

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

Nicole Huguenin

Nicole Huguenin

01/223/2026

Nicole Huguenin (Jan 23, 2026 07:09:22 HST)

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

PRINT NAME AND TITLE

DATE

New and renewal applications will require a Tax Compliance Report (TCR) from the IRS, which can be downloaded for free at:

<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/tax-compliance-report>.

Tax Exempt Organizations can also submit a Letter of Determination. If you are unable to obtain a TCR or Letter of Determination, an IRS Compliance Waiver may be requested from the Department of Taxation.

Please upload the TCR, Letter of Determination, or DoTax Waiver by clicking on your Status and editing your application. [Download the guide](#)

Hawaii Compliance Express - Certificate of Compliance

Application Status

[View Application](#)

[Edit Application](#)

Vendor: Maui Grassroots Collective

Option to 'Print Certificate' is available only for Compliant applications.

Status of Compliance for this Vendor

Form	Department(s)	Status [More Info]	Download	For Questions
A-6	Hawaii Department of Taxation	Compliant	Form A-6	Contact HI Dept of Taxation
	Internal Revenue Service	Not Compliant	No Report	Contact the IRS
COGS	Hawaii Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs	Exempt		Contact the DCCA
LIR27	Hawaii Department of Labor & Industrial Relations	Compliant	Form LIR#27	Contact the DLIR

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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR



GARY S. SUGANUMA
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau

P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-4242
FAX NO: (808) 587-587-1488

October 16, 2025

Agreement with for MAUI GRASSROOTS COLLECTIVE. HRS § 103-53 Waiver of the Internal Revenue Service Tax Clearance Requirement

Below this line for State of Hawaii Department of Taxation Use Only

Select One:

By authority of HRS§ 103-53, I approve the waiver of the Internal Revenue Service tax clearance requirements as a condition of the above Agreement and final payment.

The waiver of the Internal Revenue Service tax clearance requirement is disapproved. Reason: _____

Select One:

The vendor named in the above Agreement is deemed to be compliant with its Hawaii tax requirements for purposes of the above Agreement and final payment.

The vendor named in the above Agreement is **not** deemed to be compliant with its Hawaii tax requirements. Reason: _____

____ /4v{ ?

Gale D. Magee, Acting Taxation Services Administrator
State of Hawaii Department of Taxation

Date: f''I (bf d''')

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Hawaii Compliance Express - Certificate of Compliance

Application Details

[View Status](#)

[Edit Application](#)

Vendor: Maui Grassroots Collective

1. Taxpayer ID Number

Taxpayer FEIN/SSN #	██████████	Hawaii Tax ID #	██████████
New Hawaii Tax ID #	██████████	State Dept. of Labor UI ID#	0008132488

2. Hawaii Dept. of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Is your firm registered with the Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs?	Yes
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3. Applicant Information

Applicant	Tax Exempt Organization
A) Internal Revenue Code Section that applies to your exemption.	99-3787623
B) Does your organization file federal Form 990-T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return?	Yes

4. Questions

A) Does your firm have a physical presence (office) in the State of Hawaii?	Yes
Date business began in Hawaii:	08/09/2024
B) Is your firm required to pay General Excise Tax in the State of Hawaii?	No
Has your firm had any business income in Hawaii prior to this bid or contract?	No
Has your firm provided any services within the State of Hawaii?	No
C) Do you currently have employees or other representatives working in the State of Hawaii?	Yes
D) Do you plan to have employees working in the State of Hawaii in the next 6 months?	
E) Does your firm have inventory or property in the State of Hawaii?	No
F) In the current or preceding calendar year has your firm had gross income of \$100,000 or more, or entered into 200 or more separate transactions attributable to Hawaii in any of the following, or combination of the following, activities?	No
a. Tangible property delivered in Hawaii;	
b. Services used or consumed in Hawaii; or	
c. Intangible property used in Hawaii	

5. Mailing Address

6. Taxing Authority Address of Record

Jay Miyaki, CPA, LLC
600 Queen St Ste C4
Honolulu, HI96813
United States

7. Phone/Fax

Contact Name	Jessica Heaney	Daytime Phone	(808) 437-8454	Fax	--
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8. The Tax Clearance is Required For

- City, County, or State Government contract - Bid/Entering Into a Contract

9. Accounting Period

Calendar year

10. IRS Tax Compliance Report/DoTax Waiver/Determination Letter

Your report was not submitted. Your IRS compliance status will be "Not Compliant" until a compliant report has been submitted.

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**DECLARATION STATEMENT OF
APPLICANTS FOR GRANTS PURSUANT TO
CHAPTER 42F, HAWAI'I REVISED STATUTES**

The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies the following:

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

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

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

Nicole Huguenin, Maui Grassroots Collective

(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)

Nicole Huguenin

Nicole Huguenin Iian 23, 2026 07:09:22 HST

(Signature)

Nicole Huguenin

(Typed Name)

Rev 8/30/23

01/23/2026

(Date)

01/23/2026

(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.

Attached.

2. Declaration Statement

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

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](#).

The grant will be used for a public purpose, consistent with Section 42F-102, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, by advancing household-level energy resilience, affordability, and safety for Maui County residents, particularly low- and moderate-income and rural households facing high outage risk, Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events, medical vulnerabilities, and energy-related economic hardship. The project strengthens community capacity, reduces fossil fuel dependence, and generates community-driven data and recommendations that support the State of Hawai'i's statutory renewable energy and decarbonization goals.

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;

Maui Rapid Response (MRR) (fiscally sponsored by Maui Grassroots Collective) is an ahupua'a inspired frontline mutual aid network mobilizing resources, people, and action to meet the emergent needs of Maui's most vulnerable communities. MRR aims to strengthen Maui's

network of collective care, to build up community-led initiatives, and to care for the people of Maui, as guided by the kanaka 'ōiwi ahupua'a system. From founding Maui Hale Match—which paired fire survivors in need of housing with those able to offer shelter—to adopting a large-scale atmospheric water generator that produces 300–600 gallons of water a week for delivery to chronically unhoused individuals, MRR embodies its commitment to listening to community voices, understanding their struggles, and building solutions from the ground up.

The #PowerBack Project is a grassroots driven, energy resilience initiative that was launched in response to the 2023 West Maui and Upcountry fires. From its inception, the #PowerBack Project has been intentionally designed to test and scale new, community-centered approaches to energy design, from household-level energy resilience to culturally grounded energy education and innovative data-gathering methods that translate lived experience into actionable policy recommendations.

The #PowerBack Project encompasses multiple initiatives, including the Upcountry Energy Resilience Project (UERP), the draft Upcountry Maui Community Energy Plan 2025, and the Second Life Solar and Battery Pilot Project. MRR seeks to partner and expand on the successful outcomes of these projects and continue community-driven energy resilience and disaster preparedness through the #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan.

Through the UERP, funded via an award from the from the National Renewable Energy Labs (now called National Laboratory of the Rockies), the #PowerBack Project engaged with Upcountry and broader Maui communities through a series of educational webinars and community and stakeholder meetings to address energy literacy and affordability, resilience planning, and equitable energy transition efforts, working towards the UERP's overarching goals of building local capacity for short-term and long-term sustainable energy solutions.

In addition to presenting [eight webinars](#), addressing topics such as utility bills, regulatory processes, wildfire mitigation, and resilience hub development, the #PowerBack Project currently hosts webinars and other Maui and Hawaii-focused energy videos at #PowerBack Project Coordinator Stacey Alapai's "JustActually" YouTube channel.

Throughout 2025, UERP further engaged with state and county agencies, utilities, University of Maui College students, and national laboratories about energy policies, microgrid modeling, infrastructure mapping, feasibility studies, and bill and data analysis. By May of 2025, Stacey Alapai was featured as [a panelist at the Hawaii Energy Conference](#), hosted by former Maui Energy Commissioner Doug McLeod and Life of the Land Executive Director Henry Curtis.

This work culminated in the development of the draft Upcountry Maui Community Energy Plan 2025, which seeks to:

- Equip Upcountry Maui residents with the knowledge and skills needed to reduce utility costs and prepare for energy-related emergencies.
- Help Maui residents understand the roles of the agencies and entities in the energy sector, and how to engage with them.
- Provide an overview about existing and planned energy projects on Maui island and specifically in Upcountry.
- Serve as a starting point for community-level energy planning, specifically in the Upcountry Region.
- Serve as a resource for anyone in the Upcountry region developing resilience plans, whether related to energy, water, land, agriculture, fire prevention, and evacuation plans.

- Serve as a resource for other Maui communities to begin energy planning in their regions.
- Support the Upcountry community through informing electric industry stakeholders about Upcountry's concerns and preferences and reduce barriers to participation.
- Highlights barriers and points of friction between community preferences and the current energy system.

And finally, with the support of a \$40,000 grant from the Rotary 500, the #PowerBack Project designed and launched the Second Life Solar and Battery Project. Recognizing the challenges and complexities facing Maui's energy landscape, the Second Life Solar and Battery Project emphasizes practical, immediate solutions that empower lower-income residents and renters, especially those most affected by wildfires and grid vulnerabilities. By using plug-and-play systems that require minimal technical expertise, the initiative directly addresses the need for accessible, household-level interventions. The project is tailored to Maui's unique circumstances by targeting specific communities, engaging the community through various educational components, increasing community interest and understanding of energy systems and solutions, supporting resilience against outages, and gathering feedback to assess both cost savings and behavioral change over time. Its focus on locally adaptable deployment and continuous community engagement positions the project as a responsive, community-driven effort that bridges immediate needs with long-term resilience and grid transformation goals.

The innovation of the Second Life Solar and Battery Project is already influencing the utility, as reflected in Hawaiian Electric's new battery rebate proposal now before the Public Utilities Commission. Further, the #PowerBack Project's use of second-life solar panels is a vital innovation, demonstrating how panels can be safely redeployed to lower costs, reduce a looming solar panel waste challenge, and accelerate resilience benefits for renters and lower-income residents who are often last to benefit from new technologies. Ideally, HECO will incorporate the myriad practical lessons surfaced by the Second Life Solar and Battery Project to help ensure that the benefits of the rebate program are more accessible, effective, and responsive to community needs.

Developing and implementing the above projects have provided #PowerBack Project coordinators with broad and deep energy sector experience in community engagement, education, and coordination among local partners. These projects further demonstrate how grassroots-led planning and iterative community feedback can shape practical models for resilience that policy-makers, regulators, and utilities can adopt and adapt.

The #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan will operate as an initiative of Maui Rapid Response (MRR), under the fiscal sponsorship of Maui Grassroots Collective, which will be run concurrently with MRR's Block 2 Block disaster preparedness program that coordinates neighborhood block parties around disaster preparedness at the community level, thereby integrating energy education and capacity with neighborhood resilience-building. Together, these initiatives demonstrate MRR's holistic approach to disaster readiness: pairing immediate response with long-term resilience planning that grows directly from community voices and lived experience.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;

The **primary** goals of the #PowerBack 2026 Plan are to:

- Increase household-level energy resilience and affordability, particularly for low- and moderate-income and rural residents;

- Build trust through transparent, culturally appropriate engagement and near-term tools that households can use while longer-term infrastructure upgrades proceed;
- Translate residents' lived experiences with PSPS events, outages, and bills into concrete recommendations for state and county decision-makers and Hawaiian Electric;
- Contribute to workforce development in the energy sector by increasing technical knowledge among hired staff as well as community members with whom the project engages;
- Support the State of Hawaii's 100% clean energy goals by supporting conservation and affordable renewable energy solutions.

The #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan advances these goals through an explicitly innovative approach that includes three main components:

1. Coordinating a Community Energy Help Center in collaboration with Maui Rapid Response's Block 2 Block disaster preparedness program;
2. Solar and battery deployment;
3. An annual Maui Community Energy Resilience Snapshot.

Objectives include:

1. Developing an information hub focused on collaboration with existing community groups (Including regular meetings, shared documents, and public-facing resources) that facilitates improved cooperation and reduces silos between entities working in the energy/resilience space.
2. Establishing and operating a **Community Energy Help Center**, to create responsive, two-way communication between community members with energy questions and technical experts who can assist. This Community Energy Help Center is envisioned as a first-of-its-kind, community-facing "front door" for the range of community energy questions currently asked by Maui community members, to bridge the gap between technical experts and Maui County residents in real time.
3. Expanding the **Second Life Solar and Battery Program** from 40 to 80 households, while developing an infrastructure for battery and used solar panel deployment, such as a warehouse, in-house experts, and/or battery loan program.
4. Producing structured data and an annual **Maui Community Energy Resilience Snapshot** to inform policy and regulatory reforms.
5. Presenting the Maui Community Energy Resilience Snapshot and community perspectives at energy focused events.

3. The public purpose and need to be served

After working with the Upcountry Maui community and Maui County at large from 2024 to 2025, the Upcountry Energy Resilience Project identified a widely shared need to significantly strengthen community resilience. The 2023 Lāhainā and Upcountry wildfires demonstrated vulnerabilities in both physical infrastructure and institutional processes.

Further, the County's frequent outages, wildfire risk, aging grid, planned Public Safety Power Shutoff Program (PSPS) events, and dependence on imported fossil fuels have exposed severe vulnerabilities and widened energy equity gaps. Given increasingly severe weather and the long timelines required for centralized infrastructure upgrades, there is an immediate need for practical, low-cost, quickly deployable resilience measures for households across income levels. Additionally, it is vital that decision-making agencies and utilities -- which often prioritize centralized, high-cost, or politically contentious options and maintain opaque, O'ahu-centric decision-making processes -- receive systematic on-the-ground data and recommendations based on residents' lived experiences and documented barriers. These kinds of community-driven, distributed actions, which tangibly reduce fossil fuel use through equitable participation in the clean energy transition, are essential to achieving the State of Hawaii's statutory renewable energy and decarbonization goals.

Another need identified in 2025 was the inability for state entities to recruit staff for "neighbor" island communities to receive equal access to services provided by larger governmental organizations. The #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan has the potential to provide entry-level workforce development opportunities in the energy space as well as hands-on experience for applicants interested in pursuing energy sector careers. The #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan can also refer candidates to recruit for vacant positions, such as the Hawaii Energy Whole Home Energy Auditor position that is currently a barrier for Maui County residents seeking to access this resource.

4. Describe the target population to be served

The primary target population includes low- and moderate-income, rural, and high-risk households in Maui County.

The Community Energy Help Center will be available to any Maui resident seeking energy understanding and advice, with outreach targeted to residents who have not had easy access to information related to Maui County and Hawaii's energy landscape, particularly residents who are struggling to navigate confusing bills, rate changes, and rising costs, and/or those benefitting from existing incentives or low-income programs.

The expanded Second Life Solar and Battery Project will provide educational resources about plug-and-play batteries and solar panels to any Maui County resident who requests them, though free batteries and solar panels will be targeted to residents with specific needs, such as Maui residents who face frequent outages, PSPS events, high energy burdens, and limited access to resilient infrastructure. Further, the project will prioritize households reliant on catchment water pumping, refrigeration for food and medicine, and medical or life-safety devices.

5. Describe the geographic coverage

Activities will primarily serve Maui island, while maintaining countywide reach through engagement with individuals and entities affiliated with the Molokai Clean Energy Hui, Lāhainā Strong, the Maui Community Energy Alliance, energy professionals, state energy entities, various community associations, advocacy groups, University of Hawaii Maui College, and other Maui community networks to extend benefits and data collection across Maui County. The Community Energy Help Center will be accessible to Maui residents countywide via phone, virtual appointments, and online resources,

complementing on-the-ground work by other entities in Maui communities. Additionally, the #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan will integrate the Community Energy Help Center into MRR's Block 2 Block neighborhood disaster preparedness program, bringing education and resources directly into communities and reaching the most vulnerable households where they live.

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:

The #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan is responding to identified gaps in the energy landscape with practical, community-driven solutions that directly reduce harm from outages and PSPS events, and systematically document barriers so they can be addressed at both the policy and regulatory levels.

The #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan specifically seeks to build on the ongoing work of community groups and entities currently working toward energy affordability and resiliency solutions in Maui County. Entities in our partner network focus on education, policy change, and/or equity. Community collaboration will support two core service components: (1) a **Community Energy Help Center** that offers a staffed phone line, in-person/virtual appointments, bill and rate interpretation, navigation of incentives and low-income programs, in-home or virtual energy audits, screening of predatory solar offers, and an online information hub; and (2) **expansion of the second-life solar and battery program** to equip 40 additional households (80 total) with plug-and-play systems plus education and follow-up support, and development of a long-term infrastructure for deployment. Project design will center community leadership, workforce development through training and education, transparent coordination, and clearly defined roles for existing on-the-ground Maui resilience partners.

Tasks:

Tasks required to meet the majority of the project's objectives include:

- **Community-Focused Energy Help Center:** Directly lower household energy costs, increase resilience, support energy conservation, and build trust, while serving as a conduit for community energy issues for Maui County residents.
 - Establish and operate a dedicated phone line and scheduled in-person or virtual appointments staffed by an experienced, locally based community energy coach.
 - Provide comprehensive, easy-to-access energy information and resources through a website and/or social media to complement the phone line.
 - Host events focused on disaster prep and energy resilience education as part of Maui Rapid Response's existing Block 2 Block program.

- Help residents navigate Hawaiian Electric’s “My Energy Use” portal, interpret confusing bills and rate changes, and assess eligibility for incentives and low-income programs.
- Provide free in-home or virtual energy audits that identify specific bill-saving measures (e.g., water-heater settings, load shifting, appliance choices).
- Combat misinformation in real time. Screen out predatory energy offers and refer residents only to reputable, community-aligned providers and programs.
- Routing calls to appropriate departments and organizations in Hawaii’s energy landscape as needed. (Call HECO for X, Call Hawaii Energy for Y).
- **Data & Trend Documentation and Reporting:** Translate aggregated findings into structured communications and reports to interested entities, such as: the Consumer Advocate, Public Utilities Commission, Maui County, legislators, utilities, and other stakeholders.
 - Translate lived experience into concrete policy and program changes aligned with community goals for affordability, resilience, and equity.
 - Systematically collect data on recurring problems, such as usage spikes by geographic location or appliances, PSPS-related losses, barriers to accessing services, FAQs to the help line that deserve dedicated public education initiatives.
 - Identify gaps in existing programs and ways to systematize rapid responses that have proven effective in the Energy Help Center.
- **Solar & Battery Deployment/Investing in Community-Scale Energy Resilience:** Expand the Second Life Solar and Battery Pilot Program to serve more households and develop protocols for deployment of loaner systems in case of emergency or extended power outages.
 - Continue recruitment of participants, focusing on high-need households, whether based on socio-economic issues or other essential-to-daily-living factors such as medical needs or reliance on water-catchment.
 - Purchase additional batteries with cost and size decisions informed by real-use profiles and performance data from the initial Maui pilot program.
 - Distribute donated second-life solar panels, growing existing relationships with solar companies, potentially developing a protocol for simplifying direct recycling.
 - Continue ongoing robust engagement with participants.
 - Continue program modification based on feedback.
 - Develop a dedicated inventory and tracking system for loaner batteries, create clear emergency deployment protocols, and expand in-house energy expertise so that systems can be rapidly deployed before and during extended outages.
 - Dedicate office and warehouse space to the program through Maui Rapid Response partnership.
- **Public Relations and Community Education:** Continue broader educational forums, guides, and videos to raise the baseline level of understanding of energy issues amongst residential ratepayers.
 - Simplify explanations of complex energy issues that translate jargon into “kitchen table” conversations.

- Recap energy meetings and updates for the general public that are easy to understand with links to sources for more detailed information and tips for civic engagement.
- Amplify community partners' resilience-focused events that help our community be better prepared in case of an emergency.
- Amplify Maui Community Energy Resilience Snapshot through various forms of outreach.
- Present the broad range of #PowerBack Project and community partners' energy and resilience work at energy focused events.

Roles/Responsibilities:

The #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan will engage with diverse entities and identify individuals from existing community-led efforts with the experience and relationships to support specific project components of the Community Energy Help Center and the expanded battery and solar distribution effort potentially including, but not limited to:

1. Project Co-Design

- **Maui Rapid Response/Maui Grassroots Collective:** Beyond serving as fiscal sponsor, will integrate resilience program experience and current Block 2 Block Neighborhood Disaster Response program with #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan
- **Lāhainā Strong:** Integrate goals and findings from the Lāhainā Energy Project
- **Shake Energy:** Integrate experience with community energy co-design throughout Hawaii
- **Ha'ikū Community Association (HCA), other community associations and environmental organizations such as Maui Tomorrow and Sierra Club:** Provide input based on experience in energy projects over the last several years
- **Hawaiian Council:** Provide information about existing resources to facilitate closing gaps in services and avoid duplication

2. Emergency Preparedness

- **Maui Rapid Response Block 2 Block Disaster Prep Program:**
 - Collaborate with mutual-aid partners on neighborhood resilience and emergency power systems
 - Office space providers within MRR drop-in service center in Kahului
 - Support space and inventory lending library software provider for services such as Energy Library stocked with equipment to respond immediately to power outages (loaning batteries, radios, lights, etc that most people don't have on hand)
- **Maui County Resilience Hub Network:** Support collaboration between #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan organizations, community members, and government agencies

3. Energy Help Center Protocol Development and Operator Training

- **Hawaii Natural Energy Institute (HNEI):** Provide technical training for operators, support for protocol development
- **Maui Community Energy Alliance (MCEA):** Contribute to development of the Energy Help Center protocol and training curriculum; providing cooperative energy model expertise

- **Maui Tomorrow Foundation:** Support protocol development and operator training, leveraging solar system and backup design experience
- **Maui Rapid Response:** Provide harm reduction and trauma informed training for operators as well as disaster/resilience response

4. Community Outreach and Cross-Referral Coordination

- **Ha'ikū Community Association and other community associations:** Disseminate project information and connect residents to program resources .
- **Hawaiian Council:** Facilitate cross-referrals and access to resources that participants are eligible for through Hawaiian Council and their broader partner network
- **Lāhainā Strong:** Ensuring West Side communities are informed and engaged throughout the project stages
- **Maui Community Energy Alliance (MCEA):** Support community outreach
- **Maui Tomorrow Foundation:** Support Community Outreach

5. Data & Trend Reporting

- **University of Hawaii Maui College Data Science students:** Support data analysis and storytelling
- **Hawaii Natural Energy Institute:** Support data analysis
- **Maui County Resilience Hub Network:** Support data analysis
- **Shake Energy:** Support data analysis and storytelling

6. Technical Design, Solar, and Battery Deployment

- **Local Solar Companies, like HNU Energy:** Provide technical expertise and recommendations for appropriate sizing of solar setups (rooftop and plug-n-play)
- **Maui Tomorrow Foundation:** Provide technical expertise, environmental evaluation to ensure solutions are truly renewable
- **Maui Community Energy Alliance:** Provide technical expertise
- **Hawaii Natural Energy Institute:** Provide technical expertise, particularly in the areas of battery and solar panel re-use and recycling
- **Shake Energy:** Provide technical expertise
- **Footprint Project (ensures areas impacted by disaster have access to solar power for recovery and rebuilding efforts):** Provide technical expertise in implementation and community participation

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

By May 2026, the Rotary-supported Second Life Solar and Battery Project pilot project will equip about 40 initial households with plug-and-play batteries, with the GIA-supported expansion adding approximately 40 more households during FY2026. From July to September 2026, the #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan will develop the Help Center protocol, hire staff, and conduct training sessions for operators, with the assistance of the entities described above. Following the training, the Help Center will operate continuously, conduct rolling audits and assistance, maintain ongoing contact with all 80 battery households to log outages and usage. By June 2027, the #PowerBack Project will present the annual Maui Community Energy Resilience Snapshot at a community energy focused event.

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 efforts will focus on ensuring consistent delivery of services, documenting household outcomes, and identifying barriers to energy resilience and affordability. The evaluation will track community engagement and support provided, assess the effectiveness of recommended measures, and capture lessons learned and recurring challenges to inform future program improvements and policy guidance. Staff will track all Help Center contacts and services, monitor implementation of recommended measures when possible, and systematically document recurring barriers and system issues so they can be communicated in a consistent format to agencies and policymakers. With regard to participants in the Second Life Solar and Battery Program, evaluation approaches will be designed to meet participants where they are at—providing flexibility, accessibility, and minimal reporting burden—so that data collection supports, rather than disrupts, households' ongoing recovery and resilience efforts.

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.

Measures of effectiveness to be reported will include outputs and outcomes.

Output (level of effort/reach) measures include:

- Number of households receiving one-on-one Help Center assistance
- Number of Help Center contacts (calls, visits, and virtual consultations) and engagements with website/social media.
- Number of new second-life battery/solar systems deployed (target 40 new units, 80 cumulative).
- Number of community or small-group sessions and total attendance

Outcome (degree of results) measures include:

- Energy burden and resilience:
 - Percentage of battery-equipped households able to maintain at least one identified critical load (e.g., refrigeration, pumps, medical equipment) during outages or PSPS events longer than four hours.
 - Estimated dollar value of avoided losses (food spoilage, farm product loss, emergency travel or lodging) derived from standardized household logs.
- Policy and system-level influence:
 - Number of formal communications (memos, testimony, letters) to agencies and policymakers that explicitly use project-generated data or case examples, with a minimum target over the grant period.

- Production of the annual Maui Community Energy Resilience Snapshot summarizing core data, case examples, and recommendations that directly inform testimony, letters, and policy recommendations to the PUC, Consumer Advocate, Maui County, and legislators regarding PSPS practices, resilience investments, and community participation.
- Agenda and attendance at community-focused energy events.

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 ([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](#))

Pages 6-10 Attached. **(Note: Pages 8-10 are not applicable)**

Narrative for Pages 6 and 7:

Personnel, Page 7 (Employees)

- **Block 2 Block Coordinator:** coordinates disaster preparedness events in the community. Position is part time for 12 months and may also include some of the responsibilities of a Help Center Operator.
- **Energy Help Center Operator(s):** staff phone line, appointments, audits, and follow-up with battery households. One FTE position equivalent across one or more people. This position will not begin until month three of the project and is therefore calculated for 10 months.

Personnel (Contractors)

- **Project Coordinator(s):** manage overall project, partner coordination, reporting, and conference preparation. Full time equivalent.
- **Data & Policy Analyst:** manage structured data, logs on outages/avoided losses, and draft Maui Community Energy Resilience Snapshot and policy communications. Approximately 5 hours per week. Funding and/or in-kind support for this position will be sought from private funders.

Lease/Rental Space

Rental cost for office and warehouse space at Maui Rapid Response. (\$1,200 per month)

Staff Training

\$10,000 of in-kind training will be provided by Hawaii Natural Energy Institute, Maui Community Energy Alliance, Maui Tomorrow, Shake Energy and other energy experts.

Supplies, Communications, and Utilities

A total of \$10,000 is allocated for printing, translation, website/online information hub hosting, three phone lines, Zoom or similar licenses, Airtable (or similar project coordination) subscription, and modest IT equipment for staff (e.g., one laptop and hotspot allocation).

Community Partner Stipends

A total of \$15,000 is allocated for stipends for groups such as Lāhainā Strong, Molokai Clean Energy Hui, and Maui Community Energy Alliance, community associations for outreach, event co-hosting, and localized implementation support. \$7,500 of the total will be solicited from private funders.

Second Life Solar/Battery Expansion

Purchase of 40 additional plug-and-play systems (building on the Rotary-supported first 40)

Community Energy Resilience Snapshot and Community Events

Design, layout, and printing (or web production) of the annual Maui Community Energy Resilience Snapshot and basic costs for presenting at community events tied to Help Center outreach and battery participant education (e.g. registration, materials, venue, food, materials, childcare/transport stipends if applicable)

Protocol Development

\$10,000 of in-kind protocol development will be provided by Hawaii Natural Energy Institute, Maui Community Energy Alliance, Maui Tomorrow, Shake Energy, and other energy experts.

Second Life Solar Panels and Associated Technical Assistance

Approximately \$8,000 recycled solar panels and associated support will be provided by private solar companies.

Indirect /Administrative

Flat percentage of direct costs to cover fiscal sponsorship, accounting, insurance, and general admin consistent with your GIA rules.

Other Sources of Funding:

The #PowerBack Project has been in contact with private funders and expects approximately \$26,250 in private funding to support the Data Analyst position and a portion of the community stipends.

(An additional \$28,000 in donations and in-kind support has been committed for technical assistance and used solar panels.)

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
59,679	68,809	68,809	68,809	266,106

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

The #PowerBack Project has received \$40,000 in support from the Rotary 500 and may seek additional support from the Rotary. In addition, nonprofit entities including the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute, University of Hawaii Maui College, Maui Tomorrow, Maui Community Energy Alliance, and Shake Energy have committed approximately \$20,000 of in-kind technical support for training and protocol development. Finally, an additional \$8,000 of in-kind support is being provided to the Second Life Solar and Battery Project through donations of second life solar panels and technical installation support.

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

Not Applicable.

5. The applicant shall provide a listing of all federal, state, and county government contracts, grants, and grants in aid it has been granted within the prior three years and will be receiving for fiscal year 2027 for program funding.

Through fiscal sponsor Teran James Young Foundation, the #PowerBack Project implemented an award from the NREL/National Laboratory of the Rockies award supporting the Upcountry Energy Resilience Project.

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

Maui Grassroots Collective unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2025 total **\$631,269.67**. Balance Sheet attached.

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.

The #PowerBack Project and Maui Rapid Response together offer a proven, community-rooted platform for designing, piloting, and scaling practical energy resilience solutions on Maui.

The #PowerBack Project, an initiative of Maui Rapid Response under the fiscal sponsorship of Maui Grassroots Collective, brings together grassroots organizing, technical energy expertise, and lived-experience-driven design to strengthen Maui's resilience in the wake of the West Maui

and Upcountry fires. Grounded in extensive community engagement, partnerships with agencies, utilities, educational institutions, and national laboratories, and innovative pilots such as the Upcountry Energy Resilience Project and the Second Life Solar and Battery Project, the team has demonstrated the ability to translate household-level needs and community knowledge into scalable, policy-relevant models for equitable, island-appropriate energy solutions.

#PowerBack Project

- Energy Resilience Leadership: Launched after the West Maui and Upcountry fires to pilot and scale community-centered energy resilience solutions, from household preparedness to policy development.
- Community-Centered Energy Planning: Designed participatory models like the *Upcountry Energy Resilience Project (UERP)* and *Upcountry Maui Community Energy Plan 2025* to embed community feedback into actionable energy policy and planning.
- Effective Public Engagement: Organized a series of eight educational webinars on energy literacy topics (utility bills, wildfire mitigation, resilience hubs, etc.), accessible on the *JustActually* YouTube channel.
- Cross-Sector Coordination: Collaborated with county and state agencies, HECO, national laboratories, and higher education institutions.
- Recognized Expertise: Featured at the *2025 Hawai'i Energy Conference* alongside Maui energy leaders, demonstrating sector credibility and technical understanding.
- Applied Data and Policy Development: Collected and analyzed community-level data to inform equitable and culturally grounded energy policy recommendations.
- Innovation in Technology Deployment: Designed and implemented the *Second Life Solar and Battery Project*, using second-life panels and plug-and-play systems to deliver affordable, accessible household energy resilience.
- Educational and Behavioral Impact: Provided ongoing training and follow-up with participants to improve energy literacy and document measurable changes in energy use and cost savings.
- Sustainability and Waste Reduction: Demonstrated safe reuse of solar panels to address end-of-life solar waste and extend renewable access to renters and lower-income households.

Maui Rapid Response

- Community-Driven Disaster Recovery: Developed and launched grassroots response efforts for Maui County since 2020, including Covid, Haiku Floods, and continuing after Maui's wildfires.
- Operational Innovation: Piloted practical, local technologies such as atmospheric water generation.
- Programmatic Alignment: Fiscally sponsored by Maui Grassroots Collective.
- Integrated Preparedness Approach: Launched Block 2 Block program, neighborhood-based disaster preparedness and neighborhood resilience.
- Holistic Resilience Strategy: Combines immediate disaster response with long-term resilience planning capacity-building rooted in lived community experience.
- Community Trust Responsiveness: Has built deep credibility with affected and vulnerable populations through consistent engagement, transparency, and follow-through.

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.

As noted under the Scope of Work:

- Dedicated office space will be provided within MRR drop-in center in Kahului (which already houses a community refrigerator, free store, and Maui Medics clinic)
- Warehouse space with storage capacity for batteries and second-life solar panels will be secured at MRR warehouse which is in the same building as the Drop-in Center . This space can also support an Energy Library stocked with equipment to respond immediately to power outages (loaning batteries, radios, lights, etc that most people don't have on hand).
- We also have access to other facilities within the Resilience Hub Network across Maui County to store batteries, supplies and resources.

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.

Project Coordinator (overall management, partner coordination, reporting, conference preparation) will directly supervise the Help Center Operator(s) and Data & Policy Analyst, set work plans, and ensure quality and consistency in community engagement, data collection, and reporting. The Coordinator will participate in technical and protocol-development trainings offered by partners such as the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute, Maui Community Energy Alliance, Maui Tomorrow, and local solar companies, and will be responsible for integrating those protocols into day-to-day operations.

Experience Needed:

- Experience in community organizing, energy resilience, emergency response, or related public-interest work, including demonstrated leadership in multi-stakeholder projects on Maui or in similar rural communities
- Knowledge of Hawai'i's energy landscape, including PSPS practices, utility regulatory processes, and community-scale resilience strategies, sufficient to translate technical information into accessible "kitchen-table" explanations for residents and decision-makers.
- Strong facilitation, communications, and public-speaking skills for organizing community meetings, webinars, and Maui Community Energy events, and for presenting the Maui Community Energy Resilience Snapshot to policymakers.

Block 2 Block Coordinator coordinates disaster preparedness events in the community, centering the needs of kupuna and those in vulnerable situations to create localized neighborhood plans, annual restock of resources, and active participation in collective preparedness.

Experience Needed:

- Direct experience with community organizing, event planning, and care coordination is preferred.
- Ability to collaborate closely with coordinator and data-systems staff, ensuring that people's essential energy needs and other basic needs are reflected in storytelling and advocacy of the program.

Coordinator will receive structured training and coaching from partners on the energy project and disaster preparedness (e.g., HNEI, Maui Community Energy Alliance, Maui Tomorrow, local solar companies, MEMA, HIEMA, Vibrant Hawaii, etc). Therefore, experience will not be a priority. However, a willingness to learn and good communication skills will be necessary.

Energy Help Center Operator (phone line, appointments, audits, follow-up with battery households) supports residents across Hawaii in navigating energy bills, programs, and resources through phone, virtual, and in-person appointments, including understanding Hawaiian Electric's "My Energy Use" portal, interpreting utility bills and rate changes, and identifying eligibility for incentives and low-income assistance programs. Operators also conduct free in-home or virtual energy audits to pinpoint ways to reduce costs—such as adjusting water-heater settings, shifting load use, or selecting efficient appliances—and help screen out predatory solar offers, connecting residents only with trusted, community-aligned providers.

Experience Needed:

- Operators will receive structured training and coaching from partners (e.g., HNEI, Maui Community Energy Alliance, Maui Tomorrow, local solar companies) on topics such as bill analysis, basic system sizing, PSPS impacts, energy-efficiency measures, and safe use of plug-and-play systems. Therefore, experience will not be a priority. However, a willingness to learn and good communication skills will be necessary.

Data & Policy Analyst (data management, resilience Snapshot, policy communications) manages structured data, logs on outages/avoided losses, and draft Maui Community Energy Resilience Snapshot and policy communications.

Experience Needed:

- Strong quantitative and qualitative analysis skills, with experience managing structured and narrative data related to household energy use, outages, avoided losses, and community feedback
- Familiarity with Hawai'i's energy policy and regulatory context sufficient to translate community-generated data into memos, testimony, and the Maui Community Energy Resilience Snapshot for agencies such as the Public Utilities Commission, Consumer Advocate, Maui County, and legislators
- Experience in data storytelling, including creating clear charts, summaries, and case examples that make complex trends understandable to community members and policymakers

- Ability to collaborate closely with community-facing staff, ensuring that data systems remain low-burden and supportive of households recovering from wildfire and outage impacts.

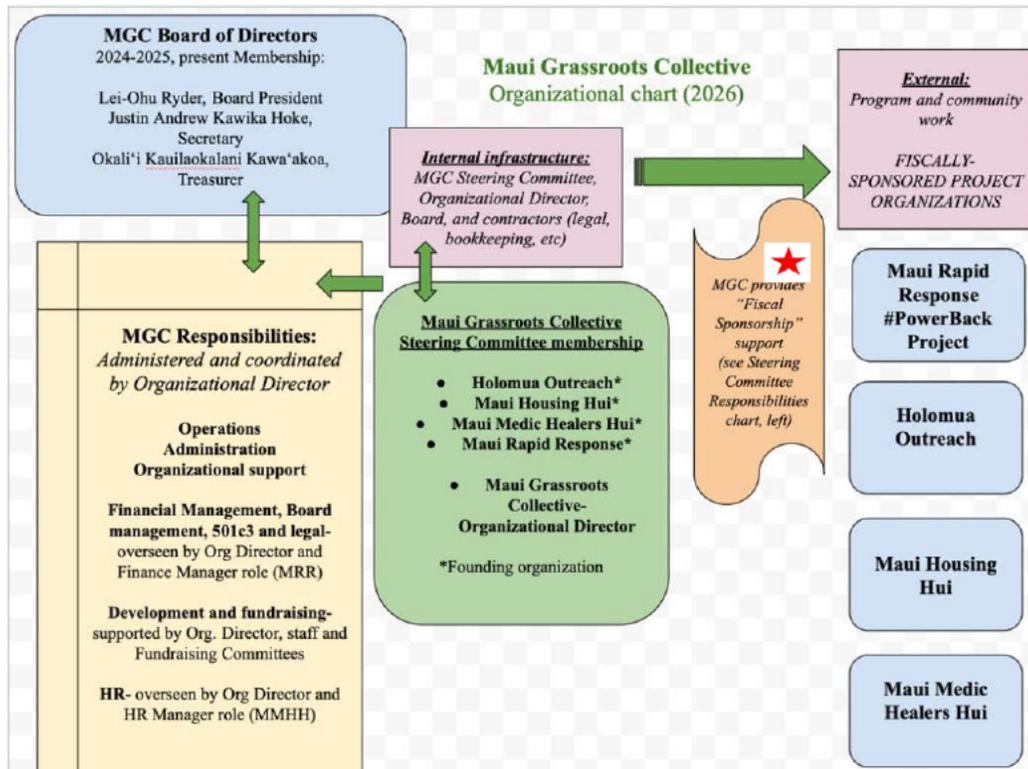
As noted previously, technical training with the support of key collaborators described under Roles/Responsibilities, will be vital to the success of this project.

2. Organization Chart

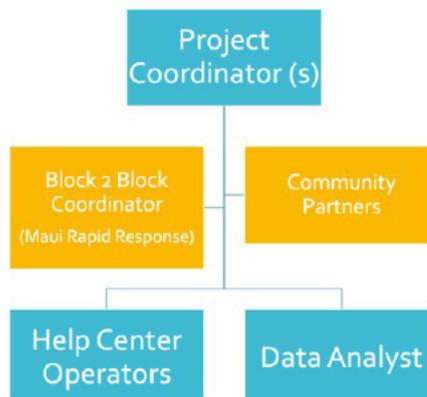
The applicant shall illustrate the position of each staff and line of responsibility/supervision. If the request is part of a large, multi-purpose organization, include an organization chart that illustrates the placement of this request.

The below Organization Charts illustrate Maui Rapid Response’s role within the Maui Grassroots Collective organization (red star) and the internal structure of the #PowerBack Project as it operates as an initiative under Maui Rapid Response.

Maui Grassroots Collective Organizational Chart



#PowerBack Project Organizational Chart



3. Compensation

The applicant shall provide an annual salary range paid by the applicant to the three highest paid officers, directors, or employees of the organization by position title, not employee name.

Three highest paid employees:

- Executive Director: \$52,000 (annual)
- Outreach Managers (2): \$50,000 (annual)

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.

Neither the #PowerBack Project, Maui Rapid Response, nor the Maui Grassroots Collective have any pending litigation or outstanding judgments. 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 beyond standard nonprofit registration.

3. Private Educational Institutions

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

The grant will not be used to support or benefit any sectarian or non-sectarian private educational institution.

4. Future Sustainability Plan

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

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

If the Hawaii Grant-In-Aid is received for FY 2027, the one-year investment will leave durable benefits: trained staff who will have the educational foundation to fill various energy-related job opportunities, established Energy Help Center protocols, an operating network of partners, standing inventory and deployment protocols for batteries/solar, and a baseline Maui Community Energy Resilience Snapshot. This infrastructure will leverage additional funding for energy and resilience projects, while also maintaining and expanding the Energy Help Center.

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Maui Grassroots Collective _____

BUDGET CATEGORIES	Total State Funds Requested (a)	Total Federal Funds Requested (b)	Total County Funds Requested (c)	Total Private/Other Funds Requested
A. PERSONNEL COST				
1. Salaries	66,500	0	0	0
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	6,650	0	0	0
3. Fringe Benefits				
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	73,150	0	0	0
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island				
2. Insurance				
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment				
4. Lease/Rental of Space	14,400	0	0	0
5. Staff Training (Help Center staff)		0	0	10,000
6. Supplies	5,000	0	0	0
7. Telecommunication (website)	2,500	0	0	0
8. Utilities (phone lines)	2,500	0	0	0
9. Project Coordinators	75,000	0	0	0
10. Data & Policy Analyst		0	0	18,750
11. Community Partner Stipends	7,500	0	0	7,500
12. Second Life Solar Batteries	40,000	0	0	0
13. Community Events	15,000	0	0	0
14. Protocol Development	0	0	0	10,000
15. Second Life Solar Panels and Tech Assistnace	0	0	0	8,000
16. Administration (12%)	31,056	0	0	0
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	192,956			54,250
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)	266,106	0	0	54,250
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By: Nicole Huguenin		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	266,106	Name (Please type or print) Phone		
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested	0	Nicole Huguenin 8087585571		
(c) Total County Funds Requested	0	<small>Nicole Huguenin [Jan 23, 2026 07:59:22 HST]</small>		
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	54,250	Signature of Authorized Official Date		
TOTAL BUDGET	320,356	Nicole Huguenin 01/23/2026		
		Name and Title (Please type or print)		

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Maui Grassroots Collective _____

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
Not Applicable			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	NO. OF VEHICLES	COST PER VEHICLE	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
Not Applicable			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Maui Grassroots Collective

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:						
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: Not Applicable						

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

Applicant: Maui Grassroots Collective _____

Contracts Total: -

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1	Not Applicable				
2					
3					
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#PowerBack Project 2026 Plan

Letters of Support



UNIVERSITY
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MĀNOA

#PowerBack Project Letter of Support

1/16/2026

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute (HNEI), I am pleased to offer this letter of strong support for the #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan. The #PowerBack team has demonstrated exceptional leadership, credibility, and community trust through their work following the West Maui and Upcountry fires, particularly through the Upcountry Energy Resilience Project and the development of the Upcountry Maui Community Energy Plan 2025. Their approach—grounded in education, transparency, and local capacity-building—aligns closely with HNEI's mission to support Hawai'i's transition to a resilient, equitable, and decarbonized energy system.

HNEI is committed to providing technical assistance to the #PowerBack Project as it expands its work in household-level resilience, affordability, and community-centered energy planning. We see particular value in the project's Community Energy Help Center and the expansion of the Second Life Solar and Battery Program, which provide practical, near-term solutions while informing longer-term infrastructure and policy decisions.

We are especially impressed by the project's emphasis on translating lived experience into actionable data for regulators, utilities, and policymakers. Too often, the impacts of outages, PSPS events, and rising energy costs on communities are poorly captured by traditional planning processes. The #PowerBack Project's structured approach to collecting, synthesizing, and communicating this information fills a critical gap. HNEI looks forward to assisting with data interpretation, technical validation, and the development of clear, credible recommendations that can inform decision-making at the county and state levels.

Finally, we recognize the urgent workforce development challenges facing Hawai'i's energy sector, including the difficulty state and local entities face in recruiting and retaining technical staff. Community-based initiatives like #PowerBack play a vital role in building local knowledge, skills, and leadership pipelines. HNEI is eager to contribute to this capacity-building through training, technical guidance, and mentorship, helping ensure that Maui's resilience efforts are not only effective today, but sustainable for the long term. We strongly support this application and commend the #PowerBack team for their thoughtful, community-driven work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jennifer M. Potter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'P'.

Jennifer Potter

Faculty Energy Specialist

Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®
MAUI COLLEGE

1/17/2026

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Thomas Blamey this letter conveys my strong support for the #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan and our enthusiasm for working together to advance community-centered energy resilience in Maui County and across Hawai'i. The #PowerBack team has demonstrated leadership, credibility, and community trust through its work following the West Maui and Upcountry fires, including initiatives such as the Upcountry Energy Resilience Project and the Upcountry Maui Community Energy Plan 2025.

The project's approach—grounded in education, transparency, and local capacity-building—aligns closely with my mission and values. I share the project's commitment to a more resilient, equitable, and decarbonized energy system that centers the lived experience of frontline communities, kūpuna, and working families.

I am committed to supporting and, where possible, actively participating in the #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan in some of the following ways:

Examples:

- Providing time and expertise to collaborate on community outreach, education, and engagement activities.
- Supporting data collection, storytelling, and documentation that translate community experience with outages, PSPS events, and high energy costs into actionable information for regulators, utilities, and policymakers.

For these reasons, I am pleased to endorse the #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan and look forward to exploring opportunities for collaboration, support, and shared learning as the project advances. I commend the #PowerBack team for its thoughtful, community-driven work and strongly support this application.

Sincerely,
Thomas Blamey
Assistant Professor
University of Hawaii Maui College
tblamey@hawaii.edu

January 19, 2026

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Maui Community Energy Alliance (MCEA), a non-profit formed more than two years ago that is committed to public education and empowerment of residents to develop cost-effective sustainable electricity and energy storage solutions on the island of Maui, this letter conveys our strong support for the #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan and our enthusiasm for working together to advance community-centered energy resilience in Maui County and across the State. The #PowerBack team has demonstrated leadership, credibility, and community trust through its work following the devastating 2023 Lahaina and Upcountry fires, including initiatives such as the Upcountry Maui Community Energy Plan 2025, the Upcountry Energy Resilience Project, and the 2nd Life Solar and Battery Project. This work is impressive, already impactful, and is only just beginning; the applicants are well known in the Maui energy community and highly respected.

The #PowerBack project's proposed approach-based on transparency, education, and local capacity-building-aligns well with the MCEA's mission and values. The MCEA is committed to supporting and, where possible, actively participating in the #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan in some of the following ways:

- Assisting in the development of protocols, technical tools, and training sessions for the proposed Energy Help Center, topics that I have substantial experience in.
- Providing time and expertise to collaborate on community outreach, education, and engagement activities (for example, I taught university level courses in energy technologies and energy economics for over 20 years, and would be pleased to help in community level energy education in any way that I can).
- Participating in energy mentorship activities that build local technical and leadership capacity over the long term.

In summary, I am pleased to endorse the #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan and look forward to exploring opportunities for collaboration, support, and shared learning as this sustainable energy project advances. I commend the #PowerBack team for its thoughtful, community-driven work, especially in Upcounty on Maui, and strongly support this funding application.

Sincerely,

ba:y1. 

Barry D. Solomon, Ph.D.
Maui Community Energy Alliance
808-283-1067
harry.solomon428@gmail.com



January 22, 2026

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Shake Energy Collaborative (Shake), a community-based renewable energy development company, this letter conveys our strong support for the #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan and our enthusiasm for working together to advance community-centered energy resilience in Maui County and across Hawai'i. The #PowerBack team has demonstrated leadership, credibility, and community trust through its work following the West Maui and Upcountry fires, including initiatives such as the Upcountry Energy Resilience Project and the Upcountry Maui Community Energy Plan 2025.

The project's approach—grounded in education, transparency, and local capacity-building—aligns closely with Shake's mission and values. We share the project's commitment to a more resilient, equitable, and decarbonized energy system that centers the lived experience of frontline communities, kūpuna, and working families. We at Shake admire their approach to listening first and offering solutions that meet communities' immediate needs first.

Shake is committed to supporting and, where possible, actively participating in the #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan in some of the following ways:

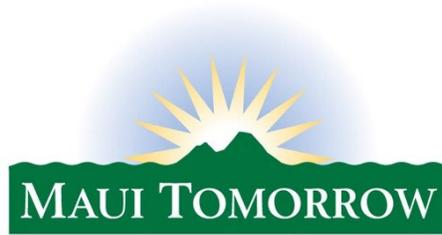
- Providing time and expertise in co-design and community energy planning to collaborate on community outreach, education, and engagement activities.
- Supporting expanded deployment of programs like the Second Life Solar and Battery Program.
- Supporting data collection, storytelling, and documentation that translate community experience with outages, PSPS events, and high energy costs into actionable information for regulators, utilities, and policymakers.

For these reasons, Shake Energy Collaborative is pleased to endorse the #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan and looks forward to exploring opportunities for collaboration, support, and shared learning as the project advances. We commend the #PowerBack team for its thoughtful, community-driven work and strongly support this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ali Andrews". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ali Andrews
CEO, Shake Energy Collaborative
ali@shake-energy.com



To Whom it May Concern,

January 21, 2026

Maui Tomorrow Foundation strongly supports the #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan. We are enthusiastic about the prospect of working together to advance community-centered energy resilience in Maui County and across Hawai'i. The #PowerBack team has demonstrated leadership, credibility, and community trust through its work after the West Maui and Upcountry fires, including initiatives such as the Upcountry Energy Resilience Project and the Upcountry Maui Community Energy Plan 2025.

The project's approach—grounded in education, transparency, and local capacity-building—aligns closely with Maui Tomorrow Foundation's mission and values. We share the project's commitment to a more resilient, equitable, and decarbonized energy system that centers the lived experience of frontline communities, kūpuna, and working families.

Maui Tomorrow Foundation is committed to supporting and, where possible, actively participating in the #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan in the following ways:

- Providing time and expertise to collaborate on community outreach, education, and engagement activities.
- Supporting development of protocols, technical tools, and training for the Energy Help Center.
- Supporting expanded deployment of programs like the Second Life Solar and Bakery Program.
- Supporting data collection, storytelling, and documentation that translate community experience with outages, Public Safety Power Shutoff events, and high energy costs into actionable information for regulators, utilities, and policymakers.
- Participating in workforce development, training, and mentorship activities that build local technical and leadership capacity over the long term.

For these reasons, Maui Tomorrow Foundation is pleased to endorse the #PowerBack Project 2026 Plan, and looks forward to exploring opportunities for collaboration, support, and shared learning as the project advances. We commend the #PowerBack team for its thoughtful, community-driven work and strongly support this application.

Sincerely,

Albert Perez, Executive Director
Maui Tomorrow Foundation

MauiGrassrootsCollective_OP

Final Audit Report

2026-01-23

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By:	Lauren Blickley (development@mauigrassrootscollective.org)
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