrate scientific achievements, cleans, installs exhibits, sets up the basement as a maker space, recruits and trains new staff and ultimately runs community events, workshops, and school field trips. Additionally, the HKM Staff will document the project, creating weekly YouTube videos and summative Data Story.
- Construction Project Manager
 - Guia Lasquete is an independent licensed senior construction project manager. She is responsible for overseeing the remodeling and refurbishment process, ensuring efficient coordination of contractors and the adherence to timelines and budgets.
- Hawai'i Licensed Architect
 - A local architect will develop and submit 'as-built' plans, manage the permitting process within the County of Hawai'i, and ensure structural engineering and updates comply with regulations.
- General Contractor
 - A general contractor has bid on rebuilding the deck, making plaster repairs, painting, and addressing other necessary cosmetic defects. The focus of these repairs is the three large exhibit halls, the restrooms, and the public

passageways / staircases. It has already been confirmed that no basement, seismic, or foundation work is needed.

- Sewer Restoration Company

Sewer Solutions has been engaged to replace two sections of the sewer lines and restore this critical infrastructure. Water service and supply is adequate.

- Electrician

A licensed C electrician will inspect and bring the electrical system up to code, ensuring safety and functionality throughout the building. There are no specific problems currently.

- Financial Partner

First Hawaiian Bank has expressed interest in working with us to secure a construction loan, and expanding our line of credit. This further demonstrates the community's confidence in the project's feasibility and helps secure sustainability for generations to come.

- Community Partners

If this project is green-lighted, several community partners may join us to share occupancy of the building including: the Pacific Tsunami Museum has been working with Hawai'i Island Civil Defense to create a tsunami warning center, Vibrant Hawai'i has partners that have been interested in running a shared community kitchen facility, Hilo Education Arts Repertory Theater (H.E.A.R.T) is interested in using the stage(s) for performances and running drama classes, and NexTech is interested in potentially using the maker space for after school and DOE-out programming.

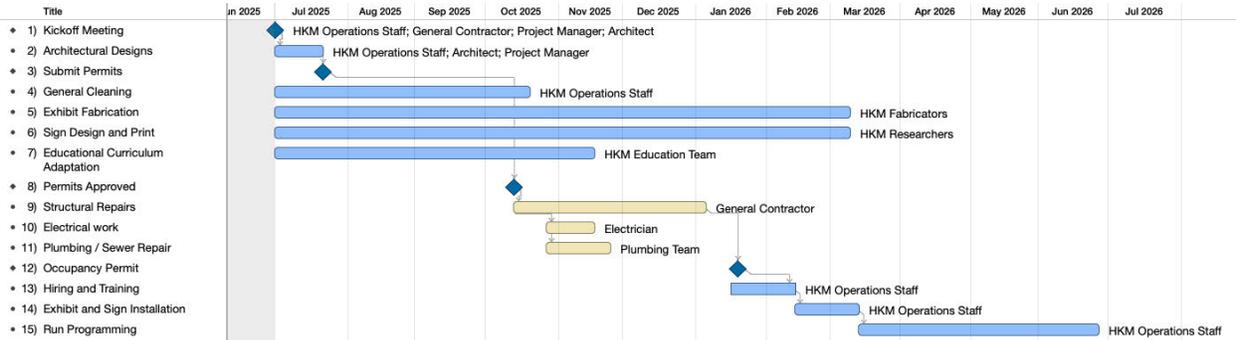
Planning for the expansion to Hilo began two years ago. With this funding we will be able to ramp-up activities quickly.

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

The anticipated timeline for completing the renovation and opening the Shinmachi building to the public is 12 months, contingent on timely permitting and construction.

- Month 1: Finalize architectural drawings and submit structural, plumbing, and electrical permits
- Months 2–4: Clean the building; fabricate exhibits offsite; develop signage and educational materials
- Months 4–7: Complete renovations, including sewer restoration, deck replacement, electrical upgrades, and interior painting
- Months 7–9: Hire and train staff; install exhibits; set up the maker space

- Months 10–12: Secure occupancy permit; soft opening to the public; begin full programming; evaluate outcomes and submit final reports



A contingency buffer is built into the schedule to accommodate unforeseen challenges common in historic building renovations.

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

Construction and Facility Quality Assurance

To ensure that the building is safe, functional, and aligned with modern standards, a licensed general contractor will be used. The inclusion of a construction project manager is a key element to keeping the project on time and on budget. The project manager and HKM staff work with the construction project manager and conduct regular site inspections to monitor progress and adherence to design specifications. The Architect will be hands-on to assist with the permitting process and performing site visits that ensure all work complies with building codes and ADA accessibility standards.

Exhibit and Program Quality Assurance

To deliver engaging, culturally relevant, and scientifically accurate content, the museum’s volunteer and paid educational staff developed target goals for each exhibit story that are scientifically educational and grounded in cultural reference to place and gratitude. Evaluation of the products, including the teacher’s guide, signage, and web pages will be done by a cohort of museum professionals, local educators, and community members, including student interns gaining career-ready experience. New exhibits are often tested with small groups of students to gather feedback on engagement, clarity, and functionality, and suggested improvements are incorporated before finalizing and installing exhibits. Furthermore, weekly YouTube videos will be released that make the process transparent to a global audience. It is our hope that this work not only enables the Hilo community, but inspires other small communities across Pasifika, and around the globe to take action to create sustainability.

Continuous Improvement Strategy

The HKM uses a data-driven approach and listens to community input. Insights come from visitor surveys, attendance data, staff recommendations, and program outcomes. Attendance and visitor demographics will be tracked beyond the period of this grant, including the number of keiki, families, and educators served, as well as frequency of repeat visits. In the future, evaluation of the impact of programs on keiki and families can be done by measuring knowledge acquisition, interest in STEAM fields, and career awareness during workshops and DOE-out classes. This is currently being done at our Waikōloa location.

Sustainability Plan

Together with local schools, other cultural organizations, and STEAM businesses, our goal is to create more opportunities for keiki through STEAM education. The museum's primary source of operational revenue comes from visitor admissions and annual memberships. A gift shop featuring educational toys, books, and local artisan products supplements the admissions revenue. When the kitchen is refurbished, a café on the lower level will offer healthy, locally sourced snacks for keiki and their caregivers, and be an additional revenue stream. The museum will also continue to cultivate relationships with sponsors and donors through storytelling that highlights its impact on local keiki and families. Donor recognition opportunities include name plaques on exhibits and social media share outs. Through these financial pathways the HKM will establish a reserve fund for building repairs and exhibit updates to avoid unexpected costs and ensure a high-quality uninterrupted visitor experience.

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 objective measures will be reported to the State expending agency:

- Architectural designs completed and permits submitted by Month 2
- Plumbing, electrical, and general permits approved by Month 6
- Occupancy permit issued for the Shinmachi building by Month 11
- Museum soft opening to the public by Month 12

If the final appropriation amount differs from the requested level, these measures will be updated and transmitted to the expending agency.

IV. Financial

Budget

Budget Context:

The \$728,252 budget includes all necessary steps to address the key issues covering design, permitting, construction, and finish work. This grant application focuses on securing funds specifically for these one-time expenses. The HKM has an LOI for a five-year lease for the Shinmachi building, which includes the option to sublet portions of the 20,624-square-foot space. This flexibility allows the museum to create a hub for programming, to include multiple partner organizations, and enhances the overall community enjoyment of this historic space.

1. The applicant shall submit a budget utilizing the enclosed budget forms as applicable, to detail the cost of the request.
 - a. Budget request by source of funds ([Link](#))
 - b. Personnel salaries and wages ([Link](#))
 - c. Equipment and motor vehicles ([Link](#))
 - d. Capital project details ([Link](#))
 - e. Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid ([Link](#))

Our proposed budget to rehabilitate the Shinmachi building in Hilo is \$728,252 including, labor, 1099 contractor temps, construction costs, facility costs, and supplies & materials.

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
\$255,472	\$181,472	\$111,472	\$179,836	\$728,252

3. The applicant shall provide a listing of all other sources of funding that they are seeking for fiscal year 2027.

For FY2027 the Hawai'i Keiki Museum is seeking a variety of funding from sources including the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Institute for Museums and Library Services (IMLS), the Atherton Family Foundation, First Hawaiian Bank, Koi Pond Bridges, the Kukio Foundation, the County of Hawai'i, and partners of the Hawai'i Community Fund. However, these funding sources are seeking general operating and program expenses for Waikōloa and south Kailua-Kona not the Hilo expansion.

In the Budget Request by Source of Funds we included only the activities related to the Hilo renovation plus the two federal grant requests to the IMLS for staff training, and program support which includes supplies. We expect to hear back about those two submissions in October of 2026.

The matching funds for this expansion that are shown on the Budget Request by Source of Funds will come from the Waikōloa museum's sales of admission tickets and annual memberships. Like Waikoloa, we anticipate that programs in Hilo will generate sustaining revenue streams.

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.**

The Hawai'i Keiki Museum is a 501(c)3 and is GET exempt. Admission, gift shop sales, outings, activities, and unsolicited donations to the Hawai'i Keiki Museum are qualified and approved as exempt from Hawai'i GET tax.

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.**

Federal - NASA TEAMS II award \$50,000 over two years
State - \$179,000 in GIA awarded for FY 2025 to open the Waikōloa location
County of Hawai'i - \$15,000 in FY 2026 to create a Keiki MakerFair program
County of Hawai'i - \$14,000 in FY 2023 to build exhibits and furnishings

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

Assets: \$137,159

V. Experience and Capability

The Hawai'i Keiki Museum has both the experience and capacity to successfully execute this project, backed by a proven track record of creating impactful learning spaces and managing multiple locations. The opening of a Hilo branch represents an organic and community-driven response to demand, demonstrating both our willingness to adapt to community needs and our commitment to equitable access to STEAM education.

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.

The Hawai'i Keiki Museum (HKM) has demonstrated strong capacity to design, deliver, and evaluate STEAM education programs, hyper localized to rural community needs and is uniquely positioned to implement the services proposed in this application. Over the past three years, HKM has welcomed over 60,000 visitors to it's main exhibit hall, run two simultaneous branch locations, built and installed 37 exhibits, hosted more than 50 school field trips, conducted nearly 200 days of classes and workshops, and provided more than 600 hours of internship opportunities for local high school students. HKM enjoys strong partnerships with private, public, and charter schools, numerous local community nonprofits, and local science industries. This allows HKM to offer locally-relevant workforce-aligned programs in the areas of robotics, geology, computer building, and drone operations connecting keiki to real, attainable, on-island career pathways.

HKM intentionally designs and re-designs programming in response to community demand. In 2025, some of its most successful workshops included Rolling Robots, All About Geodes, and Build-Your-Own Computer, and drone operations. HKM is laser-focused on community needs because it was founded and is run by community members, including local high school students who participate in exhibit design, project leadership, research positions, and decision-making. In 2025, even without state funding, HKM piloted community-based delivery models in South Kona and Oceanview to explore distributed service strategies. We taught high school band students how to build an Ukulele, and keiki in Kailua-Kona how to paddle a SUP. This demonstrated skill in multi-site operations, operational maturity, and fiscal responsibility directly inform the approach proposed in this request.

This project to open a facility in Hilo is being spurred on by repeated inquiries from parents and business leaders who enjoy the programming offered on the West Side, and wan an educational space for children to learn about the 'aina, make new friends, and enjoy family bonding time. When we operated a facility in Kailua-Kona we discovered that a number of families from Hilo would regularly drive over an hour to get to Costco, and making a stop at the museum in Kailua-Kona was great for the keiki. These families aren't able to use the Waikōloa location in the same way and regularly ask if we could open a branch in Hilo. Inspiring awe and wonder in any community starts with the science that is evident right where youth live. This project will help a large number of families in the Hilo area to access STEAM opportunities that they would not otherwise be able to.

Relevant experience includes:

- Opening and operating five facilities on Hawai'i Island within the past three years (Kailua-Kona, Waikōloa, Mountain View, Hawi)
- Serving twenty thousand of visitors annually, the majority of whom are kama'āina
- Designing and building more than 45 interactive STEAM exhibits since 2023
- Delivering nearly 150 school field trips, 24 weeks of summer camp, 75 student internships, over 200 DOE-out classes, and 70 community-based programs
- Successfully managing State GIA funding, including a \$179,000 award in FY2025 to open the Waikōloa location
- Coordinating large-scale facility conversions, including the 30,000-square-foot warehouse build-out for the 2024 Big Island Arts Festival

HKM's leadership, staff, and community-rooted governance structure demonstrate strong alignment between organizational capacity and the scope of this capital improvement project.

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 Hawai'i Keiki Museum leases 10,000 square feet of retail space from 250 Waikōloa Shops:
Kings' Shops Management, LLC
69-250 Waikoloa Beach Drive K104
Waikoloa Village, Hawaii 96738

HKM also operates an outreach outpost at the Library in Hawi.

For this project, HKM has an LOI for a five-year lease for the Shinmachi building in Hilo, a 20,624-square-foot historic structure with multiple exhibit halls, workshop space, stage areas, a basement maker space, and a commercial kitchen. With your support we can open a branch in Hilo and connect to the largest population center within our community.

VI. Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing

1. Proposed Staffing, Staff Qualifications, Supervision and Training

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

The project will be implemented by a multidisciplinary team with experience in museum operations, construction management, education, and community engagement.

Key personnel include:

- Executive Director – Dana McLaughlin: Project leadership, fiscal oversight, and strategic direction
- Construction Project Manager – Guia Lasquette: Renovation oversight, contractor coordination, and schedule management
- Hilo Branch Supervisor – Taase Iona: Day-to-day operations, staff supervision, visitor services, and programming
- Director of Education – Michelle Buck: Curriculum development, DOE alignment, and workshop coordination
- Exhibit Researcher – Ethaniel Wilson: Place-based exhibit storytelling and research
- Youth Videographer – Adam Palya: Project documentation and public reporting

The project will be implemented by a multidisciplinary team with experience in museum operations, construction management, education, and community engagement. Our team has the expertise to oversee all aspects of this expansion, from coordinating contractors and securing permits to designing exhibits and developing programs.

Proposed Staffing, Staff Qualifications, Supervision and Training

The museum's decision-making processes are collaborative, inclusive, and rooted in community-centered values. Decisions for this project will be made at regular stakeholder meetings, led by the Construction Project Manager ensuring that contractors, educators, researchers, museum staff and all stakeholders have a voice in shaping the progress. These meetings facilitate iterative feedback, enabling real-time adjustments to activities based on participant needs and outcomes.

HKM Founder / Executive Director: Dana McLaughlin has been involved in a dozen entrepreneurial endeavors. She started combining technology and early child development while a student working on robotics at the MIT Media Lab. She has an MBA from San Jose State and has worked as a technology program manager for

Walt Disney, Yahoo! and Apple. She has a lifetime of operational experience as a Lieutenant Colonel in the non-profit organization Civil Air Patrol. Dana is a thought leader. She founded the Hawai'i Keiki Museum in Kailua-Kona in 2022, quickly establishing it as a critical community resource for island science literacy. Her leadership and management skills along with her blend of business acumen and academic experience in interdisciplinary collaboration projects yield actionable community engagement strategies.

Dana is responsible for leadership and operational supervision of this project.

Operational Site Supervisor: Taase Iona has been a dedicated staff member of the HKM team for over a year. Currently, she oversees inventory management for the gift shop, handles reception duties, coordinates the other staff, supervises workshops, and conducts outreach micro-learning sessions at vendor fairs. Taase's professional background spans hospitality, retail, and education, bringing a wealth of practical experience in floor sales, front desk operations, and customer service team coordination. She thrives in hands-on roles, is unafraid to get her hands dirty, and excels at completing tasks efficiently and effectively. Her exceptional teamwork, initiative, and commitment to community values shines through her dedication to keiki. Taase will take on full-time responsibilities for this project, and run the Hilo branch location.

Construction Project Manager: Guia Lasquette has decades of experience assisting and supervising commercial renovations projects working at Rider Levett Bucknall RLB. Her work will ensure that the architectural, sewer, and electrical plans are delivered on time, and submitted to the county for permitting quickly. She will monitor the permitting process and interface with the general contractor, and subs, keeping up with costs, and ensuring timely completion of the work.

Director of Education: Michelle Buck is responsible for providing logistical and administrative support essential to the seamless execution of the museum's classes and workshops. She has served the HKM for going on three years, designing and facilitating hands-on workshops and locally relevant science field trip experiences. With 30 years of experience in the classroom, Michelle leverages her expertise to tailor curriculum to meet the needs of underserved populations, including Native Hawaiians and Micronesians. She works closely with local schools, and other community organizations, fostering meaningful connections. Michelle is responsible for coordinating the workshops and updating the teacher guidebook.

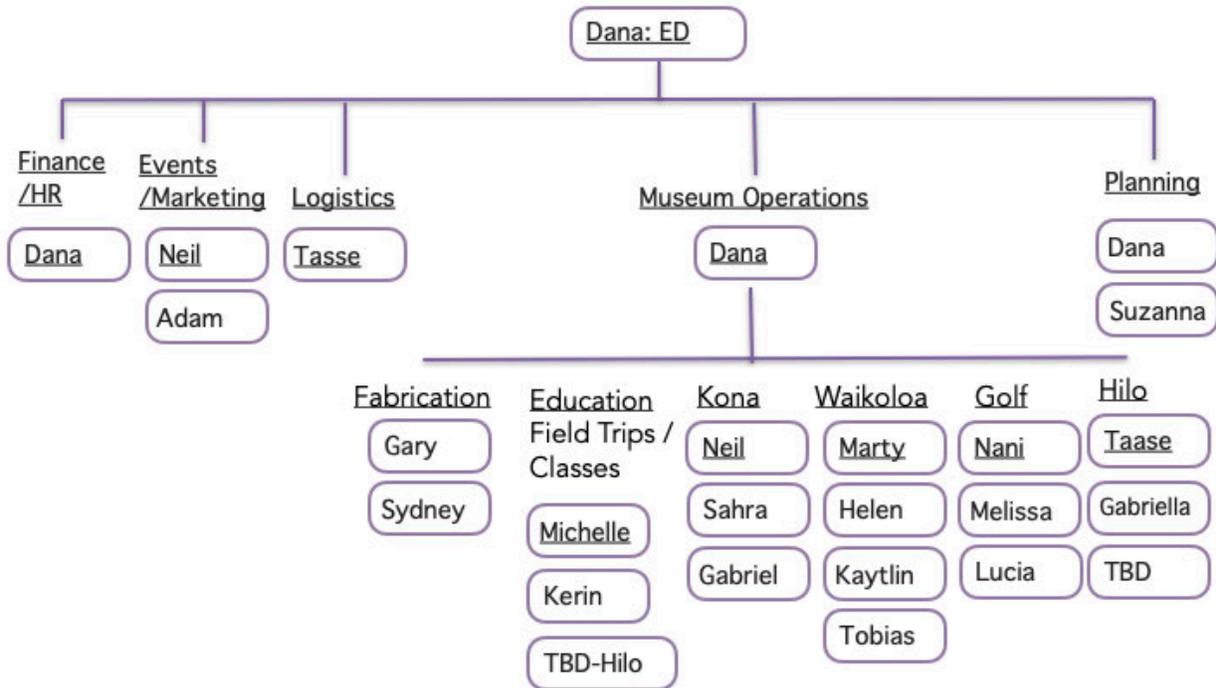
Undergraduate Researcher: Ethaniel Wilson is one of the co-founders of the Hawai'i Keiki Museum. In this project, he is responsible for developing storylines and new exhibit experiences that are grounded in place. Ethaniel has worked for the HKM since it's inception in 2021 and is pursuing a degree in museum research at the University of Hawai'i. Ethaniel was born and raised on the Big Island.

YouTube Videographer and Producer: Adam Palva is a professional filmmaker in North Kohala known for his series “Haole Do-It”.

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.

Museum Org Chart



Contractors will be supervised through regular meetings, and check-ins, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. This staffing structure ensures sufficient service capacity and long-term operational sustainability for the Shinmachi location.

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.

The Hawai'i Keiki Museum uses both paid and volunteer staff.

Executive Director \$10,000-20,000/year

Museum Branch Supervisor \$60,000/year

Marketing Director \$20,00-25,000/year

Educational Director \$20,000-25,000/year

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.

None

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.

The General Contractor and all subs will be licensed within the State of Hawai'i.

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.

The Hawai'i Keiki Museum (HKM) is a non-sectarian, private 501(c)(3) educational organization. Grant funds will not support or benefit any sectarian institution. All programs and services are secular, science-based, and aligned with Hawai'i Department of Education learning objectives, serving children of all backgrounds and beliefs.

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.

The Hawai'i Keiki Museum was founded with private seed funding and is supported by the local community as a valuable island science resource. The Hawai'i Keiki Museum is committed to ensuring the long-term success and sustainability of its Hilo branch through a diversified funding strategy, robust operational planning, and strategic community engagement. Our goal for the new museum is to become self-sustaining through multiple funding streams including, visitor admissions, annual and maker space memberships, gift shop sales, field trip programs, DOE-out workshops, and party rentals. Once the kitchen is refurbished, a café on the lower level will offer healthy, locally sourced snacks for keiki and their caregivers, and has the potential to create an additional revenue stream. This comprehensive strategy offers a balanced approach that combines earned revenue, philanthropic support, community engagement, and operational efficiency to ensure the museum continues to serve the Hilo community and inspire future innovators for generations to come.

From the shores of the Gold Coast, to the peaks of Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, the Big Island has a long history of Hawaiian culture, rich with science, exploration, and engineering achievements. By investing in the keiki, we invest in the sustainability of our island home.

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Hawai'i Keiki Museum

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	130,600	0	0	40,000
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	10,500	0	0	12,000
3. Fringe Benefits	5,250	0	0	6,000
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	146,350	0	0	58,000
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island	0	0	0	0
2. Insurance	2,000	0	0	0
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment	0	0	0	0
4. Lease/Rental of Space	144,368	0	0	20,624
5. Staff Training	0	0	0	3,000
6. Educational Supplies	0	0	0	3,000
7. Telecommunication	2,000	0	0	0
8. Utilities	24,000	0	0	0
9. Marketing	0	0	0	4,800
10. Gift Shop Expenses	0	0	0	7,000
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	172,368	0	0	38,424
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	0	0	0	0
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES	0	0	0	0
E. CAPITAL	453,327			
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	772,045	0	0	96,424
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	772,045	Dana McLaughlin 808-987-4181		
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested	0	Name (Please type or print) Phone		
(c) Total County Funds Requested	0	Signature of Authorized Official 1/23/2026		
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	96,424	Date		
TOTAL BUDGET	868,469	Dana McLaughlin - Founder / Executive Director		
		Name and Title (Please type or print)		

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Hawai'i Keiki Museum

POSITION TITLE	FULL TIME EQUIVALENT	ANNUAL SALARY A	% OF TIME ALLOCATED TO GRANT REQUEST B	TOTAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED (A x B)
HKM Executive Director	120,000	\$20,000.00	50.00%	\$ 10,000.00
Hilo Branch Supervisor	40,000	\$20,000.00	100.00%	\$ 20,000.00
Construction Project Manager	80,000	\$25,600.00	100.00%	\$ 25,600.00
HKM Director of Education	60,000	\$20,000.00	25.00%	\$ 5,000.00
HKM Researcher (student)	40,000	\$10,000.00	100.00%	\$ 10,000.00
HKM Float Worker (temp)	40,000	\$20,000.00	100.00%	\$ 20,000.00
HKM Float Worker (temp)	40,000	\$20,000.00	100.00%	\$ 20,000.00
YouTube Producer (contractor)	120,000	\$20,000.00	100.00%	\$ 20,000.00
HKM Exhibit Fabricators (3 volunteers)	60,000	\$0.00	100.00%	\$ -
HKM Volunteers (3)	30,000	\$0.00	100.00%	\$ -
TOTAL:				130,600.00
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:				
All HKM Staff, including the Executive Director are Part Time, the Float Workers and the YouTube Producer are 1099 contractor workers.				

EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Hawai'i Keiki Museum

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
N/A			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				0

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	NO. OF VEHICLES	COST PER VEHICLE	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
N/A			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				0

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Hawai'i Keiki Museum

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	0	0	\$5,000	0	0	0
LAND ACQUISITION	0	0	\$0	0	0	0
DESIGN	0	0	\$0	0	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	0	0	\$448,327	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	\$0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	0	0	\$453,327	0	0	0

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

Contractors will renovate the deck, repair the sewer, service the fire suppression system, and bring the electrical wiring up to code.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

Applicant: Hawai'i Keiki Museum

Contracts Total: 65,847

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/ Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1	TEAMS II	07/01/2025-06/30/2027	NASA	Federal	50,000
2	Impact Grant Program	07/01/2025-06/30/2026	Research & Dev	Hawaii County	15,847
3					
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