

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



Kapono Ciotti, PhD, Executive Director

01/23/26

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

PRINT NAME AND TITLE

DATE



**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: **PACIFIC AMERICAN FOUNDATION**

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

Status: **Compliant**

Hawaii Tax#: ██████████
 New Hawaii Tax#: ██████████
 FEIN/SSN#: ██████████
 UI#: XXXXXXX9863
 DCCA FILE#: 20966

Status of Compliance for this Vendor on issue date:

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

Status Legend:

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

**DECLARATION STATEMENT OF
APPLICANTS FOR GRANTS PURSUANT TO
CHAPTER 42F, 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.

Pacific American Foundation Hawai'i, Inc. (PAF Hawai'i)
(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)



(Signature)

01/23/26
(Date)

Kapono Ciotti, PhD, Executive Director
(Typed Name) (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.

Attachment A

2. Declaration Statement

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

Attachment B

Pacific American Foundation Hawai'i, Inc. hereby affirms and declares that it is in full compliance with Section 42F-103, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and that all grant funds received pursuant to this application will be expended and administered in accordance with the requirements, restrictions, and conditions set forth therein. The organization further affirms its commitment to proper fiscal management, accountability, and oversight to ensure that State funds are used exclusively for the approved public purpose.

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](#).

Pacific American Foundation Hawai'i, Inc. certifies that the grant funds requested in this application will be used solely for a public purpose, as defined under Section 42F-102, Hawai'i Revised Statutes. The funds will support a capital improvement project that expands public access to education, research, workforce development, and cultural stewardship activities at Waikalua Loko I'a, delivering measurable public benefit to students, educators, and community members statewide.

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;

Pacific American Foundation Hawai‘i, Inc. (PAF Hawai‘i) is a Hawai‘i-incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the owner/operator of Waikalua Loko I‘a, a complex of two ancient Hawaiian fishponds located in Kāne‘ohe Bay. PAF Hawai‘i began restoring Waikalua Loko I‘a in 1995, and the fishpond continues to serve as the organization’s piko (center) for delivering hands-on education, cultural stewardship, and community-based learning grounded in Hawaiian resource management and sustainable food systems.

PAF Hawai‘i’s Waikalua Loko I‘a operations function as an ‘āina-based community classroom, where learners engage in kilo (observation), a‘o (learning), mālama (care), and maha (reflection), integrating ancestral knowledge with contemporary educational and scientific practices. Through these efforts, PAF Hawai‘i has cultivated broad and sustained community participation, with more than 130,000 community members engaged over time in educational programming, cultural practice, and restoration activities, including applied research in aquatic food production.

PAF Hawai‘i’s programming and partnerships further support place-based education and applied workforce pathways. The organization collaborates with partners such as University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant and Windward Community College and convenes the Waikalua Aquatic Initiative Partnership to advance research, training, and best practices that support the return of loko i‘a to productive capacity while strengthening Hawai‘i’s local aquaculture and food resilience efforts.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;

This CIP request supports construction of the PAF Hawai‘i Service Learning Center as part of the broader Kāne‘ohe Aquaculture and Community Development Complex—a two-phase effort to expand facilities around Waikalua Loko I‘a and adapt/support an adjacent site as a sustainable platform for education, training, research, and enterprise.

Core goals and objectives are three-fold:

Education

- Create a living laboratory that supports specialized degree pathways (e.g., University of Hawai‘i programs and Windward Community College) and provides real-world learning experiences.
- Engage Hawai‘i students—especially those with Native Hawaiian heritage—in culture-based career pathways within a growing, sustainable economic sector.

Research and Development

- Test and optimize aquaculture best practices, environmental management, propagation techniques, and sustainable industry practices aligned with nearshore ecosystem health and restoration.

Enterprise / Workforce and Food Systems

- Reduce Hawai‘i’s dependence on imported food by increasing local seafood production.
- Create and sustain higher-paying jobs and support a more diversified economy.

The Service Learning Center specifically strengthens these objectives by providing the physical “home base” needed to deliver instruction, host research activities, support stewardship operations, and build workforce training capacity tied to aquaculture and loko i‘a restoration.

3. The public purpose and need to be served;

The public purpose of this request is to advance a coordinated preservation and stewardship plan for Waikalua Loko I‘a while establishing a sustainable, community-based aquaculture learning platform that expands access to education, research and development, and workforce training. Anchored in Hawaiian culture and STEM-based learning, the project supports the stabilization, restoration, and long-term care of a significant cultural resource, while creating an enduring educational asset available to public schools, institutions of higher education, and community-based organizations.

The need for this project is further underscored by Hawai‘i’s reliance on imported food and the corresponding vulnerability of its food systems. Through the integration of indigenous knowledge and contemporary science and technology, Pacific American Foundation Hawai‘i, Inc. advances public benefit by rebuilding local food production capacity, strengthening aquaculture pathways, and preparing future generations to be knowledgeable producers and stewards of Hawai‘i’s natural and cultural resources.

4. Describe the target population to be served; and

Pacific American Foundation Hawai‘i, Inc. serves Pacific Americans, including U.S. citizens who trace their ancestry to the indigenous peoples of Hawai‘i and other Pacific Island communities such as American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Fiji, New Zealand, Tahiti, and Tonga.

Within this broad mission, the project prioritizes Hawai‘i students—particularly Native Hawaiian youth—by engaging learners across K–12 and higher education pathways to strengthen educational outcomes and build culturally grounded career pipelines, with an emphasis on STEM education, aquaculture, and natural resource management.

PAF Hawai‘i places a strong emphasis on serving Title I public schools on Windward O‘ahu, from Makapu‘u to Waiahole, which serve high proportions of socio-economically disadvantaged students. The organization complements this reach through sustained partnerships with Windward Community College and the Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology, supporting post-secondary education, research exposure, and workforce readiness.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

The PAF Hawai‘i Service Learning Center is located at 45-230 Kulauli Street, Kāne‘ohe, Hawai‘i 96744, adjacent to Waikalua Loko I‘a and within the project area supporting aquaculture training, loko i‘a restoration, and applied place-based learning.

PAF Hawai‘i’s primary historic and operational impact area encompasses the Windward O‘ahu districts of Ko‘olaupoko and Ko‘olauloa, where the organization has delivered long-standing education, stewardship, and workforce development programming. Activities based at Waikalua Loko I‘a serve as a regional hub for students, educators, and community members participating in hands-on learning, cultural practice, and environmental restoration.

In addition to its Windward O‘ahu focus, PAF Hawai‘i extends its public benefit statewide by sharing research findings, methodologies, and best practices through partners such as University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant and practitioner networks including Hui Mālama O Loko I‘a. Through these partnerships, the Service Learning Center supports knowledge transfer and capacity-building efforts that benefit loko i‘a practitioners, aquaculture initiatives, and community-based organizations across Hawai‘i.

III. Service Summary and Outcomes

The Service Summary shall include a detailed discussion of the applicant’s approach to the request. The applicant shall clearly and concisely specify the results, outcomes, and measures of effectiveness from this request. The applicant shall:

1. Describe the scope of work, tasks and responsibilities;

This request supports the development of the PAF Hawai‘i Service Learning Center, a capital improvement project that will strengthen long-term education, research, and workforce development activities anchored at Waikalua Loko I‘a. The Service Learning Center will provide essential infrastructure to advance aquaculture education, cultural stewardship, applied research, and community-based learning grounded in Hawaiian knowledge systems and STEM disciplines. The project enhances public access to a culturally significant site while expanding Hawai‘i’s capacity to educate and prepare future generations of environmental stewards and food system practitioners.

The scope of work for this request focuses on the design, development, and construction of the PAF Hawai‘i Service Learning Center as a permanent facility supporting service learning, instruction, research coordination, and community engagement. Core tasks and responsibilities include:

Capital Development and Construction

- Site preparation, construction, and outfitting of the Service Learning Center to support classroom instruction, training activities, research coordination, and stewardship operations associated with loko i‘a restoration and aquaculture learning.

- Integration of infrastructure that supports safe public access, student use, and program delivery in alignment with project plans approved under prior State GIA/CIP investments.

Programmatic Readiness and Facility Integration

- Alignment of the facility's design and layout with existing and planned educational, research, and workforce training activities conducted at Waikalua Loko I'a.
- Coordination with partners to ensure the facility supports applied learning, field-based instruction, and collaborative research activities.

Project Oversight and Administration

- Oversight by Pacific American Foundation Hawai'i, Inc. to manage implementation, contractor coordination, fiscal accountability, and compliance with State requirements.
- Ongoing coordination with educational, research, and community partners to ensure the Service Learning Center meets public-use and programmatic needs.

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

The project will be completed within 12 months following appropriation and release of funds. Substantial planning, design coordination, site preparation, and infrastructure investments—including utility access to the property—have already been completed under prior State support and partner contributions, allowing the project to proceed on an accelerated schedule.

Months 1–3

- Final confirmation of construction scope, schedules, and procurement based on completed planning and prior approvals.
- Mobilization of contractors and initiation of remaining site and construction activities.
- Coordination with education and research partners to confirm space requirements and functional use of the Service Learning Center.

Months 4–9

- Active construction period, including building completion and integration with existing site infrastructure and utilities.
- Installation of core systems and finishes necessary to support instructional, research, and community use.
- Ongoing project oversight to ensure adherence to approved scope, budget, and timeline.

Months 10–12

- Final construction close-out, inspections, and punch-list completion.
- Facility outfitting and readiness for program use.
- Activation of the Service Learning Center to support education, stewardship, workforce training, and research activities associated with Waikalua Loko I'a.

At the conclusion of the 12-month period, the PAF Hawai'i Service Learning Center will be fully operational and integrated into ongoing Waikalua Loko I'a programs, delivering sustained public benefit beyond the grant term.

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

PAF Hawai'i will implement quality assurance and evaluation practices appropriate for a capital improvement project, with emphasis on construction integrity, functional performance, and public-use readiness. These include:

Project Monitoring and Compliance

- Regular review of construction progress, contractor performance, and adherence to approved plans and specifications.
- Financial tracking and documentation to ensure expenditures align with approved budgets and State requirements.

Facility Performance and Use Evaluation

- Post-completion review to confirm that the Service Learning Center meets intended functional requirements for education, training, and research support.
- Ongoing assessment of facility utilization to ensure it effectively supports public-serving programs and partner activities.

Continuous Improvement

- Incorporation of feedback from educators, partners, and community users to inform facility management practices and future capital planning.
- Use of evaluation findings to guide maintenance, programming integration, and long-term sustainability planning.

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.

PAF Hawai'i will report the following measures of effectiveness to the State agency through which grant funds are appropriated. These measures provide objective indicators of project completion and public benefit:

- Completion of the PAF Hawai'i Service Learning Center in accordance with approved scope, budget, and timeline.
- Delivery of a fully functional facility supporting education, workforce training, research coordination, and community-based learning at Waikalua Loko I'a.
- Increased capacity to host students, educators, researchers, and community participants engaged in aquaculture, loko i'a stewardship, and STEM-based learning.

- Ongoing public use of the facility by schools, higher education institutions, and community organizations.

If the final appropriation differs from the amount requested, PAF Hawai‘i will update the measures of effectiveness accordingly and transmit revised measures to the expending agency, consistent with State requirements.

IV. Financial

Budget

- The applicant shall submit a budget utilizing the enclosed budget forms as applicable, to detail the cost of the request.**
 - Budget request by source of funds ([Link](#))**
 - Personnel salaries and wages ([Link](#))**
 - Equipment and motor vehicles ([Link](#))**
 - Capital project details ([Link](#))**
 - Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid ([Link](#))
- The applicant shall provide its anticipated quarterly funding requests for the fiscal year 2027.**

| Quarter 1 | Quarter 2 | Quarter 3 | Quarter 4 | Total Grant |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| \$500,000 | \$600,000 | \$600,000 | \$300,000 | \$2,000,000 |

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

For Fiscal Year 2027, Pacific American Foundation Hawai‘i, Inc. is actively seeking or plans to seek additional funding support from the following public and private sources to complement State appropriations and advance the development of the PAF Hawai‘i Service Learning Center and related programming:

- Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Atherton Family Foundation
- Cooke Foundation
- McInerny Foundation
- Bank of Hawai‘i Foundation
- The Kosasa Foundation
- First Insurance Company of Hawai‘i Charitable Foundation
- J. Watumull Fund
- First Hawaiian Bank Foundation
- Hawaiian Electric Industries Charitable Foundation
- U.S. Department of Education Native Hawaiian Education Program

These funding sources reflect a diversified strategy that leverages State, private foundation, corporate, and federal investments to support capital development, program readiness, and long-term public benefit.

- 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.**

- State of Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources - Waikalua Aquatic Initiative Partnership
- State of Hawai'i Department of Land Natural Resources - Construction of Education Facility
- State of Hawai'i Department of Land Natural Resources - Waikalua Aquaculture and Community Development Complex

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

As of December 31, 2025, the applicant's balance of unrestricted current assets is \$92,254.71.

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.

Pacific American Foundation Hawai'i, Inc. (PAF Hawai'i) possesses the necessary skills, organizational capacity, technical knowledge, and demonstrated experience to successfully implement the capital improvement project proposed in this application. PAF Hawai'i has more than three decades of experience planning, implementing, and sustaining complex, place-based education and stewardship initiatives centered on Waikalua Loko I'a, a culturally significant and operational loko i'a in Kāne'ohe.

Since initiating restoration efforts at Waikalua Loko I'a in 1995, PAF Hawai'i has managed multi-year, multi-phase projects involving site development, environmental restoration, infrastructure improvements, and public-serving educational facilities. The organization has successfully administered prior State of Hawai'i General and Capital Improvement Project (GIA/CIP) appropriations, including the 2013 and 2015 State-funded projects, which advanced

planning, infrastructure development, and programmatic capacity for aquaculture education, research, and workforce pathways. These projects required coordination across State agencies, contractors, engineers, educators, and community partners, demonstrating PAF Hawai‘i’s ability to manage public funds responsibly and deliver outcomes aligned with approved scopes of work.

PAF Hawai‘i’s experience extends beyond capital development to the integration of facilities with active programming, ensuring that infrastructure investments directly support public benefit. The organization has delivered large-scale service learning, education, and research activities serving tens of thousands of participants, and has coordinated applied research and workforce development initiatives in partnership with entities such as University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant, Windward Community College, and practitioner networks supporting loko i‘a restoration and aquaculture best practices.

Over the most recent three years, PAF Hawai‘i has continued to demonstrate verifiable experience pertinent to this request through:

- Ongoing management and activation of Waikalua Loko I‘a as a service learning, research, and community education site;
- Continued implementation of infrastructure improvements and site enhancements supporting public access, education, and stewardship;
- Administration of public and private grants supporting capital readiness, applied research, and workforce-aligned education;
- Oversight of partnerships and contracts related to aquaculture education, cultural practice, and environmental stewardship.

Collectively, this experience establishes PAF Hawai‘i’s appropriateness and readiness to complete the proposed Service Learning Center and integrate it into long-standing, publicly accessible programming.

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.

PAF Hawai‘i owns and operates Waikalua Loko I‘a, located in Kāne‘ohe, O‘ahu, which serves as the primary site for the proposed PAF Hawai‘i Service Learning Center. The property already functions as an active education, restoration, and research site, with existing infrastructure supporting service learning, community engagement, and applied aquaculture activities.

Substantial facility planning and site development have already been completed under prior State GIA/CIP investments and partner support. This includes site preparation, access improvements, and the extension of essential utilities to the property, enabling the next phase of vertical construction and facility activation to proceed efficiently. Existing improvements allow the Service Learning Center to be developed as an integrated component of an operational site rather than a stand-alone or speculative facility.

The proposed Service Learning Center will provide dedicated, permanent space to support:

- Classroom-based and field-based instruction;
- Workforce training and service learning activities;
- Research coordination and applied learning;
- Community meetings, stewardship activities, and educational access.

If additional temporary or specialized space is required during construction or activation, PAF Hawai'i has the organizational capacity and partnerships to secure appropriate interim accommodations without disrupting ongoing programs. Upon completion, the Service Learning Center will be fully integrated into Waikalua Loko I'a operations, ensuring long-term adequacy, sustainability, and public use consistent with the purpose of this request.

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.**

Pacific American Foundation Hawai'i, Inc. (PAF Hawai'i) will implement the proposed capital improvement project through an experienced organizational structure that combines executive leadership, project oversight, and operational staff with deep familiarity with Waikalua Loko I'a, State GIA requirements, and public-serving infrastructure development.

Project Organization and Staffing Pattern

The project will be administered using PAF Hawai'i's existing organizational framework, which has successfully delivered prior State GIA/CIP-funded projects, including the 2013 and 2015 GIAs supporting planning, infrastructure, and site development at Waikalua Loko I'a. The staffing pattern is intentionally lean and appropriate for a capital project, relying on experienced leadership and contracted professional services rather than program expansion staffing.

Key roles include:

- Executive Director – Overall responsibility for project leadership, fiduciary oversight, compliance with State requirements, and alignment of the capital project with PAF Hawai'i's mission and long-term operational capacity.
- Project Management / Administrative Oversight – Day-to-day coordination of the capital improvement effort, including liaison with contractors, consultants, and State representatives; monitoring of schedules and deliverables; and documentation and reporting required under the GIA.

- Program and Site Operations Staff – Existing staff responsible for Waikalua Loko I‘a operations who provide subject-matter expertise to ensure the Service Learning Center is functionally integrated with ongoing education, stewardship, and research activities.
- Professional Consultants and Contractors – Licensed architects, engineers, and construction professionals engaged as needed to complete design, construction, and inspections in compliance with applicable codes and State requirements.

This structure ensures sufficient service capacity to complete the project efficiently while maintaining fiscal discipline and operational continuity.

Staff Qualifications and Experience

PAF Hawai‘i’s leadership and staff bring extensive experience in capital project administration, place-based education, and stewardship of culturally significant sites. The Executive Director, newly appointed and supported by a strong resume, brings senior-level experience in organizational leadership, program administration, and strategic oversight, strengthening PAF Hawai‘i’s capacity to manage complex projects and public investments. This leadership role provides clear accountability for budget management, compliance, and delivery of outcomes consistent with the approved scope of work.

In addition, PAF Hawai‘i staff have decades of collective experience operating Waikalua Loko I‘a as an active education and service learning site, and have demonstrated the ability to translate capital investments into sustained public benefit through integrated programming. The organization’s successful administration of prior State GIAs further demonstrates its capacity to meet reporting, accountability, and performance expectations.

Supervision, Training, and Administrative Direction

PAF Hawai‘i maintains clear lines of supervision and administrative control, with the Executive Director providing overall direction and ensuring adherence to approved project scope, timelines, and budgets. Project activities are supervised through regular coordination meetings, progress reviews, and financial monitoring, consistent with practices established under previous State-funded capital projects.

Training related to the project focuses on compliance, safety, and operational readiness rather than workforce onboarding. Staff and contractors operate under established organizational policies and procedures, and professional service providers are selected based on licensure, qualifications, and demonstrated experience with similar projects. Knowledge transfer and operational training related to the Service Learning Center will be incorporated into existing Waikalua Loko I‘a operations to ensure smooth integration upon project completion.

Through this staffing approach, PAF Hawai‘i demonstrates the organizational capacity, qualified leadership, and administrative systems necessary to successfully implement the proposed capital improvement project and sustain its public benefit over time.

Key Personnel - Project Organization and Staffing

| Name | Position / Role | Affiliation | Qualifications and Relevant Experience |
|--------------------|--|---|--|
| Kapono Ciotti, PhD | Executive Director / Project Director | Pacific American Foundation Hawai‘i, Inc. | Serves as Executive Director of PAF Hawai‘i, providing overall leadership, fiduciary oversight, and administrative direction for State-funded capital projects, including the PAF Hawai‘i Service Learning Center. Dr. Ciotti brings senior-level experience in Indigenous education, organizational leadership, policy, and program administration. He is responsible for project oversight, compliance with GIA requirements, coordination with consultants and contractors, and alignment of capital investments with PAF Hawai‘i’s mission and long-term operations. |
| Derek Esibill | Chief Operating Officer / Aquaculture & Education Specialist | Pacific American Foundation Hawai‘i, Inc. | COO providing executive oversight of operations and program implementation. Directs WIRED and teaches aquaculture, environmental science, and STEM research courses as a Lecturer at Windward Community College (UH System). Brings experience in science education, curriculum delivery, and large-scale program leadership. |
| Louis Perez III | Project Fiscal Officer / Chief Financial Officer | Pacific American Foundation | BBA in Finance and EMBA (M&A focus), University of Hawai‘i Shidler College of Business. Over 10 years of experience as CFO for the Pacific American Foundation. Responsible for financial management, grant compliance, audits, and fiscal reporting. Successfully negotiated restricted and unrestricted indirect cost rates with USEPA and USDOE and led multiple A-133 Single Audits and annual audits. |
| Dr. Kai Fox | Aquaculture Supervisor / Technical Advisor | University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant | Ph.D. in Molecular Biosciences and Bioengineering. Aquaculture Extension Specialist with UH Sea Grant and CTAHR. Has supervised and trained PAF staff since 2021, providing technical oversight for aquaculture systems, research protocols, and workforce training at Waikalua Loko I‘a. |
| Leon Weaver | Environmental Science Instructor / Field Assistant | Pacific American Foundation Hawai‘i | Background in Natural Resource and Environmental Management, University of Hawai‘i Mānoa (CTAHR). Supports environmental science instruction, field-based learning, and aquaculture operations at Waikalua Loko I‘a. |
| Jayten Galario | Marine Science Education Instructor / Loko I‘a Coordinator | Pacific American Foundation Hawai‘i | Marine Option Program Coordinator; Science Education Instructor; Waikalua Loko I‘a Coordinator. Certified in Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), University of Hawai‘i System. Supports education programming, aquaculture coordination, and research compliance. |
| Waylin Kaneakua | Aquaculture Assistant / Cultural Advisor | Pacific American Foundation Hawai‘i | Aquaculture Assistant at Waikalua Loko I‘a and mentor in the NALU Studies Program. Provides cultural guidance and hands-on support for aquaculture operations and student learning. |
| Dr. Dave Krupp | Advisor | Windward Community College | Ph.D. in Zoology. Professor of Biological and Marine Sciences since 1985; Director of the Pacific Center for Environmental Studies (PaCES); Faculty Coordinator of the Marine Option Program since 1984. Provides academic and research advisory support. |

2. Organization Chart. The applicant shall illustrate the position of each staff and line of responsibility/supervision. If the request is part of a large, multi-purpose

organization, include an organization chart that illustrates the placement of this request.

See Attachment C.

- 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.**

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| President and CEO | \$5,000 - \$15,000 |
| Kia'i Loko I'a | \$40,000 - \$50,000 |
| Aquaculturist | \$40,000 - \$50,000 |

VII. Other

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

Not Applicable.

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

Pacific American Foundation Hawai'i, Inc. (PAF Hawai'i) is a Hawai'i-incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the owner/operator of Waikalua Loko I'a, a complex of two ancient Hawaiian fishponds located in Kāne'ōhe Bay.

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

Not Applicable.

- 4. Future Sustainability Plan. The applicant shall provide a plan for sustaining after fiscal year 2027 the activity funded by the grant if the grant of this application is:**

The proposed request supports the development of the PAF Hawai'i Service Learning Center, a capital improvement that is intentionally designed to provide long-term public benefit beyond the grant period. Sustainability is addressed through a combination of permanent infrastructure investment, diversified funding strategies, partnerships, and integration into ongoing operations at Waikalua Loko I'a.

- (a) Received by the applicant for fiscal year 2027, but**

If funding is received for Fiscal Year 2027, Pacific American Foundation Hawai'i, Inc. (PAF Hawai'i) will utilize State support to complete the Service Learning Center and fully integrate the facility into its existing education, research, and workforce development activities. The completed facility will be sustained through:

- Permanent Capital Investment. The Service Learning Center represents a one-time capital investment that eliminates the need for recurring facility development costs. Once constructed, the facility will serve as a durable asset supporting service learning, instruction, research coordination, and community use over multiple decades.
- Program Integration and Operational Alignment. The facility will be embedded into ongoing Waikalua Loko I'a operations, supporting existing and future education, aquaculture training, stewardship, and research activities already underway. This integration ensures continuous utilization without the creation of a stand-alone or grant-dependent program.
- Diversified Funding and Partnerships. PAF Hawai'i will continue to leverage a mix of private foundation support, federal grants, educational partnerships, and earned or contributed revenue to support programming and maintenance associated with the facility. Long-standing collaborations with entities such as University of Hawai'i Sea Grant and Windward Community College further strengthen sustainability by embedding the facility within formal education and research pathways.
- Organizational Capacity and Stewardship. PAF Hawai'i's experienced leadership, fiscal oversight, and history of successfully administering public and private funds provide the organizational infrastructure necessary to manage, maintain, and sustain the facility responsibly over time.

(b) Not received by the applicant thereafter.

If State funding is not received beyond Fiscal Year 2027, the activity funded by this grant will nonetheless remain sustainable due to the capital nature of the investment and PAF Hawai'i's long-term operational strategy.

- Continued Use of the Completed Facility. Once constructed, the Service Learning Center will continue to support education, research, workforce development, and community stewardship activities regardless of future State appropriations. The facility's functionality is not dependent on ongoing State operating support.
- Alternative and Replacement Funding. PAF Hawai'i will continue to pursue private foundation grants, federal funding opportunities, institutional partnerships, and other non-State resources to support programming, maintenance, and incremental enhancements. The organization has a demonstrated history of securing diversified funding to sustain operations when State support is limited or unavailable.

- Adaptive Programming and Phased Growth. In the absence of continued State funding, PAF Hawai‘i will scale programming to available resources while maintaining core public-serving functions at Waikalua Loko I‘a. The Service Learning Center’s flexible design allows it to support a range of educational, and community uses that can be adapted to changing funding conditions.

Through this approach, PAF Hawai‘i ensures that the public investment made through this grant yields lasting benefit, with or without future State appropriations, while advancing long-term goals related to education, cultural stewardship, workforce development, and food system resilience in Hawai‘i.

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Pacific American Foundation Hawai'i, Inc. (PAF Hawai'i)

| BUDGET CATEGORIES | Total State Funds Requested (a) | Total Federal Funds Requested (b) | Total County Funds Requested (c) | Total Private/Other Funds Requested (d) |
|---|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| A. PERSONNEL COST | | | | |
| 1. Salaries | | | | |
| 2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments | | | | |
| 3. Fringe Benefits | | | | |
| TOTAL PERSONNEL COST | 0 | | | |
| B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES | | | | |
| 1. Airfare, Inter-Island | | | | |
| 2. Insurance | | | | |
| 3. Lease/Rental of Equipment | | | | |
| 4. Lease/Rental of Space | | | | |
| 5. Staff Training | | | | |
| 6. Supplies | | | | |
| 7. Telecommunication | | | | |
| 8. Utilities | | | | |
| 9. | | | | |
| 10. | | | | |
| 11. | | | | |
| 12. | | | | |
| 13. | | | | |
| 14. | | | | |
| 15. | | | | |
| 16. | | | | |
| 17. | | | | |
| 18. | | | | |
| 19. | | | | |
| 20. | | | | |
| TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES | 0 | | | |
| C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES | 0 | | | |
| D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES | 0 | | | |
| E. CAPITAL | 2,000,000 | | | |
| TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E) | 2,000,000 | | | |
| SOURCES OF FUNDING | | Budget Prepared By: | | |
| (a) Total State Funds Requested | 2,000,000 | Louis Perez III | 808-753-1143 | |
| (b) Total Federal Funds Requested | 0 | Name (Please type or print) | | Phone |
| (c) Total County Funds Requested | 0 |  | | 1/23/26 |
| (d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested | 0 | Signature of Authorized Official | | Date |
| TOTAL BUDGET | 2,000,000 | Kapono Ciotti, PhD, Executive Director | | |
| | | Name and Title (Please type or print) | | |

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Pacific American Foundation Ha

| 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: Pacific American Foundation Hawai'i, Inc. (PAF Hawai'i)

| FUNDING AMOUNT REQUESTED | | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| TOTAL PROJECT COST | ALL SOURCES OF FUNDS RECEIVED IN PRIOR YEARS | | STATE FUNDS REQUESTED | OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS REQUESTED | FUNDING REQUIRED IN SUCCEEDING YEARS | |
| | FY:2024-2025 | FY:2025-2026 | FY:2026-2027 | FY:2026-2027 | FY:2027-2028 | FY:2028-2029 |
| PLANS | | | | | | |
| LAND ACQUISITION | | | | | | |
| DESIGN | | | | | | |
| CONSTRUCTION | 0 | 0 | 2000000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| EQUIPMENT | | | | | | |
| TOTAL: | 0 | 0 | 2,000,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: This CIP request supports construction of the PAF Hawai'i Service Learning Center as part of the broader Kāne'ohe Aquaculture and Community Development Complex—a two-phase effort to expand facilities around Waikalua Loko I'a and adapt/support an adjacent site as a sustainable platform for education, training, research, and enterprise. | | | | | | |

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

Applicant: Pacific American Foundation Hawai'i, Inc.

Contracts Total: 2,200,000

| | CONTRACT DESCRIPTION | EFFECTIVE DATES | AGENCY | GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County) | CONTRACT VALUE |
|---|---|-----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------|
| 1 | Waikalua Aquatic Initiative Partnership | 04/23/2025 to 06/30/2026 | Division of Aquatic Resources | State of Hawai'i | 200,000 |
| 2 | Construction of Education Facility | 7/31/20 | Department of Land Natural Resources | State of Hawai'i | 500,000 |
| 3 | Waikalua Aquaculture and Community Development Complex | 10/6/15 | Department of Land Natural Resources | State of Hawai'i | 1,500,000 |
| 4 | | | | | |

Pacific American Foundation ORGANIZATION CHART

January 1, 2025



PAF 'OHANA

