

**THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
APPLICATION FOR GRANTS
CHAPTER 42F, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES**

Type of Grant Request:

Operating Capital

Legal Name of Requesting Organization or Individual: Db:

Anaina Hou Community Park

Amount of State Funds Requested: \$ 111,082.08

Brief Description of Request (Please attach word document to back of page if extra space is needed):

Anaina Hou Community Park is seeking grant-in-aid support to complete the final phase of construction of the Anaina Hou Playground, finalizing plans that provide for the access, safety, comfort and educational opportunities of local and visiting keiki. Anaina Hou is looking to fund key components of the Playground that will complete the vision of providing a community gathering place.

Amount of Other Funds Available:

State: \$ 0

Federal: \$ 0

County: \$ 0

Private/Other: \$ 0

Total amount of State Grants Received in the Past 5 Fiscal Years:

\$ 0

Unrestricted Assets:

\$ 592,744.56 - See Note Attached

New Service (Presently Does Not Exist): Existing Service (Presently in Operation):

Type of Business Entity:

- 501(C)(3) Non Profit Corporation
- Other Non Profit
- Other

Mailing Address:

5-2723 Kuhio Hwy

City: State: Zip:
Kilauea HI 96754

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application

Name:
Robyn Petterson

Title:
Office Manager

Email:
robyn@anainahou.org

Phone:
808-977-8543

Federal Tax ID#:

State Tax ID#

Authorized Signature

Julie Schuller, Board Chair

Name and Title

January 16th, 2019

Date Signed

received
1/18/19 12:30p JR

Application for Grants

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

I. Certification

1. 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, 2018.

See Attachment

2. Declaration Statement

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

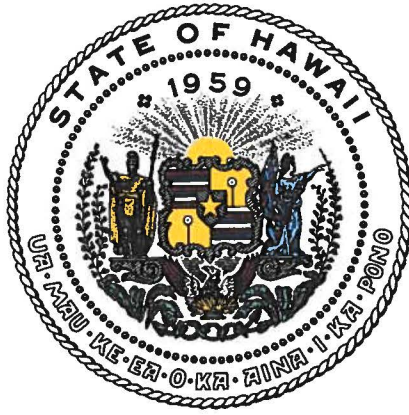
See Attachment

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.

Yes. The grant will be used for a public purpose.

- <http://www.thegardenisland.com/2019/01/07/hawaii-news/lets-play/>
- <https://www.forkauaionline.com/anaina-hou-playground-built-with-recyclables-officially-opens/>
- <http://www.thegardenisland.com/2018/08/27/hawaii-news/builders-return-to-anaina-hou-playground-in-kilauea/>
- <https://kauaiwithkeiki.com/anaina-hou-community-park/>



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

ANAINA HOU COMMUNITY PARK

was incorporated under the laws of Hawaii on 04/11/2012 ;
that it is an existing nonprofit corporation; and that,
as far as the records of this Department reveal, has complied
with all of the provisions of the Hawaii Nonprofit Corporations
Act, regulating domestic nonprofit corporations.

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

Dated: January 11, 2019

Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs



§42F-102 Applications for grants. Requests for grants shall be submitted to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature at the start of each regular session of the legislature. Each request shall state:

- (1) The name of the requesting organization or individual;
- (2) The public purpose for the grant;
- (3) The services to be supported by the grant;
- (4) The target group; and
- (5) The cost of the grant and the budget. [L 1997, c 190, pt of §3; am L 2014, c 96, §6]

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anaina hou
COMMUNITY PARK

Discovery Island Playground



CONCEPT RENDERING BY
Playgrounds by
LEATHERS
Dream. Build. Play!

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;

Background

Anaina Hou Community Park ("Anaina Hou") is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located on the beautiful north shore of Kaua'i. We were founded in 2010, by Bill and Joan Porter, to provide a gathering place for our kama`aina community and serve the needs of the thriving visitor market.

When Joan Porter and her late husband, Bill, relocated to Kauai, they were moved to give back to our community. They met with countless members of the community to discuss ideas about how to protect the highway frontage from industrial development and to identify the needs of our diverse population. Bill and Joan purchased the land that became our 15-acre campus, along with the adjoining 500-acre Wai Koa Plantation, and founded Anaina Hou as a gift to our community.

The Mission of Anaina Hou is to provide a gathering place in Kilauea rooted in the values, history and culture of our diverse island community. The Vision of Anaina Hou is to enrich the lives of the members of our community and the many guests of our island who visit our campus. Today, the Anaina Hou campus proudly offers: Kaua'i Mini Golf and Botanical Gardens; a Café and Gift Shop specializing in locally sourced products; Wai Koa Loop Trail (a 5 mile trail for bicycles and pedestrians); weekly farmer's markets; community classroom/meeting room facilities; the Porter Pavilion (a 4,000 sq ft multipurpose community event space); a Skate Park; and our newest addition- the Anaina Hou Playground.

Proposal

This proposal seeks support to complete the Anaina Hou Playground ("Playground") - a community-inspired and driven project that is far more of a community centerpiece than a typical playground. It was designed by the same company who designed the beloved Kamalani playground in Lihue, Kaua'i , and promises to be a north shore landmark for many years to come. The 17,000 Square foot Playground is elaborate, with a volcano climbing structure, replica of a sailing canoe, multi-level ahupua'a-themed structure, and replica of a sugarcane train. The community demonstrated great support for the project, with

more than \$600,000 raised through private donations, grants, and in-kind donations. The community even helped construct the playground under the guidance of experienced Leathers & Associates contractors, with more than 200 volunteers participating in community-build days in August, 2018.

Like all construction projects, Playground construction encountered some difficulties that could not be foreseen. Most of the hiccups merely required dynamic thinking and were resolved without causing a major set-back. However, Hurricane Lane came dangerously close to the island of Kaua'i during the community build days, causing a break in construction, and the resulting heavy rains left the playground site extremely saturated. This did cause a significant delay and resulted in some components not being completed during the supervised volunteer build days. In addition, a factory where some of the slides were located burned down, so those slides could not be installed during the build days. Despite these issues, Anaina Hou was able to open the Playground to the public on October 28, 2018 and a steady flow of visitors and residents visit daily to enjoy the culturally-inspired equipment. As of January 15th, 2019- a total estimate of visitors to the playground has exceeded 5,000.

While the Playground has been well-supported and extremely well-received by the community, the project is not entirely complete. This application for a grant-in-aid seeks support to complete some important components of the original design that must be completed by professionals because they were not achieved during the volunteer build portion of Playground construction. In addition to the final touches that could not be completed by volunteer labor due to Hurricane Lane, Anaina Hou also seeks support to install a sidewalk throughout the playground area to make it more accessible to those with disabilities, add a thatched-roof hale so families can take shelter from the elements, include educational signage, and add temporary portable bathrooms until funding can be obtained to install permanent bathrooms. This final phase of construction will maximize enjoyment and use of the one-of-a-kind Playground, making the most of contributions the community has already invested in the project.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;

Goal: Create a community hub where families can enjoy free, healthy activities at any time of the day.

Objectives

* Construct a hale with a thatched roof where families can enjoy shade and take shelter from rain while children play. The hale will also serve as an important shelter for the camp programs held at Anaina Hou each summer.

Goal: Ensure the Playground respectfully represents elements of Hawaiian culture and history and shares accurate information about the same with visitors.

Objectives:

- * Design and install educational signage throughout the Playground, consulting with Devin Kamealoha Forrest, a well-respected expert in Hawaiiana who sits on our Board of Directors.

Goal: Complete installation of all Playground infrastructure and equipment so the community can enjoy it to the fullest extent.

Objectives:

- * Install the remaining three slides, which were not installed during the initial volunteer build days due to failure to receive them in time due to a fire in the factory where they were created.

- * Extend efforts beyond minimal ADA compliance to ensure children and family members with disabilities can enjoy the Playground as much as possible by connecting the parking lot to the play area with a cement sidewalk and extending the sidewalk entirely around the play structures. This will require retaining a civil engineer to oversee surveying and grading and a cement contractor to lay the cement.

- * Cap and sand posts and edge rails throughout Playground area.

- * Install portable toilets until funding can be obtained to build permanent bathrooms adjacent to the Playground.

- * Design and construct a siltation control system to prevent eroded soil surrounding the Playground from washing off into the bio swale.

- * Install parking striping and blocks

- * Remove existing electrical installation (an electric pole and box that is not in use) from Playground area.

3. The public purpose and need to be served;

Most residents of the Kilauea area are families with children (6% higher than the State average). A significant majority of families in this area with children under age 5 have both parents in the workforce but approximately 17% of these children live in poverty (a percentage that is higher than the State average). A majority of students attending Kilauea Public Elementary School qualify for free/reduced lunch.

Sadly, this area scored negatively on a "Protection Index" calculated by the UH Center on the Family. The index assesses 9 indicators of family, community strength. Higher scores are associated with communities with "children who are nurtured and doing well in school, families that are healthy, and communities

which are economically vital.” The assessment tells us that families in Kilauea need more support.

The families in this area—our community—very much need organizations like Anaina Hou and projects like the Playground. They need safe and stimulating places for children to play. They need affordable places for families to gather. They need a central location for community programming. They need to have a voice at the table in deciding how projects and programs like this play out. Anaina Hou is dedicated to meeting those needs and the Playground is an important step toward those goals.

4. Describe the target population to be served; and

The primary target population for this project are children ages 0-10 who reside on the east and north shores of Kaua'i. This area is home to approximately 25,000 people, with 51% of that number representing families with children (6% higher than the State average). Visitors to Kaua'i will also enjoy the Playground facilities while visiting the Anaina Hou campus, easily located right off Kuhio highway. Last year over 40,000 visitors and 13,000 local residents enjoyed time at our mini golf course and educational botanical gardens. In addition, more than 1,000 community members visited the campus to enjoy free movie nights at Anaina Hou last year. At least 26,000 community members visit the campus for the local farmers' market each year. Anaina Hou also partnered with a number of local organizations and individuals to bring the community together to host non-profit fundraisers, concerts, and a free Thanksgiving dinner which drew 400 attendees in 2018. Additionally, the completion of the Porter Pavilion and community events therein continues to increase campus traffic.

Given the high volume of traffic already occurring on the Anaina Hou campus, it is conservative to estimate that over 20,000 community members and 25,000 visitors will enjoy the Playground facilities each year. Given the demographics of the surrounding community, a significant number of those community members will be families in which both parents work but are still struggling to make ends meet. Providing a free, active and safe place to gather and play (at any time that can work with their schedule) is of utmost importance to these families. In addition, approximately 30 families send their children to summer camp at Anaina Hou to ensure the children have a fun, healthy, active and safe place to be while they work - the Playground and hale will significantly increase the quality of enjoyment of the summer camps.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

Kilauea is a central point connecting the north shore (spanning 15 miles to the west) with the population hub of Kapa'a on Kaua'i's eastern shore (17 miles to the east). Anaina Hou is also proud to say that residents come from around the entire island to enjoy Kama'aina Sundays (free mini golf) and believes that will also be the case with the Anaina Hou Playground. Beyond Island residents, visitors from a multitude of countries and geographic origin will enjoy the

Playground. Approximately 40,000 visitors enjoyed activities on our campus last 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;

A. Scope of Work

Anaina Hou Community Park is seeking grant-in-aid support to complete the final phase of construction of the Anaina Hou Playground, finalizing plans that provide for the access, safety, comfort and educational opportunities of local and visiting keiki. Anaina Hou is looking to fund key components of the Playground that will complete the vision of providing a community gathering place.

B. Tasks

Anaina Hou Community Park, and the Recreation Committee will collaborate with the Contractor team to execute the following tasks:

- Permit Process
- Construction of Hale
- Design and Installation of Educational Signage
- Playground Slides & Equipment Installation
- Complete Rough Excavation & Grading
- Create Siltation Control
- Install Parking Striping, Signage & Blocks
- Remove Electrical Service
- Installation of Portable Toilets

C. Responsibilities

Oversight of the Anaina Hou Playground completion is led by Anaina Hou Community Park Board Member and Recreation Committee Chair, Frank Rothschild. Frank is a retired judge and well-versed in contract agreements. Frank will be assisted by Board Member Michael James, who has over thirty years experience in the construction management industry. Under their guidance, the Recreation Committee is responsible for leading the planning, design, and construction efforts as well as liaison between contractors.

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

Project Annual Timeline

Aug-Oct 2019- Release of Funds

Aug-December 2019- Permit Process, Contractor Fee, Survey, Engineering

Dec-April 2020- Construction of Hale

April- Aug 2020- Design and Installation of Educational Signage, Playground Slides & Equipment Installation, Rough Excavation & Grading, Concrete Walk Labor, Concrete Walk Material

August-December 2020- Seeding, Siltation Control, Railings & Fencing, Parking Striping, Signage & Blocks, Remove Electrical Service, Installation of portable toilets

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

Quality Assurance

Anaina Hou Community Park shall ensure the quality of all work meets industry standards through its capable and experienced leadership in the Recreation Committee, led by Frank Rothschild and Michael James. This committee has successfully managed the design, construction and completion (completed in 2018) of the Porter Pavilion, a \$4 million project resulting in an impressive 4,000 square foot multi-use event space on campus. Construction expenses and financial management relating to Playground completion shall be monitored by CPA Amy Meharg, who has over twenty years of experience managing the budgets of non-profit grant capital projects. Additional oversight will be provided by Board Member and Finance Committee Chair Ken Rosenthal- who brings over 25 years of experience with a non-profit economic development lending company.

Evaluation

The Recreation Committee, led by Frank Rothschild and Michael James, will oversee all tasks and make final recommendations to the full Board of Directors regarding the selection subcontractors and to provide oversight of all final phases/ installations and aspects of the playground. The Recreation Committee will meet regularly with contractors to keep abreast of progress, and ensure that any difficulties, both anticipated and unanticipated, will be resolved optimally to

ensure the playground continues on schedule. The Finance Committee will prepare monthly budget to actual reports as well as track timeline progress.

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.

Anaina Hou will have all of the licensed contractors who perform the work sign to attest the completion of their work and will submit said signatures with a full report from the Recreation Committee, including photographs of the completed work. Anaina Hou will also submit a detailed report documenting all expenditures related to the final phase of Playground construction. After the final phase of Playground construction is complete, a grand opening will be held and regular monitoring and statistical evaluation will be conducted to assess the usage of the playground by target population. Efforts will be made to evaluate enjoyment of the Playground by children and family members with physical disabilities.

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- See Attached
 - b. Personnel salaries and wages- Not Applicable
 - c. Equipment and motor vehicles- Not Applicable
 - d. Capital project details- See Attached
 - e. Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid- Not Applicable

2. The applicant shall provide its anticipated quarterly funding requests for the fiscal year 2020.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
20,889.55	45,000	30,305.61	14,886.92	111,082.08

3. The applicant shall provide a listing of all other sources of funding that they are seeking for fiscal year 2020.

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

Applicant: Anaina Hou Community Park

BUDGET CATEGORIES	Total State Funds Requested (a)	Total Federal Funds Requested (b)	Total County Funds Requested (c)	Total Private/Other Funds Requested (d)
A. PERSONNEL COST				
1. Salaries				
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments				
3. Fringe Benefits				
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST				
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island				
2. Insurance				
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment				
4. Lease/Rental of Space				
5. Staff Training				
6. Supplies				
7. Telecommunication				
8. Utilities				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES				
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES				
E. CAPITAL	111,082			
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)				
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	111,082	<i>Amy Meharg</i>	808-977-8543	
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested		Name (Please type or print) Phone		
(c) Total County Funds Requested		<i>Amy Meharg</i>	1/16/19	
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested		Signature of Authorized Official Date		
TOTAL BUDGET	111,082	<i>Amy Meharg, Accounting Manager</i> Name and Title (Please type or print)		

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

Applicant: _____

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: 2017-2018	FY: 2018-2019	FY:2019-2020	FY:2019-2020	FY:2020-2021	FY:2021-2022
PLANS						
LAND ACQUISITION						
DESIGN						
CONSTRUCTION	\$123,953.68	\$664,873.97	\$111,082.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
EQUIPMENT						
TOTAL:	\$123,953.68	\$664,873.97	\$111,082.08			

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

Anaina Hou Community Park has been fortunate to be funded by Atherton Foundation, HTA Community Enrichment Program, Hawaii Life Charitable Foundation, the North Shore Community Foundation and Hawaii Visitors Industry Charity Walk Fund. These partners supported the initial Playground build and, If a recipient of this grant-in-aid, we will leverage the award by applying to our funding partners for additional contributions to permanent bathroom facilities and drinking fountains.

3. 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.

While Anaina Hou has been the fortunate recipient of many grants and donations in support of the Playground and program support, it has not received federal, state or county government contracts/grants.

4. The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2018.

Unrestricted current assets as of 2018: 592,744.56

*Note Receivable: \$5,195,737 to be recognized over 18 years. 50% is Restricted Use. Expected to receive \$380,000 in 2019; \$190,000 is Unrestricted

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 Anaina Hou Community Park Board is composed of community members who have significant experience in real estate, construction and finance. The Board is comprised of professionals with a wide range of experience that will benefit the project, including a retired Circuit Court Judge, construction manager, attorney, real estate developer, business owners, certified investment management analyst and certified investment planners. We are especially proud that our board also includes a kumu hula with an M.A. in Indigenous Language Revitalization, Hawaiian Language and Literature. Importantly, the Anaina Hou Community Park Board recently oversaw the successful completion of the brand new Porter Pavilion, a 4,000 square foot multi-use event space as well as multi-purpose meeting facilities on campus totaling over 15,000 feet of

community space. Since opening in July 2018, the Porter Pavilion and meeting facilities have hosted over 14,000 people at community sponsored events.

2. Facilities

The applicant shall provide a description of its facilities and demonstrate its adequacy in relation to the request. If facilities are not presently available, describe plans to secure facilities.

The applicant shall provide a description of its facilities and demonstrate its adequacy in relation to the request. If facilities are not presently available, describe plans to secure facilities.

The land for the Playground was donated by the Porters in 2016 and the 17,000 square foot playground came to fruition in November of 2018. Anaina Hou oversees a large campus (upon which the Playground is located) and has adequate resources and staff to ensure the Playground is adequately maintained for the enjoyment of future generations.

See attachment

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 Chair of the Recreation Committee will oversee the daily monitoring evaluation of the project completion. Regularly scheduled meetings with the eleven Member Board of Directors as well as with our CPA will keep the project on track and on budget. See Also Answer to V(1), above. All contractors retained to perform the work will be licensed and bonded (in good standing) and will be required to complete all work in a safe and workmanlike manner.

2. Organization Chart

The applicant shall illustrate the position of each staff and line of responsibility/supervision. If the request is part of a large, multi-purpose organization, include an organization chart that illustrates the placement of this request.

See attachment

KUHIO HIGHWAY



MINI GOLF & GARDENS

FOOD COURT

GIFT SHOP

PARK & RIDE

CURRENT
PLAYGROUND
and SKATE RAMPS

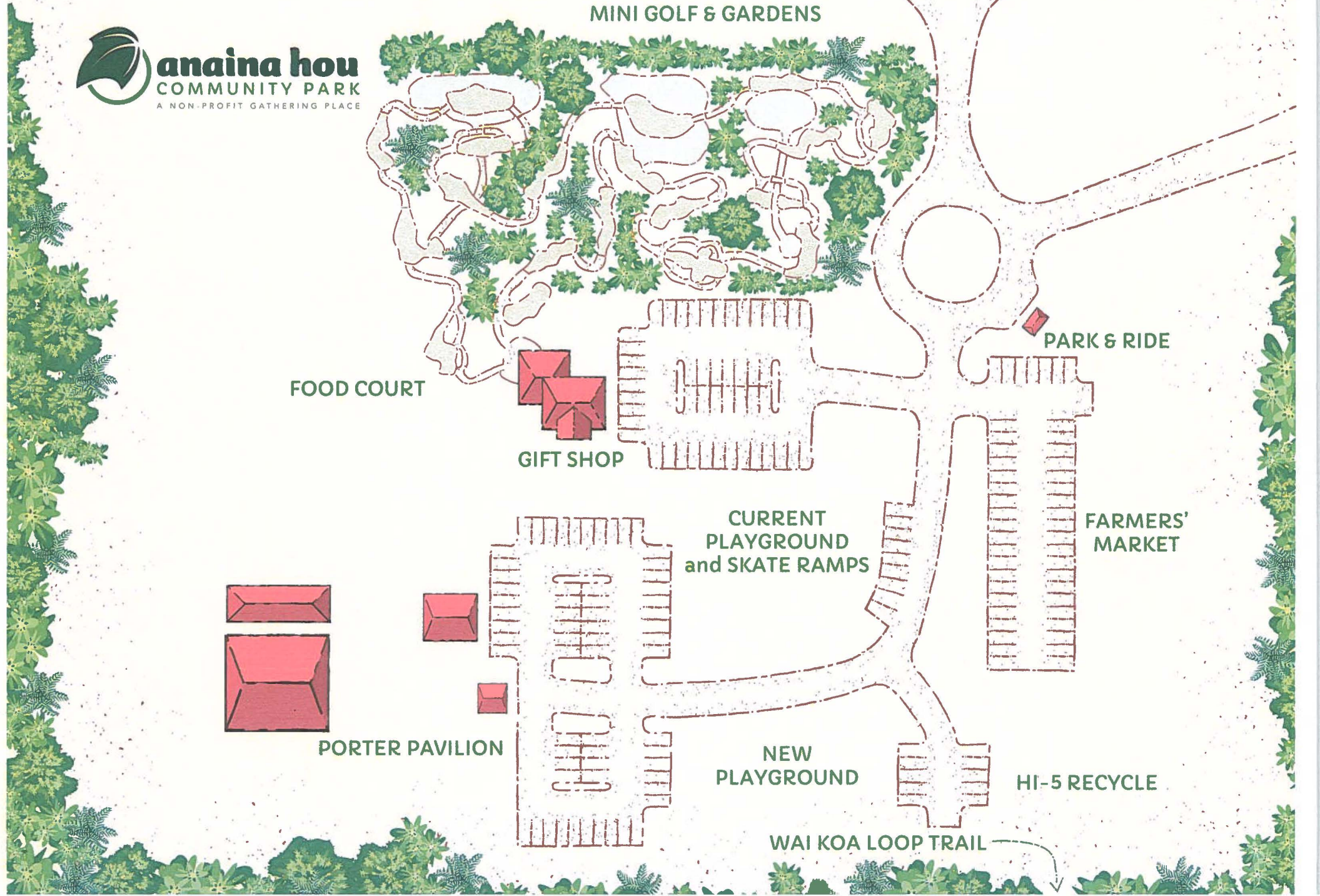
FARMERS'
MARKET

PORTER PAVILION

NEW
PLAYGROUND

HI-5 RECYCLE

WAI KOA LOOP TRAIL



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.

Executive Director: \$100,000/yr
Operations Manager: \$70,000/yr
Accounting Manager: \$45/hr

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.

There is no pending litigation in which Anaina Hou Community Park is a party.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

The grant will be not be used to support or benefit a sectarian or non-sectarian private educational institution as per Hawai'i State Constitution, Article X, Section 1.

4. Future Sustainability Plan

The applicant shall provide a plan for sustaining after fiscal year 2019-20 the activity funded by the grant if the grant of this application is:

- (a) Received by the applicant for fiscal year 2019-20, but
- (b) Not received by the applicant thereafter.

The scope of work outlined for this grant does not assume continued GIA funding. If the grant is received, the scope of work described in the application will be completed within 1 year. The Anaina Hou Playground will be self-sustainable after 2019-2020.



Let's play

By [Jessica Else The Garden Island](#) | Monday, January 7, 2019, 12:05 a.m.

Anaina Hou Community Park's new playground is open for business and already popular with local families, according to organizers. And they're waiting on just a few more details before commemorating the playground with a grand opening ceremony sometime in late January or early February.

With a maze of platforms and slides, a volcano-shaped rock wall, a castle in the middle and a replica of a double-hulled Hawaiian sailing canoe, the playground is themed around the concept of ahapua'a (mountain-to-ocean land areas). It also has sugar-plantation-era trains.

"It's a big success," said Frank Rothschild, on the Anaina Hou board of directors and chair of the Recreational Committee that's heading up fundraising for the project. "It's satisfying to me that every time I drive there to go to a meeting there's lots of kids with parents in the playground."

The concept surfaced years ago when the son of Hawaii Volcanic Beverages and husband and wife co-founders and longtime residents Jason and Channon Donovan was playing at a science-themed eco-playground in Florida while they were on vacation.

The Donovans' son, Finn, was 5 years old at the time.

"We had so much fun it was hard to leave, so Finn and I decided we needed to build an eco-learning playground where we live on Kauai," Jason Donovan said. "Huge mahalos to Joan and Bill Porter for accepting our proposal and for donating the land, initial funding, and wonderful heart and soul to make this happen for everyone who lives on or visits Kauai."

After Donovan pitched the idea, though, it was time to fundraise. It took several years before the Recreational Committee was able to raise \$650,000 for the playground's construction.

It was built through a company called Leathers, which partners with "an army of volunteers" to build playgrounds, according to Rothschild.

That's how the Kamalani Playground was built in Lydgate Park. But Anaina Hou wasn't able to get the volunteer base they needed to knock out building their playground in the same way.

Because of that, they had to factor in hiring people to help with the building, and the price tag climbed another \$75,000 — and that's after the board went through and cut away "wish-list items" from the plans for the playground.

"We revised our budget with the idea that we'd have a volunteer week at the very beginning and get a huge amount of work done and then we'd finish with hired help," Rothschild said.

Several volunteers did come out for that volunteer week in August 2018 at the beginning of the project, and they ran into roadblocks in the project immediately — quite literally, they ran into boulders.

"We had to dig 285 holes in the ground to hold the poles and all the features and the fence," Rothschild said. "In at least 40 percent of those holes, they ran into boulders, and that really threw us back. Most of our volunteers were smashing rocks, trying to break it up to get the post in the ground."

The playground is built almost entirely from recycled plastic and locally-sourced, non-toxic, natural building materials, and is touted as "earth friendly."

Keiki and their families are playing in the tunnels and climbing on the volcano, searching the skies for navigational stars as they play on the voyaging canoe, and taking rides down the slides that are existing currently.

And in the next few weeks, organizers plan to finish up final details like adding three additional slides — those didn't come with the original shipment of supplies — grading the road and establishing pathways to the hale overlooking the playground, and installing artwork along a wall that will be shaped to resemble the Kilauea Mountains.

On one side of the wall will be a ceramic mosaic of Hawaii's colorful fish and corals, and on the other side of the wall will be a mosaic of Hawaii's birds — all done in a partnership project with several Kauai artists.

Fundraising is still ongoing for the project, and Rothschild said Anaina Hou had to take out a loan to be able to keep it on track.

"It's an amazing thing, and we had lots of people that have donated money and in-kind donations, and then we had the super volunteers," Rothschild said. "There were people who have spent a huge amount of time and helped and never charged us."

...

Jessica Else, staff writer, can be reached at 245-0452 or jelse@thegardenisland.com.

