

# WAIHAPAKAI

Application for State GIA 2026

**Capital Grant**

January 23, 2026

## 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

Dane Kanaloa Bishop, CEO/President

PRINT NAME AND TITLE

01/21/2026

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:**           **WAIHAPAKAI**

**Issue Date:**           **01/21/2026**

**Status:**               **Compliant**

Hawaii Tax#:

New Hawaii Tax#:

FEIN/SSN#:



UI#:                    XXXXXXX1905

DCCA FILE#:           320243

Status of Compliance for this Vendor on issue date:

<b>Form</b>	<b>Department(s)</b>	<b>Status</b>
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:**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Description</b>
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**

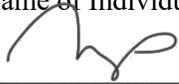
The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies the following:

- 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.

Waihapakai  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) 01/21/2026  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Dane Kanaloa Bishop  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Typed Name) CEO/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)**

Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate

- Attached immediately after Cover Page

#### **2. Declaration Statement**

- Attached immediately after Cover Page

#### **3. Public Purpose Statement**

The requested grant-in-aid funds will be used for a public purpose as defined under Section 42F-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Specifically, this project will benefit the general public by: (1) improving safe access to a community agricultural and educational site in Punalu'u, O'ahu; (2) protecting and expanding lo'i kalo (taro patches) to increase local food production and address food insecurity in Hawai'i; (3) providing hands-on educational opportunities for students, volunteers, and aspiring farmers in traditional Hawaiian agriculture and watershed stewardship; and (4) preserving and perpetuating Native Hawaiian cultural practices tied to kalo cultivation. The project directly advances the health, safety, welfare, and cultural well-being of the people of Hawai'i.

### **II. Background and Summary**

#### **1. A brief description of the applicant's background**

Waihapakai is a non-profit organization, operating as a federally recognized 501(c)(3) organization for almost four years. We are dedicated to the revitalization of traditional Hawaiian agricultural practices, specifically the cultivation of kalo (taro) in lo'i (irrigated terraces). For the past decade, we have served as a vital educational and cultural resource for the Ko'olauloa community, hosting thousands of students and volunteers. Our mission is to educate and strengthen community knowledge on our relationship to Hawai'i's fresh and salt waters. Our work is rooted in the cultural and ecological framing of Waihapakai, meaning the mixing of fresh and salt water, which serves as our north star in the education of Hawai'i's abundance and interconnection. Education on healthy waters is a vital connection to growing and maintaining taro patches in Hawai'i.

#### **2. The goals and objectives related to the request**

The overarching goal of this project is to build organizational capacity and strengthen community access to 'āina-based education in Punalu'u, O'ahu, by purchasing essential equipment, improving safe road access, and installing protective fencing around a culturally significant lo'i system. These investments directly support food sovereignty,

intergenerational learning, and the long-term health of a community-managed agricultural site.

**The project's objectives are:**

- **Access:** Ensure safe, reliable access for school groups, kūpuna, and volunteers by repairing and stabilizing a critical 100 linear feet section of the farm access road, eliminating current rain-related closures. **Capacity Building:** Acquire a small excavator to significantly enhance our ability to clear invasive species, restore and expand lo'i kalo, and maintain critical farm infrastructure, reducing reliance on costly and time-consuming manual labor.
- **Protection:** Protect lo'i kalo and native plantings from ongoing feral pig intrusion by installing approximately 1,280 linear feet of heavy-duty hog fencing, focusing on the most vulnerable lo'i areas.
- **Stewardship:** Reduce the burden on community stewards who currently spend significant time repairing pig damage and navigating unsafe road conditions.
- **Production:** Increase taro production capacity by a minimum of 25% within one year of fence installation by eliminating crop loss due to feral pig damage.
- **Education:** Facilitate a minimum of 6 school group visits, 5 community volunteer workdays and 6 Farm Training Program visits annually by ensuring reliable road access and training youth and volunteers in fence maintenance and kalo farming as part of stewardship education.

**3. The public purpose and need to be served**

This project addresses two urgent barriers that limit our ability to host groups safely and maintain food production: **Road Access Degradation and Feral Pig Damage to Lo'i.**

***Punalu'u is home to one of the few remaining lo'i complexes on O'ahu's windward coast,*** stewarded through partnerships with local schools, kūpuna, and community volunteers. The site serves as a living classroom where students learn about kalo cultivation, watershed health, and the cultural practices that sustain our food systems.

**Road Access Degradation:** Heavy rains and chronic erosion have made the access road uneven and hazardous. School buses and volunteer vehicles often cannot reach the site, forcing long walks through muddy, rutted terrain. This restricts participation for keiki, kūpuna, and individuals with mobility limitations, and has already caused multiple cancellations of school visits.

**Feral Pig Damage to Lo'i:** Feral pigs continue to breach the perimeter and uproot kalo, disturb irrigation channels, and damage native plantings. Each incident sets back months of restoration work and threatens the food security and cultural learning tied to these lo'i. Without intervention, both issues will continue to undermine community access, crop resilience, and the educational mission of the site.

**Capital Equipment for Capacity Building:** A significant barrier to expanding our food production is the physically demanding and time-consuming nature of clearing invasive species (such as hau and california grass) and restoring overgrown areas to create new lo'i kalo. Currently, this work is done entirely by hand with community volunteers, which

limits the pace and scale of our restoration efforts. The purchase of a small excavator is a critical investment in our long-term capacity. This equipment will enable us to efficiently clear land, dig and shape new taro patches, and maintain irrigation systems, dramatically accelerating our ability to bring more ‘āina into production. Creating more taro patches is not just about increasing yield; it is a vital act of cultural revitalization and a direct response to Hawai‘i’s food insecurity. Each new lo‘i is a living classroom, a source of nutritious food for the community, and a step toward restoring the Punalu‘u ahupua‘a to its former abundance.

The project directly supports Hawaiian food sovereignty by protecting and enabling the consistent cultivation of kalo, a foundational staple crop, thereby contributing to Hawai‘i’s long-term sustainability and food security [1]. By securing the farm and ensuring access, the project safeguards a vital cultural and educational resource for the community.

#### **4. Describe the target population to be served**

The primary target populations are:

- K-12 School Groups: Students from Ko‘olauloa and across O‘ahu who participate in hands-on learning about traditional Hawaiian agriculture, ecology, and cultural practices.
- Community Volunteers: Local residents and organizations who provide essential labor for lo‘i restoration and maintenance.
- Punalu‘u/Ko‘olauloa Community: The broader community benefits from increased local food production and the preservation of a significant cultural site.
- Pilot a Farm Training Program for interested farmers, novice or intermediate level.

#### **5. Describe the geographic coverage**

The project is located in Punalu‘u, within the Ko‘olauloa district on the windward side of O‘ahu, Hawai‘i. This area is known for its traditional agricultural history and high rainfall, which necessitates the proposed road stabilization.

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

#### **1. Describe the scope of work, tasks, and responsibilities**

The project will be executed over a twelve-month period and is divided into three main components: Road Repair, Fencing Installation, and Project Management. The infrastructure improvements will immediately expand access for over 300 students annually from Ko‘olau schools, as well as dozens of community volunteers who rely on safe entry to participate in restoration work. Protecting the lo‘i ensures that kalo cultivation — a cornerstone of Hawaiian food systems and identity — can continue without repeated setbacks from pig damage. These improvements will also reduce the physical burden on stewards, allowing more time for education, planting, and community engagement rather than constant repair work. The inclusion of a dedicated Project Coordinator ensures professional oversight and successful coordination of all project components.

Component	Scope of Work	Key Tasks
Farm Road Repair	Stabilize 100 linear feet of the most critical section of the road with a compacted aggregate base course, focusing on drainage and erosion control.	1. Procure and deliver crushed aggregate (\$4,000) and additional road materials (\$900). 2. Hire a machine operator for 2 days (\$800). 3. Rent heavy equipment (skid steer, vibratory roller, dump truck) and purchase fuel (\$200) for grading, filling erosion ruts, and improving drainage. 4. Use volunteer labor to grade the existing road. 5. Lay and compact the new aggregate base course.
Hog Fencing Installation	Install approximately 1,280 linear feet of heavy-duty hog fencing around the lo'i kalo area, protecting the most vulnerable lo'i and native plant restoration areas.	1. Procure hog wire, T-posts, and hardware. 2. Contract fencing labor for specialized installation (\$1,000). 3. Use volunteer labor to set T-posts at 8-foot intervals. 4. Securely attach hog wire and barbed wire (top/bottom) to posts. 5. Train youth and volunteers in fence maintenance as part of stewardship education.
Equipment Operation & Maintenance	Utilize the new small excavator for land clearing, lo'i expansion, and maintenance activities.	1. Clear invasive vegetation from overgrown areas designated for new lo'i. 2. Restore and expand existing lo'i kalo systems. 3. Perform ongoing maintenance of farm roads and irrigation channels. 4. Train staff and key volunteers on safe operation and basic maintenance of the excavator.
Project Management	Professional oversight and coordination of all project activities, including procurement, volunteer management, and reporting.	1. Manage all vendor contracts and equipment rentals. 2. Coordinate volunteer workdays for road and fence installation. 3. Track project progress and prepare final grant report.

**Responsibilities:** The Project Coordinator will be responsible for all procurement, equipment rental, volunteer coordination, and project oversight. All physical labor for road repair and fence installation will be provided by Waihapakai staff and community volunteers.

**2. Provide a projected annual timeline for accomplishing the results or outcomes**

Phase	Duration	Projected Timeline	Key Milestones
Phase 1: Procurement	1 Month	Month 1	Grant award, final material quotes, and purchase orders for aggregate and fencing supplies.
Phase 2: Road Repair	1 Month	Month 2	Equipment rental, road grading, aggregate laying, and compaction completed. Road certified for school bus access.
Phase 3: Fencing Installation	2 Months	Months 3-4	T-posts set, hog wire and barbed wire installed. Lo'i kalo area fully secured.
Phase 4: Project Management & Reporting	8 Months	Months 5-12	Project Coordinator oversees long-term volunteer coordination, monitors infrastructure, and prepares final grant report.

**3. Describe its quality assurance and evaluation plans for the request**

**Quality Assurance:**

- Road Repair: The road will be repaired using standard civil engineering practices for unpaved roads, utilizing a compacted aggregate base course (3/4" minus) to ensure proper drainage and load-bearing capacity. Compaction will be verified by the project coordinator.
- Fencing: Fencing will be installed to a minimum height of 4 feet, with T-posts set every 8 feet and a strand of barbed wire at the base and top to prevent feral pig intrusion. Installation will be inspected by a local fencing expert (volunteer).

**Evaluation Plan:** The project coordinator will track key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure success against the stated objectives.

**4. List the measure(s) of effectiveness**

Objective	Measure of Effectiveness (KPI)	Target
Access	Number of days the road is accessible during the rainy season.	100% accessibility

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Measure of Effectiveness (KPI)</b>	<b>Target</b>
Protection	Reduction in lo'i kalo damage caused by feral pigs.	0% damage
Production	Increase in taro yield (measured in pounds) from the protected lo'i area.	25% increase
Education	Number of school groups and volunteer workdays hosted.	10 school groups, 5 volunteer workdays

#### **IV. Financial**

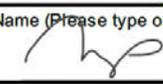
##### **Budget**

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. *\*Please see attached*
  - b. Personnel salaries and wages. *\*Please see attached*
  - c. Equipment and motor vehicles. *\*Please see attached*
  - d. Capital project details. *\*Please see attached*
  - e. Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid. *\*Please see attached*

### BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Waihapakai

BUDGET CATEGORIES	Total State Funds Requested (a)	Total Federal Funds Requested (b)	Total County Funds Requested (c)	Total Private/Other Funds Requested (d)
<b>A. PERSONNEL COST</b>				
1. Salaries	20,000	0	0	0
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	0	0	0	0
3. Fringe Benefits	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL COST</b>	<b>20,000</b>			
<b>B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES</b>				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island	0	0	0	0
2. Insurance	0	0	0	0
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment	0	0	0	0
4. Lease/Rental of Space	0	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.				
<b>TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>E. CAPITAL</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDING</b>		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	100,000	Dane Kanaloa Bishop <span style="float: right;">808-636-9987</span>		
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested	0	Name (Please type or print) <span style="float: right;">Phone</span>		
(c) Total County Funds Requested	0			
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	0	1/21/26 <span style="float: right;">Date</span>		
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>100,000</b>	CEO/President _____		
		Name and Title (Please type or print)		



**BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES**

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Waihapakai

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
Kubota Small Excavator Compact Ex. U35-4	1.00	\$65,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	65000
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	1		\$ 65,000.00	65,000
<b>JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:</b>				

DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	NO. OF VEHICLES	COST PER VEHICLE	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
Not applicable			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
<b>TOTAL:</b>				
<b>JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:</b>				

### BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Waihapakai

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			15000	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT						
<b>TOTAL:</b>			15,000			
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:						

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

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
\$8,750.00	\$73,750.00	\$8,750.00	\$8,750.00	\$100,000.00

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

We currently do not have any other sources of funding that we plan to seek for FY2027.

- 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.

Waihapakai does not receive any federal or state tax credits.

- 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.

Federal				
	FY2023-2024	FY2024-FY2025	FY2025-2026	FY2026-2027
Department of Interior: Office of Native Hawaiian Relations	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
State				
Hawai'i Department of Agriculture	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

- Waihapakai's balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2025: \$10,362.67

**V. Experience and Capability**

**1. Necessary Skills and Experience**

Waihapakai possesses unique and essential experience in the stewardship of lo'i kalo and the education of the community on the principles of Hawaiian food sovereignty. Our mission is to integrate hands-on food education with freshwater and saltwater

ecology, teaching how *wai* (water), *āina* (land), and *kalo* (taro) are inseparable foundations of cultural healing and resilience. We emphasize that education on healthy waters is a vital connection to growing and maintaining taro patches in Hawai'i.

Waihapakai is confident in its ability to educate on kalo cultivation because of the ongoing mentorship and guidance we receive from experienced kalo farmers who have cultivated this native practice for over 20 years in Hawai'i. These kalo farmers and water advocates are long-time friends and family of Waihapakai and continue to provide invaluable mentorship in farming kalo. Because of this foundation, our programs center on kalo as an ancestor and source of healing, connecting learners to ancestral knowledge, language, and protocols. We teach practical skills such as lo'i construction, water flow management, and pest prevention, alongside ecological literacy, empowering students and volunteers to manage resources across the ahupua'a. This dual curriculum demonstrates our capability not only to execute the physical infrastructure projects (road repair, fencing, and equipment acquisition) but also to maximize the cultural and educational impact of these improvements for the community.

In 2025, Waihapakai hosted and provided culture-based, place-based education to 1,212 prek-12 students, community members and volunteers through field trips, workshops, and community workdays in Punalu'u. We have cultivated strong partnerships with public schools along the Ko'olauloa and Ko'olaupoko coasts, as well as a four-year partnership with a Hawaiian-focused public charter school.

## **2. Facilities**

The farm site in Punalu'u is the primary facility for this project. It includes secure storage for materials and equipment, and the lo'i kalo area is the direct beneficiary of the proposed fencing. The existing facilities are adequate to support the project's execution and the ongoing educational programs.

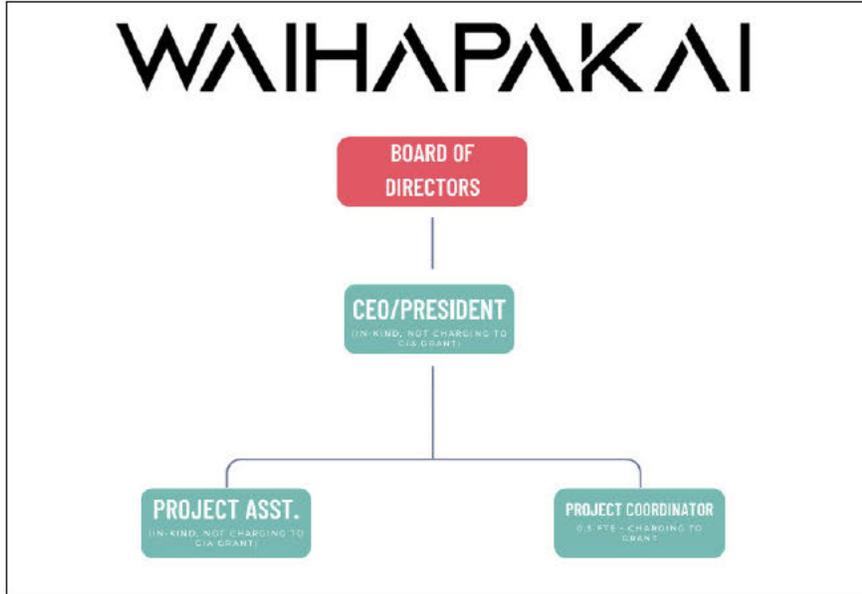
## **VI. Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing**

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

The grant request includes essential funding for a Project Coordinator to ensure the successful and timely execution of the project. The Project Coordinator will oversee all procurement, scheduling, and quality assurance. All physical labor for road repair and fence installation will be provided by Waihapakai staff and community volunteers.

- **Project Coordinator (Paid Part-Time Personnel):** Will oversee all procurement, scheduling, and quality assurance over the 12-month period, and manage the Volunteer Coordinator.
- **Volunteer Coordinator (Existing Staff/Volunteer):** Will manage the recruitment, scheduling, and safety training for all community volunteers involved in the road repair and fencing installation.

**2. Organization Chart**



**3. Compensation**

The Project Coordinator position is budgeted at \$20,000.00 for the twelve-month project duration as a part-time (0.5 FTE) role. This is the only personnel cost requested in this grant.

The three highest-paid officers, directors, or employees:

- CEO/President: \$75,000.00 - \$90,000.00
- Project Assistant: \$35,000.00 - \$40,000.00
- *At the time of this request, Waihapakai does not have a third employee to list.*

**VII. Other**

**1. Litigation**

Waihapakai is not currently a party to any pending litigation, nor does it have any outstanding judgements.

**2. Licensure or Accreditation**

Waihapakai does not hold any licensure or accreditation at the time of this application.

**3. Private Educational Institutions**

Grant funds from this request will not be used to support or benefit a private educational institution.

#### 4. Future Sustainability Plan

The proposed capital improvements are designed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Punalu'u lo'i kalo farm and its educational mission beyond the grant period (Fiscal Year 2027).

- **Road Repair:** The new aggregate base course on the critical 100-foot section will significantly reduce the frequency and cost of road maintenance, ensuring reliable access for years to come.
- **Hog Fencing:** The new 1,280 linear feet of heavy-duty fencing is a permanent solution that will secure the most critical lo'i areas, eliminating crop loss due to feral pigs, leading to a more consistent and higher yield of kalo. This increased production will enhance the farm's self-sufficiency and revenue from taro sales, which is reinvested into the educational programs.
- **Educational Programs:** By guaranteeing access for school groups, the project secures the farm's role as a vital educational center. The continued engagement of students and volunteers ensures a steady stream of community support and labor for the farm's ongoing operations.

The capital investments from this grant—specifically the road repair, fencing, and small excavator—are foundational to the long-term sustainability and expansion of Waihapakai's mission. The excavator, in particular, is a transformative asset that will significantly reduce the time and physical labor required to clear invasive species and restore overgrown land into productive lo'i kalo. This enhanced capacity will not only allow us to maintain our current educational programs but also to scale our impact on local food production.

As part of our long-term vision, this project will serve as the foundation for a **pilot farmer training program**. With the ability to create and prepare new taro patches efficiently, we will recruit and mentor a cohort of interested community members and aspiring farmers in all aspects of kalo cultivation, from water management and planting to harvesting and processing. This hands-on program will be designed to transfer traditional knowledge and build practical skills, empowering a new generation of farmers to contribute to Hawai'i's food system. By cultivating more growers and increasing the acreage of productive lo'i, this initiative directly addresses the critical issue of food insecurity in Hawai'i, with the goal of creating a replicable model for community-based agricultural education and food sovereignty.

#### References

- [1] The (Poi) Power of Hawaiian Food Sovereignty. Sierra Club.  
<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2017-2-march-april/feature/poi-power-hawaiian-food-sovereignty>