

House District \_\_\_\_\_  
Senate District \_\_\_\_\_

THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
APPLICATION FOR GRANTS  
CHAPTER 42F, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

Log No:

For Legislature's Use Only

Type of Grant Request:

GRANT REQUEST – OPERATING

GRANT REQUEST – CAPITAL

"Grant" means an award of state funds by the legislature, by an appropriation to a specified recipient, to support the activities of the recipient and permit the community to benefit from those activities.

"Recipient" means any organization or person receiving a grant.

STATE DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY RELATED TO THIS REQUEST (LEAVE BLANK IF UNKNOWN):

STATE PROGRAM I.D. NO. (LEAVE BLANK IF UNKNOWN): \_\_\_\_\_

1. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Legal Name of Requesting Organization or Individual:  
Best Buddies Hawaii, LLC

Db/a:

Street Address: 95 Mahalani Street, #28-1A  
Wailuku, HI 96793

Mailing Address:

2. CONTACT PERSON FOR MATTERS INVOLVING THIS APPLICATION:

Name MICHAEL MCCORMICK

Title State Director

Phone # (808) 242-6962

Fax # (808) 875-1638

E-mail michaelmccormick@bestbuddies.org

3. TYPE OF BUSINESS ENTITY:

- NON PROFIT CORPORATION INCORPORATED IN HAWAII  
 FOR PROFIT CORPORATION INCORPORATED IN HAWAII  
 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY  
 OTHER  
 SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP/INDIVIDUAL

6. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S REQUEST:

THE BEST BUDDIES HAWAII INTERMEDIATE AND HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT WILL CREATE 18 INCLUSIVE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES INVOLVING 600 STUDENT PARTICIPANTS WITH AND WITHOUT INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ON MAUI AND OAHU. FRIENDSHIPS FORMED THROUGH OUR PROGRAMS COMBAT ISOLATION AND BULLYING, AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERSHIP AND SOCIAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT WHICH BENEFIT YOUTH AS THEY TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD.

4. FEDERAL TAX ID \_\_\_\_\_

5. STATE TAX ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

7. AMOUNT OF STATE FUNDS REQUESTED:

FISCAL YEAR 2016: \$ 125,000

8. STATUS OF SERVICE DESCRIBED IN THIS REQUEST:

- NEW SERVICE (PRESENTLY DOES NOT EXIST)  
 EXISTING SERVICE (PRESENTLY IN OPERATION)

SPECIFY THE AMOUNT BY SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE  
AT THE TIME OF THIS REQUEST:

STATE \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
FEDERAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY \$62,500 (HONOLULU CITY AND COUNTY)  
AND \$79,625 (MAUI COUNTY)  
PRIVATE/OTHER \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE NAME & TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

MICHAEL MCCORMICK, STATE DIRECTOR  
NAME & TITLE

01/20/2015  
DATE SIGNED



## Application for Grants

*If any item is not applicable to the request, the applicant should enter "not applicable".*

### I. 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 mission of Best Buddies, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1989, is to establish a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Established in 2008, Best Buddies Hawaii, LLC is a state affiliate of Best Buddies International based at the J.W. Cameron Center in Wailuku in Maui County. A new Honolulu office based at the Aloha United Way building in Honolulu County was opened recently, as well.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;

The Best Buddies Hawaii Intermediate and High School Project will create inclusive school communities on Oahu and on Maui, thereby affording students with IDD the opportunity to develop social skills, have friends, and become leaders. Funds from this request would support 18 school-based Best Buddies chapters – 10 in Honolulu County on Oahu and 8 on Maui. We anticipate 640 student participants in this project. These friendships promote social inclusion by combating isolation experienced by youth with IDD and provide opportunities for leadership and social skills development.

3. The public purpose and need to be served;

In the United States, about 15% of children with disabilities ages 6-21 spend more than half of each school day separated from their non-disabled peers. In Hawaii, nearly 32% - more than twice the national average - of students with IDD typically spend more than half of their time in school separated from peers ([www.ideadata.org](http://www.ideadata.org)). This persistent physical divide further diminishes the likelihood of spontaneous social relationships between adolescents with and without IDD.



Despite efforts to improve outcomes for the 10% of Hawaii students in special education, social inclusion receives comparatively little attention by resource-limited school districts. The urgency is clear; a staggering 83% of adolescents with IDD between ages 12-21 have experienced bullying, which puts them at risk for crushing loneliness and depression. (Reiter and Lapidot-Leftler, 2007) Studies show that social isolation is as bad for our health as addiction to cigarettes or alcohol, and does more damage than obesity; the chances of living to a healthy old age increase by 50% with a supporting social network. (Holt-Lunstad, Smith & Layton, 2010)

Lack of social skills will affect these students as they enter adulthood; researchers have found that social skills are essential for holding a job. (Holmes, 2003) Because they lack opportunities to learn about appropriate social interaction, it is often difficult for adults with IDD to mingle and network with their colleagues without IDD. This makes holding a job especially challenging for this population. "While these workers are generally able to handle well the tasks required of them at work, the social interaction which others manage with ease often presents unexpected hurdles." (Holmes & Fillar, 2000) Best Buddies provides socialization opportunities so that Hawaiian youth with IDD can become more employable, more independent, and more included in their communities.

4. Describe the target population to be served; and

This project will directly serve 600 youth ages 10-22 with and without IDD attending 18 intermediate and high schools on Maui and Oahu. 76% of these students identify as Asian or other Pacific Islander. The remaining participants are 16% White, 4% Hispanic, 3% Black (not Hispanic), and 1% American Indian or Alaskan Native. Roughly 50% of Best Buddies participants with IDD in Hawaii receive free or reduced-price lunches.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

Our project includes 10 Best Buddies chapters serving the communities of Aiea, Ewa Villages, Halawa, Honolulu, Kailua, Kaimuki, Kaneohe, Kapolei, Ko Olina, Makakilo, Mililani, Nanakuli, Pearl City, Wahiawa, Waimalu, and Waipio on Oahu. On Maui, our project includes eight chapters serving the communities of Haiku, Hali'maile, Honokohau, Honokowai, Kaanapali, Kahakuloa, Kahana, Kahului, Kihei, Kuau, Kula, Lahaina, Launiupoko, Ma'alaea, Makawao, Makena, Napili, Olinda, Paia, Pa'uwela, Pukalani, Pu'unene, Spreckelsville, Ulupalakua, Waiehu, Waihe, Waikapu, and Wailuku.

## II. Service Summary and Outcomes

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

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

This funding, if awarded, would help support Best Buddies chapters at 18 intermediate schools and high schools throughout Maui and Oahu. This inclusion project will serve 600 youth and young adults with and without IDD through 18 school-based chapters built around one-to-one peer mentoring friendships. Best Buddies will recruit and train 72 student leaders with and without IDD representing 18 Hawaii middle and high schools at the local and/or international level. This grant will provide opportunities for 220 youth and young adults with IDD, ages 10 – 22, to develop critical social skills through regular interaction with their peers without IDD. Through a minimum of 74 inclusive group activities, this project will demonstrate successful inclusion to the greater community on each island.

On both Maui and Oahu, Best Buddies program managers (PMs) will work directly with student leaders, faculty advisors, and administrators at the schools as well as other local agencies providing services to people with IDD. This will require the PMs to travel throughout the area to recruit and manage volunteers at these schools, meet with chapter leadership, and attend chapter activities.

PMs will select dedicated professionals to serve as faculty advisors and special education advisors at the 18 schools we work with in Hawaii. They will also recruit, interview, and select students for the chapter president and buddy director positions for each chapter. They will also determine which student leaders will attend the annual Best Buddies International Leadership Conference at Indiana University. The PMs provide training, feedback, support, and motivation to student volunteers on an ongoing basis. They oversee all day-to-day operations of chapters in each region.

In addition, the PMs will compile information gained through consistent communication with chapter leaders and monthly site visits to write mid and end year reports, maintain organized chapter paperwork files, and submit all required documentation to Best Buddies.

Outcomes for our participants with IDD include: 1) increased self-esteem, 2) increased confidence in social situations, 3) acquisition and improvement of social skills, 4) decreased feelings of loneliness, and 5) access to meaningful leadership opportunities.

Outcomes for our participants without IDD include: 1) changed attitudes about their peers with IDD, 2) reduced fears of interacting with their peers with IDD, 3)



increased understanding of the needs and talents of people with IDD, and 4) access to meaningful leadership opportunities.

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

The Best Buddies Hawaii Intermediate and High School Project will begin on July 1, 2015 and will be completed on June 30, 2016 according to the following timeline:

July - August 2015 – Best Buddies representatives from Hawaii attend the Best Buddies International Leadership Conference in Indiana, where they receive extensive training and preparation. Best Buddies staff meets with student leaders to assist in planning for the fall semester including volunteer recruitment, officer selection, activity planning, and establishing one-to-one matches.

September 2015 – With support from Best Buddies staff, Hawaii chapter presidents recruit student volunteers through teacher recommendations, school announcements, etc. Chapters hold organizational meetings, create one-to-one matches and hold match parties; 220 buddy pairs formed by matching students with IDD with typical peers.

October 2015 – Best Buddies conducts Local Leadership Training Days on Maui and Oahu. Chapters hold parent/family events to provide information about Best Buddies, and host their first group activities. Buddy pairs submit friendship update #1.

November 2015 – Best Buddies conducts site visits and continues to monitor chapter progress, providing training as necessary. Buddy pairs submit friendship update #2. Chapters hold group activities.

December 2015– Best Buddies staff meets with student leaders to evaluate each chapter's success and set goals for the spring. Student leaders submit mid-year reports; staff reviews and compiles data. Buddy pairs submit friendship update #3.

January 2016 – Chapters host group activities to kick off the new semester. Student leaders prepare spring calendars, including meetings and activities and distribute to chapter membership. Buddy pairs submit friendship update #4. Best Buddies staff conducts site visits.

February 2016 – Best Buddies staff works with student leaders to identify, interview and select incoming chapter presidents for each chapter, and register those students for the 2015 Best Buddies International Leadership Conference. Buddy pairs submit friendship update #5.

March 2016 - March is Best Buddies Month. Best Buddies hosts annual events for Maui and Oahu participants, their families, and community members. March 4, 2016 is *Spread the Word to End the Word Day*; chapters hold events that encourage respectful language and create awareness for the movement to cease derogatory use of the word “retard” or “retarded.” Buddy pairs submit friendship update #6.

April 2016 – Best Buddies staff conducts annual survey of all participants in Hawaii. Chapters complete National Youth Service Day projects. Buddy pairs submit friendship update #7. Best Buddies staff conduct site visits.

May – June 2016 – Best Buddies Hawaii, LLC chapters hold end of year events and activities, including “step-up” events to facilitate transition from middle school to high school programs where applicable. Buddy pairs submit friendship update #8, and make plans for contact during the summer.

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

Best Buddies Hawaii, LLC is currently based in Wailuku, Hawaii in Maui County and on Oahu at our new Honolulu office based at the Aloha United Way building in Honolulu. Our staff provides comprehensive oversight and support to each chapter through in person visits and targeted on-site training, along with continual communication using email, telephone, text, and social media.

Our target population demonstrates the direct benefit of the expected outcomes through our four evaluative tools. Monthly friendship updates serve as a maintenance tool to log the progress of the buddy pairs, including contacts, one-to-one activities, and friendship successes and concerns. Friendship updates are used to help determine whether individual matches are successful or whether students should be re-matched, and are completed using our secure online database, Best Buddies Online, or our new friendship update cell phone app.

Mid and end year reports, filled out by student officers twice a year, detail chapter activities, number of matches, goals for the following semester, challenges, and successes. Best Buddies' staff uses the information from these reports, along with observation during site visits and consistent communication with chapter leaders, to complete their own comprehensive mid and end-year reports for each chapter, which we use to monitor progress and to highlight areas that need improvement.

The final tool used for evidenced-based evaluation of program performance is our annual survey, developed by Michael Hardman, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor and Chief Global Officer, President’s Office, University of Utah, to analyze



factors such as whether participants enjoyed their experience, whether they would recommend it to others, and whether they gained a better understanding of the challenges faced by people with IDD through their participation.

Every year, our training curriculum for the Best Buddies International Leadership Conference addresses the successes and challenges illuminated through our monitoring of worldwide chapters through the previous year. In Hawaii, our staff utilize and customize these curricular tools to fit the specific needs of our chapters here.

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.**

Best Buddies Hawaii, LLC seeks \$125,000 in funding to match students with IDD in one-to-one friendships with their typical peers by establishing and supporting 18 intermediate or high school chapters on Oahu and Maui.

Goals for the project include:

- *Friendship*: Promote leisure networking opportunities between students with and without IDD through one-to-one friendships;
- *Leadership*: Transform attitudes regarding the needs and abilities of people with IDD
- *Social Skills*: Enable students with IDD to develop social skills; and
- *Activities*: Provide recreational experiences that aid in community integration for people with IDD.

Through Best Buddies friendships, youth with IDD learn valuable social skills that give them confidence. Well-developed social skills can help youth with disabilities develop positive peer and familial relationships, succeed in school, and begin to successfully explore adult roles such as employee, co-worker, and community member. Studies have found that, "Adolescents who have strong social skills . . . are more likely to be accepted by peers, develop friendships, maintain stronger relationships with parents and peers, be viewed as effective problem solvers, cultivate greater interest in school, and perform better academically." (Hair, Jager, & Garrett, 2002) Our participants are also teaching their peers about what it means to be different at a time when conformity seems of paramount importance.

In working toward project goals, the Best Buddies Hawaii Intermediate and High School Project will demonstrate the following measures of effectiveness during the grant period:

- a. *Friendship*: Recruit and match 600 students with and without IDD in 220 one-to-one friendships statewide;
- b. *Leadership*: Recruit and train 72 Maui and Oahu student leaders who are dedicated to helping those with IDD throughout their lives;
- c. *Social Skills*: Provide opportunities for the development of critical social skills in at least 220 Maui and Oahu students with IDD, through frequent contact with non-disabled peers; and
- d. *Activities*: Execute at least 74 group activities that will engage participants in recreation, sports, community service, etc. (based on four activities per chapter). These activities will demonstrate successful inclusion to community members.

When Best Buddies participants spend time on their campuses doing what friends do—talking in the hallways, eating lunch together, attending school events—they send a powerful message to the student body that people with IDD can sustain relationships, build independence, and enrich other people’s lives. These friendships can change the lives of all individuals involved and revolutionize the way society views people with IDD.

### III. Financial

#### Budget

- 1. The applicant shall submit a budget utilizing the enclosed budget forms as applicable, to detail the cost of the request.
- 2. The applicant shall provide its anticipated quarterly funding requests for the fiscal year 2016.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
\$31,250	\$31,250	\$31,250	\$31,250	\$125,000

- 3. The applicant shall provide a listing of all other sources of funding that they are seeking for fiscal year 2016.

Maui County \$83,635.00, City and County of Honolulu \$125,000.00, NFL Charities Pro Bowl \$1,200, Friendship Jam Fundraiser \$15,000, Life Is Sweet Fundraiser \$20,000 and Friendship Walk \$12,500.



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.

N/A

5. The applicant shall provide a listing of all government contracts and grants it has been and will be receiving for program funding.
  - Maui County, Department of Housing and Human Concerns FY2015 Contract # G3902- \$79,652.
  - Maui County, Department of Housing and Human Concerns FY2016- Pending \$83,635
  - Honolulu Department of Community Services FY2015 Contract # CT-DCS-1500019 - \$62,500
  - Honolulu Department of Community Services FY2016 Pending (\$125,000)
  - State of Hawaii FY2015 Grant In Aid administered by Department of Education contract # CO-10563-\$125,000
6. The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2014.

As of December 31, 2014, asset for Best Buddies Hawaii LLC were \$11,949.07.

#### **IV. Experience and Capability**

##### **A. 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 1989, Best Buddies has grown from one original chapter at Georgetown University to more than 1,700 nationwide, overseen by 24 self-supporting state affiliates. In 1995, Best Buddies launched our first high school program, followed in 1996 by our first middle school chapters. Our program model has been tested around the nation, allowing us to develop best practices and update our programs when necessary. This year, we will serve more than 800,000 individuals with and without IDD worldwide through programs in 35 states and 50 countries outside

the U.S. In a recent national survey conducted by Michael Hardman, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor and Chief Global Officer, President's Office, University of Utah, 91% of special education professionals involved with Best Buddies reported that they think students with IDD benefit from their involvement in our programs. Best Buddies provides the only friendship-based one-to-one peer mentoring program for youth with and without IDD in Hawaii.

Best Buddies launched our inclusion programs in Maui County in 2008, establishing five chapters at Lokelani Intermediate School, Baldwin High School, King Kekaulike High School, Maui High School, and Seabury Hall School. Our newest Maui chapter, at Lahainaluna High School, opened in 2011. Lokelani Intermediate and King Kekaulike High School were named Outstanding Chapters by Best Buddies International in 2012, 2013, 2014, selected from hundreds that apply annually for the honor.

Our Honolulu County programs are the fastest growing in the state, from one chapter at Kapolei High School in the spring of 2011 to nine chapters today. Kapolei High School received a national award for their first Friendship Walk held April 8, 2014. Hundreds of walkers from throughout Honolulu County participated along with student and family members from many other schools.

Because of increasing demand for our services, we have focused on building our capacity to serve communities in Oahu. Some of our strongest advocates are school principals, who witness the positive impact Best Buddies has on school culture on a day to day basis.

Bringing Best Buddies into schools is a time-tested and cost-effective way to connect students with and without IDD for meaningful, positive, social relationships, thereby creating more inclusive communities. Districts need not invest in creating their own social inclusion program; Best Buddies has proven effective for 25 years, and our highly-trained staff provides each school with the support and guidance necessary for effective programming. Best Buddies is student-driven, so students involved exhibit a personal investment in each chapter's success. There is no fee for students to participate and no cost to the school district itself.

Best Buddies Hawaii, LLC ensures that each child enrolled in our program reaps the greatest benefits possible through the implementation of a service delivery model grounded in time-tested standards developed by Best Buddies International and tailored to meet the specific needs of our local service population.

Since 2008, Best Buddies Hawaii, LLC has successfully partnered with the County of Maui to provide and expand our services each year. Best Buddies received three grants from the city of Honolulu previously, as well: \$25,000 for our Honolulu High Schools Project in 2011, \$25,000 again in 2012, and \$62,500



in 2014. We met all grant goals to date and have successfully achieved the desired outcomes in 2011 and 2012. For the 2014 grant, we are well on our way to exceeding the desired outcomes. Best Buddies receives support from Best Buddies International in the areas of staff development and training, national program oversight, human resources, information technology, government relations, development, and finance. Our centralized administrative model promotes efficiency nationwide, and allows state staff to focus on program quality, along with building and sustaining local relationships.

**B. 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.**

Our state office in Wailuku, Hawaii in Maui County, along with our new Honolulu office at the Aloha United Way building in Honolulu County, serve as our bases of operations; however, our programs operate completely at the schools which host them. All of these schools are required to meet ADA requirements. When student leaders plan group activities outside of school, they take transportation and accessibility into account, and attend universally accessible events or events in ADA accessible venues, as needed.

**V. Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing**

**A. 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.**

Our staff members are seasoned, dedicated, and savvy professionals. All chapters are supervised by full-time program managers, who maintain direct contact with the student leaders and advisors at the 18 school chapters via phone, email, and in-person visits, and will assist with problem-solving and leadership development, with support from the part-time Administrative Assistant, Sheri Cohen. Sheri has worked in the Best Buddies office in Wailuku 6-12 hours per week since February 2009, and will assist with program administration and delivery for this project.

Maui Director of Operations Angela Wideman assists with problem-solving and provides leadership, development, and training to both students and faculty advisors on Maui. Angela has a Master of Science in Leadership and a Bachelor

of Arts in Human Services. She worked with adults and children with IDD and their families in New Mexico for three years before moving to Maui. For the last seven years, Angela has been working with a family and their daughter with IDD on Maui. Angela also has a brother with IDD.

As part of this grant, Best Buddies will be hiring a program manager to assist Angela with problem-solving and provide additional leadership development and training to both students and faculty advisors on Maui. This new position is required due to the increased number of schools and student members participating in our Maui County programs.

Experienced Oahu Lead Program Manager Elizabeth Torres has a Master's Degree in Social Work from Hawaii Pacific University. Prior to joining Best Buddies in 2012, Elizabeth worked with children with IDD at Easter Seals Hawaii. Elizabeth's position was specifically created to coordinate the Oahu programs. Elizabeth works full-time to supervise the Honolulu area chapters, and she maintains direct contact with the student leaders and advisors via phone, email, and in-person visits, assisting chapters with problem-solving and leadership development.

As part of this grant, Best Buddies will be hiring a program manager to assist Elizabeth Torres with problem-solving and provide leadership development and training to both students and faculty advisors on Oahu. This new position is required due to the increased number of schools and student members participating in our Honolulu County programs.

Oahu Area Director Stephen Potts oversees Oahu operations, supports and supervises our Oahu program managers, and works with the state director to further develop our local advisory board, cultivate new partnerships, and plan and oversee future program expansion to serve the greater Honolulu County community. Before starting with Best Buddies Hawaii, LLC Stephen worked as a Special Projects Coordinator at the Center on Disability Studies at U H Mānoa. He was the primary conference coordinator for the annual Pacific Rim Conference on Disabilities.

Best Buddies State Director Mike McCormick is responsible for ensuring success of all state programs and managing all state and private grants, and has overseen all chapters since 2008 with help from a very small paid staff and countless dedicated volunteers. Mike has a brother with IDD and is personally invested in the Best Buddies mission. He will continue to oversee our expansion in Honolulu, supporting the staff working there, as well as the volunteer advisory board comprised of local community members and leaders.

Mike McCormick reports to Missy Collins, Senior Director, State Operations. Missy has nearly 12 years of Best Buddies experience in development, programs,



grants, volunteer management, and special events. Missy was hired to open the Best Buddies Iowa office and successfully launched and managed 18 high school chapters of Best Buddies. Missy served as a national program leader for three years. In 2004, Missy was recognized for her accomplishments as Overall Employee of the Year, and in 2008, she was promoted to Iowa State Director. In this role, she successfully developed new funding sources, increased private revenue, and created signature special events that are now annually accounting for half of the operating budget. Missy also worked for the Best Buddies International headquarters as a grant writer and exceeded the revenue goal in 2013, raising more than \$900,000 through grants. Missy holds a bachelor's degree in journalism with an emphasis in public relations from Iowa State University.

Jennifer Miller, Best Buddies' Senior Vice President, Finance and Operations, came to Best Buddies in 2000 with eight years of management experience in payroll and accounts payable. Jennifer earned her B.S. in accounting from Florida International University. She is responsible for financial accounting related to this grant.

**B. 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.**

Please see attached organizational chart.

**C. Compensation**

The applicant shall provide the annual salaries paid by the applicant to the three highest paid officers, directors, or employees of the organization by position.

Maui Director of Operations, Angela Wideman – Annual Salary \$40,000  
Oahu Area Director, Steven Potts – Annual Salary \$45,000  
Oahu Program Manager, Elizabeth Torres – Annual Salary \$37,900

**VI. Other**

**A. 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.

N/A

**B. 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.

N/A

**C. Federal and County Grants**

The applicant shall separately specify the amount of federal and county grants awarded since July 1, 2014.

Best Buddies receives \$62,500 through the Honolulu City and County Department of Community Services Grant in Aid and \$79,625 through the County of Maui Department of Housing and Human Concerns Line Item Grant for Financial Year 2015.

**D. 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.

Best Buddies Hawaii, LLC does not have any programs within private educational institutions.

**E. Future Sustainability Plan**

**The applicant shall provide a plan for sustaining after fiscal year 2015-16 the activity funded by the grant if the grant of this application is:**

- (1) Received by the applicant for fiscal year 2015-16, but
- (2) Not received by the applicant thereafter.

Since 2008, when Best Buddies was established in Hawaii, we have maintained seven years of continued success. To sustain the Best Buddies Hawaii Intermediate and High School Project beyond the grant period, we will rely on the excellence of our time-tested, one-to-one friendship program model; the strength of our new Oahu Area Director, Stephen Potts, who will be directing our advisory board; and a combination of public and private support from the Hawaiian community.



Best Buddies launched our inclusion programs in Maui County in 2008, establishing five chapters at Lokelani Intermediate School, Baldwin High School, King Kekaulike High School, Maui High School, and Seabury Hall School. Lahainaluna High School opened in 2011. Our Honolulu County programs are the fastest growing in the state, from one chapter at Kapolei High School in the spring of 2011 to nine chapters today. Because of increasing demand for our services, we have focused on building our capacity to serve numerous communities on Oahu.

Best Buddies has consciously taken steps to ensure judicious use of our funding while providing cost-effective programs. Organization-wide, we have made an effort to minimize the number and use for paper forms, preferring instead to utilize more green options for both internal and external communication. Best Buddies has implemented an online database and tracking system, Best Buddies Online. This allows us to easily and efficiently monitor our friendship programs. Nationally, this saves thousands of dollars each year on postage and printing costs. We are also revising all vendor contracts organization-wide to streamline purchase of supplies and equipment. Overall, contributions to Best Buddies are judiciously spent, with the majority of these funds directly applied to local programs. Typically, 81% of all revenue is spent on programs that directly serve people with IDD. We are focused on controlling our expenses while maintaining excellence in our program projects.

All of Best Buddies' advisory board members come from different sectors of the community and have unique skill sets that support the program, whether financially or through their community contacts. This network provides a wide range of potential funding sources that will sustain the project. A recent addition to Best Buddies advisory board is Kevin Hall, Vice President, Credit Delivery Portfolio Manager for Retail and Small Business Delivery at Central Pacific Bank. Mr. Hall has been able to secure funds from Central Pacific Bank in the way of donations to our events and continues to involve Central Pacific Bank in our mission.

In addition to Mr. Hall, Matthew Cohen also joined our advisory board in 2014. Mr. Cohen brings a passion and personal interest in the impact of Best Buddies as he has a child with a disability enrolled at Stevenson Middle School. Mr. Cohen has recruited other parents to help start a Best Buddies chapter at Stevenson. This passion and drive to ensure that his child has access to Best Buddies will enabled other students to experience the benefit of Best Buddies.

Best Buddies has been successful in securing private grants from foundations that believe in our mission. We were able to expand our programs on Maui due to support from foundations and corporations such as Atherton Foundation, HC&S, and Young Brothers. We have also secured funding from Maui United Way and the Will Smith Foundation for 2014. Both Maui United Way and the Will Smith Foundation have expressed interest in providing future funding for our inclusion programs in Maui County.

We have also developed a number of fundraising events in Maui County, including *Life is Sweet*, an annual event held at The Shops at Wailea. The Shops at Wailea have selected Best Buddies as their community partner to celebrate their annual anniversary each year. Fund raised at this annual event will go to support our Maui programs. The event will be supported by the Wailea

Resort Hotels and Restaurants and coordinated by Robert L. Dye, SCSM, RPA and General Manager for CB Richard Ellis for the Shops at Wailea.

**F. Certificate of Good Standing (If the Applicant is an Organization)**

If the applicant is an organization, the applicant shall submit one (1) copy of a certificate of good standing from the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs that is dated no earlier than December 1, 2014.

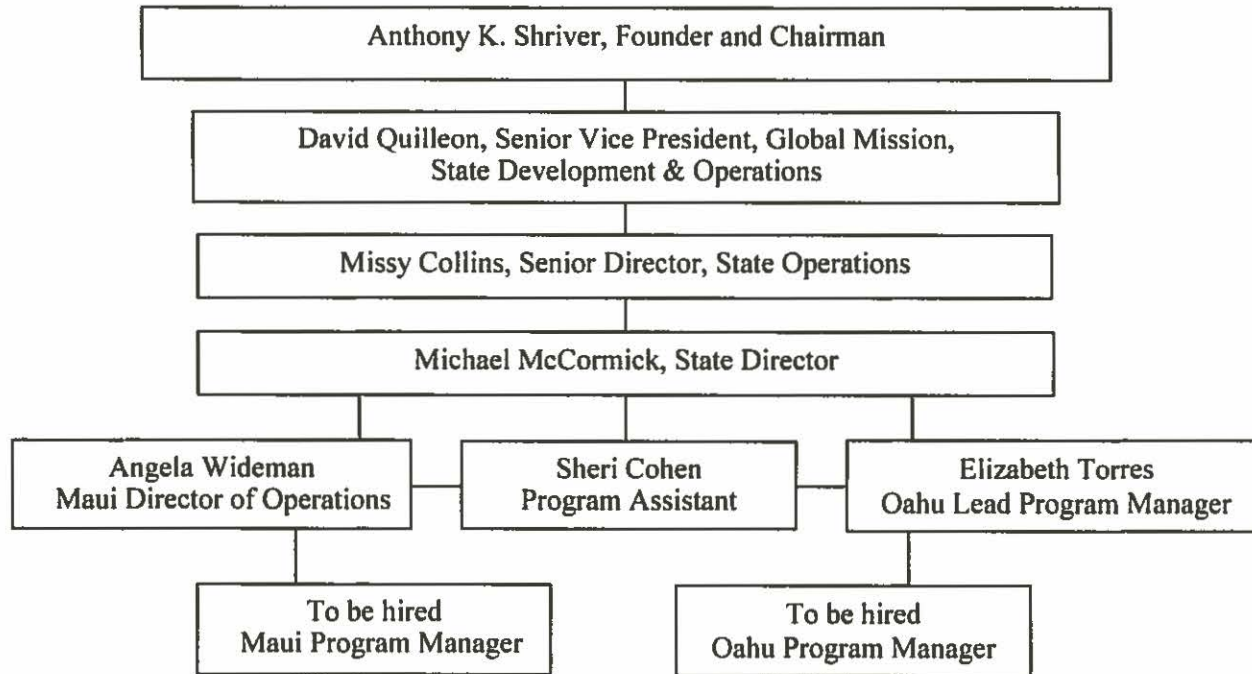
Please see attached certificate.

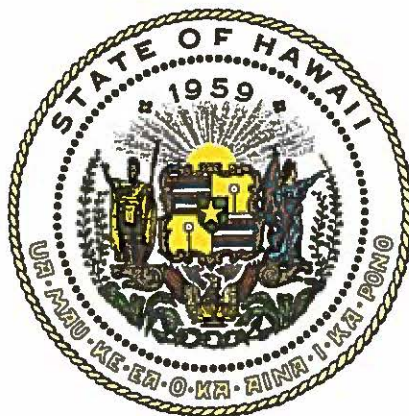


**BEST BUDDIES.**



**Best Buddies Hawaii, LLC  
Organizational Chart**





## 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 according to the records of this Department,

**BEST BUDDIES HAWAII LLC**

was organized under the laws of the State of Hawaii on 09/07/2012 ; that it is an existing limited liability company in good standing and is duly authorized to transact business.



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 15, 2015

Interim Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs



## BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Applicant: Best Buddies Hawaii

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	81,887		86,578	24,013
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	9,006		7,771	1,487
3. Fringe Benefits	9,007		7,897	3,290
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL COST</b>	<b>99,900</b>		<b>102,246</b>	<b>28,790</b>
<b>B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES</b>				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island Travel	500		2,750	8,655
2. Insurance				0
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment			600	
4. Lease/Rental of Space	860		10,000	6,909
5. Staff Training			1,200	4,365
6. Supplies			1,048	1,052
7. Telecommunication	240		1,745	4,075
8. Utilities				0
9. Postage			448	152
10. Public Awareness/Marketing				800
11. Volunteer recruitment/training	500		260	2,182
12. Shared Services	23,000		12,680	50,071
13. Evaluation				47
14. Leadership Conference			9,175	20,122
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				
<b>TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES</b>	<b>25,100</b>		<b>39,906</b>	<b>98,430</b>
<b>C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES</b>				
<b>D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES</b>				
<b>E. CAPITAL</b>				
<b>TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)</b>	<b>125,000</b>		<b>142,152</b>	<b>127,220</b>
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDING</b>		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	125,000	Best Buddies Hawaii (808) 242-6962		
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested	0	Name (Please type or print) Phone		
(c) Total County Funds Requested	142,152	 Signature of Authorized Official Date		
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	127,220			
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>394,372</b>	Michael McCormick, State Director Best Buddies Hawaii Name and Title (Please type or print)		

## BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES

Period: July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Applicant: Best Buddies Hawaii

POSITION TITLE	FULL TIME EQUIVALENT	ANNUAL SALARY A	% OF TIME ALLOCATED TO GRANT REQUEST B	TOTAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED (A x B)
State Director	1	\$32,791.33	25%	\$ 8,197.83
Area Director	1	\$45,900.00	40%	\$ 18,360.00
Operations Coordinator	1	\$40,000.00	50%	\$ 20,000.00
Senior Program Manager - Oahu	1	\$38,658.00	50%	\$ 19,329.00
Program Manager - Maui	1	\$32,000.00	25%	\$ 8,000.00
Program Manager - Oahu	1	\$32,000.00	25%	\$ 8,000.00
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>81,886.83</b>
<b>JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:</b>				



## BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Applicant: **Best Buddies Hawaii**

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
<b>TOTAL:</b>				
<b>JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:</b>				

DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	NO. OF VEHICLES	COST PER VEHICLE	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
<b>TOTAL:</b>				
<b>JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:</b>				

## BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Applicant: Best Buddies Hawaii

FUNDING AMOUNT REQUESTED						
TOTAL PROJECT COST	ALL SOURCES OF FUNDS RECEIVED IN PRIOR YEARS		STATE FUNDS REQUESTED	OF FUNDS REQUESTED	FUNDING REQUIRED IN SUCCEEDING YEARS	
	FY: 2013-2014	FY: 2014-2015	FY:2015-2016	FY:2015-2016	FY:2016-2017	FY:2017-2018
PLANS						
LAND ACQUISITION						
DESIGN						
CONSTRUCTION						
EQUIPMENT						
<b>TOTAL:</b>						
<b>JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:</b>						



# GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS AND/OR GRANTS

Applicant: Best Buddies Hawaii

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S. / State / Haw / Hon / Kau / Mau )	CONTRACT VALUE
1.	Contract # CO-10553	7-1-14 to 6-30-15	State of Hawaii Department of Education	State	\$125,000
2.	Grant Contract # G3902	7-1-14 to 6-30-15	Maui County Department of Housing and Human Concerns	Maui	\$79,652
3.	Grant Contract # CT-DCS-1500019	10-1-14 to 9-30-15	Honolulu Department of Human Concerns	Honolulu	\$62,500
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
				TOTAL	\$267,152.

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

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.

Best Buddies Hawaii, LLC  
(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)

(Signature)

(Date)

1-20-2015

Michael McCormick  
(Typed Name)

State Director  
(Title)

DAVID IGE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

ELDEN ESMERALDA  
PRINCIPAL

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KAPOLEI HIGH SCHOOL  
91-5007 KAPOLEI PARKWAY  
KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707  
Phone (808) 692-8200  
Fax (808) 692-8255

January 28, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

As the principal of Kapolei High School I truly appreciate the support of the Best Buddies Program. It has impacted our school by providing opportunities for students to interact in the international and local arena. As the founding club on Oahu, we've been a Best Buddies Chapter the past four years. Through this association our students have participated at the international conference held at Indiana University for the past three years. The conference provides ongoing training to integrate intellectually and developmentally challenged students with non-disabled peers.

Since attending the conference our students have implement activities that are very inclusive of all students. One of the events that took place at our school was a softball ball game. A number of seniors and athletes got together and helped to develop the students' skills. After several weeks it culminated with a game that included all of the buddies and friends. I can't impress upon you the emotions of the parents who appreciated the genuine sense of caring and acceptance.

I recognize that we are very far from achieving the goal of full integration and acceptance; but it is the ability to pause and understand we all want the same thing – knowing someone cares about us and that we can all live with dignity. It is through Best Buddies that our students are recognizing these values. It is my hope other students and schools will have this same opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elden M Esmeralda".

Elden M Esmeralda  
Kapolei High School  
Principal





**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
**LEILEHUA HIGH SCHOOL**  
1515 CALIFORNIA AVENUE  
WAHIAWA, HAWAII 96786-2597

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December 5, 2014

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Best Buddies program and how it has impacted Leilehua High School in its first several months of existence on our campus. It is meaningful life experiences that will help our students develop into productive members of society. The Best Buddies program provides these experiences for our students.

The structure and support staff of the program is what makes the program successful. The roll out of the program has been a seamless transition with minimal impact to our school community. At Leilehua High School, we constantly strive to have our students embrace our core values of; Leadership, Humility, and Service. The Best Buddies program reinforces our school values as it helps our students become well rounded individuals.

Best Buddies is a program that needs to be in more schools throughout the state. It provides awareness about the differences of others with a focus on abilities and strengths. Everyone involved in the program benefits from the opportunities and partnerships created.

I am a strong supporter of Best Buddies and would highly recommend this program to any school that is interested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Nakamoto".

Jason Nakamoto  
Principal



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PEARL CITY HIGH SCHOOL  
2100 HO'OKI'EKI'E STREET  
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782-1425

December 4, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in regards to the Best Buddies Program and how it supports providing opportunities for our special needs students to interact with our non-special needs students. I strongly support this program as it fosters relationship building between students who would not normally interact with one another. Their "Peer Buddy" program has had a tremendous positive impact on morale as well as fostering the development of self-confidence in our special needs student population. It also gives our non-special needs students opportunities to develop their communication skills.

I whole heartedly support this program and plan to continue implementing this program at our school. I strongly believe in this program's goal in bringing parents, teachers, community members, and most importantly students together. Doing this provides opportunities for relationship building that ultimately supports success for all students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Tominaga".

Aaron Tominaga  
Principal



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
AIEA HIGH SCHOOL  
98-1276 ULUNE STREET  
AIEA, HAWAII 96701

December 5, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

The Best Buddies program is alive and growing at Aiea High School. This program provides inclusion for students with special needs by giving them a peer buddy at our school. Our peer buddies benefit from sharing and helping their special needs buddies. The chapter on our campus has doubled since last year and we were able to send more of our students to the yearly conference in the summer. As the principal, I am thrilled to have this program offered to our students because it builds character and compassion for others. The most rewarding part of the program is seeing how all students have talents in many ways that they can share with each other.

The practice of including people with special needs (inclusion) is greatly benefitted by the Best Buddies program at our school. Last July two of our students and a second special education teacher were trained by Best Buddies International at the Best Buddies International Leadership Conference held at Indiana University. This training has added more to the success of the program at our school. We are changing the culture of the school to be a positive and safe place for all students through the work with partnering our students.

I recommend support for Best Buddies and I have personally seen how it helps cultivate community inclusion, school inclusion, friendships, compassion and more understanding within our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Sanders".

Kim Sanders  
Aiea High School





STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Maui High School  
660 South Lono Avenue  
Kahului, HI 96793

February 14, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being written in support of Best Buddies and the amazing work that this organization does. Best Buddies is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of individuals with all forms of intellectual and physical disabilities. Best Buddies at Maui High School has made a tremendous difference in the lives of both students with disabilities and students without.

The "peer buddy" system creates genuine care and develops friendships among our students.

This year, a non-disabled student who participated in the Best Buddies program decided to coordinate an island wide dance for disabled students and their buddies at our gym. The dance was held on a Friday night. Attendees dressed up in costumes. Local hotels provided refreshments. The Maui High School graphics department provided a photo booth to make the night special. A great time was had by all. This is just one example of how the Best Buddies program benefits all participants.

Maui High School whole-heartedly supports the Best Buddies program.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808)727-4000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Anderson".

Bruce Anderson,  
Principal



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LOKELANI INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL  
1401 LILOA DRIVE  
KIHEI, MAUI, HAWAII 96753

February 12, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the Best Buddies Program, which plays a very prominent role on our Lokelani Intermediate School campus.

At (a very important) face value, Best Buddies at Lokelani provides opportunities for our special needs students to interact with others across a variety of experiences, including social, community service and academic. For that alone, we are very grateful.

However, we feel that the program contributes so much more and I am proud to tout just some of its many positive effects within our school community. It is an enriching experience for all of our students, with many learning that they have skills they might never have discovered, otherwise, including leadership, communication and mentorship. In addition, Best Buddies provides a venue for our kids that celebrates diversity and teamwork. As well, the program provides partnership opportunities for our surrounding community and staff. And, it is just plain fun and rewarding for our kids in and among itself...

As principal of Lokelani Intermediate, I wholeheartedly intend to continue to support Best Buddies and look forward to fostering and growing this most essential partnership in the years to come.

Sincerely,

---

Mark Elliott, Principal

Lokelani Intermediate School



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
MAUI DISTRICT  
54 HIGH STREET, 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, RM. 401  
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

February 17, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Creating opportunities for our special needs students to have one-to-one friendships with their peers, participate in school activities and events and develop leadership skills has been possible for many of our students in Maui District through our partnership with the Best Buddies program. We are proud to report that the Best Buddies program is flourishing in all four high schools and one middle school on Maui.

Through the years, we have seen the difference it has made for our students with special needs and our students without a disability. One event that highlights how Best Buddies has fostered the development of self-confidence in our special needs students is Maui's Big M.A.C.- Moving Across the Community transition event for students and parents. With the help of their "Peer Buddy" our special needs students participate in a presentation to more than 75 parents, family member, teachers, peers and community members. The audience at the Big M.A.C. event is impressed at how Best Buddies is making a tremendous difference for our special needs students.

Creating an inclusive climate for students has always been a goal for many educators of special needs students and Best Buddies has helped us to cultivate that climate in our schools and communities. We hope to expand the Best Buddies program to another middle school in our District and humbly ask for your support of the Best Buddies program.

Sincerely,

*Lois Sato*

Lois Sato  
Educational Director, Special Education  
Maui District



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

DARIN PILIALOHA  
PRINCIPAL

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
NĀNĀKULI HIGH AND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL  
89-980 NĀNĀKULI AVENUE  
WAI'ANAE, HAWAII 96792

January 21, 2015

Dear Sir/Madame:

I am writing this letter in support of the Best Buddies program and to let you know how this program has impacted our school. We launched the Best Buddies program at Nānākuli High and Intermediate School over two years ago. The project provides meaningful activities that are the participants build important academic, career, social and leisure skills. They are also helping us build community on campus by creating a welcoming, nurturing and inclusive school culture.

The Best Buddies program has also helped us build partnerships between dedicated professionals in our education system, local business and community members. These individuals are working together to volunteer their time to support students in this program. We hope that we can continue the Best Buddies in the future and recommend that it be expanded to other schools as well.

Best Buddies is providing our student body with a better understanding and acceptance of others while promoting important social change around issues such as inclusive practices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darin Pilialoha", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Darin Pilialoha



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KING KEKAULIKE HIGH SCHOOL  
121 KULA HIGHWAY  
PUKALANI, HAWAII 96768  
FAX (808) 573-2231 • OFFICE (808) 573-8710

February 14, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

The Best Buddies Program is one that we often say, "Why didn't we do this much earlier than now?" The concept is simple, having a peer buddy for IDEA students that usually learn and socially interact in a more restrictive learning environment than other students within our high school. Beyond their disabilities, these students are typical students feeling their way through the ups and downs of adolescence like any teenager. Having a peer buddy increases their personal, social, and emotional skills which positively enhances how they perceive the world around them. As for the peer buddy, the benefits are life-long as they mature into compassionate and caring citizens that speak up for members in society who need a helping hand and advocate to make a difference in their buddies' lives.

When I see the Best Buddies Program students and advisors engaged in youth activities like celebrations and dinners and social events on campus at night, it is so reassuring that every one of my students can have a life filled with precious and memorable moments, and more importantly, that our IDEA students can participate with their peers in fun and happy activities like any other teenager in our school! It is the best win-win situation all around!

I totally endorse this program and if anyone needs more information, please call me at 808-573-8710 or email me at [susan\\_scofield@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:susan_scofield@notes.k12.hi.us)

Sincerely,

  
Susan Scofield  
Principal