



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: Kanu Hawaii

DBA/Trade Name: Kanu Hawaii

Issue Date: 01/08/2026

Status: **Compliant**

Hawaii Tax#: [REDACTED]
New Hawaii Tax#: [REDACTED]
FEIN/SSN#: [REDACTED]
UI#: No record
DCCA FILE#:

Status of Compliance for this Vendor on issue date:

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

Status Legend:

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

**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.

Kanu Hawai'i

(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)



(Signature)

Jan 20, 2026

(Date)

Keone Kealoha

(Typed Name)

Executive Director

(Title)

Application for Grants

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

I. Certification – Please attach immediately after cover page

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

Certificate of Vendor Compliance attached.

2. Declaration Statement

The applicant shall submit a declaration statement affirming its compliance with **Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes.**

Declaration Statement attached.

3. Public Purpose

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

Kanu Hawai'i confirms that the requested grant will be used for a public purpose pursuant to Section 42F-102, Hawai'i 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;

Kanu Hawai'i is a statewide, values-based nonprofit organization founded in 2006 to catalyze collective community action and strengthen Hawai'i's long-term sustainability, equity, and resilience.

Rooted in Hawaiian values of kuleana (responsibility), aloha (compassion), pono (doing what is right), and mālama 'āina (care for the land), Kanu Hawai'i provides tools and opportunities for residents, students, and visitors to connect with one another and take action that builds stronger communities across the islands.

Kanu Hawai'i is best known for building large-scale, cross-sector engagement systems that connect volunteers and partners to meaningful service opportunities year-round, including major statewide initiatives that mobilize thousands of participants and hundreds of partners.

Under the Pledge To Our Keiki Initiative — a youth written Pledge that encourages residents and visitors to be respectful to place, people, and culture — Kanu has expanded its focus to develop youth leadership as essential community infrastructure through the Kanu Student Pledge Ambassador Program. Launched in 2022, the Student Ambassador Program is now the organization's signature youth initiative.

The program is embedded statewide through a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Hawai'i Department of Education through 2027, aligning with the Nā Hopena A'o framework and extending access across public schools.

Across three cohorts, Kanu Hawai'i has supported 58 Student Ambassadors, who have mobilized more than 15,000 Pledge To Our Keiki signatures, led over 1,200 community projects, and generated 25,000+ youth volunteer hours through youth-designed action and leadership.

This strong track record demonstrates Kanu Hawai'i's capacity to supervise and sustain statewide student leadership programming while maintaining high community impact, measurable outcomes, and responsible partnership coordination across Hawai'i.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;

GOALS

- The goal of this request is to strengthen and expand the Kanu Student Pledge Ambassador Program, a statewide youth leadership initiative that equips Hawai'i high school students to lead service-based and systems-level community impact projects grounded in Hawaiian values of kuleana, aloha, pono, and mālama 'āina.
- Through this program, Kanu Hawai'i develops youth as authentic community leaders and organizers—not simply participants in adult-designed activities—by giving students genuine authority to set priorities, design implementation strategies, and evaluate outcomes.
- This request supports the continued growth of the program's statewide impact and the next stage of development: Building Hawai'i's first youth-led resilience network through student-designed community action, strengthened peer-to-peer engagement, and expanded impact tracking tools.

OBJECTIVES

To accomplish these goals, Kanu Hawai'i will pursue the following objectives during the grant period:

- Develop Youth Agency and Leadership Capacity
Strengthen students' ability to identify community needs, design solutions, mobilize resources, and lead value-aligned action in their schools and communities.
- Support Student-Led Individual and Small Group Impact Projects
Provide mentorship, tools, and targeted resources so Student Ambassadors can create and implement community projects addressing environmental, cultural, and social challenges across Hawai'i.
- Expand Peer-to-Peer Volunteer Mobilization and Youth-Led Service
Grow youth-led service engagement statewide by supporting Student Ambassadors to mobilize peers through volunteer events, student-driven campaigns, and community partnerships.
- Strengthen Systems-Level Impact through the Hawai'i DOE Partnership
Continue to build systems-level influence through Kanu Hawai'i's formal Memorandum of Understanding with the Hawai'i Department of Education (active through 2027), allowing Student Ambassadors to co-create educational tools aligned with the Nā Hopena A'o framework and accessible statewide.
- Launch and Improve Scalable Student Infrastructure (Student Dashboard / Impact Tracking Tools)
Support development and implementation of a statewide digital platform that enables students to share ideas, track service impact, access templates and resources, and scale successful youth-led projects across islands.
- Build Hawai'i's Student-Led Community Resilience Network
Advance youth-driven resilience and disaster preparedness priorities by supporting cohort-wide collaboration, community asset mapping, partnership-building, and student-led activation efforts.
- Measure, Track, and Report Objective Outcomes
Kanu Hawai'i will track and report measurable outputs including volunteer engagement, partners involved, service projects completed, and student service hours documented through its tracking tools and program reporting methods.

3. The public purpose and need to be served;

STRENGTHENING YOUTH LEADERSHIP

The public purpose of this request is to strengthen Hawai'i's youth leadership and civic engagement by expanding the Kanu Student Pledge Ambassador Program -- a statewide initiative that equips high school students to lead service projects and community impact efforts grounded in Hawaiian values and real community needs.

This program serves a critical statewide need: preparing the next generation of leaders with the skills, confidence, and support systems to address Hawai'i's most urgent challenges—including environmental stewardship, community well-being, equity, and disaster readiness.

Across Hawai'i, students want meaningful ways to contribute, but many lack access to structured leadership opportunities, trusted mentors, and systems that help translate passion into measurable community action. **Kanu's Student Pledge Ambassador Program fills this gap by giving students authentic roles as leaders—not just volunteers—while providing the training, tools, and coaching necessary for them to organize peers, coordinate partnerships, and implement projects that benefit their schools and communities.**

This request also serves a broader public need by strengthening community resilience. Hawai'i faces ongoing risks from hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and other emergencies, and long-term recovery depends not only on government response but on strong neighborhood networks and prepared local leaders. By building a statewide youth network trained to lead service and mobilize peers, the Student Ambassador Program strengthens Hawai'i's community readiness and capacity to respond during times of crisis.

In addition, the program supports statewide education and workforce development priorities by fostering the real-world skills students need to succeed—communication, collaboration, project planning, problem-solving, leadership, and responsibility. These skills strengthen students' long-term academic and career readiness while simultaneously delivering public benefit through volunteer service and community improvement projects.

Ultimately, the Kanu Student Pledge Ambassador Program advances a clear public purpose: empowering Hawai'i's youth to strengthen their communities today while developing a resilient, values-driven leadership pipeline for the future of our islands.

4. Describe the target population to be served; and

STUDENT POPULATION

The Kanu Student Pledge Ambassador Program primarily serves Hawai'i public high school students across the state who have the interest and potential to lead meaningful community service and civic engagement efforts, but who may not otherwise have access to structured leadership training, mentorship, or statewide platforms to support their growth and impact.

The target population includes:

- High school students (grades 9–12) who are motivated to serve their schools and communities and develop leadership skills through hands-on, student-led community projects.
- Youth leaders from diverse backgrounds, including students from underserved, rural, and neighbor island communities who may face barriers to leadership development opportunities.
- Students who want real-world experience in teamwork, project design, event coordination, communication, and community partnership building—skills that translate directly into college, career, and workforce readiness.
- Peers and classmates of Student Ambassadors, who benefit from being recruited and mobilized into volunteer events, school-based service initiatives, and community improvement activities.
- The broader community, including local nonprofit partners, schools, and neighborhood organizations that benefit from student-led service projects, increased volunteer engagement, and positive youth-driven contributions.

By investing in student leadership, the program supports young people at a critical stage of development while generating measurable public benefit through service, volunteer engagement, and community resilience building across Hawai'i.

COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE

This program also serves the broader community. The service-oriented leadership by the students is what is driving the creation of action-oriented leadership — the downstream impacts of their work within the community. We are not just funding a program; we are instilling lifelong habits of strategic problem solvers with the best interests of Hawai'i as the foundational frame for how they will address any solutions going forward.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

The Kanu Student Pledge Ambassador Program provides statewide geographic coverage across Hawai'i — supporting students, schools, and community partners on O'ahu, Hawai'i Island, Maui, Kaua'i, and other eligible communities across the islands.

The program is designed to ensure that leadership development and volunteer engagement opportunities are not limited to one region, but are accessible to youth throughout Hawai'i — including neighbor island and rural communities that often have fewer structured student leadership pathways.

Because the program operates as a statewide network, Student Ambassadors can lead place-based projects that directly respond to local needs in their home communities while also participating in cross-island learning, shared tools, and coordinated initiatives that strengthen collective impact. This statewide model supports a more equitable distribution of youth leadership resources and enables community benefit in multiple regions simultaneously.

In addition, statewide coverage strengthens Hawai'i's community resilience by building a connected youth leadership pipeline across islands. During times of crisis, disaster recovery, and statewide community mobilizations, the program's networked structure helps expand Hawai'i's capacity to organize volunteers, respond quickly, and sustain long-term recovery efforts across multiple counties.

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;

SCOPE OF WORK

Kanu Hawai'i will implement and operate the Kanu Student Pledge Ambassador Program as a statewide youth leadership and service initiative that equips high school students to lead community impact projects, mobilize peers, and strengthen volunteer engagement across Hawai'i. The program will provide structured training, mentorship, tools, and ongoing support so students can plan and execute service projects aligned with local community needs and statewide priorities.

KEY TASKS

1) Student Ambassador Recruitment and Selection

- Conduct statewide outreach to identify and recruit student leaders from diverse schools and communities
- Coordinate selection and onboarding of new Student Ambassador cohorts
- Ensure equitable access for students across islands, including underserved and neighbor island communities

2) Training and Leadership Development

- Deliver leadership training focused on project design, community engagement, communication, and teamwork
- Provide values-based learning rooted in kuleana, aloha, pono, and mālama 'āina
- Build students' capacity to lead with cultural awareness, responsibility, and purpose

3) Student-Led Project Planning and Implementation

- Support Student Ambassadors to identify community needs and develop action plans
- Provide guidance for project execution, including timelines, logistics, and partner coordination
- Assist with student-led events, service days, and community campaigns

4) Volunteer Engagement and Peer Mobilization

- Help Student Ambassadors recruit and organize peers to participate in service opportunities
- Support volunteer event promotion and coordination in schools and communities
- Strengthen youth-driven volunteer culture and leadership pipelines

5) Partnership Coordination

- Coordinate with schools, educators, nonprofit partners, and community organizations
- Strengthen collaboration through shared planning, communication, and alignment of goals
- Leverage partnerships to expand student opportunities and increase community benefit

6) Impact Tracking, Reporting, and Continuous Improvement

- Track outputs and outcomes such as student participation, service projects completed, volunteer hours, and community impact
- Collect feedback from students and partners to improve training and program delivery
- Document program results for State reporting requirements and accountability

RESPONSIBILITIES

Kanu Hawai'i is responsible for overall program management, including:

- Staffing, supervision, training, and cohort coordination
- Program planning and statewide implementation
- Fiscal oversight, reporting, and compliance with grant requirements
- Partner engagement and community collaboration
- Monitoring outcomes and continuously improving program effectiveness

Student Ambassadors are responsible for:

- Participating in training and leadership development activities
- Designing and leading service projects in their communities
- Mobilizing peers and coordinating volunteer engagement
- Representing the program with integrity and accountability

School and Community Partners (as applicable) support the program by:

- Assisting with student outreach, encouragement, and local coordination
- Providing collaboration opportunities, project sites, or community-based needs
- Helping strengthen long-term student engagement and community impact

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

Month 1–2: Program Launch, Outreach, and Student Recruitment

- Conduct statewide outreach to high schools and youth-serving partners
- Recruit and confirm Student Ambassador cohort participants
- Complete student onboarding, participation agreements, and program orientation
- Establish cohort expectations, leadership goals, and impact priorities

Month 3–4: Training and Leadership Development

- Deliver cohort training sessions focused on leadership, communication, teamwork, and project planning
- Provide tools and templates for identifying community needs and designing service initiatives
- Connect students with mentorship and guidance from the Kanu team and community partners

Month 5–8: Student-Led Project Planning and Implementation

- Student Ambassadors design, launch, and lead community impact projects in their school or community
- Ambassadors mobilize peers to increase volunteer participation
- Kanu provides coaching, troubleshooting support, and partnership coordination as needed
- Document projects, participation, and volunteer engagement progress throughout implementation

Month 9–10: Scaling, Peer Mobilization, and Community Impact Expansion

- Support additional service opportunities and multi-student collaborations
- Strengthen partnerships and expand reach across schools and communities
- Increase peer-to-peer volunteer mobilization through student-led campaigns and events

Month 11–12: Evaluation, Impact Reporting, and Next-Year Planning

- Collect and review program outcome data (student engagement, projects completed, volunteers mobilized, hours served)
- Gather feedback from Student Ambassadors, schools, and partners
- Identify improvements and refine training, tools, and systems for the next cohort
- Produce final year-end reporting for funders and stakeholders

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

Kanu Hawai'i will ensure high-quality implementation of the Kanu Student Pledge Ambassador Program through a structured system of planning, monitoring, evaluation, and continuous improvement. Because the program is designed to produce measurable community benefit through student-led service and leadership development, Kanu will evaluate both program delivery quality and community impact outcomes throughout the grant period.

1. Program Quality Assurance

Kanu Hawai'i will maintain program quality through consistent oversight and structured program management practices, including:

- Standardized program design and training curriculum to ensure all Student Ambassadors receive consistent leadership development and expectations statewide.
- Clear participation requirements and leadership responsibilities for Student Ambassadors to promote accountability and follow-through.
- Ongoing staff supervision and coaching, ensuring students receive timely guidance to successfully plan and implement projects.
- Regular check-ins and cohort meetings to track progress, identify barriers early, and provide support to keep projects on schedule.
- Partner coordination protocols to ensure effective communication and alignment between students, schools, and community organizations.

2. Monitoring and Progress Tracking

Kanu will monitor program progress in real time through:

- Student project plans and milestone tracking, ensuring that each student-led project has defined goals, tasks, timelines, and intended outcomes.
- Participation and engagement monitoring, including tracking Student Ambassador attendance, activity completion, and leadership contributions.

- Peer mobilization tracking, monitoring volunteer engagement initiated by Student Ambassadors through events, campaigns, and service opportunities.
- Regular documentation of implementation progress, including event logs, project summaries, and partner coordination notes.

3. Outcome Evaluation

Kanu Hawai'i will evaluate success using objective, measurable indicators such as:

- Number of Student Ambassadors trained and retained through the program year
- Number of student-led projects planned and completed
- Number of volunteers mobilized through Student Ambassador leadership
- Volunteer hours and service impact documented
- Number of participating schools and community partners engaged
- Student leadership growth indicators, including confidence, communication skills, teamwork, and civic responsibility (assessed through surveys, reflections, and staff observation)

4. Feedback and Continuous Improvement

Kanu Hawai'i will improve program quality and effectiveness through:

- Student feedback loops, including reflections and surveys to understand what students need to succeed and how the program supports growth.
- Partner and school feedback, gathering input from educators and community organizations to assess program value and improve coordination.
- Internal team debriefs, reviewing outcomes and adjusting recruitment, training, tools, and timelines based on what worked and what needs refinement.
- Program updates and improvements, including enhancements to training materials, coaching processes, and impact tracking systems.

5. Reporting and Accountability

Kanu Hawai'i will maintain transparent reporting and accountability by:

- Tracking outcomes and performance measures throughout the year
- Producing grant reports that document progress toward stated goals and objectives
- Maintaining appropriate financial documentation and compliance reporting
- Demonstrating measurable community benefit and statewide reach

- 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.**

ANNUAL OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY END OF GRANT PERIOD

By the end of the grant year, Kanu Hawai'i expects to achieve:

- A trained cohort of 20+ Student Ambassadors in FY27, equipped with leadership and service tools
- 10 Student-led projects completed across multiple communities
- Increased youth volunteer engagement and peer mobilization statewide
- Documented volunteer/service impact metrics that demonstrate public benefit and community improvement
- A strengthened statewide youth leadership network that supports long-term civic engagement and resilience

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**

The total annual budget for the Kanu Student Pledge Ambassador Program is \$220,250. We request \$122,300 in State of Hawai'i GIA support for this important initiative. Kanu is committed to raising \$97,950 through a combination of grants, sponsors, and in-kind support for the remainder of the funding (\$67,700 of this amount has been committed to-date).

The \$220,500 budget for this initiative supports contracted staffing, technology development, training, outreach, and operational expenses necessary to achieve the proposed outcomes. Budget documents attached.

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

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
\$30,575	\$30,575	\$30,575	\$30,575	\$122,300

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

Kanu Hawai'i will continue pursuing a balanced portfolio of private foundation grants, corporate partnerships, individual donor support, and program sponsorships to sustain and expand the programs and operations of the organization into FY2027 and beyond.

Funding Secured for FY2027:

- Southwest Airlines – Corporate Sponsorship – in-kind flights @ value of \$17,700
- Hawai'i Community Foundation Youth in Action Grant - \$50,000 per year (2-year award)
- Outrigger Hotels & Resorts – in-kind rooms/accommodations (value tbd)
- United Airlines – in-kind flights (value tbd)

Pending:

- City & County GIA - \$150,000
- State of Hawai'i Green Fee Proposal - tbd

Planned:

- Atherton Family Foundation - \$75,000
- Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation - \$50,000
- Cooke Foundation - \$20,000
- HTA Umeke CEP - \$75,000
- G.N. Wilcox Trust - \$50,000
- McInerney Foundation - \$50,000

- 4. The applicant shall provide a listing of all state and federal tax credits it has been granted within the prior three years. Additionally, the applicant shall provide a listing of all state and federal tax credits they have applied for or anticipate applying for pertaining to any capital project, if applicable.**

None.

- 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.**

Government Contracts, Grants, and/or Grants In Aid attachment.

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

As of December 31, 2025, Kanu Hawai'i's unrestricted current assets are \$45,925.15.

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.

LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

Kanu Hawai'i has the necessary skills, leadership experience, and statewide operational capacity to successfully implement the Kanu Student Pledge Ambassador Program and deliver measurable public benefit. Since 2006, Kanu Hawai'i has built and managed initiatives that mobilize volunteers, strengthen civic engagement, and support community resilience across Hawai'i. This long-term track record demonstrates Kanu's ability to plan, coordinate, and sustain programs that require strong community relationships, consistent execution, and outcome-based reporting.

Kanu Hawai'i is led by an experienced staff team with strong operational and program leadership capacity, including Keone Kealoha, Executive Director, and a skilled implementation team supporting program delivery, partnerships, and technology infrastructure: Ethan Porter, Project Director, Wes Fox, Fundraising & Partnerships, and Trevor Danielson, Web Designer. Together, this team ensures the organization has both the program management and technical expertise needed to recruit and support students statewide, maintain effective communication systems, and track program outcomes.

Kanu Hawai'i also benefits from strong governance and strategic oversight from a diverse Board of Directors with expertise spanning community development, education, climate and resilience, nonprofit leadership, compliance, and private-sector strategy. Board leadership includes Makale'a Ane (Board Chair), along with dedicated board directors and members including Breanna Rose, Melissa Matsubara, Prof. Robert Perkinson, Molly Noelaniokakai Mamaril, Tyler Mejia, Michael Colón, J.D., M.B.A., Nicole Lemas-Rodriguez, Keolamau Tengan, and others who provide essential accountability, community insight, and strategic guidance.

Key organizational skills and experience include:

- **Statewide program leadership and coordination**
Kanu Hawai'i has demonstrated success implementing multi-island initiatives that require consistent training, communication, scheduling, and partnerships across diverse communities.
- **Youth leadership development and student engagement expertise**
The Student Ambassador Program develops leadership skills through meaningful responsibility, mentorship, and real-world community action, supported by Kanu's proven ability to recruit, train, coach, and retain high school students.
- **Volunteer mobilization systems and community engagement tools**
Kanu's volunteer platform and engagement tools support scalable peer-to-peer mobilization, helping Student Ambassadors expand service participation and increase community benefit.

- **Strong partnerships and trusted community relationships**
Kanu works closely with schools, nonprofit partners, and local stakeholders to ensure projects address real community needs and support culturally grounded, place-based action.
- **Program evaluation, impact tracking, and reporting capacity**
Kanu monitors measurable indicators such as volunteer engagement, student participation, projects completed, and service hours generated—supporting transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement.
- **Administrative and fiscal management capacity**
Kanu Hawai'i maintains the systems required to responsibly manage public funds, document expenditures, comply with grant requirements, and report outcomes to the State.

With this combination of experienced staff leadership, strong governance, and statewide implementation experience, Kanu Hawai'i is well-prepared to deliver the Student Ambassador Program as a viable, scalable, and outcomes-driven youth leadership initiative benefiting communities across Hawai'i.

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.

Kanu Hawai'i is a statewide organization that operates through a combination of administrative capacity, technology infrastructure, and community-based partnerships rather than relying on a single facility site. The Kanu Student Pledge Ambassador Program is implemented primarily through participating schools, community partner locations, and virtual program delivery systems that enable consistent statewide access for students across multiple islands.

Kanu Hawai'i's facilities and operational infrastructure are adequate for this request because the program is designed as a distributed statewide leadership model, supported by reliable digital tools for communication, volunteer coordination, and impact tracking. Student training, coaching, and program coordination are delivered through structured online meetings, program materials, and statewide systems that allow Student Ambassadors to participate regardless of geographic location. This approach ensures equitable access for students on neighbor islands and in rural communities.

In addition, Kanu Hawai'i leverages strong partnerships with schools and community organizations that provide appropriate project sites for student-led service activities. Student Ambassadors lead projects in real community environments—such as school campuses, public spaces, local nonprofits, and environmental or cultural stewardship

locations—allowing the program to generate meaningful public benefit without requiring extensive facility expansion or capital development.

If additional space is needed for cohort convenings, training sessions, or statewide gatherings, Kanu Hawai'i will continue to secure appropriate meeting and event locations through partnerships, donated space, and/or short-term rentals as needed. This flexible facility strategy ensures the Student Ambassador Program remains viable, accessible, and scalable statewide while maintaining responsible cost management.

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.

Kanu Hawai'i will implement the Kanu Student Pledge Ambassador Program using an experienced staffing structure that provides strong statewide oversight, consistent student supervision, and reliable administrative management. The program is designed to scale across islands while maintaining quality coaching, accountability, and measurable community outcomes.

STAFFING AND LEADERSHIP

Kanu Hawai'i's program delivery model includes the following roles and responsibilities:

1) Executive Leadership and Program Direction

- Keone Kealoha, Executive Director, will provide overall organizational leadership and ensure the program remains aligned with Kanu Hawai'i's mission, statewide partnerships, and public purpose outcomes. Executive leadership will also guide strategic planning, stakeholder coordination, and reporting accountability.

2) Program Management and Implementation

- Ethan Porter, Project Director, will manage day-to-day implementation of the Student Ambassador Program, including cohort coordination, student support, training schedules, project coaching, and performance tracking. This role ensures consistent oversight of student progress and program deliverables statewide.

3) Fundraising, Partnerships, and Sustainability

- Wes Fox, Fundraising & Partnerships, will support program viability by strengthening community partnerships, cultivating donor and funder relationships, and supporting long-term sustainability for statewide student leadership programming.

4) Technology and Platform Support

- Trevor Danielson, Web Designer, will maintain and improve the digital tools that support program communication, student resources, and impact tracking—ensuring statewide access and reliable infrastructure for participation and reporting.

5) Board Oversight and Governance

- Kanu Hawai'i's Board of Directors provides strong organizational governance, accountability, and strategic oversight to ensure responsible program delivery and public benefit. The Board includes leaders with experience across resilience and climate strategy, education, community innovation, organizational development, compliance, and nonprofit leadership.

SERVICE CAPACITY

The Kanu Student Pledge Ambassador Program is designed to serve students across Hawai'i through cohort-based participation and peer-to-peer leadership expansion.

Service capacity includes:

- A statewide cohort of Student Ambassadors trained annually to lead local projects in their schools and communities
- Student-led service projects implemented across multiple islands, benefiting local neighborhoods and community partners
- Increased youth volunteer engagement as Student Ambassadors mobilize peers into service activities and volunteer opportunities
- Scalable statewide reach through digital tools and virtual training that support student participation regardless of island location

Through this model, Kanu Hawai'i strengthens not only the capacity of participating Student Ambassadors but also multiplies community impact through the students they mobilize and the projects they lead.

Kanu Hawai'i's staffing structure, leadership capacity, governance, and technology infrastructure provide the necessary supervision, training, and administrative direction to deliver the Student Ambassador Program statewide. This model ensures the program is viable, scalable, and capable of producing measurable community benefit across Hawai'i.

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.

Organization Chart attached.

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.

- Executive Director (Contractor) \$95,000 to \$115,000
- Project Director (Contractor) \$40,000 to \$60,000
- Fundraising & Partnerships (Contractor) \$40,000 to \$60,000

VII. Other

1. Litigation

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

Not applicable.

2. Licensure or Accreditation

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

Not applicable.

3. Private Educational Institutions

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

Not applicable.

4. Future Sustainability Plan

The applicant shall provide a plan for sustaining after fiscal year 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.

Kanu Hawai'i is committed to sustaining the Kanu Student Pledge Ambassador Program beyond FY2027 by leveraging diversified funding sources, strengthening long-term partnerships, and maintaining a scalable program model that can continue delivering measurable statewide impact, even if State Grant-in-Aid funding is not renewed.

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Kanu Hawai'i's sustainability plan includes the following core strategies:

1) Diversified Funding and Long-Term Grant Support

Kanu Hawai'i will continue pursuing a balanced portfolio of private foundation grants, corporate partnerships, individual donor support, and program sponsorships to sustain and expand the Student Ambassador Program. The organization will proactively seek multi-year commitments when possible to reduce reliance on any single funding source and ensure stable program operations over time.

2) Partnership-Based Program Delivery to Reduce Long-Term Cost

The Student Ambassador Program is designed for long-term viability through a distributed statewide model that relies on partnerships with schools and community organizations rather than requiring high facility or fixed overhead costs. By embedding student leadership work within existing school and community settings, the program can scale efficiently and remain financially sustainable.

3) Scalable Technology and Tools

Kanu Hawai'i will continue to maintain and improve its digital tools, training resources, and volunteer engagement platforms to support statewide delivery. These tools allow the program to reach students across islands without requiring significant ongoing expansion in staffing or infrastructure, making the program both scalable and cost-effective.

4) Building a Repeatable Leadership Pipeline

Kanu Hawai'i is intentionally developing the Student Ambassador Program as a replicable leadership pipeline where training content, tools, mentorship structure, and impact tracking systems improve each year. As systems strengthen, program delivery becomes more efficient and sustainable, while outcomes continue to grow through student-to-student mobilization and project replication across communities.

5) Ongoing Evaluation and Continuous Improvement

Kanu Hawai'i will continue evaluating outcomes such as student participation, community projects completed, volunteer engagement, and service hours generated. Demonstrated results will support future fundraising and partnership development while ensuring the program remains responsive to the evolving needs of Hawai'i's communities.

If State GIA funding is awarded for FY2027 but not thereafter, Kanu Hawai'i will sustain the Kanu Student Pledge Ambassador Program through diversified private funding, strong community partnerships, scalable technology tools, and a continually improving program model. This approach ensures the program remains viable and continues producing statewide public benefit by strengthening youth leadership, civic engagement, and community resilience across Hawai'i.

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Kanu Hawai'i

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	0	0	0	0
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	0	0	0	0
3. Fringe Benefits	0	0	0	0
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	0	0	0	0
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island	0	0	0	17,700
2. Insurance	0	0	0	0
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment	0	0	0	0
4. Lease/Rental of Space	0	0	0	0
5. Staff Training	0	0	0	0
6. Supplies	0	0	0	0
7. Telecommunication	0	0	0	0
8. Utilities	0	0	0	0
9. Program Operations	15,000	0	0	7,000
10. Student Projects Support	12,500	0	0	7,500
11. Technology and Platform	20,000	0	0	12,500
12. Student Graduation/Volunteer Awards	0	0	0	19,100
13. Resiliency Network Cohort Project Support	5,000	0	0	5,000
14. Contracted Staffing	59,800	0	0	25,000
15. Administration	10,000	0	0	4,150
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	122,300	0	0	97,950
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	0	0	0	0
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES	0	0	0	0
E. CAPITAL	0	0	0	0
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	122,300	0	0	97,950
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	122,300	Keone Kealoha	808-206-8446	
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested	0	Name (Please type or print) Phone		
(c) Total County Funds Requested	0		1/22/2026	
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	97,950	Signature of Authorized Official Date		
TOTAL BUDGET	220,250	Keone Kealoha, Executive Director		
		Name and Title (Please type or print)		

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Kanu Hawai'i

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
(none)			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				0
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:				
Not applicable				

DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	NO. OF VEHICLES	COST PER VEHICLE	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
(none)			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				0
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:				
Not applicable				

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Kanu Hawai'i

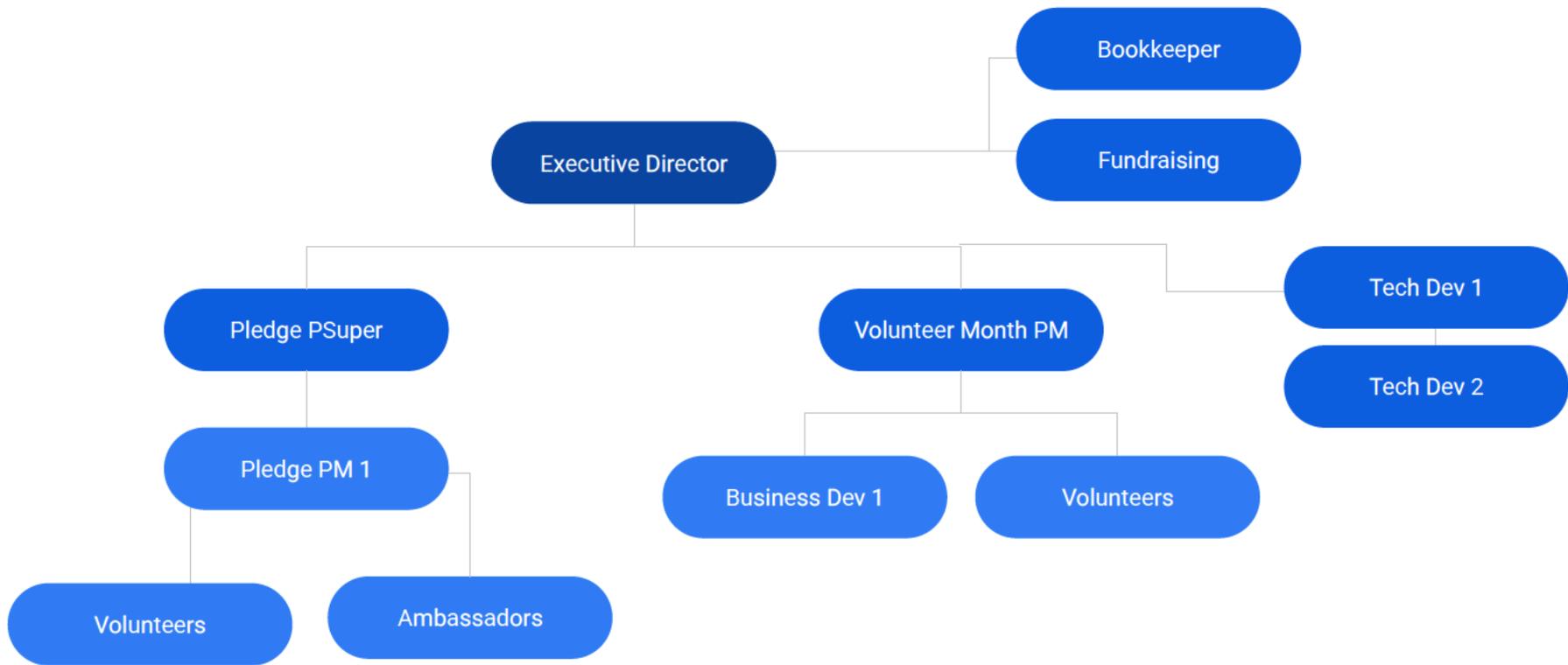
FUNDING AMOUNT REQUESTED						
TOTAL PROJECT COST	ALL SOURCES OF FUNDS RECEIVED IN PRIOR YEARS		STATE FUNDS REQUESTED	OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS REQUESTED	FUNDING REQUIRED IN SUCCEEDING YEARS	
	FY:2024-2025	FY:2025-2026	FY:2026-2027	FY:2026-2027	FY:2027-2028	FY:2028-2029
PLANS						
LAND ACQUISITION						
DESIGN						
CONSTRUCTION						
EQUIPMENT						
TOTAL:				0		
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: <p style="text-align: center;">Not applicable</p>						

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

Applicant: **Kanu Hawai'i**

Contracts Total: 302,000

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1	State HTA CEP: Volunteer Month 2024	1/1/2024-8/31/2024	Hawaii Tourism Authority	State	40,000
2	State HTA CEP: Voluntourism Month 2025	1/31/2025-6/30/2025	Hawaii Tourism Authority	State	22,000
3	State GIA FY2025: Pledge To Our Keiki	8/1/2024-7/31/2025	Office of Community Services	State	50,000
4	City GIA FY2025: Community Resiliency	12/06/2024-12/05/2025	Department of Community Service	Honolulu	150,000
5	State HTA CEP: Volunteer Month 2026	7/1/2025-06/30/2026	Hawaii Tourism Authority	State	40,000



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

Keone Kealoha, Executive Director

PRINT NAME AND TITLE

January 22, 2026

DATE