

Application Submittal Checklist

The following items are required for submittal of the grant application. Please verify and check off that the items have been included in the application packet.

- 1) Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate (If the Applicant is an Organization)
- 2) Declaration Statement
- 3) Verify that grant shall be used for a public purpose
- 4) Background and Summary
- 5) Service Summary and Outcomes
- 6) Budget
 - a) Budget request by source of funds ([Link](#))
 - b) Personnel salaries and wages ([Link](#))
 - c) Equipment and motor vehicles ([Link](#))
 - d) Capital project details ([Link](#))
 - e) Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid ([Link](#))
- 7) Experience and Capability
- 8) Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing


AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

Kevin O'Brien, Founder & President
PRINT NAME AND TITLE

January 14, 2026
DATE



January 20, 2026

Chris Todd
Chair, House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S Beretania Street, Room 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Todd,
Mahalo for the opportunity to submit the Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project's FY2027 Grant-in-Aid application. We are writing to clarify the status of the IRS Tax Compliance Report required for the Certificate of Vendor Compliance.

In September 2025, the IRS implemented a new process requiring tax-exempt organizations to request this report solely through its online portal. Our organization promptly completed the registration and submitted the request. However, the release of the finalized document has been delayed due to the recent federal government shutdown and limited IRS staffing capacity.

While we await the updated report, we have included our most recent Certificate of Good Standing as documentation of our standing.

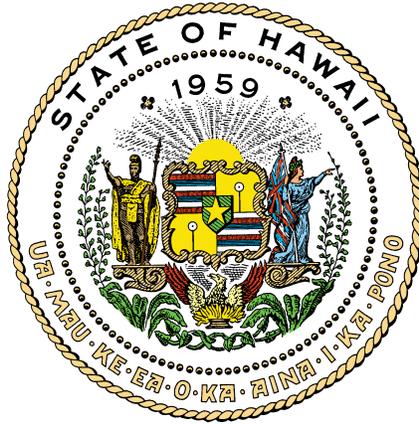
The Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project remains in full compliance with all State of Hawai'i tax and vendor requirements, and our federal tax-exempt status continues to be in good standing. The outstanding item reflects a processing delay outside of our control, not a compliance issue. Upon receipt, the updated IRS Tax Compliance Report will be transmitted immediately to the appropriate office.

In light of these circumstances, we respectfully request consideration of our application with this explanation, with the understanding that the official Certificate of Vendor Compliance will be submitted prior to any approval or disbursement of Grant-in-Aid funds.

Mahalo for your time and consideration, and for your continued commitment to protecting Hawai'i's marine environment and the globally significant resources of Papahānaumokuākea. Please let us know if additional documentation or clarification is needed.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Kevin O'Brien
President



Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

I, the undersigned Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs of the State of Hawaii, do hereby certify that

PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA MARINE DEBRIS PROJECT, INC.

was incorporated under the laws of Hawaii on 05/20/2019 ;
that it is an existing nonprofit corporation; and that,
as far as the records of this Department reveal, has complied
with all of the provisions of the Hawaii Nonprofit Corporations
Act, regulating domestic nonprofit corporations.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand and affixed the seal of the
Department of Commerce and Consumer
Affairs, at Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dated: January 20, 2026

Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

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

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

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

Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project
(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)


(Signature)

January 14, 2026
(Date)

Kevin O'Brien
(Typed Name)

Founder and President
(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.

See attached.

2. Declaration Statement

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

See attached Declaration Statement.

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](#).

If awarded State Grant-in-Aid, Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project (PMDP) will utilize the funds for a public purpose as outlined in **Section II, Background and Summary, Question 3** below. Grant-in-Aid funds will strengthen the operational capacity required to protect State marine resources, public trust lands, and endangered species within Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and National Marine Sanctuary. By supporting Executive Director leadership and essential facilities, this investment will enable coordinated debris removal expeditions that advance environmental conservation, public safety, and the long-term ecological resilience of Hawai'i's marine ecosystems for the benefit of the State and its residents.

II. Background and Summary

This section shall clearly and concisely summarize and highlight the contents of the request in such a way as to provide the State Legislature with a broad understanding of the request. Please include the following:

1. A brief description of the applicant's background;

The Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project (PMDP) is a Hawai'i based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the ecological integrity, biodiversity, and cultural significance of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM), one of the largest and most biologically important marine protected areas in the world. Since its founding, PMDP has emerged as the only organization solely focused on large scale marine debris removal from this remote and sacred region, operating at the intersection of science based conservation, Indigenous knowledge, and hands on restoration. As one of four co-trustees of PMNM, the State of Hawai'i, through the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), has primary responsibility for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine Refuge and State Seabird Sanctuary at Kure Atoll. Nothing in the Proclamation diminishes or enlarges the jurisdiction of the State of Hawai'i.

PMDP conducts complex, multi-week expeditions to some of the most isolated shorelines and reef systems on Earth, removing derelict fishing gear and ocean plastics that pose immediate and long-term threats to endangered species, coral reef ecosystems, and water quality. Since 2020, PMDP has removed more than 1.2 million pounds of marine debris, restored tens of thousands of acres of coral reef habitat, and trained a growing Hawai'i based marine stewardship workforce, positioning the organization as a national leader in remote marine debris mitigation and ocean conservation.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;

Major Goal

Increase the scale, efficiency, and effectiveness of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project's marine debris removal operations to protect endangered species, restore coral reef habitat, and reduce the accumulation of derelict fishing gear and plastics across high-priority areas of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

Objectives Over 12 Months

- Increase operational capacity to conduct marine debris removal expeditions by supporting Executive Director leadership and facilities that enable coordinated planning, logistics, and execution of concurrent and multi-week field missions across high-priority reef and shoreline sites.
- Improve the effectiveness, safety, and efficiency of marine debris removal operations by strengthening organizational infrastructure that supports faster deployment, safer crew operations, and sustained debris extraction in remote and hazardous offshore environments.
- Protect endangered marine species and strengthen long-term ecosystem resilience by expanding consistent access to priority sites within Papahānaumokuākea and intercepting derelict fishing gear and plastics before they cause downstream harm to coral reefs, wildlife, and the main Hawaiian Islands.

3. The public purpose and need to be served;

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is one of the most ecologically significant and culturally sacred marine ecosystems on Earth, encompassing more than 1,300 miles of remote Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and representing approximately 70% of all U.S. coral reefs. This vast, largely uninhabited region supports an extraordinary concentration of biodiversity, including more than 7,000 marine species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world. It provides essential habitat for approximately 75% of the remaining endangered Hawaiian monk seals, serves as the primary nesting grounds for nearly all Hawaiian green sea turtle females, and supports more than 14 million seabirds that rely on these islands and reefs for survival. In Native Hawaiian tradition, Papahānaumokuākea is revered as the ancestral realm of creation and a sacred space that embodies the origins and continuity of life.

Despite its geographic isolation and protected status, Papahānaumokuākea faces an escalating and persistent threat from marine debris, particularly derelict fishing gear and ocean plastics transported across the Pacific by powerful currents. According to data reflected in PMDP's field operations, more than 115,000 pounds of ghost nets and debris accumulate annually on reefs and shorelines within the monument. These materials entangle marine mammals, sea turtles, seabirds, smother living coral, damage reef structure, and introduce toxic contaminants into one of the world's most intact marine ecosystems. Without active intervention, this debris would continue to accumulate unchecked, accelerating habitat loss and increasing mortality among already vulnerable species.

The remoteness of Papahānaumokuākea presents a unique public challenge. With no permanent human residents and limited federal operational capacity, the protection of this nationally and globally significant ecosystem depends on highly specialized, expedition-based response efforts. Marine debris removal in this region requires weeks-long missions aboard large vessels, trained crews capable of operating in extreme offshore conditions, and the ability to access shallow reefs and remote shorelines that cannot be reached by conventional ships. Nevertheless, PMDP conducts these missions at substantial cost and logistical complexity, serving as the only organization solely dedicated to large-scale debris removal in Papahānaumokuākea.

This work extends far beyond debris removal alone. By restoring coral reef habitat and reducing entanglement hazards, PMDP directly contributes to species recovery, ecosystem resilience, and the protection of natural resources held in trust for the American public. The project also reduces downstream impacts to the main Hawaiian Islands, where fragmented plastics and fishing gear can harm nearshore ecosystems, fisheries, and coastal communities. Because debris accumulating in Papahānaumokuākea originates from across the Pacific Rim, PMDP's work positions Hawai'i as a sentinel for understanding and addressing transboundary marine pollution, informing broader regional and global conservation strategies.

In addition, PMDP fulfills a critical cultural and educational role by honoring the genealogical and spiritual significance of Papahānaumokuākea while training a Hawai'i-based marine stewardship workforce. Through hands-on field experience, conservation training, and public education, the organization builds long-term capacity for ocean protection rooted in both Indigenous values and science-based practice. This integrated approach ensures that the public investment in protecting Papahānaumokuākea yields enduring ecological, cultural, and societal benefits for Hawai'i, the nation, and the global ocean system.

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is governed through a federal–state co-trusteeship that establishes the State of Hawai'i as a primary steward of this globally significant marine ecosystem. Under Proclamation 8031 and a 2006 Memorandum of Agreement, management responsibilities are coordinated among the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State of Hawai'i through the Department of Land and Natural Resources, including direct State responsibility for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine Refuge and State Seabird Sanctuary at Kure Atoll and formal representation of Native Hawaiian interests on the Monument Management Board. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) was designated as a co-trustee of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in January 2017. This designation formalized their role in the management of the monument, which is one of the largest marine protected areas in the world, encompassing significant cultural and ecological importance for the Native Hawaiian community.

State Grant-in-Aid investment in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project directly supports Hawai'i's shared management obligations by strengthening the operational capacity required to conduct expeditions, remove hazardous marine debris, protect endangered species, and preserve the ecological integrity of Papahānaumokuākea for the benefit of the State and future generations.

State Grant-in-Aid support is critical to building the operational capacity required to protect Hawai'i's nearshore and Northwestern Hawaiian Islands from escalating marine debris impacts. Dedicated facilities and Executive Director leadership will provide the coordination, logistical readiness, and continuity necessary to plan, deploy, and sustain complex multi-week expeditions that remove debris, safeguard crews, and protect endangered species and coral reef ecosystems for the benefit of the State and its residents.

4. Describe the target population to be served; and

While marine debris removal does not serve a traditional human client population, the primary beneficiaries of PMDP's work are endangered and vulnerable marine species, including Hawaiian monk seals, green sea turtles, seabirds, and reef dependent organisms that rely on intact habitat for survival. Secondary beneficiaries include Native Hawaiian communities for whom Papahānaumokuākea holds profound genealogical, cultural, and spiritual significance as the ancestral realm of creation. Additional beneficiaries include the broader Hawai'i public, commercial and subsistence fisheries,

that benefit from the “spillover effect” from a protected area, coastal communities, and future generations who depend on healthy marine ecosystems. PMDP also directly serves conservation practitioners, scientists, and local crew members by providing specialized training, workforce development opportunities, and career pathways in marine stewardship, strengthening Hawai‘i’s long term capacity for ocean conservation.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

PMDP’s primary geographic focus is Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, which stretches more than 1,300 miles northwest of the main Hawaiian Islands and encompasses approximately 70% of all U.S. coral reefs. This includes remote atolls, reefs, and islands such as Kuaihelani, Manawai, Kamole, Lalo, Kapou, and Kamokuokamohoali‘i, Hōlanikū and Lalo, many of which are inaccessible except by specialized vessels and crews. Although operations are concentrated in this region, the ecological impact of PMDP’s work extends across the entire Hawaiian archipelago and into the broader Pacific. Ocean currents, migratory species, and shared food webs connect Papahānaumokuākea to nearshore waters throughout Hawai‘i and to marine ecosystems across the Pacific basin. As a result, debris removed from this region reduces pollution impacts far beyond the monument itself, contributing to regional and international marine conservation outcomes.

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;

The Executive Director of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project will play a central role in overseeing the full scope of work required to effectively plan and execute marine debris removal and related programs across the remote Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. The Executive Director will lead organizational strategy, manage day-to-day program operations, coordinate with federal, state, and community partners, and ensure that all logistics, permitting, and staffing needs are met to support scheduled clean-up expeditions and surveys of reefs and shorelines. The Executive Director will be responsible for developing expedition schedules, securing necessary resources, directing deployment readiness, supervising crews in the field, and monitoring project outcomes to maximize debris removal and ecological protection, thereby ensuring consistent, safe, and efficient operations that fulfill the Project’s mission to reduce marine debris hazards to wildlife and cultural resources.

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

Upon receipt of the Notice to Proceed, the Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project will immediately begin drawing down State GIA funds to support operational capacity, including Executive Director leadership and facilities, with funds fully expended within the twelve-month contract period.

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

Program oversight by the Executive Director will include standardized protocols for expedition planning, safety compliance, and debris handling, as well as coordination with federal and state partners to meet permitting and operational requirements. Project performance will be evaluated through measurable outputs such as number of expeditions conducted, volume and type of marine debris removed, priority sites accessed, and consistency of operations across field seasons. Post-mission debriefs, data documentation, and partner reporting will be used to assess operational efficiency, crew safety, and environmental outcomes, allowing for continuous improvement and adaptive management. This structured approach will ensure that public funds are used responsibly while delivering verifiable conservation benefits to Hawai'i's marine ecosystems.

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.

On a quarterly basis, Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project will report the following metrics to the State to measure effectiveness:

1. Number of marine debris removal expeditions conducted or supported to track operational capacity and leadership effectiveness by documenting scheduled, in-progress, or completed expeditions enabled during the reporting period.
2. Volume of marine debris removed from priority sites to measure environmental impact through total pounds or tons of debris collected, with optional breakdowns by derelict fishing gear, plastics, or hazardous materials.
3. Number of priority reef and shoreline sites accessed and serviced to demonstrate expanded reach and consistent access to high-priority and remote locations within Papahānaumokuākea, reflecting improved readiness and sustained operational capability.

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](#))

See attached Budget Forms.

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
\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$250,000

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

The Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project will pursue additional funding from federal partners throughout 2026 to help supplement and sustain operating support for 2027.

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.

This does not apply.

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.

See attached Page 10.

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

The balance of unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2025 is \$403,780.07

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.

Since 2020, the Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project has demonstrated a sustained and measurable record of impact in one of the most remote and challenging marine environments on Earth. Over the past four years, PMDP has removed more than 1.23 million pounds of ghost nets and ocean plastics from Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, directly mitigating one of the most significant threats to endangered species and coral reef ecosystems. These removal efforts have restored critical habitat, reduced wildlife entanglement, and prevented further degradation of fragile reef systems that are foundational to Hawai'i's marine biodiversity and food webs.

PMDP's operational experience extends across an expansive geographic footprint within the monument. The organization has cleaned and restored more than 15,200 acres of coral reefs and conducted debris removal along 108 miles of remote shoreline, areas that are otherwise inaccessible and would remain impacted without specialized intervention. These efforts have required sustained field presence, with PMDP crews logging 326 days of operations within Papahānaumokuākea since 2020. This level of consistent engagement reflects not only technical expertise, but also the logistical, safety, and leadership capacity necessary to operate in extreme offshore conditions over extended periods.

Equally important, PMDP has invested in building long term conservation capacity for Hawai'i through workforce development and training. To date, 52 crew members have been trained in marine conservation skills, including federal motorboat operator training, freedive safety training, wilderness medication training, coral reef monitoring and ID training, rigging and signal-calling, marine operations training, and education/outreach, habitat protection, and expedition operations. These individuals represent a growing cohort of Hawai'i based ocean stewards equipped with transferable skills that strengthen the state's broader conservation sector. Through this combination of large scale environmental outcomes and human capital development, PMDP has established itself as a proven, mission ready organization capable of delivering complex conservation projects with lasting ecological and community benefit.

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.

The Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project operates out of its Kailua headquarters, coordinating large-scale marine debris removal missions that launch to the remote reefs, atolls, and shorelines of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National

Monument more than 1,000 miles from the nearest major port. While the remote nature of the Monument means there are no permanent PMDP facilities in the field, the organization leverages its office base in Hawai'i for mission planning, training, equipment staging, and logistics, and partners with vessel operators, government agencies, and local service providers to mobilize crews, boats, and supplies. PMDP's facilities support expedition preparation, crew training in marine operations and safety, storage of essential gear, and maintenance of mission-critical equipment prior to deployment, ensuring that each multi-week cleanup mission can proceed safely and effectively to remove derelict fishing gear and ocean plastics from some of the most isolated coral reef ecosystems on the planet.

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.

The Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project (PMDP) is led by a highly experienced and mission-driven team with deep expertise in marine conservation, field operations, and organizational leadership. **Kevin O'Brien, President and Founder** of PMDP, brings over a decade of direct experience in large-scale, ship-based marine research and debris removal missions across the Pacific with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). During his 12 years with NOAA, he not only coordinated complex expeditions to the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument but also led the federal marine debris removal efforts there from 2016 to 2019, giving him unparalleled institutional knowledge of the logistical, safety, and ecological challenges that define work in this remote region.

As **Executive Director, James Morioka** complements this operational expertise with extensive conservation experience grounded in marine biology and long-term involvement in Papahānaumokuākea stewardship. He has been with NOAA for more than 10 years and served as operations coordinator for NOAA's Pacific-wide research program, as well as vessel operations coordinator. James has been active in the Monument's conservation efforts for more than a decade including marine debris removal since 2013, and he has been instrumental in building PMDP's organizational capacity and field operations. His leadership reflects a deep commitment to both ecological protection and community engagement, ensuring that project goals are both scientifically grounded and culturally informed.

Supporting PMDP's core leadership are field team members with diverse technical skills directly relevant to operational success, many of whom have spent years working directly in Papahānaumokuākea and similar offshore environments. PMDP is further supported by an engaged Board of Directors whose collective experience spans marine

biology, vessel operations, federal research programs, governance, and strategic leadership, ensuring strong oversight and organizational stability. Together, this multidisciplinary team blends scientific expertise, field-tested operational skills, cultural understanding, and organizational leadership, positioning PMDP to execute complex conservation missions safely and effectively while building local capacity and advancing broader stewardship goals for one of the world’s most fragile marine ecosystems. PMDP has excellent collaborative relationships with NOAA and USFWS, the federal co-managers of the Monument. An MOA with NOAA is pending formalization.

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 attached Organization 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.

Position	Annual Salary Range
President	\$80,000-\$100,000
Executive Director	\$80,000-\$100,000
Marine Operations Coordinator	\$50,000-\$70,000

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.

Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project (PMDP) was named as a defendant, alongside International Business Sales Services Corp (IBSS) and Hawaii Resource Group(HRG) (a vessel charter company), in litigation involving a workplace injury of an IBSS contract employee while at sea aboard an HRG vessel in 2022 during a PMDP charter. Litigation is still ongoing

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. This does not apply.

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.

This does not apply.

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:

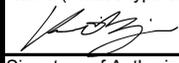
- (a) Received by the applicant for fiscal year 2027, but
- (b) Not received by the applicant thereafter.

The Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project sustains its work through a diversified funding model that includes private philanthropy, federal support, individual donors, foundation support, mission partnerships, and earned support linked to expedition operations, ensuring long term operational continuity. PMDP's investments are designed to deliver lasting value across multiple field seasons by strengthening operational efficiency, improving safety, and increasing debris removal capacity without proportionally increasing recurring costs. This approach allows each expedition to remove greater volumes of debris, protect more habitat, and train additional conservation practitioners, amplifying impact over time. Coupled with PMDP's proven track record of multi-year field operations, workforce development, and public engagement, this one-time request for \$250,000 in State GIA Funds would serve as a catalyst to enhance long-term effectiveness, reduce future operational risk, and ensure sustained protection of Papahānaumokuākea's globally significant ecosystems well beyond the initial grant period. This is particularly critical at a time when public and private funding for environmental conservation has been substantially reduced, increasing the urgency for effective, mission ready organizations to deliver proven conservation outcomes.

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project

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	\$61,326	\$250,000	\$0	\$0
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	\$4,691	\$0	\$0	\$0
3. Fringe Benefits	\$9,199	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	\$75,216	\$250,000	\$0	\$0
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2. Insurance	\$24,784	\$0	\$0	\$0
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4. Lease/Rental of Space	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
5. Staff Training	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
6. Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
7. Telecommunication	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
8. Utilities	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	\$174,784	\$0		
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)	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	\$0
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	\$250,000	Kevin O'Brien	(808) 348-0096	
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested	\$250,000	Name (Please type or print)	Phone	
(c) Total County Funds Requested	\$0		January 14, 2026	
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	\$0	Signature of Authorized Official	Date	
TOTAL BUDGET	\$500,000	Kevin O'Brien, Founder and President		
		Name and Title (Please type or print)		

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project

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: Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project

FUNDING AMOUNT REQUESTED - NOT APPLICABLE						
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:						

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

Applicant: Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project

Contracts Total: \$1,688,723

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1	Federal Grant	4/1/2023 - 3/31/2026	NOAA	U.S.	\$1,387,675
2	Federal Grant	9/1/2023 - 8/31/2024	NOAA	U.S.	\$80,000
3	Federal Grant	5/1/2024 - 9/30/2028	NOAA	U.S.	\$72,000
4	Federal Grant	4/1/2023 - 3/31/2026	NOAA	U.S.	\$149,048
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26					
27		10			Application for Grants

Papahānaumokuākea Debris Project Organizational Chart

