

# 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. Hawai'i Compliance Express Certificate (If the Applicant is an Organization)**

See attached for Kaua'i Sea Farm and Ho'omalū Ke kai.

### **2. Declaration Statement**

See attached.

### **3. Public Purpose**

Grant funds will be applied to rebuild a facility that serves local food production, education, and hosts Kauai's only coral restoration nursery. This is a multi-use facility that benefits a variety of public and private interests and has been made available to local students for school projects, as well as nonprofits for conservation projects.

## **II. Background and Summary**

On December 23, 2025, a lithium-ion battery at the Kaua'i Sea Farm (KSF) solar facility, located at Nōmilu Fishpond, malfunctioned and caused a fire that destroyed a significant portion of the structure. Rapid response by the Kaua'i Fire Department prevented the fire from spreading further, but the incident left the facility without power and essential equipment needed to continue operations supporting local food production, education, federally funded research, and conservation projects. KSF is requesting \$49,500 in capital improvement funds to match an active insurance claim for restoring critical infrastructure to minimize interruption to these public-benefit activities.

Kaua'i Sea Farm is a Hawaiian-owned small business grounded in the restoration of Nōmilu Fishpond, which has been stewarded by the same family through a land trust for more than 100 years. KSF utilizes a production-focused approach to fishpond restoration by cultivating low-trophic species that provide essential ecosystem services, support long-term restoration goals, and produce high-demand local food products. KSF is currently the only producer of food clams in Hawai'i and operates a fully solar-powered hatchery that supplies local seedstock. Through this facility, KSF has developed applied research programs focused on native aquaculture species, created hands-on educational opportunities for local high school students that integrate modern science with traditional Hawaiian resource management, and provided a pro-bono lease to a local nonprofit to establish Kaua'i's first coral restoration nursery. KSF is actively underway with multiple Federal, State, and County funded projects that rely on this facility for completion and dissemination of results benefiting the broader community.

The Nōmilu Fishpond facility has evolved into a shared community resource supporting monthly community workdays, nonprofit partnerships, and a pilot coral propagation program led by Ho'omalū Ke Kai, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, to propagate rescued corals for future out-planting to nearshore reefs. Educational programs at the site engage local students through science curricula rooted in place-based learning, while federally funded research projects develop hatchery methods for native species that are shared with other fishpond practitioners and educators statewide. These activities extend the benefits of the facility well beyond Kaua'i and contribute directly to food security, workforce development, and environmental stewardship.

The KSF facility is an exemplary model of sustainable aquaculture infrastructure, operating entirely on renewable energy and supporting local food production without reliance on imported feeds. As Hawai'i transitions toward greater use of renewable energy, safe power storage has proven as a critical infrastructure challenge. The purpose of this request is to restore and improve this facility, protect ongoing jobs and public programs, and ensure that future operations incorporate state-of-the-art fire suppression systems specifically designed for lithium-ion batteries. While insurance funds will cover limited equipment replacement, Grant-in-Aid support is needed to fully rebuild the hatchery, educational laboratory, coral nursery, and safety systems so that this community-integrated facility can continue serving Hawai'i's public interest, and no local jobs are lost.

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

This project will restore and strengthen critical infrastructure at Kaua'i Sea Farm's Nōmilu Fishpond facility following fire damage. An active insurance claim is expected to cover some of the damage, but not the amount needed to make the system more resilient and sufficient for ongoing projects. We will use Grant-in-Aid funds to expand solar power generation beyond what is covered under the insurance claim, install an automated fire suppression system for contained battery storage, and rebuild a restorative aquaculture hatchery, coral nursery, and laboratory used for education and applied research. Work will include the purchase and installation of solar panels, electrical components, structural materials, tanks, and essential equipment supporting aquaculture production, education, and conservation activities.

Grant-in-Aid funds will be deployed on an accelerated timeline to minimize disruption to federally funded research, nonprofit conservation partnerships, and local food production, and prevent loss of currently funded jobs at the facility. All electrical and energy storage components will be designed and installed by a local solar contractor to ensure safety, compliance, and long-term system resilience. A customized Stat X fire suppression system will be installed by System Engineering Group LLC to provide state-of-the-art protection specifically designed for lithium-ion battery storage. The rebuilt hatchery, coral nursery, and educational laboratory will be designed by Kaua'i Sea Farm management based on an improved version of the original facility, incorporating enhanced safety features, upgraded system layout, and increased durability. These improvements will allow the facility to resume aquaculture production,

support coral propagation for nearshore reef restoration, host student field trips and science projects, and continue applied research benefiting fishpond practitioners statewide.

**Projected Timeline**

The project will be completed within 12 months of funding receipt:

- **Months 1–2:** Finalize system designs; procure solar, electrical, fire suppression, and structural materials; execute contractor agreements.
- **Months 3–4:** Install expanded solar generation, battery storage, and automated fire suppression systems.
- **Months 5–6:** Rebuild hatchery, coral nursery, and educational laboratory infrastructure; install tanks, plumbing, and life-support systems.
- **Months 7–12:** System testing, safety verification, and resumption of aquaculture production, education programs, and research activities.

**Quality Assurance and Evaluation**

Quality assurance will be maintained through the use of licensed contractors and certified equipment suppliers. Project progress will be reviewed monthly by KSF management to ensure timely completion, compliance with specifications, and effective coordination among contractors. All funds will be managed through Ho'omalū Ke Kai, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which is a direct partner and fiscal sponsor to KSF.

**Measures of Effectiveness**

The following measures of effectiveness will be reported to the expending State agency:

- Completion of solar power expansion and restoration of full facility electrical capacity;
- Installation and operational readiness of a lithium-ion–specific fire suppression system;
- Restoration of hatchery, coral nursery, and educational laboratory operations;
- Continuation of federally funded research, nonprofit conservation activities, and student education programs;
- Retention and expansion of existing jobs supported at the facility under new and existing funding sources.

**IV. Financial**

**Budget**

See forms attached at end.

**Projected Needs:**

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
\$30,000	\$17,250	\$1,125	\$1,125	\$49,500

**FY2027 Funding Sources**

Funds relating directly to the rebuilding of the Kaua'i Sea Farm structure are being sought through an active insurance claim. Operational funds for Kaua'i Sea Farm

utilizing the building include farmed production, a 2024 USDA SBIR award (\$12,077 remaining), a 2024 NOAA Saltonstall-Kennedy award (\$88,578 remaining), and a 2025 USDA SBIR award (\$116,687 remaining). Partner awards between Kaua'i Sea Farm and Ho'omalū Ke Kai for 2026 and 2027 operating costs relating to the damaged facility include a 2025 DLNR-DAR contract (\$106,979 remaining) and a 2026 Kaua'i Office of Economic Development grant (\$35,190 remaining).

Funding sources related to research and education are being actively sought by Kaua'i Sea Farm for FY2027 through Phase II SBIR opportunities, a new Phase I SBIR opportunity, Kaua'i County Office of Economic Development, NOAA educational and fisheries grant opportunities, as well as seafood production sales.

Funding sources related to conservation projects performed by Ho'omalū Ke Kai at the facility will include funds through the National Fisheries and Wildlife Foundation, DLNR-DAR contracts, and potentially other federal agencies if opportunities re-open for FY2027.

### **Tax Credits and Exemptions**

Neither applicant has received any tax credits or exemptions, beyond the 501(c)(3) tax exempt status granted to Ho'omalū Ke Kai as a nonprofit organization through the IRS.

### **Past Awards**

All past awards over the previous 3 years are detailed in a sheet attached below.

### **Unrestricted Current Assets**

Unrestricted current assets for Kaua'i Sea Farm as of December 31, 2025 totaled approximately \$49,000, based on unaudited internal financial statements. This does not include contract and grant funds committed to planned activities.

Unrestricted assets for Ho'omalū Ke Kai as of December 31, 2025 totaled \$72,642, not including grant and contract funds already committed.

## **V. Experience and Capability**

### **1. Necessary Skills and Experience**

Kaua'i Sea Farm has been operating out of the damaged facility since 2020 and will be utilizing experienced and licensed contractors for all planning and rebuilding. The rebuilding of the facility will focus on improving safety, as well as better facilitating education and public engagement around activities at the facility. Ho'omalū Ke Kai has served as a fiscal sponsor for numerous projects performed by Kaua'i Sea Farm, and has an active partnership with a pro-bono lease for conservation projects at the damaged facility.

## **2. Facilities**

Remaining facilities include the underground plumbing and pump required for aquaculture, education, and conservation projects at the site. Bare minimum power is currently being restored, and the funds requested will restore the facility to capacity for ongoing funded projects by Kaua'i Sea Farm and Ho'omalū Ke Kai.

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

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

Overall project execution will be overseen by Kaua'i Sea Farm Production Manager David Anderson. Mr. Anderson has extensive experience managing federally funded projects at the facility. Ho'omalū Ke Kai Director Timothy Leichter will oversee fiscal sponsorship of the project to ensure funds are used appropriately with auditable accounting. Solar planning and installation will be completed by local solar contractor Doug Phillips, who is licensed and insured.

### **2. Organization Chart**

David Anderson (Kaua'i Sea Farm) – Project Manager  
Timothy Leichter (Ho'omalū Ke Kai) – Fiscal Sponsor and Project Accountant  
Doug Phillips (Solar Plus Kaua'i) – Project Contractor

### **3. Compensation**

Kaua'i Sea Farm Production Manager: \$70,000  
Ho'omalū Ke Kai Director: \$30,000

## **VII. Other**

### **1. Litigation**

Neither applicant has any pending litigation.

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

N/A

### **3. Private Educational Institutions**

N/A

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

Funds through this project are requested to rebuild a facility that supports multiple ongoing private and public projects, with funding sources already secured for activities through mid-2027. These projects have multiple opportunities for funding beyond this period, but new funding will not be able to be acquired without an intact and functioning facility for project activities.

## BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Ho'omalua Ke Kai/Kauai Sea Farm

<b>FUNDING AMOUNT REQUESTED</b>						
TOTAL PROJECT COST	ALL SOURCES OF FUNDS RECEIVED IN PRIOR YEARS		STATE FUNDS REQUESTED	OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS REQUESTED	FUNDING REQUIRED IN SUCCEEDING YEARS	
	FY: 2022-2023	FY: 2023-2024	FY:2026-2027	FY:2024-2025	FY:2025-2026	FY:2026-2027
PLANS	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND ACQUISITION	0	0	0	0	0	0
DESIGN	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	0	0	24000	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	21000	0	0	0
INDIRECT COSTS (10%)			4500			
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:</b>						
system infrastructure (plumbing, tanks, aeration, monitoring, etc.). A 10% indirect rate will be applied for nonprofit fiscal sponsorship						

## BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Ho'omalū Ke Kai/Kaua'i Sea Farm

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
Solar panels	12.00	\$400.00	\$ 4,800.00	
Lithium ion batteries	1	\$10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	
Stat-X Fire Suppression system	1	\$5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	
Various tanks, filtration, monitoring equipment	1	\$4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00	
			\$ -	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	15		\$ 24,000.00	

**JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:**

DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	NO. OF VEHICLES	COST PER VEHICLE	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
<b>TOTAL:</b>				

**JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:**

## BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Ho'omalū Ke Kai/Kaua'i Sea Farm

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	0			
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	0			
3. Fringe Benefits	0			
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL COST</b>	<b>0</b>			
<b>B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES</b>				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island	0			
2. Insurance	0			
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment	0			
4. Lease/Rental of Space	0			
5. Staff Training	0			
6. Supplies	0			
7. Telecommunication	0			
8. Utilities	0			
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<b>TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES</b>	<b>0</b>			
<b>C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES</b>				
<b>D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES</b>				
<b>E. CAPITAL</b>	<b>49,500</b>			<b>200,000</b>
<b>TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)</b>				
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDING</b>		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	49,500	David Anderson	(808) 652-3791	
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested		Name (Please type or print) Phone		
(c) Total County Funds Requested				
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	200,000	Signature of Authorized Official Date		
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>249,500</b>	David Anderson, Production Manager Name and Title (Please type or print)		

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

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

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

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(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)

*Jim Leichter*

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(Signature)

(Date)

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(Typed Name)

(Title)

Rev 8/30/23

5Application for Grants

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

Applicant: Kauai Sea Farm

Contracts Total: 601,446

	<b>CONTRACT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATES</b>	<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)</b>	<b>CONTRACT VALUE</b>
1	Kauai coral nursery building (conservation)	1/1/25 - 12/31/26	DLNR-DAR	State	189,145
2	Sea cucumber aquaculture SBIR (research)	7/1/24 - 2/28/26	USDA	US	68,400
3	Native oyster aquaculture SBIR (research)	8/15/25 - 4/14/27	USDA	US	127,446
4	Fishpond marketing study (research)	1/1/25 - 12/31/27	NOAA	US	100,000
5	Sea cucumber aquaculture pilot (research)	5/1/23 - 4/30/26	NOAA	US	116,455
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**GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID**

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Ho‘omalau Ke Kai

Contracts Total:

	<b>CONTRACT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATES</b>	<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)</b>
3	Innovation Grant – Native Oyster Restoration Project	2022–2023	Office of Economic Development	County of Kaua‘i
4	Innovation Grant – Kaua‘i Upcycled Ocean Plastic Bus Stop Bench Project	2023–2024	Office of Economic Development	County of Kaua‘i
5	Innovation Grant – Kaua‘i Coral Restoration Workforce Development	2025–2026	Office of Economic Development	County of Kaua‘i
6	Innovation Grant – Fiscal Sponsor for Kaua‘i Sea Farm Limu Lab Project	2025–2026	Office of Economic Development	County of Kaua‘i
9	Underwater Marine Debris Removal	2021–2022	DLNR – Protect Species Program	State of Hawai‘i
10	Underwater Marine Debris Removal (Follow-on)	2022–2023	DLNR – Protect Species Program	State of Hawai‘i
11	Recycling & Waste Diversion Grant	2023	County Recycling / Solid Waste	County of Kaua‘i
12	Recycling & Waste Diversion Grant	2024	County Recycling / Solid Waste	County of Kaua‘i
13	Recycling & Waste Diversion Grant	2026–2027	County Recycling / Solid Waste	County of Kaua‘i
14	Energy Efficiency & Sustainability Pilot	2025	Hawai‘i State Energy Office	State of Hawai‘i
17	Kaua‘i Coral Restoration Nursery – Subaward	2024–2026	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)	U.S. Federal
23	Community Marine Education & Stewardship	2024–2025 (ends June)	‘Umeke by Kilohana / Hawai‘i Tourism Agency	N/A
24	Holomua Marine Initiative – Coral Restoration & Community Engagement	2023–2025 (ends Oct)	Hawai‘i Community Foundation	N/A
25	Community Environmental Grant	2021	Hawai‘i Community Foundation	N/A
26	Papio / Laulima Marine Initiative Grant	2022	Hawai‘i Community Foundation	N/A

27				
28				
29				
30				

360,713

<b>CONTRACT VALUE</b>
50,000
49,213
20,000
35,000
8,000
9,500
40,000
22,000
25,000
10,000
24,500
5,000
50,000
2,500
10,000




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:** HOOMALU KE KAI

**DBA/Trade Name:** Ho'omalu Ke Kai

**Issue Date:** 01/23/2026

**Status:** **Compliant**

Hawaii Tax#:

New Hawaii Tax#:

FEIN/SSN#:



UI#: No record

DCCA FILE#: 319588

Status of Compliance for this Vendor on issue date:

Form	Department(s)	Status
A-6	Hawaii Department of Taxation	Compliant
8821	Internal Revenue Service	Waived
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



STATE OF HAWAII  
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**Vendor Name:** KAUAI SEA FARMS LLC

**DBA/Trade Name:** Kauai Sea Farm

**Issue Date:** 01/23/2026

**Status:** **Compliant**

Hawaii Tax#:

New Hawaii Tax#:

FEIN/SSN#:

UI#: No record

DCCA FILE#: 182848

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	Compliant
LIR27	Hawaii Department of Labor & Industrial Relations	Compliant

**Status Legend:**

Status	Description
Exempt	The entity is exempt from this requirement
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