

## 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.*

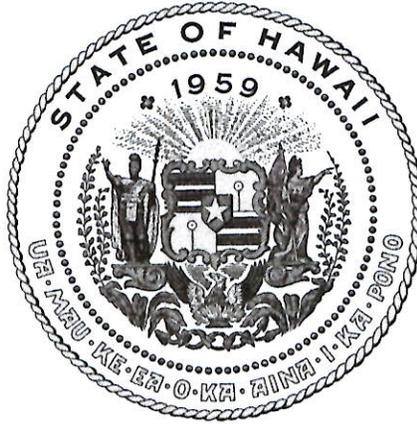
- 1) Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate (If the Applicant is an Organization)
- 2) Declaration Statement
- 3) Verify that grant shall be used for a public purpose
- 4) Background and Summary
- 5) Service Summary and Outcomes
- 6) Budget
  - a) Budget request by source of funds ([Link](#))
  - b) Personnel 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

Johnson Keonelehua Kalawe  
PRINT NAME AND TITLE

January 15, 2026  
DATE



## 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

HOOULU-LAHUI

was incorporated under the laws of Hawaii on 10/24/1995 ; 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: January 15, 2026

Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs



**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.
  
- 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.

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.

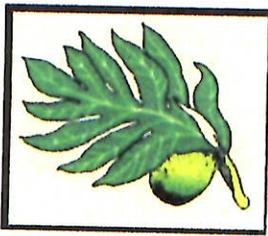
Ho`oulu Lahui  
(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

Johnson Keonelehua Kalawe  
(Typed Name)

January 15, 2026

Board President  
(Title)



# Ho'oulu Lāhui

## Declaration of Public Purpose

§42F-102

January 15, 2026

**Ho'oulu Lāhui declares that these funds will be used for public purpose.**

### **The public purpose for the grant;**

The \$830,000.00 funds awarded to the 501c3 non-profit entity Ho'oulu Lāhui will be used for the acquisition of 5 acres including compliant building infrastructure at the Nani Mau Gardens to ensure the long term recovery from the 2018 Kilauea Lava flow and provide a permanent home for Kua O Ka Lā New Century Public Charter School. This will also secure the public infrastructure needed to provide community education and serve a resilience hub site for pre and post disaster situations. The funds will also provide for the project and fiscal management and audit of these funds.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Johnson Keonelehua Kalawe President  
Governing Board of Directors  
Ho'oulu Lahui

P.O. Box 2177  
Pāhoa, HI 96778

Phone: (808) 965-5098  
Fax: (808) 965-9618

Email: [pualaa@ilhawaii.net](mailto:pualaa@ilhawaii.net)  
Website: <http://www.pualaa.org>

## 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, 2023.

#### **2. Declaration Statement**

Statement affirming its compliance with Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes is attached.

#### **3. Public Purpose**

A statement that the grant will be used for a public purpose pursuant to Section 42F-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes is attached.

### **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 educational non-profit 501c3 of Ho'oulu Lāhui (HL) was formed in 1995 through a community grassroots effort with the vision to awaken Hawaiian culture, values, and lifestyle in partnership with the community to achieve unity, harmony and lokahi (total well-being). Ho'oulu Lāhui has a broad range of identified purposes which seek to meet the diverse needs of our students, families and community at large.

In 1998 the Charter School legislation was passed and the Hawaiian focused Kua O Ka Lā Charter School (KOKL) emerged as a result of the successful programs run by Ho'oulu Lāhui. Ho'oulu Lāhui is an independent non-profit but one of its key priority objectives is to support Kua O Ka Lā through facilities development, transportation, grant funding, and programmatic support.

In 2018 the Kilauea eruption consumed the 600 acre campus developed and utilized by Ho'oulu Lāhui and home to Kua O Ka Lā Charter School. Upon our devastating loss in 2018, the non-profit

and school subsequently relocated to Nani Mau Gardens in Panaewa bordering Hilo and Puna and surrounded by Hawaiian homelands.

Since then, commendable efforts have been made to rebuild and stabilize the school's facilities and operations. The County of Hawai'i collaborated with Ho'oulu Lāhui and Kua O Ka Lā to advocate for and secure funding, including a \$500,000.00 grant for necessary infrastructure improvements to bring the facility into County, fire, ADA and Zone compliance, which was successfully administered within the allocated time frame. The County of Hawai'i Recovery Division has recently awarded an additional \$500,000 to Ho'oulu Lāhui to support this public facility land acquisition. The County of Hawai'i Recovery Funds of \$475,000.00 were awarded to HL on December 2025 for the subdivision expenses of water and electric decoupling as part of the subdivision process. We were also awarded a State GIA in 2025 of \$500,000.00 towards the acquisition. The total acquisition cost for the 5 acre property with buildings is 2 million dollars.

Kua O Ka Lā has provided essential stability to students and families amidst the challenges posed by the volcanic eruption and the ongoing impacts of COVID-19. However, as a charter school, it lacks access to state funds for facilities, including land acquisition or capital improvements. This State grant in aid would ensure the long-term recovery and stability of the school, enabling it to also serve as a Community Resilience Hub during natural disasters and emergencies as well as a vital space for community education, gatherings, and economic development, particularly in the food sector.

Since its creation Ho'oulu Lāhui has raised and managed over 15 million dollars in local, state and Federal grants and offered successful programs for our community youth and families. We believe that investing in the education of our community is the key to changing the trends of destitution facing our community. Our programs are culturally driven; yet support the skills necessary to succeed in today's technological world and challenging economic conditions.

The funding to support this public facility acquisition will provide a big step forward in addressing the long term stabilization need for the non-profit and the school and their ability to provide culturally based public school, community education for generations and provide the space for pre and post disaster recovery needs.

**1. The goals and objectives related to the request;**

**Project Goal:**

To secure ANY PORTION of the balance of the funds needed (1 million dollars) to acquire the 5 acres and public community education facility at Nani Mau Gardens, the current home of Kua O Ka Lā Charter School, and expand the site as a community education/resilience hub site for pre- and post-disaster and community support services. Total acquisition cost: 2 million and we have raised 1 million dollars as well as \$475,000.00 for the subdivision upgrades for water and elect.

**Project Objectives:**

**2. Financial Objectives:**

- To secure the remaining balance of funds needed for the public property acquisition through a combination of state GIA CIP funding, and local Foundations.

**3. Educational Objectives:**

- Expand the capacity and offerings of the school and non-profit programs, in alignment with its mission.

**4. Cultural Preservation Objectives:**

- Preserve and enhance the integration of Hawaiian cultural practices and values in the school and community education programs by providing the current location and facilities.

**5. Community Objectives:**

- Strengthen partnerships with local organizations and community members by solidifying the school's presence at Nani Mau Gardens.
- Develop the site into a community hub for cultural and educational support services, programs, events and disaster resilience efforts such as our ongoing family food distributions. We are the largest distribution site in Hilo serving over 400 `ohana.

**6. Environmental Objectives:**

- Protect and sustainably manage the 5-acre site to serve as a living laboratory for environmental education, stewardship and Hawaiian ecological practices.
- Incorporate disaster resilience into our planning, ensuring the site is prepared for emergencies.

**7. Infrastructure Objectives:**

- Assess the condition of existing facilities and develop a phased plan for renovations or upgrades to meet current and future needs of the school, community, and disaster preparedness.
- Solarize the buildings in addressing energy conservation.

**2. The public purpose and need to be served;**

Ho`oulu Lāhui and Kua O Ka Lā Charter School provide community and public school education that is Hawaiian, STEM and values focused. The acquiring of this public infrastructure will ensure that public school education can be provided for generations. Our non-profit and Hawaiian-focused charter school educational programs align with the State of Hawaii's goals in multiple ways identified below, as it supports the preservation of Native Hawaiian culture, advances educational equity, and contributes to the broader well-being of the community.

## 1. Education and Workforce Development

**State Goal:** Improve educational outcomes and workforce readiness.

- **Promoting Academic Achievement:** KOKL, a Hawaiian-focused charter school emphasizes culturally relevant curricula, which improves student engagement and academic performance especially for Native Hawaiian youth.
- **Advancing STEM:** KOKL Integrates science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education with Hawaiian cultural knowledge prepares students for jobs in modern and traditional sectors, such as environmental science or agriculture.
- **Supporting State Educational Plans:** KOKL addresses the objectives of the Department of Education's Strategic Plan including closing achievement gaps and providing innovative learning environments which align closely with state goals.

## 2. Cultural Preservation and Revitalization

**State Goal:** Protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and heritage.

- **Language Revitalization:** Teaching the Hawaiian language aligns with the state's constitutional mandate to promote the use and education of Hawaiian as an official language.
- **Cultural Practices:** KOKL is a Hawaiian focused Charter School which incorporates practices like hula and traditional farming which fosters pride and identity among students.
- **Community Engagement:** KOKL serves as community hub for cultural education and engagement, strengthening connections between families, students, and the wider community.

## 3. Environmental Sustainability

**State Goal:** Promote sustainable land and resource use.

- **Traditional Ecological Knowledge:** KOKL teaches students about ahupua'a systems (traditional land and water management) and mālama 'āina (caring for the land) which contribute to environmental stewardship.
- **Green Infrastructure Projects:** KOKL incorporates sustainable practices like native plant restoration, and renewable energy (in greenhouse), which align with Hawaii's sustainability goals (e.g., the Aloha+ Challenge). We hope to fully solarize our facility in the future.

## 4. Public Health and Well-Being

**State Goal:** Address public health disparities and promote holistic well-being.

- **Health and Nutrition Education:** We encourage and support traditional diets and farming methods, such as growing kalo (taro), which supports healthier lifestyles and reduces reliance on processed foods. We are attempting to integrate more local food in our meal program.
- **Mental Health and Cultural Identity:** Culturally relevant education fosters a sense of identity and belonging, which can improve mental health outcomes among Native Hawaiian students.

## 5. Economic Development

**State Goal:** Foster economic self-sufficiency and local enterprise.

- **Strengthening Local Economies:** KOKL creates jobs for teachers, staff, and indirectly to local businesses providing goods and services.

## 6. Social Equity

**State Goal:** Reduce disparities and promote social justice.

- **Serving Underserved Communities:** Kua O Ka Lā is located in Panaewa, nestled amongst Hawaiian Homelands in a rural area. We are a Title 1 school.
- **Promoting Inclusivity:** The school fosters a sense of cultural pride and inclusivity that benefits Native Hawaiian students and other diverse populations.

This project seeks to deeply address public purposes and address the challenges and inequities facing East Hawai`i Island residents that also align with state goals and objectives.

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

Ho`oulu Lahui and Kua O Ka Lā Charter School provide programs/services predominately in Hilo and at other sites in lower Puna (preschool) and Miloli`i, and welcome keiki to kupuna Island wide to participate. We have predominantly served our Native Hawaiian population with a focus on our 'at-risk'- population but welcome all as a public entity. Currently, partnering Kua O Ka Lā has approximately 55% Native Hawaiian students. Both organizations have extensive community collaborators and partners that work together to fulfill our mission.

### 4. Describe the geographic coverage.

We service primarily the East side of the Island of Hawai`i. Our main school campus is now in Panaewa at Nani Mau Gardens which borders Hilo and Puna. We also have 2 satellite sites, in Nanawale in the District of Puna and Miloli`i on the West side of the Island. We provide support to students, families and community individuals and organizations Island wide.

### **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;**

This project is a final funding request to support the acquisition of 5 acres of land with public facilities and the upgrading of an existing cesspool to a commercial septic system. Below is the detailed scope of work and responsibilities:

| <b>Task</b>                         | <b>Scope of Work</b>   | <b>Responsibility</b>    |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Pre-Land Acquisition</b>         |  |                          |
| Appraisal                           | Completed  | Board of Directors (BOD) |
| Attorney Secured                    | Legal oversight and drafting   | Attorney                 |
| Development and Purchase Agreement  | Secured and in place   | BOD                      |
| Rezone Ag 10 to Ag 5                | Rezoning process completed   | BOD and Nani Mau (NM)    |
| Subdivision                         | Subdivision process underway   | BOD, planner and NM      |
| Subdivision requirements.           | Water and Electric decoupling  | BOD, contractors         |
| <b>Land Acquisition</b>             |  |                          |
| Title Transfer                      | Upon completion of subdivision, transfer title to Ho`oulu Lāhui          | BOD, NM & Attorney       |
| <b>Grant Compliance</b>             |  |                          |
| Project Management.                 | Manage all aspects of this project & grant compliance                    | Project Director         |
| Reporting                           | Timely submission of all fiscal and narrative grant reports              | Project Director         |
| Financial Management /Annual Audits | Project GAAP approved accounting of project Conducted by a certified CPA | Fiscal Officer, BOD      |

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

**the service;**

**Quarter Milestone/Activity**

**Q1 &2** Water/Electric

decoupling

**Q3** Subdivision approval

**Q4** Transfer of title from Nani Mau to Ho`oulu Lāhui

**Q4** Grant fiscal and narrative reports submitted on-time.

- 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 and Evaluation Plan**

To ensure the successful acquisition of the property, Ho`oulu Lāhui has developed a quality assurance and evaluation plan that includes goals, regular monitoring, and ongoing opportunities for improvement.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

**1. Property Acquisition Process:**

○ **Monitoring:**

- A dedicated and experienced project manager will oversee progress, submitting quarterly updates to the non-profit governing board.
- Financial accountability will be upheld through GAAP-approved financial management practices led by the financial officer, supported by a CPA.
- Compliance with all County subdivision processes.
- Title Transfer occurs and lease/MOA's in place.
- Audit will be conducted by a certified accountant.

○ **Evaluation:**

- Post-acquisition, a comprehensive review will ensure all financial, grant reporting, and regulatory requirements were met.

## Improvement Plans

- **Long-Term Monitoring:**

Ho`oulu Lāhui will collaborate with Kua O Ka Lā Charter School to establish a maintenance and monitoring plan for the facilities.

- **Community Review:**

The property's dual function as a school and community education/ resilience hub will be periodically reviewed and revised to assure alignment with its educational and public benefit goals.

By implementing these quality assurance measures, Ho`oulu Lāhui ensures this project will meet the highest standards of accountability, environmental sustainability, and community benefit.

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.**

To ensure accountability and transparency in the use of grant funds, the following measures of effectiveness will be reported to the State agency appropriating the funds. These metrics provide an objective and standardized framework for assessing the achievement of project goals:

1. **Property Acquisition**

- **Measure:** Completion of the subdivision and then the acquisition of 5 acres of land and facilities will occur, as evidenced by the official transfer of title to Ho`oulu Lāhui.
- **Documentation:**
  - Recorded title transfer documents.

- Submission of all required legal, financial, and regulatory compliance reports to the expending agency.
- **Timeline:** By the end of Quarter 4.

## 2. Grant Compliance

- **Measure:** Timely submission of all fiscal and narrative reports to the expending agency.
- **Documentation:**
  - Quarterly and final grant reports detailing project progress, milestones achieved, and financial expenditures in alignment with approved budgets.
  - Audit conducted by a certified CPA, demonstrating financial accountability and adherence to GAAP standards.
- **Timeline:** Ongoing throughout the grant period, with a final report submitted within the designated timeframe to the funder post-project completion.

## Adjustments for Level of Appropriation

This is a one- time funding request. ANY amount of this funding request can be utilized if the project is not fully awarded. It is very important to note that this project is scalable and can proceed if not all of the funding is able to be secured. A back up plan is in place if 100% of the acquisition funds are not secured which is not ideal but any funding secured is critical to ensuring our long term sustainability given the lack of fiscal support for facilities for Charter Schools.

If the level of appropriation differs from the amount included in this application, the measures of effectiveness will be updated to reflect the revised scope of work. The updated measures will be transmitted to the expending agency promptly, ensuring alignment with the adjusted project objectives and funding levels.

By adhering to these measures, Ho`oulu Lāhui ensures that the project’s outcomes are objectively monitored and reported, providing confidence in the effective use of State resources.

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

| Quarter 1    | Quarter 2    | Quarter 3    | Quarter 4    | Total Grant  |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| \$200,000.00 | \$200,000.00 | \$200,000.00 | \$230,000.00 | \$830,000.00 |

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

We are currently researching and determining our funding requests for 2026 and we are waiting to understand the status of a Federal Appropriation award that was submitted last year. We have applied to the Healy Foundation for the other \$250,000.00 towards the acquisition for the balance of what is requested in this request. There is also a recent OHA CIP RFP that has been released and we are trying to see if our project is eligible.

- 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.**

N/A

5. **The applicant shall provide a listing of all federal, state, and county government contracts, grants, and grants in aid it has been granted within the prior three years and will be receiving for fiscal year 2026 for program funding.**

|                                      | TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED IN PRIOR 3 YEARS | \$3,016,836.51        |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| <b>Grants Received 2023</b>          |   |                       |
| 1) Kamehameha Schools-Kaia`ulu Grant | `Āina Momona                            | \$ 184,575.00         |
| 2) Kamehameha Schools-Kaia`ulu Grant | Kolo Ke A'a                             | \$ 128,283.00         |
| 3) USDOE Native Hawaiian Education   | HIKI grant                              | \$ 504,594.00         |
| 4) Waiohinu Restoration              | County of Hawai`i contingency           | \$ 2,650.00           |
| 5) Genki Hou Project                 | County of Hawai`i contingency           | \$ 2,750.00           |
| 6) Emmerson Collective               |   | \$ 10,000.00          |
| 7) Mellon Foundation Grant           | for EA Ecovercity                       | \$ 150,000.00         |
| 8) ELCA Lutheran Disaster Grant      |   | \$ 5,000.00           |
| 9) USDA                              | Farm to School Curriculum               | \$ 50,000.00          |
|                                      |   | <b>\$1,037,852.00</b> |
|                                      | <b>Total 2023 Grants</b>                |                       |
| <b>Grants Received 2024</b>          |   |                       |
| 1) Kilauea Recovery Grant            |   | \$ 500,000.00         |
| 2) Rotary Club of South Hilo         |   | \$ 2,500.00           |
| 3) KS Aina Momona                    |   | \$184,575.00          |
| 4) KS Kolo Ke A`a                    |   | 124,434.51            |
| 5) County Contingency                |   | 2500.00               |
|                                      | <b>Total 2024 Grants</b>                | <b>\$ 814,009.51</b>  |
| <b>Grants Received 2025</b>          |   |                       |
| State Grant in Aid CIP               |   | \$500,000.00          |
| KS- `Aina Momona                     |   | 184,575.00            |
| County Contingency Meakanu           |   | \$2,750.00            |
| Rotary Club of Hilo Bay              |   | \$2,650.00            |
| Rotary Club of S Hilo                |   | \$2,500.00            |
| County Kilauea Recovery Grant        |   | \$475,000.00          |
|                                      | <b>Total 2025 Grants</b>                | <b>\$1,164,975.00</b> |

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

Unrestricted assets = \$420,000.00

**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.**

**Demonstration of Skills, Abilities, Knowledge, and Experience**

Ho`oulu Lāhui is a trusted organization established in 1995, with a proven track record of successfully managing over \$15 million in local, state, and federal funds. Our operations have consistently demonstrated fiscal responsibility, evidenced by 100% on time submission of grant reports and annual audits with no findings.

**Relevant Experience**

**1. Facility Development and Compliance**

○ **Kua O Ka Lā School Campus Development (Pre-Eruption):**

Ho`oulu Lāhui successfully raised funds, designed, and built the original Kua O Ka Lā school campus in lower Puna, at Pu`ala`a, complete with greenhouses, classrooms, and offices.

Additionally, the funds were raised to acquire and provide reliable bus and van transportation for students.

○ **Post-Eruption Nani Mau Campus Compliance & Acquisition (2020- current):**

- Secured and efficiently managed a \$500,000 County grant to bring the relocated school campus site at Nani Mau, Panaewa, into compliance with County Building, ADA and Fire Codes, enabling us to receive a Certificate of E Occupancy to operate as a public school. This project was completed on time, including all required reports, and is in full compliance, reflecting our ability to navigate complex regulatory environments.

- We also successfully rezoned the property from Ag 10 to Ag 5.

- The subdivision application and maps with easements have been submitted to the County.

- We have secured \$475,000.00 to conduct all of the subdivision requirements such as water credit payments, water meter and line brought in and electric decoupled from the rest of the property.

- We have secured a \$500,000.00 State Grant in Aid to support the property acquisition and a \$500,000.00 County grant to support the acquisition.

**2. Strategic and Operational Planning**

Over the past 20 years, Ho`oulu Lāhui has successfully developed and implemented a wide range of strategic plans, including: Conceptual master plans.

- Facilities development plans.
- Forestry and waste management plans aligned with the Ahupua`a model.
- Strategic plans with operating frameworks to ensure long-term sustainability. Currently, we are advancing fund development and business planning to strengthen future operations.

### 3. Capacity to Manage Projects

- In addition to previous successes, we have secured \$1 million dollars in funding toward the purchase of the Nani Mau property and facilities. This demonstrates our ability to raise significant funds and manage complex acquisition processes. Another \$475,000.00 was just secured and will be used for subdivision requirements.
- Our organization's financial practices adhere to GAAP standards, and our fiscal officer and CPA ensure rigorous oversight.

#### Verifiable Experience (Past Three Years)

- **2020:** Managed a \$500,000 County grant for the Nani Mau site compliance, completing all tasks on time and meeting reporting requirements.

**Past 3 Years:** In the past 3 years we have raised and managed **\$3,016,836.51** in grant funds as identified in the chart above.

- **Ongoing:** Managing current funding initiatives, including the recently awarded \$1,000,000.00 (total cost = 2 million) towards the property acquisition for the Nani Mau site.

#### Commitment and Capacity

Ho`oulu Lāhui's history of managing multimillion-dollar budgets, implementing large-scale infrastructure projects, and fostering partnerships with local and state entities demonstrates our readiness to undertake this initiative. We have the skills, systems, and dedicated personnel to ensure the successful administration of this grant. We have all of the legal agreements in place to execute this acquisition. We are well into our process of subdivision in preparation for the Title transfer to occur upon completion of the subdivision. A long term respected Attorney is secured to manage the Title transfer and current agreements in place.

We are confident that our extensive experience and strategic planning capabilities position us to effectively manage this grant and fulfill the stated goals of property acquisition, grant compliance and community service delivery.

## 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.**

Please refer to the attached map for details about the subdivision and site facilities. The site to be acquired comprises **5 acres** and includes the following facilities:

1. **School Classroom Building:** 6,000 sq. ft.
2. **Multipurpose Building:** 6,106 sq. ft. (includes school classrooms and offices)
3. **Greenhouses:** Two greenhouses, each measuring 9,000 sq. ft.
4. **Office Building:** 1,632 sq. ft.

All facilities have been upgraded to meet **E Occupancy requirements**, ensuring full compliance with local and state regulations for school operations. The property is also governed by a **special use permit**, allowing the operation of a school within an agricultural zoning district.

The facilities are fully compliant with the operational standards for schools in the County of Hawaii.

## **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.**

#### **Proposed Staffing Pattern, Service Capacity, and Personnel Qualifications**

Ho`oulu Lāhui has a well-established staffing pattern and organizational structure designed to ensure the successful implementation of the proposed project and the viability of this initiative. Our team consists of experienced professionals with the qualifications, expertise, and commitment necessary to achieve the goals of this project while meeting all grant requirements.

#### **Proposed Staffing Pattern and Responsibilities**

##### **1. Project Director:**

- **Role:** Oversees all aspects of project implementation, including managing timelines, coordinating contractors, and ensuring compliance with local, state, and federal regulations.
- **Qualifications:** Experienced in project management, with over 30 years of expertise in facilities development, regulatory compliance, and grant administration.
- **Key Responsibilities:**
  - Oversee all aspects of the project and contractors.

- Prepare and submit progress reports to funders and stakeholders.

## 2. **Fiscal Officer:**

- **Role:** Manages grant funds, ensures financial accountability, and secures (with Board approval) the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with experience in nonprofit financial management to conduct the audit.
- **Qualifications:** Over 12 years of managing community and non-profit funds.
- **Key Responsibilities:**
  - Maintain accurate financial records in compliance with GAAP standards.
  - Prepare fiscal reports and ensure timely submission to the granting agency.
  - Work with CPA and auditor.

## 3. **Board of Directors:**

- **Role:** Provides strategic oversight and governance for the project.
- **Qualifications:** Comprised of professionals with expertise in Architecture/Planning, cultural education, community development, and nonprofit management.
- **Key Responsibilities:**
  - Monitor progress and provide guidance to the project director.
  - Ensure alignment with the organization's mission and strategic goals.

## **Proposed Service Capacity**

The scope of this project is focused on two primary objectives:

### **1. Acquisition of the Nani Mau property:**

- Includes a 5-acre site with facilities suitable for public school/community educational purposes and community resilience activities.

Our staffing structure ensures the necessary expertise to manage both objectives efficiently and within the allocated timeline and budget.

## **Supervision, Training, and Administrative Direction**

Ho`oulu Lāhui has a strong history of supervising, training, and providing administrative direction to its personnel and contractors:

### **1. Supervision:**

- Regular progress meetings will be conducted by the Project Director to monitor milestones and address challenges.
- Contractors will be supervised to ensure adherence to timelines, budgets, and quality standards.

### **2. Training:**

- Staff members involved in project implementation will receive training on grant compliance, project management protocols, and reporting requirements.
- The Project Director will provide ongoing guidance and mentorship to ensure smooth project execution.

### **3. Administrative Direction:**

- The Board of Directors provides oversight, ensuring alignment with organizational goals and strategic plans.
- The Fiscal Officer ensures financial compliance and provides clear administrative processes for grant management.

## **Conclusion**

Ho`oulu Lāhui's staffing pattern, service capacity, and organizational expertise reflect its commitment to the successful implementation of this project. With a qualified team, well-defined responsibilities, and a robust supervision and training framework, we are well-equipped to meet the goals of this initiative while ensuring accountability and sustainability.

**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.**

See the 2026 organization chart attached.

**3. Compensation**

E

**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.**

|                    |           |              |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Executive Director | 100% FTE: | \$100,000.00 |
| COO                | 100% FTE: | \$100,000.00 |
| Fiscal Officer     | 20% P/T:  | \$24,000.00  |

**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.**

N/A

**2. Licensure or Accreditation**

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

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.**

N/A

**4. Future Sustainability Plan**

**The applicant shall provide a plan for sustaining after fiscal year 2026-27, the activity funded by the grant if the grant of this application is:**

**(a) Received by the applicant for fiscal year 2026-27, but**

**(b) Not received by the applicant thereafter.**

### **Sustaining Plan Post Fiscal Year 2026-27**

Upon securing the funding required for the property acquisition in this cycle, we will be predominately self-sufficient. Ho`oulu Lāhui is committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the activities funded by this grant beyond fiscal year 2026-27, regardless of whether additional grant funding is secured in subsequent years. Below, we outline our plan to sustain and maintaining operations and infrastructure upgrades.

## **1. Revenue Diversification**

To sustain the property management upon acquisition, Ho`oulu Lāhui will implement a diversified revenue strategy, which includes:

- **Facility Rental Income:** The multipurpose building, offices, and greenhouses will be available for the school, community use, educational workshops, and resilience hub activities, generating consistent rental income. A State approved and board approved lease agreement will be drafted between the school and HL to outline the rent and responsibilities.
- **Community Resilience Hub Grants:** The facility's use as a community service and pre- and post-disaster resilience hub also ensures we are well positioned for future funding opportunities from federal and state agencies focused on disaster preparedness and response.
- **Educational Partnerships:** Partnerships with state education agencies and other nonprofits will provide additional funding through program collaborations, grants, and service contracts.
- **Agricultural Initiatives:** The two greenhouses on-site will support agricultural activities and programs, creating potential income streams through agricultural training programs, and value-added agricultural products.

## **2. Operational Cost Efficiency**

Ho`oulu Lāhui has developed strategies to reduce long-term operational costs:

- **Energy Efficiency:** Solar energy installations will be explored to reduce utility costs, leveraging existing state and federal programs for renewable energy funding.
- **Maintenance Planning:** A proactive maintenance schedule will be implemented for the facilities, ensuring minimal unforeseen costs.

- **Volunteer Programs:** Community engagement initiatives will recruit volunteers to assist with facility upkeep and program activities, further reducing staffing costs.

### 3. Fund Development Plan

Ho`oulu Lāhui is actively developing a comprehensive fund development plan to ensure financial stability:

- **Private Donations:** A targeted fundraising campaign will be launched to engage donors, alumni, and community members to support ongoing operations and specific projects.
- **Grant Applications:** Future grant applications will focus on operations, education programs, and resilience hub activities. The organization has a proven track record of successfully securing and managing grant funds.
- **Business Plan Implementation:** Ho`oulu Lāhui is finalizing a business/strategic plan that includes sustainable revenue streams such as facility rentals, agricultural programs, and community services.

### 4. Community and Stakeholder Support

- Ho`oulu Lāhui has a longstanding history of community engagement and support. We will continue to work closely with community stakeholders, including local businesses, educational institutions, and residents, to maintain a shared investment in the success of the property and its activities.
- Community donations, sponsorships, and volunteerism will further bolster the long-term sustainability of the site and its services.

### 5. Strategic Partnerships

- **Kua O Ka Lā Charter School:** The school's ongoing presence at the site ensures shared use of facilities with a long term state approved lease agreement.
- **Public-Private Collaborations:** Partnerships with local and state agencies, nonprofits, and private sector entities will provide additional resources and funding for ongoing operations.

### 6. Scenario Planning for Reduced Funding

In the event that operational funding is limited after fiscal year 2026-27:

- Ho`oulu Lāhui will prioritize essential activities, such as other facilities upgrades that may be needed while seeking alternative funding for discretionary programs.
- A contingency fund will be established from facility rental income and program revenues to address potential shortfalls in future funding.

### **Conclusion**

Ho`oulu Lāhui is confident in its ability to sustain the activities funded by this grant through a combination of revenue diversification, operational cost efficiency, strategic partnerships, and community support. Our demonstrated capacity to secure and manage funding, along with our forward-thinking strategies, ensures that the benefits of this initiative will endure well beyond the funding period.

## BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: Ho'oulu Lāhui

| BUDGET CATEGORIES                       | Total State Funds Requested (a) | Total Federal Funds Requested (b)  | Total County Funds Requested (c) | Total Private/Other Funds Requested (d) |
|---|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>A. PERSONNEL COST</b>                |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| 1. Salaries                             | 46000                           |  |                                  |   |
| 2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments          |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| 3. Fringe Benefits                      | 4,000                           |  |                                  |   |
| <b>TOTAL PERSONNEL COST</b>             | <b>50000</b>                    |  |                                  |   |
| <b>B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES</b>        |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| 1. Airfare, Inter-Island                |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| 2. Insurance                            |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| 3. Lease/Rental of Equipment            |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| 4. Lease/Rental of Space                |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| 5. Staff Training                       |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| 6. Supplies                             |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| 7. Telecommunication                    |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| 8. Contract CPA/A-133 Audit             | 30,000                          |  |                                  |   |
| 11                                      |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| 12                                      |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| 13                                      |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| 14                                      |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| 15                                      |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| 16                                      |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| 17                                      |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| 18                                      |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| 19                                      |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| 20                                      |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| <b>TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES</b>     | <b>80,000</b>                   |  |                                  |   |
| <b>C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES</b>           |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| <b>D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES</b>       |                                 |  |                                  |   |
| <b>E. CAPITAL</b>                       | <b>750,000.00</b>               |  |                                  |   |
| <b>TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)</b>                | <b>830,000</b>                  |  |                                  |   |
| <b>SOURCES OF FUNDING</b>               |                                 | Budget Prepared By:  |                                  |   |
| (a) Total State Funds Requested         | 830,000.00                      | Susan Osborne <span style="float: right;">808 640-3439</span>  |                                  |   |
| (b) Total Federal Funds Requested       |                                 | Name (Please type or print) <span style="float: right;">Phone</span>   |                                  |   |
| (c) Total County Funds (Secured)        |                                 |  <span style="float: right;">808-129-7022</span> |                                  |   |
| (d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested |                                 | Signature of Authorized Official <span style="float: right;">Date</span>   |                                  |   |
| <b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>                     | <b>830,000.00</b>               | Johnson Keonelehua Kalawe<br>Name and Title (Please type or print)   |                                  |   |





## BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Ho'oulu Lahui

|  | FUNDING AMOUNT REQUESTED                     |              |              |                       | FUNDING REQUIRED IN SUCCEEDING YEARS |              |              |              |
|--|--|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|  | ALL SOURCES OF FUNDS RECEIVED IN PRIOR YEARS | FY:2024-2025 | FY:2025-2026 | STATE FUNDS REQUESTED | FY:2026-2027                         | FY:2026-2027 | FY:2027-2028 | FY:2028-2029 |
| TOTAL PROJECT COST   |  |              |              |                       |                                      |              |              |              |
| PLANS  |  |              |              |                       |                                      |              |              |              |
| LAND ACQUISITION   | 500000                                       |              | 500000       | 750000                |                                      | 250000       | 0            |              |
| DESIGN   |  |              |              |                       |                                      |              |              |              |
| CONSTRUCTION   |  |              |              |                       |                                      |              |              |              |
| EQUIPMENT  |  |              |              |                       |                                      |              |              |              |
| TOTAL:   | 500000                                       |              | 500000       | 750,000               |                                      | 250,000      | 0            |              |
| <b>JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:</b><br>The total acquisition cost is 2 million. We have secured 1 million and seek to raise ANY portion of the balance. |  |              |              |                       |                                      |              |              |              |

**GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID**

Applicant: Ho`oulu Lahui

Contracts Total:

1,475,000

| CONTRACT DESCRIPTION                    | EFFECTIVE DATES | AGENCY                 | GOVERNMENT ENTITY<br>(U.S./State/Hawaii/<br>Honolulu/ Kauai/<br>Maui County) | CONTRACT VALUE |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|--|----------------|
| 1 Kilauea Recovery Expenses             | 12/30/25        | Recovery Division      | County of Hawaii   | 475,000        |
| 2 Kilauea Recovery Nani Mau Acquisition | 4/3/24          | Recovery Division      | County of Hawaii   | 500,000        |
| 3 Grant in Aid: Nani Mau acquisition    | 7/22/25         | Office of Community Se | State of Hawaii  | 500,000        |
| 4                                       |                 |                        |  |                |
| 5                                       |                 |                        |  |                |
| 6                                       |                 |                        |  |                |
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| 27                                      |                 |                        |  |                |
| 28                                      |                 |                        |  |                |
| 29                                      |                 |                        |  |                |
| 30                                      |                 |                        |  |                |

## GIA Funding Sources Declaration

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Grantee: Hooulu-Lahui                             | Projected Total Cost: 2 million dollars         |
| Project:<br>Land Acquisition for a Charter School |   |
| Project Start Date: January 2026                  | Projected Project Completion Date: January 2027 |

I understand the State of Hawaii is to be utilized as the last source of funding. Listed below are all of our sources of funding for this project, the amounts committed and the dates the funds will be available.

| List Funding Sources             | Amount Committed                  | Date Funds Available   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| County of Hawai'i                | \$500,000.00                      | Have received \$300,000.00 and upon completion of the subdivision the other \$200,000.00 will be provided. |
| Nani Mau Gardens LOAN            | 1 million loan (or amount needed) | Upon completion of the subdivision.  |
| County of Hawai'i Recovery Funds | \$475,000.00                      | March 2026   |
| State of Hawai'i                 | \$500,000.00                      | After contract executed and all other funding sources have been utilized                                   |
|                                  |                                   |  |
|                                  |                                   |  |
|                                  |                                   |  |
|                                  |                                   |  |

(Please attached commitment letters for the above Funding Sources.)

I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge.

Authorized Signature: Johnson Keonlehua Kalawe Date: January 8th, 2026

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.  
*Mayor*

William V. Brillhante, Jr.  
*Managing Director*

West Hawai'i Office  
74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
Phone (808) 323-4770  
Fax (808) 327-3563



## County of Hawai'i PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Jeffrey W. Darrow  
*Director*

Michelle S. Ahn  
*Deputy Director*

East Hawai'i Office  
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
Phone (808) 961-8288  
Fax (808) 961-8742

December 30, 2025

Susan Osborne  
Ho'oulu Lāhui  
171 Halai St.  
Hilo, HI 96720

Aloha Susie,

We are pleased to inform you that your organization's proposal for Noho Pa'a - Subdivision Phase will be awarded a partial grant in the amount of \$475,000.00 through the Kilauea Recovery Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

We received 45 applications with over \$11 million in grant requests. Selecting from among the many diverse and valuable projects was challenging. This required that many projects receive grant awards that are less than their initial request.

As the award amount is lower than your original request of \$500,000.00, please consider the following options and let us know by email by Friday, January 16th which option you select:

1. Your organization will obtain additional funds to implement the project as proposed.
2. You wish to reduce the scope of the proposal to keep the budget within the available funding. Reduce scope based on panel feedback.
3. You wish to withdraw your proposal.

If you choose to accept this partial funding, you will need to revise your original scope and budget. We will follow up with you to schedule a meeting to review your budget and set up a grant installment schedule. Please feel free to contact Patti Pinto at (808) 961-8500 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Douglas Nam Le  
Disaster Recovery Officer

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHAHA  
**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 420  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
<https://labor.hawaii.gov/ocs/>  
Phone: (808) 586-8675 / Fax: (808) 586-8685  
Email: [dlir.ocs@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlir.ocs@hawaii.gov)

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

REY DOMINGO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IN REPLY, REFER TO:  
OCS 25.1186

July 22, 2025

Ms. Susan Osborne  
CVOO  
Hoolu Lahui  
171 Halai Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

**2025 NOTICE OF GRANT-IN-AID AWARD**

Dear Ms. Osborne,

Congratulations on your recent grant-in-aid (GIA) award by the 2025 Hawaii State Legislature, which Governor Green recently enacted, Act 250. Your GIA was designated to our office, the Office of Community Services (OCS), an attached agency of the Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR).

Although you have been awarded the GIA, the State still needs to determine whether you are eligible to receive funds. There are many steps in the review and approval process before you can start work on your GIA project.

The first step is Eligibility Verification. You can find more information on our website <https://labor.hawaii.gov/ocs/service-programs-index/gia/>.

Further guidance regarding the full grant administration process for 2025 GIAs will be forthcoming once the Department of Budget and Finance has released the FY26 budget execution policies.

Your assigned OCS program specialist, who will work with you throughout the GIA process, will be in contact with you soon to discuss next steps. If you need immediate assistance, please call us at (808) 586-8675.

We thank you for your patience and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

REY DOMINGO  
Executive Director

Mitchell D. Roth  
*Mayor*

Lee E. Lord  
*Managing Director*

West Hawai'i Office  
74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
Phone (808) 323-4770  
Fax (808) 327-3563



**County of Hawai'i**  
**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

Zendo Kern  
*Director*

Jeffrey W. Darrow  
*Deputy Director*

East Hawai'i Office  
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
Phone (808) 961-8288  
Fax (808) 961-8742

December 1, 2023

Susie Osborne  
345 Makalika St.  
Hilo, HI 96720

Aloha Susie,

We are pleased to inform you that your organization's proposal for Noho Pa'a was selected for a grant award of \$500,000 through the Kīlauea Recovery Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

We received 38 applications with over \$10 million in grant requests. Selecting from among the many diverse and valuable projects was challenging. We look forward to working with you and your organization to implement the project. We will be scheduling a meeting with you to review your budget and set up a grant installment plan, which will be included in your Grant Agreement document. Please do not incur any related expenses until the fully executed agreement is returned to you, as the County of Hawaii cannot be responsible for such expenses.

Thank you for your proposal and your partnership. We will be in touch with you to finalize the contract and grant award. Please feel free to contact Patti Pinto at (808) 961-8500 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Douglas Nam Le  
Disaster Recovery Officer

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA  
**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 420  
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JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

REY DOMINGO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IN REPLY, REFER TO:  
OCS 25.1186

July 22, 2025

Ms. Susan Osborne  
CVOO  
Hoolu Lahui  
171 Halai Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

**2025 NOTICE OF GRANT-IN-AID AWARD**

Dear Ms. Osborne,

Congratulations on your recent grant-in-aid (GIA) award by the 2025 Hawaii State Legislature, which Governor Green recently enacted, Act 250. Your GIA was designated to our office, the Office of Community Services (OCS), an attached agency of the Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR).

Although you have been awarded the GIA, the State still needs to determine whether you are eligible to receive funds. There are many steps in the review and approval process before you can start work on your GIA project.

The first step is Eligibility Verification. You can find more information on our website <https://labor.hawaii.gov/ocs/service-programs-index/gia/>.

Further guidance regarding the full grant administration process for 2025 GIAs will be forthcoming once the Department of Budget and Finance has released the FY26 budget execution policies.

Your assigned OCS program specialist, who will work with you throughout the GIA process, will be in contact with you soon to discuss next steps. If you need immediate assistance, please call us at (808) 586-8675.

We thank you for your patience and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

REY DOMINGO  
Executive Director



Nani Mau Garden Group, LLC  
421 Makalika Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Ho`oulu- Lahui  
171 Halai Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Re: Letter of Loan Commitment

Dear President Kalawe:

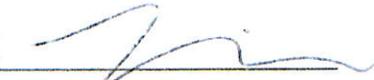
In accordance with the terms of the Development Agreement dated October 23, 2023, between the Nani Mau Garden Group, LLC (NMG) and Ho`oulu Lahui, this letter confirms the continuing commitment of NMG to loan the sum of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) to Ho`oulu Lahui to assist in the funding of its purchase of an approximately 5.0 acre portion of NMG's land located at 345 Makalika Street, Hilo, Hawaii, designated as TMK (3) 2-2-048:013. The loan will be made at the time of closing of the purchase of the property, and under Paragraph 5(b) of the Development Agreement, the loan will be secured by a purchase money mortgage.

As we understand, this letter of commitment is for the purpose of providing the Office of Community Services of the State of Hawaii with information confirming that funds will be available to complete your company's purchase of the property in addition to the funds being made available to Ho`oulu Lahui by said office.

Please let us know if you are in need of further information about this matter. We sincerely look forward to assisting in the opportunity to provide a permanent location for the Kua O Ka Lā Public Charter School and related activities of Ho`oulu -Lāhui.

Best Regards,

NANI MAU GARDEN GROUP, LLC

By   
Zengdi Ciu, Its Manager

# Ho‘oulu Lāhui Organizational Chart 2026

**KOKL Board**

**HL Board of Directors**

**Facilities Advisory  
Committee**

**Fiscal Officer**

**CEO/Kahu `Āina**

**Chief Operations Officer**

**Financial & Grant Management**

**Cultural & `Āina Advisor**

**Operations Management**

---



**C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.**  
*Mayor*



**William V. Brillhante, Jr.**  
*Managing Director*

**Merrick Nishimoto**  
*Deputy Managing Director*

## *County of Hawai'i ~ Office of the Mayor*

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • Phone (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553  
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
Phone (808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

January 9th, 2026

### **Honorable Members of the Senate**

Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

### **Honorable Members of the House of Representatives**

Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha,

We write this letter in full support of the State Grant In Aid (CIP) application submitted by Ho'oulu Lāhui requesting the balance of funding required to support the acquisition of the 5 acre public facility at Nani Mau Gardens ensuring a permanent home for Kua O Ka Lā Public Charter School. Kua O Ka Lā Charter School relocated to this site/facility after the loss of their campus to the 2018 Kilauea eruption.

This facility also holds immense promise in not only providing culturally based public school and community education but in enhancing the preparedness and resilience of our community, particularly in the face of emergencies and natural disasters exacerbated by climate change.

The disaster affected the island's asset base, with the destruction or damage to infrastructure assets estimated at \$236 million. Based on the combined factors affecting assets, income, and the tax base, the impact of the disaster was at least \$796 million for the Island of Hawai'i and its residents and businesses, and \$1.183 billion statewide.

In response to this disaster and the need for a plan for recovery, the County of Hawai'i developed the 2018 Kīlauea Disaster Economic Recovery Plan and the Kilauea Recovery and Resilience Plan with the cooperation of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, and the Institute for Sustainable Development. As with all

significant disasters, recovery has taken years and we recognize the community, almost 6 years later, is just now entering into the long-term recovery stage. Recovery also means creating more resilient support systems and businesses for the future.

I urge you to support this critical initiative through Hoʻoulu Lāhui and its partnership with Kua O Ka Lā Public Charter School in addressing their long-term recovery. They serve as a beacon of hope and resilience for the community.

By investing in this project, we can ensure that Kua O Ka Lā has a permanent home and empower Hoʻoulu Lāhui to fulfill its mission of serving as a community education and resilience hub, providing a lifeline for the community in times of need.

Thank you for your consideration for this important request for funding support.

With Aloha,



C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.  
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

**Ashley L. Kierkiewicz**  
County Council District IV

*Policy Committee on Planning, Land  
Use & Economic Development – Chair*



(808) 961-8265  
ashley.kierkiewicz@hawaiiicounty.gov

*Policy Committee on Public Works  
and Mass Transit – Vice-Chair*

## **HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL**

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

January 9, 2026

### **Letter of Support from Council Member Ashley Kierkiewicz Regarding Ho‘oulu Lāhui State Grant-in-Aid (CIP) Application**

Aloha Honorable State Legislators:

I am writing to express my strong support for Ho‘oulu Lāhui’s State Grant-in-Aid (CIP) application. The requested funding will enable the purchase of a 5-acre property, including public facilities, to provide a permanent home for Ho‘oulu Lāhui and Kua O Ka Lā New Century Public Charter School.

In 2018, Kua O Ka Lā’s main campus was devastated by the Kīlauea volcanic eruption, forcing the school to relocate to Nani Mau Gardens in Pana‘ewa. Since then, the school and its community have worked tirelessly to rebuild and stabilize operations. As the Council Member for Lower Puna, the area most affected by the lava, I’ve had the privilege of working alongside Ho‘oulu Lāhui and Kua O Ka Lā to advocate for critical funding. This included successfully securing and administering a \$500,000 infrastructure grant, as well as an additional \$500,000 recently awarded by the County of Hawai‘i Recovery Division to support the purchase of public facility land.

Kua O Ka Lā has been a lifeline for its students and families, providing much-needed stability after the volcanic disaster and through the ongoing challenges of COVID-19. Yet, as a public charter school, it lacks access to state funding for facilities like land acquisition and capital improvements. This grant would close the funding gap, allowing the school to secure a permanent home. Beyond education, this property will serve as a Community Resilience Hub during emergencies and a space for community education, gatherings, and economic development—particularly in food sustainability.

The requested funds are essential to Ho‘oulu Lāhui and Kua O Ka Lā’s recovery, future growth, and continued role as a cornerstone of our community. I urge you to support this application and help ensure their lasting impact on our region.

If you have any questions or need more information, please don’t hesitate to contact me directly at (808) 989-4004. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley", written in a cursive style.

Ashley Lehualani Kierkiewicz  
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT IV



Nani Mau Gardens  
421 Makalika Street  
Hilo, HI. 96720

January 9, 2026

**Honorable Members of the Senate**

Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Honorable Members of the House of Representatives**

Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: Ho`oulu Lāhui Grant in Aid Submission for funds to support the acquisition of 5 acres at Nani Mau to provide a permanent home for Kua O Ka Lā Charter School.**

Aloha Honorable Legislators,

Kua O Ka Lā Public Charter School relocated to the 22-acre Nani Mau Gardens in Panaewa following the devastating loss of its previous campus during the Kilauea eruption in 2018. The school currently operates under a State Attorney General-approved lease agreement for the property.

Through the efforts of the school's supporting nonprofit entity, Ho`oulu Lāhui, funding was secured to bring the facility into legal compliance. This included upgrades to meet all County building, fire, and ADA codes, resulting in the facility achieving an E Occupancy designation. The school's reopening was a pivotal moment for the community, providing critical emotional and academic support to its students, many of whom were deeply impacted by the eruption, with families losing homes or being forced to relocate.

I am writing in full support of Kua O Ka Lā Charter School's application for funding through the State Grant-In-Aid program to further this important initiative. Currently, the property has successfully rezoned the property from Ag-10 to Ag-5, after which the subdivision will be completed. Once the property has its own TMK, the acquisition will be finalized. This funding is

essential for ensuring the school's long-term recovery, stabilization, and ability to continue serving its students and the broader community.

I respectfully request your support for this proposal, as it represents a vital step forward in the community's ongoing long-term recovery process.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cindy Cui', written over a horizontal line.

Cindy Cui  
Nani Mau Owner



January 9th, 2026

Honorable Members of the Senate

Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Honorable Members of the House of Representatives

Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South  
Beretania Street  
Honolulu,  
Hawaii 96813

Re: Letter of Support for the Grant in Aid Submission by Ho'oulu Lāhui for funding for the acquisition of 5 acres at Nani Mau Gardens, Panaewa, Hilo. Addressing long term recovery from the 2018 Kilauea Eruption by establishing a permanent home for Kua O Ka Lā Charter School.

Aloha Honorable Legislators,

In 2018, Kua O Ka La New Century Public Charter School lost its 600 acre campus in Lower Puna due to the Kilauea eruption that destroyed hundreds of homes and this one public charter school.

The Rotary Clubs of East Hawai'i including the Rotary Club of South Hilo, gathered together and determined to support the school as a major collaborative project. We understood they had relocated to the Nani Mau facility which was very run down and needed a lot of repairs including walls and window replacement from termite damage, and installing air conditioning systems.

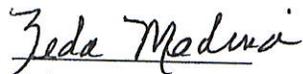
Rotary Clubs statewide and a sister club in Japan raised over \$80,000.00 and local club members gathered for several weeks with manpower and were able to get the repairs completed in order for the students to be in the classrooms on time for the school year.

We have continued to track the progress of the school and have provided continued support of their short term recovery and are happy to learn that the opportunity is in place for a permanent campus through the acquisition of 5 acres at their current location through their supporting non-profit Ho'oulu Lāhui.

As such, we support this application of request through the State GIA which will provide the funding balance required for the acquisition of the property.

Thank you for your consideration of support to this final step of provide disaster recovery by securing a permanent home for Kua O Ka Lā Charter School.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Zeda Medina".

Zeda Medina

President, Rotary Club of South Hilo



# Kua O Ka Lā

A New Century Public Charter School

Kua O Ka Lā New Century Public Charter School  
345 Makalika Street  
Hilo, HI. 96720

December 27, 2024

**Honorable Members of the Senate**

Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Honorable Members of the House of Representatives**

Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: Support for the Acquisition of 5 Acres at Nani Mau Gardens, Panaewa, Hilo. Addressing Long Term Recovery from the 2018 Kilauea Eruption by Establishing a Permanent Home for Kua O Ka Lā Charter School**

Aloha,

In 2018, Kua O Ka Lā New Century Public Charter School lost its campus to the devastating Kilauea eruption. Relocating and finding a suitable facility for our 282 students at the time was an immense challenge.

Fortunately, we were able to move to Nani Mau Gardens in Panaewa, Hawai'i Island, and Ho'oulu Lāhui, our supporting non-profit (the applicant) was able to secure funding to bring the facility into compliance with County regulations, fire codes, and ADA standards. Today, all the agreements necessary to purchase 5 acres of the Nani Mau facility are in place

Securing a permanent facility is essential for our long-term recovery and stabilization. This will enable us to continue offering culturally driven public school education to our community for generations to come. We have already secured \$500,000 through the County of Hawai'i and are seeking the remaining funds required to complete the purchase of this facility. We are seeking the Grant in Aid to support the balance of the acquisition funds required for this purchase.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of support in securing this vital public infrastructure acquisition, which will ensure our long-term recovery. Your support will help us continue to provide culturally driven public education for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and dedication to supporting education and disaster recovery efforts in Hawai'i

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KM', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kenneth Makuakāne

President: Kua O Ka Lā Board of Directors