

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

Cover Page

Drowning is the **leading cause of death for children aged 1 to 15 in Hawai'i.**

An average of **80.4 people per year drowned in Hawaii between 2014 and 2023.** Over that ten-year period, more than **800 families** lost a loved one. This is an irreversible tragedy that leaves deep emotional and often financial scars across entire ohana and their communities affecting 1,000's.

This is the tragedy of drowning

Hawaii, especially as a destination community, bears a moral imperative to safeguard everyone who enters the water—both those who live here and those who visit. Lifeguards are essential, but with hundreds of unguarded beaches, we must provide additional, proven protections against drowning wherever possible.

For over **15 years**, the **Rescue Tube Foundation (RTF)** has worked to prevent these avoidable drownings by placing **Public Rescue Tubes (PRTs)** at high-risk beaches and water access points across Hawaii. PRTs are simple flotation devices designed to be used immediately by bystander rescuers during the critical moments before lifeguards or first responders arrive --- protecting rescuers from becoming victims themselves.

Today, nearly 600 PRTs stand as silent sentinels on Hawaii's shores. Their impact is real and measurable: an estimated **35 to 50 lives—and likely many more—have been saved** through this program. The **Hawaii Department of Health (DOH)** research on Kauai demonstrates a **significant reduction in fatal rescuer drownings** at locations where PRTs were installed. In fact, **there have been no double drownings on Kauai since the inception of the PRT program.**

In recognition of this proven lifesaving record, the State Legislature previously awarded Grant-in-Aid funding to the Rescue Tube Foundation to support statewide expansion. That work is currently underway in coordination with the **Department of Land and Natural Resources**, all **four county Ocean Safety Bureaus**, and the **Hawaiian Lifeguard Association**. Initial efforts have focused on statewide assessment, lifeguard-led location risk surveys, inventory of existing PRTs, and the development of prioritized installation and maintenance plans to ensure responsible and effective deployment.

RTF understands that Grants-in-Aid are transitional in nature and consecutive GIAs are uncommon. **This is not a renewal request, but a needed continuation** of work already approved by the State and underway. Without operating continuity, the State's prior investment **would stall before this lifesaving deployment is completed, putting lives of residents and visitors at risk.** This request allows us to finish the job responsibly and seek outside financial support to **reduce reliance on State funding in subsequent fiscal years.**

With this **Grants-in-Aid request**, RTF seeks to build on and sustain this lifesaving work by:

1. **Expanding Deployment**

Installing **500 needed additional Public Rescue Tubes** at high-risk, underserved locations statewide, further reducing the loss of life on Hawaii's beaches and waterways due to avoidable drownings.

2. **Protecting the current infrastructure**

Implementing a **robust monitoring and maintenance program** to ensure that all PRTs remain visible, functional, and ready for use when seconds matter most.

3. **Building Organizational Sustainability**

Providing essential operating support that allows the Rescue Tube Foundation to pursue larger, more sustainable funding sources—reducing long-term reliance on State appropriations while safeguarding Hawaii's investment in drowning prevention.

Public Rescue Tubes save lives—but only if they are **installed, maintained, and supported by a stable organization.** This funding will allow the Rescue Tube Foundation to continue delivering a proven, cost-effective public safety solution while positioning the program for long-term sustainability and expanded impact.

Public Rescue Tubes Save Lives!

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.



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: THE RESCUE TUBE FOUNDATION

Issue Date: 01/15/2026

Status: Compliant

Hawaii Tax#: [REDACTED]
 New Hawaii Tax#: [REDACTED]
 FEIN/SSN#: [REDACTED]
 UI#: XXXXXX7581
 DCCA FILE#: 231402

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

2. Declaration Statement

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

**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.

The Rescue Tube Foundation, Inc.
(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)

Branch Lotspeich January 15, 2026
(Signature) (Date)

Branch Lotspeich Executive Director
(Typed Name) (Title)

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.

This grant will be used solely for public purpose pursuant to Section 42F-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

II. Background and Summary

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

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

The Rescue Tube Foundation (RTF) has over 15 years of experience in preventing avoidable drownings in Hawaii. Initially a grassroots project in collaboration with the Kauai Lifeguard Association and Rotary, RTF incorporated as a 501©(3) nonprofit in 2010. Our mission is to prevent avoidable drownings by providing Public Rescue Tubes (PRTs) to protect both swimmers in distress and those attempting rescues, saving lives and reducing the risk of double drownings.

PRTs are lifeguard-grade flotation devices mounted on posts at high-risk ocean fronts, accessible to anyone. These devices stabilize distressed swimmers and safeguard bystander rescuers until lifeguards arrive.

Since our program's inception, the Hawaii Department of Health has studied our impact, concluding there have been **no double drownings on Kauai where PRTs are installed**. A published DOH study also found **a significant decrease in fatal rescuer drownings in these areas**.

In 2012, at the request of groups on other islands, RTF expanded the program statewide. Today, nearly 600 PRTs are installed across Hawaii, with hundreds of documented uses. While the exact number of lives saved is obviously unknown, estimates suggest **35 to 50 lives—or perhaps more—have been saved** over the past 15 years.

We recognize that swimming at lifeguarded beaches is ideal, but the vast majority of Hawaii's beaches are unguarded. PRTs provide essential protection, particularly in these areas. This grant will allow us to significantly expand our lifesaving efforts and establish a sustainable future for our programs.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;

The goal of this request is straightforward and urgent: **to prevent avoidable drownings in Hawaii by expanding access to Public Rescue Tubes (PRTs) while establishing a sustainable future for the Rescue Tube Foundation (RTF) that reduces long-term reliance on government funding.**

PRTs save lives. Their effectiveness is **proven.** Yet hundreds of Hawaii’s public beaches remain unguarded and without immediate public access to bystander rescuer equipment, a PRT, placing residents and visitors at continued and unnecessary risk.

The **2025 Hawaii Water Safety Plan** explicitly identifies this gap and calls for immediate action. Recommendation **7.5.12** states:

“Expand access to personal flotation devices such as Rescue Tubes for the public (with standard precautions) to serve as adjuncts to lifeguards, particularly at known hot spots and black spots.”

This grant directly responds to that recommendation by funding the **deployment, maintenance, and oversight of additional PRTs statewide.**

For more than **15 years**, the Rescue Tube Foundation has led Hawaii’s only effort to place PRTs on Hawaii’s beaches. Although funding distribution from the previous GIA award is still being processed, RTF has already initiated implementation. In partnership with the **Hawaii Lifeguard Association**, we are conducting a comprehensive, digital, beach-by-beach survey to identify new high-risk locations for PRT and documenting all existing PRTs.

Despite this progress, **resources remain extremely limited.** Hundreds of unguarded beaches remain unprotected, with only a fraction having been served to date.

RTF is prepared to scale. We are coordinating with community service organizations—including the **American Red Cross** (Pacific Region), **Rotary**, **Lions Clubs**—as well as private foundations and individual supporters who serve as local installers and stewards. These partnerships provide the on-the-ground capacity needed to expand statewide coverage efficiently and responsibly.

Measurable objectives of this request include:

- Installation of **500 new Public Rescue Tubes** statewide at priority locations.
- Replacing **200 aging or degraded PRT units** currently in service.
- Provide RTF financial support for **essential organizational infrastructure**, including staffing, accounting, insurance, legal compliance, and communications.
- Expand and oversee PRT **monitoring and maintenance** across all six major islands.

- The advancement of a targeted development strategy to secure **sustainable private funding**, reducing long-term dependence on State support.

This grant funding will result in **safer beaches, faster rescue response, and fewer drownings**—while positioning the Rescue Tube Foundation to sustain and expand this lifesaving work well beyond the grant period.

3. The public purpose and need to be served;

The Rescue Tube Foundation was established to address a serious need in Hawaii, that of reducing preventable drownings and near drownings.

According to the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) and documented in the State’s 2025 Hawaii Water Safety Plan:

- **Drowning** is the leading cause of death among **1- to 15-year-olds** in Hawai‘i.
- Hawai‘i has the **second highest drowning rate** among all U.S. states.
- Drowning threatens Hawaii’s \$20 billion-plus tourism economy as it is the **leading cause of injury-related deaths for visitors**, occurring at a rate three times higher than the next leading cause. Visitors comprise most drowning victims across all age groups.
- In the 10 years from 2014 to 2023 average drownings by island in Hawaii were:
 - Oahu: 38.7 drownings per year
 - Maui: 22.1 drownings per year
 - Hawaii: 11.4 drownings per year
 - Kauai: 8.2 drownings per year

This is an average of 80.4 drownings in Hawai‘i each year over this 10-year period. 80.4 per year, **think about that**. That is 804 deaths due to drowning in our waters in 10 years, both residents and visitors.

These are not the only statistics that we should be concerned about. DOH has also published on their website their estimate:

“For every fatal drowning, it is estimated that **13 non-fatal drownings** occur, some of which may be associated with long term disability. In addition to the pain and suffering,” the “comprehensive effects of drowning include the economic loss

(victim's productivity loss and the expenses relating to the event) and the value of lost quality of life associated with the death or injury."

In our work to prevent drownings, we also prevent an untold number of non-fatal drownings. **These swimmers are able to go home to their families** and not face perhaps years of rehabilitation, loss of income and the subsequent anguish imposed on their entire ohana. These grim statistics underscore the urgent need for increased drowning prevention measures in Hawai'i.

The Rescue Tube Foundation, with its **15-year history of preventing drowning incidents**, has demonstrated that **Public Rescue Tubes (PRT)** are an effective part of the solution.

4. Describe the target population to be served;

The target population served are clearly the **swimmers in distress and the citizen rescuers** who attempt to aid them, but in reality, it is much larger than that.

Every victim of drowning has a family who loves them, who in many cases depended on them for financial support. One death from drowning greatly affects a whole ohana in both deep emotional as well as life altering financial ways.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the statistically calculated **"cost" of a human life in 2024 is approximately \$13.6 million**. This value is used by government agencies to evaluate the cost-benefit of regulations that could potentially save lives.

The total cost to our local economy from loss of life by drownings and serious injury due to near drownings in Hawai'i, although incalculable, is enormous and should be considered when evaluating the value of investing in drownings prevention measures.

Drownings happen on all Hawaiian beaches, to residents and visitors alike. Drownings happen even to people not in the water, from rogue waves all too frequent on our shores.

The Rescue Tube Foundation addresses this urgent need by providing PRTs, a proven tool to protect both swimmers and citizen rescuers. Our program directly saves lives while reducing the wider emotional and financial burdens associated with drowning tragedies.

5. Describe the geographic coverage;

Our Public Rescue Tube initiative is for all Hawaiian beaches, unguarded or guarded. Lifeguards are by far our most important defense against drownings, but they work set hours in the day. Our beaches have swimmers, fishermen, even those who are just walking too close to an angry ocean at all hours before and after lifeguards are on duty. They are all are risk.

It is simply too expensive for government to fund placing lifeguards at every beach in the state. Placing PRTs on these beaches, until more lifeguards are available, will **save countless lives over the years as they have over the past 15 years.**

Here is quick overview of our current lifeguard coverage:

Hawaii Beaches, Coastline, and Lifeguard Coverage by Island

One-page summary with official lifeguard coverage indicators

Island	Named Beaches (~approx.)	Coastline (miles)	Land Area (sq miles)	Lifeguarded Beaches	Lifeguard Towers
Oahu	~125	~227	~597	28	~43
Maui	~80	~120	~727	10	~12
Kauai	~70	~111	~552	9	~11
Hawaii Island	~60	~266	~4,028	10	~10-12
Molokai	~40	~88	~260	0	0
Lanai	~20-25	~47	~141	0	0
Statewide Total	~395-410	~750	~6,305	57	~76-78

Footnotes

1. Named beach counts and coastline miles are approximate and vary by definition and measurement method.
2. Lifeguarded beach counts are derived from the Hawaii State Ocean Safety 'List of Lifeguarded Beaches,' the official statewide inventory of staffed lifeguard sites.
3. Lifeguard tower counts represent physical tower structures. Oahu publishes an official count (approximately 43 towers) via the Honolulu Ocean Safety Department. Neighbor island tower counts are derived from beaches with multiple towers and county ocean safety listings.
4. Some beaches contain multiple towers, which is why tower counts exceed the number of lifeguarded beaches.

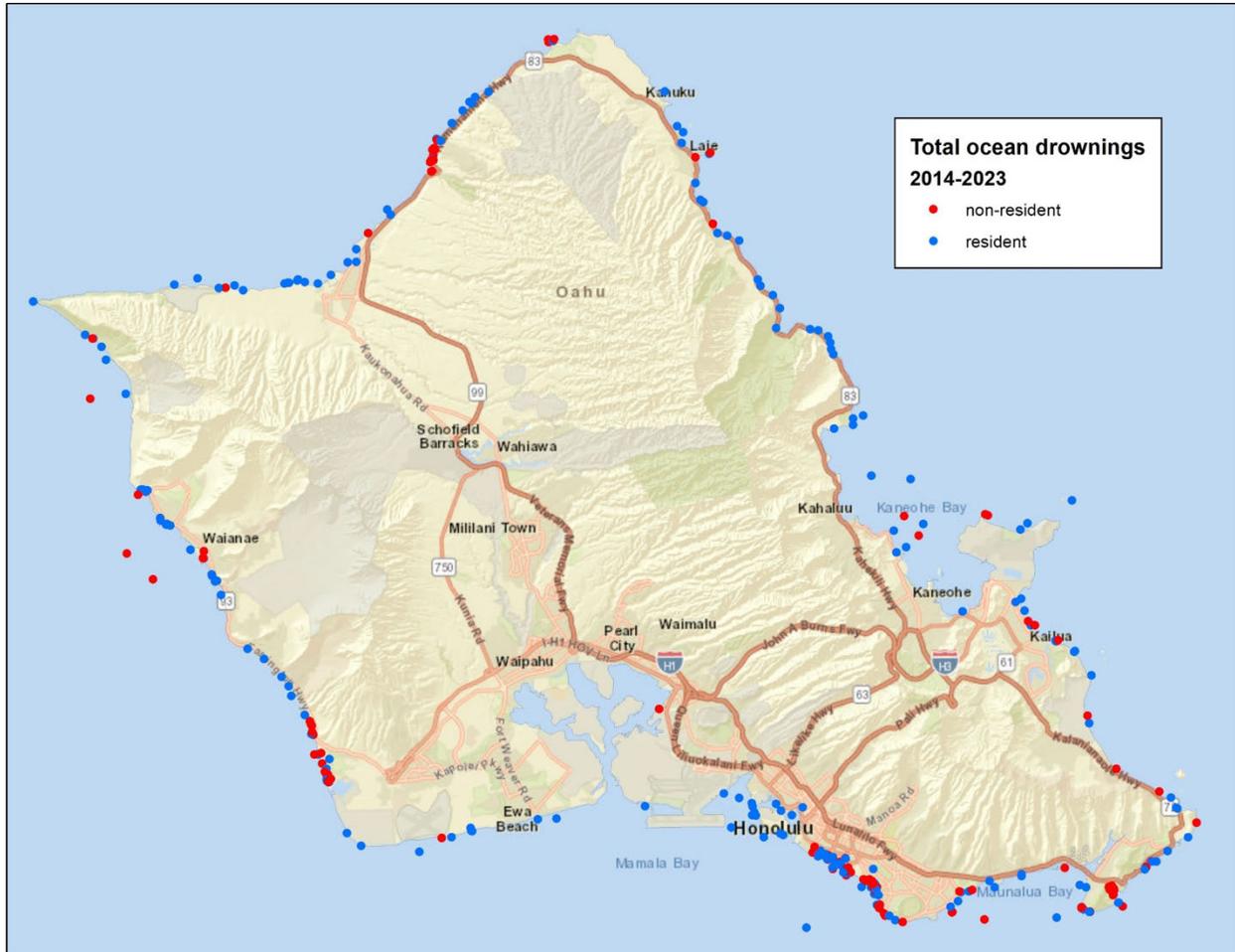
There are about **400 named beaches in Hawaii, but only 57 are guarded**, and even those beaches will have swimmers before and after lifeguards are on duty. We have a responsibility to provide PRTs for bystander rescuer protection on all of Hawaii’s beaches. Our surveys now being carried out by the **Hawaii Lifeguard Association** will determine all **critical new locations for PRTs** and then prioritize them for the RTF to provide PRT installation and monitoring.

The Hawaii Department of Health (DOH), compiles statistics on drownings and map their findings. Here are the locations at which drownings have occurred in the 10 year period from 2014 to 2023 (the most recent data compiled).

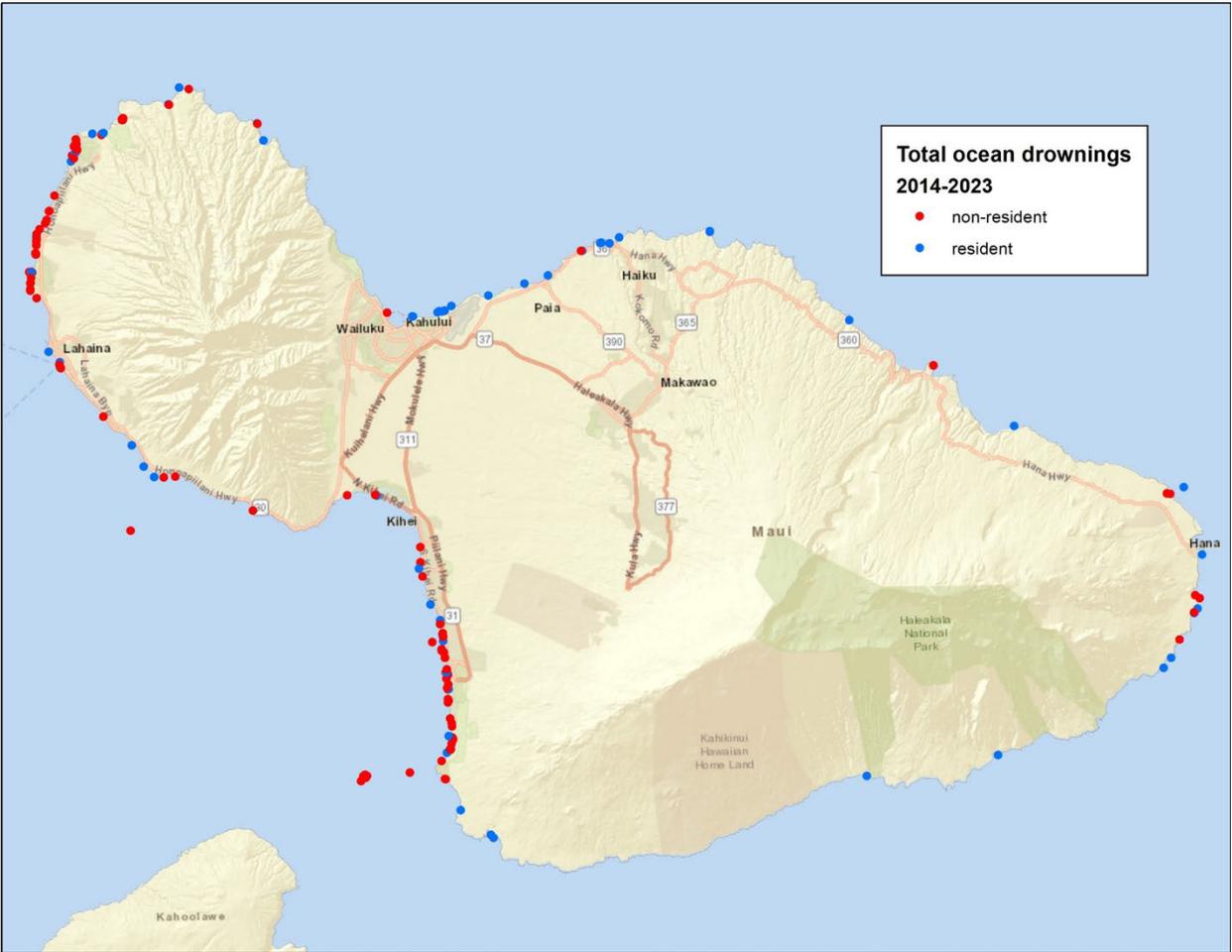
Notice how spread-out the drowning locations are. They are on guarded and unguarded beaches, even rocky coastline areas that fishermen frequent. They surround each island on all beaches, but mostly unguarded because our plethora of tour books show even “hidden” beaches to our unsuspecting visitors.

DOH Maps of drownings from 2014 to 2023:

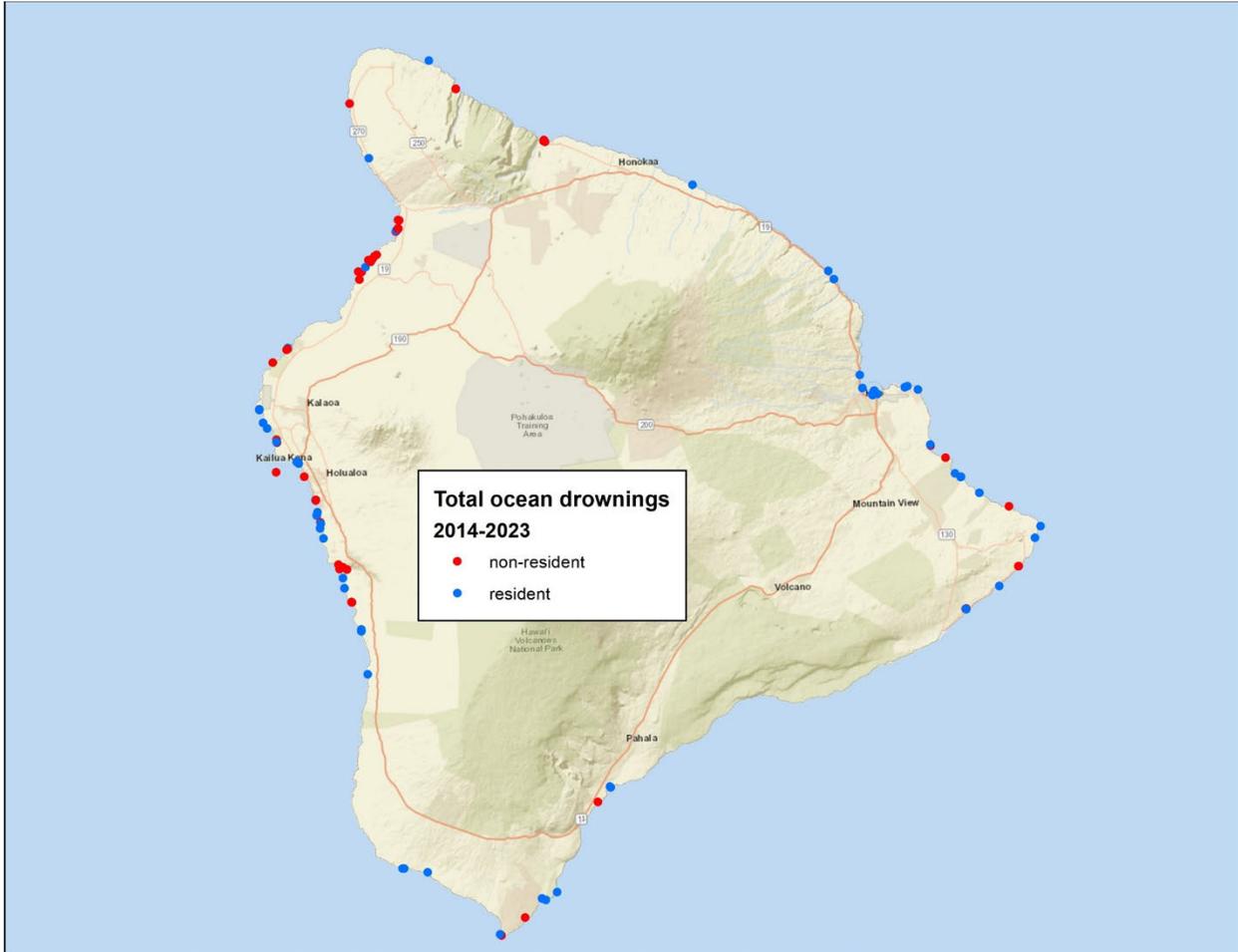
Oahu, 38.7 average drownings per year:



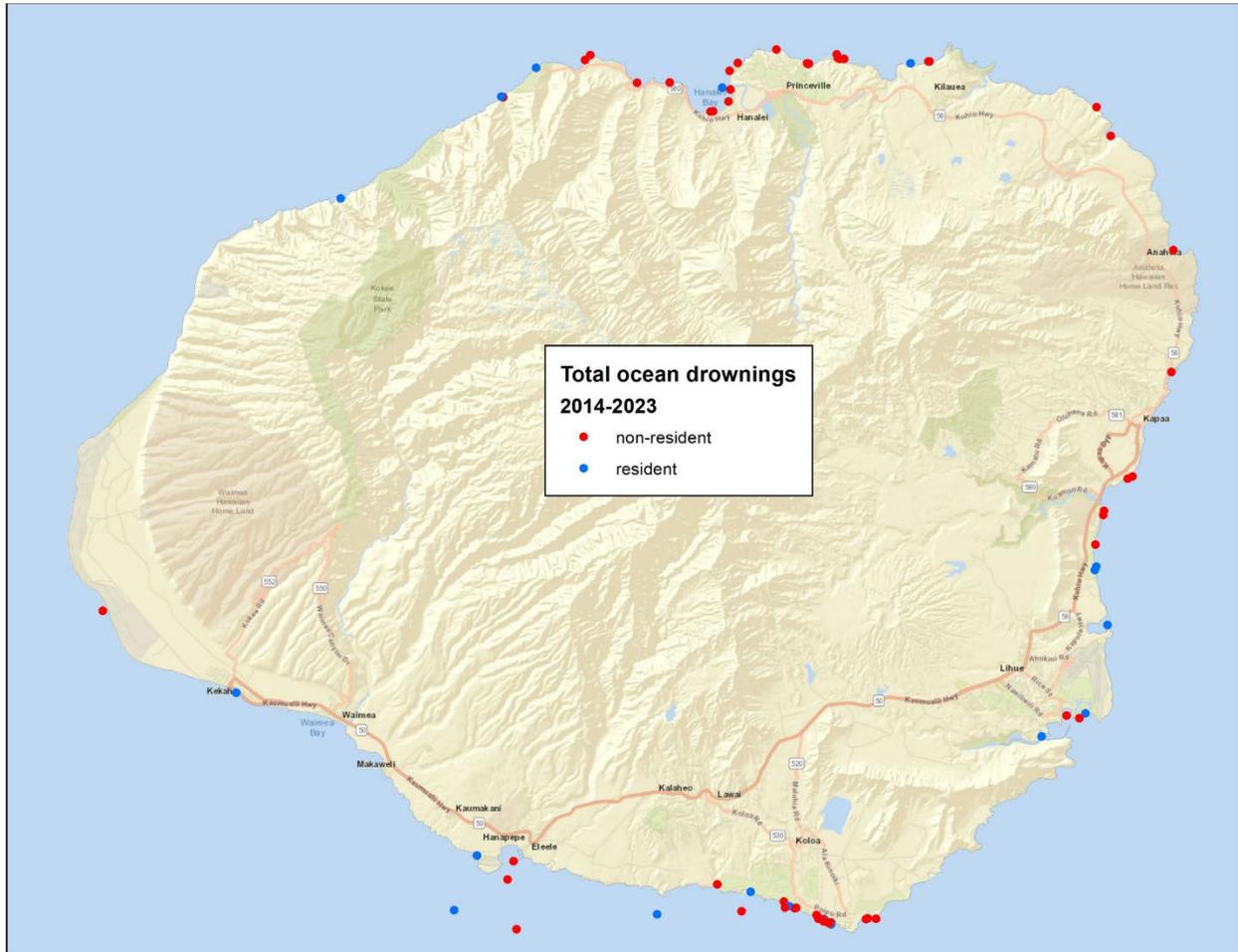
Maui, 22.1 average drownings per year:



Hawaii, 11.4 average drownings per year:



Kauai, 8.2 average drownings per year:



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 scope of work for this request focuses on **reducing preventable drownings on Hawaii's public beaches through the strategic expansion, maintenance, and oversight of Public Rescue Tubes (PRTs)**. Activities under this grant will prioritize increasing access to public rescue flotation at high-risk and unguarded locations statewide while strengthening program management and sustainability.

Scope of Work and Key Tasks

- **Confirm Priority Critical Locations**
Reaffirm and update the statewide beach survey conducted in partnership with the Hawaii Lifeguard Association to identify the most critical locations for new and replacement PRT installations on each island.
- **Allocate Equipment Strategically**
Using survey findings and risk data, determine the most effective distribution of new and replacement PRTs by island to maximize public safety impact.
- **Procure and Stage Materials**
Based on available funding, procure PRT materials and manage centralized warehousing and logistics on Kauai to support efficient statewide distribution.
- **Implement Best Practices for Deployment and Oversight**
Apply established best practices to oversee the distribution, installation, monitoring, and ongoing maintenance of PRTs across all islands, ensuring consistency, reliability, and accountability.
- **Establish Island-Specific Maintenance Strategies**
Conduct detailed consultations with stakeholders on Oahu, Maui, Kauai and Hawaii Island to determine the most appropriate maintenance model for each island, which may include contracted services, expanded community-based programs, or hybrid approaches. Maintenance resources will be allocated based on need, capacity, and cost-effectiveness.
- **Strengthen Organizational Support Functions**
Through the Board of Directors, identify and engage appropriate external support for fundraising development, oversight of communications, and enhancement of RTF's website and social media presence.

- **Advance Sustainable Funding Strategy**

Develop and implement a targeted development plan to increase private and philanthropic support, with the objective of reducing long-term dependence on State funding while ensuring continuity of the PRT program.

This scope of work ensures that grant funds are applied in a **coordinated, data-driven, and fiscally responsible manner**, resulting in expanded lifesaving coverage, improved program oversight, and a sustainable framework for long-term public safety impact.

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

Implementation Timeline

The proposed scope of work will be implemented over the grant period as follows:

- **Quarter 1 (Q1):**
Reconfirm a statewide needs assessment, finalize island-specific deployment plans, and initiate fundraising and development planning.
- **Quarter 2 (Q2):**
Procure Public Rescue Tube materials and begin staged distribution to each island. Engage external professional support for fundraising development, website enhancement, and social media management.
- **Quarter 3 (Q3):**
Coordinate and oversee installation of new and replacement Public Rescue Tubes statewide and establish island-specific monitoring and maintenance agreements.
- **Quarter 4 (Q4):**
Evaluate program outcomes, complete required reporting, and refine fundraising and sustainability strategies based on implementation results.

While specific installation schedules may vary by island and site conditions, RTF commits to **acquiring, distributing, installing, and establishing maintenance protocols for all new and existing Public Rescue Tubes within the 12-month grant period**. These implementation activities will occur concurrently with development efforts to advance a sustainable funding model and reduce long-term reliance on State support.

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

Quality Assurance and Evaluation Plan

The Rescue Tube Foundation (RTF) has more than **15 years of experience** working with ocean safety stakeholders across Hawaii and has established proven standards for the placement and maintenance of Public Rescue Tubes (PRTs). This grant will allow RTF to expand the program while maintaining consistent quality, accountability, and oversight.

Program oversight will be provided by the **Executive Director**, who works closely with island-based partners and the **Hawaii Lifeguard Association (HLA)**. Together, they will confirm priority locations, monitor installation progress, and ensure PRTs are placed and maintained according to established best practices. Ongoing monitoring will include regular communication with local partners and regular site visits as needed.

Program effectiveness will be evaluated through installation and maintenance tracking, as well as feedback from lifeguards and community partners including the **American Red Cross** regarding accessibility, visibility, and use of PRTs. Lessons learned will be used to refine placement strategies, maintenance practices, and program implementation across all islands.

Through this coordinated approach to monitoring and evaluation, RTF will ensure grant funds are used effectively, results are measurable, and program quality is continuously improved as coverage expands statewide.

- 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.**

The request in this application is primarily to **expand the existing Public Rescue Tube (PRT) program** statewide. Program implementation will be measured through the **timely procurement of materials and their scheduled distribution and installation**, with progress reported to the designated oversight agency.

As island-specific maintenance strategies are finalized, **outside maintenance contractors will be engaged where appropriate**. Contractor performance will be monitored through required regular reports documenting work completed. These reports will be consolidated and submitted to the oversight agency to ensure accountability and compliance.

The most meaningful measure of program effectiveness is **actual use of PRTs in rescue situations**. While this data is inherently difficult to capture—because many rescues are resolved without emergency response or hospital involvement—RTF will continue to document reported PRT usage whenever possible. Historically, limited records were maintained by program partners; however, RTF is committed to improving and formalizing its reporting processes going forward.

RTF has recently reached an informal agreement with **WatchTower**, a national emergency event data provider that documents water rescue incidents responded to by lifeguards. WatchTower’s iPad-based lifeguard reporting system now includes dedicated data fields prompting lifeguards to indicate whether a Public Rescue Tube (PRT) was used during a documented incident and to record basic details related to that use.

This system is currently in use on **Kauai and Oahu** (other islands to follow) and will provide RTF with an additional, structured data source to support evaluation of PRT usage and program effectiveness.

RTF will work with the Department of Health (DOH) and emergency medical services (EMS) where feasible to gather information when PRT use involves emergency response. Recognizing that many PRT rescues are never observed by EMS, RTF will also expand informal reporting channels, including public outreach encouraging individuals to report PRT use through a toll-free number. Public service announcements will be pursued to increase awareness of both PRT availability and reporting.

If the level of appropriation differs from the amount requested in this application, **measures of effectiveness will be adjusted accordingly and communicated to the expending agency**, consistent with grant requirements.

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:

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: The Rescue Tube Foundation

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 - Executive Director	84,000			
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	6,750			
3. Fringe Benefits (Health Ins. Declined)	0			
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	90,750			
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Insurance D&O, Liability, Umbrella	7,250			
2. Airfare, Inter-Island	4,000			
3. Lease/Rental of Delivery Van (as needed)	0			
4. Lease/Rental of Storage Space	2,400			
5. Training and support	5,000			
6. Office Supplies & Software	2,500			
7. Telecommunication (Internet & Cell)	2,850			
8. Utilities (in-kind from a home office)	0			
9. Literature/brochure printing	3,000			
10. New Rescue Tubes 500 @ \$75 each	37,500			
11. Replacement Rescue Tubes 200 @ \$75 each	15,000			
12. Mounting Straps 1200@ \$2.00	2,400			
13. Mounting hardware	7,500			
14. Shipping PRTs to HI & then to each island	16,500			
15. PRT Maint Contractor 4 at 40hrs/m@\$35	67,200			
16. Vehicle Insurance, Gas & maintenance	5,000			
17. Fundraising contract \$1,500/m	18,000			
18. Accounting support contract \$500/m	6,000			
19. Workers Comp and TDI	4,200			
20. Social Media support contract \$700/m	8,400			
21. Website Development contract \$800/m	9,600			
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	224,300			
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES				
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES				
E. CAPITAL				
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	315,050			
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	315,050	Branch Lotspeich	808-639-7458	
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested	0	Name (Please type or print)	Phone	
(c) Total County Funds Requested	0	<i>Branch Lotspeich</i>	January 22, 2026	
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	0	Signature of Authorized Official	Date	
TOTAL BUDGET	315,050	Branch Lotspeich, Executive director		
		Name and Title (Please type or print)		

b. Personnel salaries and wages:

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES
 Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: The Rescue Tube Foundation

POSITION TITLE	FULL TIME EQUIVALENT	ANNUAL SALARY A	% OF TIME ALLOCATED TO GRANT REQUEST B	TOTAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED (A x B)
Executive Director		\$84,000.00	100.00%	\$ 84,000.00
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
TOTAL:				84,000.00
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:				

c. Equipment and motor vehicles:

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: The Rescue Tube Foundation

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:	0	\$0.00	\$ -	0

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	NO. OF VEHICLES	COST PER VEHICLE	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:	0	0	\$ -	0

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

d. Capital project details:

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: The Rescue Tube Foundation

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:2023-2024	FY:2024-2025	FY:2025-2026	FY:2025-2026	FY:2026-2027	FY:2027-2028
PLANS						
LAND ACQUISITION						
DESIGN						
CONSTRUCTION						
EQUIPMENT						
TOTAL:	0	0	0	0	0	0
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:						

e. Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid:

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

Applicant: The Rescue Tube Foundation

Contracts Total: 200,000

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1	Fiscal Year 2026 Grants In Aid	7/1/2025 to 6/30/2026	DLNR	State of Hawaii	200,000
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
27					
28					
29					
30					

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

There are substantial savings in ordering PRT in volume quantity as early as possible due to the custom requirement to print our instructions on each tube. In addition, there are concerns about the uncertain future of possible tariffs. There are also savings in shipping with larger quantities so we would ask to front load the distribution of funds in the first two quarters to save money by securing the best possible pricing.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
\$90,000	\$90,000	\$67,525	\$67,520	\$315,050

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

RTF has identified and begun researching national and international organizations with a demonstrated interest in **drowning prevention, public safety, public**

health, and data-driven risk reduction. During and following the grant period, RTF will pursue support from the following categories of funders:

Governmental and Public Safety–Focused Agencies

- U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service – Matching Grant
- NOAA (coastal safety, hazard mitigation, public awareness initiatives)

National and International Foundations

- American Red Cross
- Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
- Bloomberg Philanthropies
- World Health Organization
- AARP Purpose Prize

Health, Safety, and Injury Prevention Funders (Additional Targets)

- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- CDC Foundation
- Skoll Foundation
- Kresge Foundation
- Gates Foundation (*select public health initiatives*)

Family and Regional Foundations

- Family/Private foundations with a focus on **child safety, outdoor recreation safety, coastal communities, and injury prevention**, including Hawaii-based and West Coast philanthropies.

Individual Giving and Public Engagement

In parallel with foundation outreach, RTF will expand **individual and grassroots fundraising** through targeted digital campaigns. Leveraging online platforms and support from **well-recognized individuals in surfing, ocean sports, entertainment, and business**, RTF anticipates that a coordinated crowdfunding strategy will generate additional unrestricted revenue and increase public awareness of drowning prevention statewide.

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

None

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

None

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

\$7,705.68

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 Rescue Tube Foundation (RTF) has nearly **15 years of direct experience** preventing avoidable drownings through the deployment of Public Rescue Tubes (PRTs) on Hawaii's public beaches. During this period, RTF has evolved from a volunteer-led initiative into a **Hawaii-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization** with statewide reach and demonstrated operational capacity.

RTF currently maintains **nearly 600 PRT installations across all six major Hawaiian Islands**, including approximately:

- 240 on Kauai
- 180 on Maui
- 80 on Hawaii Island
- 40 on Oahu

- 6 on Lanai
- 6 on Molokai

These installations represent **the most extensive bystander rescue flotation networks in the country**. RTF has **100's of reported uses** of PRTs in rescue situations, with 100's of additional uses likely unreported. Based on available information, it is estimated that **35 to 50 lives may have been saved** through the program to date.

RTF is led by a dedicated Executive Director who has built and sustained a **statewide network responsible for PRT installation, monitoring, and maintenance**. This network includes volunteers and partners from Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, military bases, private foundations, State agencies, and community members throughout Hawaii. RTF's activities have received approval and support from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DNLNR), county councils, and county parks departments.

In addition to program delivery, RTF has demonstrated leadership in **policy and legal advancement** related to water safety. In 2018, RTF successfully led a legislative effort to amend Hawaii's Good Samaritan Law to explicitly indemnify both the use of Public Rescue Tubes and their placement on private property. This legislation, signed into law during its first year of introduction, provides legal protections comparable to those afforded to automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and removed a significant barrier to program expansion statewide.

RTF's success is grounded in the sustained commitment of **hundreds of Hawaii residents and organizations** who support the mission and participate in program implementation year-round.

Relevant Experience During the Past Three Years

During the most recent three-year period, RTF has demonstrated continued capacity and effectiveness through the following projects:

- Partnered with the Lions Clubs of O'ahu, the Honolulu City Council, and the Mayor's Office to install the **first 30 Public Rescue Tubes on O'ahu**, establishing a foundation for future expansion.
- Worked with the Department of Health (**DOH**) to present a presentation to the **World Health Organization's (WHO)** World Conference on Drowning Prevention on PRT Deployment and Safety.
- Collaborated with **WatchTower** (national water safety data collection) to include the use of a PRT in their national Incident Reporting application used by Hawaii lifeguards.
- Partnered with the **Kauai Fire Department Ocean Safety Bureau** to develop a **GPS based digital app** for Hawaii's lifeguards to survey all Hawaiian beaches to determine the new recommended critical locations for PRT.

- Collaborated with multiple Rotary Clubs on Maui to **expand PRT coverage** at priority beaches.
- Strengthened its long-standing partnership with the Kauai Lifeguard Association to support **installation, monitoring, and maintenance** on Kauai.
- Worked with the Alex & Duke De Rego Foundation, Rotary Clubs, and Lions Clubs to **expand PRT installations on Hawaii Island**.

These projects demonstrate RTF's ability to coordinate across jurisdictions, manage community-based partnerships, and deliver life-saving infrastructure efficiently and responsibly.

Based on its **longstanding experience, statewide operational network, demonstrated outcomes, and proven ability to manage partnerships and public resources**, RTF is well qualified and appropriately positioned to carry out the services proposed in this application.

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.

To minimize overhead costs, the Rescue Tube Foundation does not maintain dedicated office facilities. Program administration is conducted from the **home office of the Executive Director at no cost to the organization**, allowing resources to be directed toward program delivery rather than administrative expenses.

RTF maintains a **secure storage locker in Līhu'e** for Public Rescue Tube inventory and materials. The storage facility provides this space to RTF at a **50% discounted rate**, further reducing operating costs while ensuring appropriate staging and control of program equipment.

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 Rescue Tube Foundation (RTF) operates with a **lean and highly efficient staffing model** appropriate to the scope and viability of this request. RTF currently employs

only one employee, its Executive Director, supported by a statewide network of volunteers, partner organizations, and contracted professional services as needed.

The Executive Director is highly qualified to lead and administer the proposed services as he has done for 15 years. He previously served as **Vice President of Operations for a multi-million-dollar consumer electronics company** based in Irvine, California, and earlier as **President of a national firm specializing in command-and-control systems**. In that role, he provided operational leadership for clients including the U.S. Secret Service, NASA, IBM, Ford Motor Company, and the U.S. Departments of Defense and Energy to name a few. This background provides extensive experience in program management, logistics, compliance, vendor oversight, and operational accountability.

As a **co-founder of the Rescue Tube Foundation**, our Executive Director possesses deep institutional knowledge of the organization’s mission, lifesaving protocols, and statewide implementation practices. He provides direct supervision of program activities, coordinates volunteer and partner efforts across islands, and ensures administrative, financial, and operational compliance.

RTF’s staffing model—combining experienced executive leadership with volunteer and contracted support—provides the **capacity, oversight, and flexibility** necessary to implement the proposed expansion efficiently while maintaining strong administrative control and program quality.

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 Rescue Tube Foundation has only one employee, our Executive Director, therefore we have no 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.

Our Executive Director has worked for an annual stipend of \$18,000. He has volunteered the rest of his time as needed and donates his home office for our use at no cost to the foundation.

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.

None

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.

None

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.

It will not.

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 Rescue Tube Foundation (RTF) recognizes that **Grants-in-Aid are not intended to serve as permanent operating support**, and that repeat GIA requests must demonstrate both public need and measurable progress toward sustainability. This application is structured to meet those expectations.

Why a Repeat GIA FOR RTF Is Appropriate at This Time

A repeat GIA request is appropriate at this stage because RTF is transitioning from a long-standing, volunteer-driven program into a **statewide public safety infrastructure system** that requires one-time scale investment and systems development. Prior GIA support has enabled initial expansion; however, **significant coverage gaps remain**, particularly at unguarded beaches, and the organizational systems needed to fully transition away from State support are not yet complete.

FY 2026 GIA funding is requested as a **time-limited, transitional investment** to:

- Complete expansion into priority unserved and high-risk beach locations.
- Standardize statewide monitoring, maintenance, and reporting systems; and
- Build the fundraising and development capacity necessary to secure sustained non-state funding.

The primary deliverables of this grant—**installed Public Rescue Tubes (PRTs)**—are durable public safety assets with useful lives extending well beyond the grant period and **do not create ongoing fiscal obligations for the State.**

Sustainability if GIA Funding Is Not Received After FY 2026

If GIA funding is received for FY 2026 but not thereafter, RTF will sustain the activities funded under this request through the following means:

- **Permanent Infrastructure:** PRTs installed during the grant period will remain in service and continue to provide lifesaving benefit with modest maintenance requirements.
- **Reduced Reliance on State Funds:** FY 2026 funding will support engagement of professional fundraising and grant development services to diversify revenue and shift long-term support to private, philanthropic, and community sources.
- **Community-Based Maintenance Model:** RTF will continue to rely on its established statewide network including the Hawaii Lifeguard Association, American Red Cross, Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, community organizations, and volunteers to support monitoring and maintenance.
- **Lean Operating Structure:** RTF's low-overhead staffing and facility model allows core operations to continue even in the absence of future State funding.
- **Improved Documentation and Data:** Enhanced tracking of installations, maintenance, and reported PRT usage will strengthen program credibility and competitiveness for non-state funding.

The Rescue Tube Foundation understands that Grants-in-Aid are transitional in nature and affirms that this much needed FY 2026 funding will be used to expand our public safety infrastructure and build organizational capacity, with the express intent of **reducing reliance on State funding in subsequent fiscal years.**

Public Rescue Tubes Save Lives!