

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

Type of Grant Request:

Operating Capital

Legal Name of Requesting Organization or Individual: Dba:

Amount of State Funds Requested: \$ 398,108.00

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

Operating funds for a new "full circle" and highly replicable regional food system initiative in Kohala that incorporates all aspects of the value chain. The Kohala Food Systems Initiative's multi-organizational collaborative effort includes expanding the regional agricultural land base, improving existing agricultural water infrastructure, beginning farmer training and workforce development, increased regional fruit, vegetable, and starch cultivation, new value-added processing infrastructure, and marketing, sales and distribution support for local producers.

Amount of Other Funds Available:

State: \$ 0.00
Federal: \$ 31,665.00
County: \$ 0.00
Private/Other: \$ 360,025.00

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

\$ 0.00
Unrestricted Assets:
\$ 203,186.09

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: PO BOX 344
City: Kapaau State: HI Zip: 96755

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application

Name: Albert Nahale-a	Title: CEO
Email: director@kohalafoodhub.com	Phone: 808-747-3277

Federal Tax ID#: 	State Tax ID#
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Albert Nahale-a
Authorized Signature

Albert Nahale-a CEO
Name and Title

1/20/2023
Date Signed

Application Submittal Checklist

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

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

Albert Nahale-a

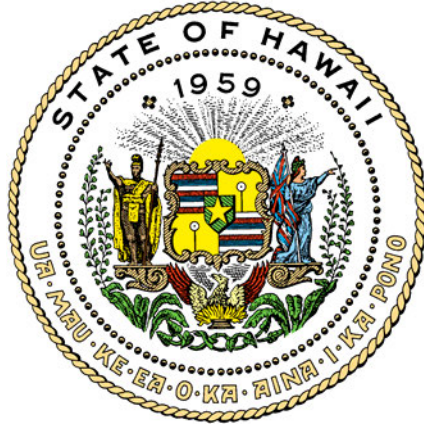
Albert Nahale-a

1/19/2023

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

PRINT NAME AND TITLE

DATE



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

‘IOLE

was incorporated under the laws of Hawaii on 12/13/2021 ; 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 12, 2023

Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs



**DECLARATION STATEMENT OF
APPLICANTS FOR GRANTS PURSUANT TO
CHAPTER 42F, HAWAI'I REVISED STATUTES**

The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies the following:

- 1) The applicant meets and will comply with all of the following standards for the award of grants pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawai'i Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is licensed or accredited, in accordance with federal, state, or county statutes, rules, or ordinances, to conduct the activities or provide the services for which a grant is awarded;
 - b) Complies with all applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, or disability;
 - c) Agrees not to use state funds for entertainment or lobbying activities; and
 - d) Allows the state agency to which funds for the grant were appropriated for expenditure, legislative committees and their staff, and the auditor full access to their records, reports, files, and other related documents and information for purposes of monitoring, measuring the effectiveness, and ensuring the proper expenditure of the grant.
- 2) If the applicant is an organization, the applicant meets the following requirements pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawai'i Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is incorporated under the laws of the State; and
 - b) Has bylaws or policies that describe the manner in which the activities or services for which a grant is awarded shall be conducted or provided.
- 3) If the applicant is a non-profit organization, it meets the following requirements pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawai'i Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is determined and designated to be a non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service; and
 - b) Has a governing board whose members have no material conflict of interest and serve without compensation.

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

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

<u>'Iole</u>	
(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)	
<u>Albert Nahale-a</u>	<u>1/19/2023</u>
(Signature)	(Date)
<u>Albert Nahale-a</u>	<u>1/19/2023</u>
(Typed Name)	(Title)

Public Purpose

This notation has been drafted to confirm that 'Iole has read the Hawaii Legislature's terms stated in Section 42F-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and to specify that this grant will be used for public purposes.

'Iole

Albert Nahale-a

Albert Nahale-a
Executive Director (CEO)

Project Title: **Kohala Food System Initiative: A Multi-Organizational Collaboration to Build Regional Food Security**

Applicant: 'Iole

II. Background and Summary

A brief description of the applicant's background;

'Iole was founded in 2021 as an affiliated entity of Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF) to take on stewardship of the ahupua'a of 'Iole in Kohala. Understanding the importance and weight of managing this precious resource, HCF recruited the University of Hawai'i and Arizona State University to come together to govern this new non-profit. 'Iole will serve as a place-based research center and living scientific laboratory continuing the stewardship work that entities including New Moon Foundation and Kohala Institute had been engaged in for years previously. 'Iole is bringing together academic experts, Native Hawaiian practitioners, community members, students, and government leaders to develop sustainability solutions rooted in ancestral knowledge and indigenous practices. Leveraging expertise and resources from partners at the University of Hawai'i (UH) and Arizona State University (ASU), 'Iole is prioritizing its initial programming around three focus areas:

1. Energy security
2. Food security
3. Place-based learning

The vision for 'Iole is based on the Native Hawaiian sense of shared responsibility to care for, learn from, and thrive off of defined, self-sustaining sections of land known as ahupua'a. This nonprofit will restore and cultivate the 'Iole ahupua'a while developing solutions-based models that can be scaled and replicated in other parts of the world. Solutions emerging from 'Iole will be deeply connected and rooted in the richness and resilience of the historic community of Kohala.

'Iole is an opportunity to bring together place, people, belief, commitment, and action in a way that changes how people behave in the world, ensuring future generations the chance for prosperity. It is an indigenous model of regenerative governance.

'Iole is the result of approximately 2,400 acres of land and assets given to HCF by the New Moon Foundation and the Kohala Institute. HCF, UH and ASU have committed to jointly raising \$6.75 million for the operations of 'Iole for the first three years of the project. The funding allows 'Iole to focus on properly implementing programming and creating impact without being burdened by financial stress or constraint.

HCF has engaged additional local organizations, including Kamehameha Schools and Hawaiian Electric, which are directly interested and impacted by 'Iole's focus areas. Their interest and involvement will further direct and enhance the global value of the solutions developed at 'Iole.

Partner Organizations:

Kahua Pa'a Mua:

Kahua Pa'a Mua's mission is to enhance communities through economic, conservation, preservation, social, and educational programs for youth and adults. Founded in 2010 by David and Carol Fuertes, with over 40 years of combined community service in agricultural education, economic development, and youth mentorship, Kahua Pa'a Mua's focus is *'aina-based* (land-based) education for youth and adults, combining traditional methodologies with Korean Natural Farming. Kahua Pa'a Mua provides resources for families to grow their food and nurtures agricultural entrepreneurship. Current programs teach multi-generational families to grow traditional Hawaiian crops and row crops, backyard chickens and pigs using Natural Farming, and fish and vegetables with backyard aquaponics. Current programs include 'Ohana Agricultural Resilience (OAR) Ho'okahua Ai (HA) Youth Mentorship Program. For more information visit <https://www.kahuapaamua.org/>.

HIP Agriculture:

The Hawai'i Institute of Pacific Agriculture (HIP Ag) was founded to provide agriculture and nutrition education to P-20 students and adults. Established in 2008, HIP Ag has an impressive record of offering successful programming and developing ongoing partnerships to build upon its success. HIP Ag has offered many residential apprenticeships on regenerative agriculture at their outdoor living classroom over the years, has developed and implemented a successful High School Agricultural Mentorship and Internship program with Kohala High School, and is currently implementing a Beginning Farmer Training Program funded by a USDA NIFA grant and a State GIA grant awarded in 2022. For more information visit <https://hipagriculture.org/>

Kohala Food Hub:

Founded in 2019 as a project of HIP Agriculture, Kohala Food Hub is currently formalizing as a distinct entity under the existing 501(c)(3) Feed Hawai'i, estimated to be complete by June 2023. Kohala Food Hub is an aggregator, marketer, and distributor of locally grown produce and locally made food products. It currently serves 75 qualifying Kohala families in need with ongoing free local produce through the Veggie Rx program funded by USDA's GusNIP program, serves 50 households with an ongoing Multi-Farm CSA subscription program, offers a weekly online farmers' market with pick-up and home delivery each week, aggregates 'ulu grown in Kohala for the Hawai'i Ulu Co-op, served the Kaukau for Keiki program in summer 2022 in collaboration with The Food Basket and Hawai'i County, and services wholesale accounts including local resorts and restaurants. Kohala Food Hub is dedicated to supporting local farmers by providing consistent and growing demand for their products, improving and increasing healthy local food access in the community, and building the local food system to become more

food secure and less reliant on imports. For more information visit <https://www.kohalafoodhub.com/>

The goals and objectives related to the request;

The goal of the 2023-2024 *Kohala Food System Initiative* (KFSI) is to support Hawai‘i’s ambitious state-wide goals to double food production in Hawai‘i by 2030 and require state agencies to procure at least 50% of their food locally by 2050. The initiative aims to ease the state’s significant challenges to meet these goals by implementing a concrete and highly replicable project, developing a “full-circle” and self-sufficient regional food system that incorporates all aspects of the value chain. The KFSI multi-organizational collaborative effort includes expanding the regional agricultural land base, improving existing agricultural water infrastructure, beginning farmer training and workforce development, increased regional fruit, vegetable, and starch cultivation, new value-added processing infrastructure, and marketing, sales and distribution support for local producers. KFSI plans to increase the amount of local food produced and distributed to the DOE West Hawai‘i Complex, the regional Veggie Rx program, Kaukau for Keiki and other community feeding programs, CSA program participants, retail accounts, wholesale accounts, and other markets in development.

The initiative puts regional food security at its center by developing the necessary agricultural infrastructure to support exponentially increased production and sustain new agricultural careers. The Phase I training program in 2023-2024, around which this proposal centers, will open a new land base for production and train a new generation of agricultural workers, offering hands-on education in multiple styles of regenerative agriculture, animal husbandry, food manufacturing, and value chain coordination from subject matter experts. The Phase I land-based educational training program is focused on increasing viable agricultural career opportunities in Kohala and supporting new agriculture workers in gaining the necessary skills to successfully farm and work within the value chain, contributing to regional and state-wide food security. KFSI will accomplish these goals through the following objectives:

Objective 1: Improve and expand the agricultural land base and agricultural water infrastructure at 'Iole to increase regional growing capacity.

Since 2021, 'Iole and the efforts and data put forth by its staff and partners have laid down the necessary groundwork to become an integral asset to the peoples of North Kohala and Hawai‘i Island. 'Iole and its partner organizations will utilize 1 acre of improved agricultural land within the 'Iole ahupua‘a for the KFSI’s Phase I farmer training program. Currently, the land contains full perimeter fencing, an irrigation system, and an on-site reservoir. However, these assets require restoration, repairs, and general maintenance to function at full capacity. Improvements will include general irrigation repair for the existing system, installation of new irrigation lines, repair of existing fencing to replace old and damaged areas and installation of new fencing to prevent crop damage from invasive ungulates, soil amendments, and security cameras and personnel to ensure protection from agricultural theft. Equipment is also needed to expand

agricultural production at 'Iole, specifically a tractor and implements. 'Iole plans to offer shared usage of the tractor and implements to Phase I, II, and III participants of the KFSI to reduce costs and barriers to new farmers growing food for the region. Throughout Phase I of the initiative, an additional 3-5 acres will be identified for the Phase II incubator program. The necessary infrastructure improvements will be made so that Phase II can begin directly after Phase I Q4.

Objective 2: Increase the number of farmers and value chain professionals to grow workforce capacity for regional agricultural production.

Through a hands-on 9-month beginning farmer and value chain training program for an estimated cohort of 10-20 participants, the KFSI multi-organizational effort will grow more farmers and food sector workers with roots and family in Kohala, supporting people born and raised here to stay and meaningfully contribute to their community's resilience while diversifying and stimulating the regional economy. The beginning farmer training cohort will receive training focused on regenerative agricultural methods including Korean Natural Farming, agroforestry, permaculture, kalo production, orchard maintenance, and organic vegetable market gardening at multiple established North Kohala agricultural sites including 'Iole, Kahua Pa'a Mua's Kapanai agroforestry plot, Ho'ea Rd. location, Kokoiki cattle ranch, and HIP Agriculture's Farm with organic market gardening, fruit orchards and agroforestry fields. The value chain training program will include training on fresh produce grading and processing best practices, label and packaging development, brand development, marketing, sales, and food hub operations and will take place at Kohala Food Hub. The intention is that this beginning farmer training program component of the initiative will be offered annually on an ongoing basis to scale up the regional and state-wide agricultural workforce.

'Iole is committed to working with project partners at Hawai'i Community Foundation, Arizona State University, University of Hawai'i, Kamehameha Schools, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the Hawai'i State Department of Education (HIDOE), Hawai'i Public Health Institute, Farm to School Hui, Dorrance Family Foundation, Hawai'i Food Hub Hui, Weinberg Foundation, and the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to address these challenges so that together and make this ongoing program a success.

Objective 3: Increase the volume of regionally grown produce processed and distributed through Kohala Food Hub.

All produce grown through the Phase I training program is guaranteed to be purchased by partner organization Kohala Food Hub. 28,600+ pounds of fresh local produce was aggregated and distributed by Kohala Food Hub in 2022. KFSI personnel anticipate a minimum of 10,000 pounds of produce to be generated through the Phase I Beginning Farmer Training Program. When added to existing regional produce production in concert with Kohala Food Hub's ongoing efforts to increase aggregation and distribution, KFSI anticipates Kohala Food Hub's aggregation volume to increase by 50% by the end of Q4 of the initiative. A portion of the produce grown in

the program will be distributed to the community fresh via Kohala Food Hub's Veggie Rx program, CSA program, online farmers' market, and wholesale accounts. The remainder of that produce will be processed in the Phase I value chain training program and sold via retail and wholesale accounts. Kohala Food Hub has received a grant from the Weinberg Family Foundation to construct a commercial kitchen on-site at the KFH headquarters, a project that is currently in process and is estimated to be completed by June 2023. Upon completion of the Kohala Food Hub commercial kitchen, it will then launch a Kohala Food Hub value-added product line launch focused on juicing, dehydration, and poi production. The value chain training program participants will be trained to process fresh produce into these value-added products and receive training on food safety, labeling requirements, brand development, marketing, sales, and operations.

Objective 4: Develop a strategic plan, timeline, and funding goals for Phases II and III of the project to scale regional agricultural production and processing capacity.

Throughout the initiative's first phase, a strategic plan, timeline, and budgets will be developed for Phases II and III of the initiative. Funding proposals will be submitted for Phases II and III according to the timeline determined through the course of strategic planning. Also during Phase I, 3-5 additional acres will be identified and improved as needed to host the Phase II incubator program immediately following Q4 of Phase I. This additional acreage will be divided into $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ acre plots for select Phase I training program graduates and other proven farmers in the area. Plots will be offered to incubator participants for 1-year low-cost leases in 2024-2025 as a trial phase. Participants will receive ongoing mentorship and the support of shared-use equipment and water infrastructure. Once funding is received for Phase III of the project, tentatively scheduled for 2025-2026, an additional 50+ acres of agricultural land will be cleared, water infrastructure will be installed, and an agriculture park for graduates of the KFSI program and other proven farmers in the region will be opened for applications, with plots likely ranging from 2-5 acres. Feasibility for the development of on-site workforce housing will also be conducted to support the large-scale agricultural park.

The public purpose and need to be served;

North Kohala has a land area of 141 square miles, of which 85% of lands are currently zoned for agriculture. Despite this productive ag land, the state imports 85-90% of its food. In 2016, Governor Ige committed Hawai'i to double its food production by 2020. According to a state report, the economic impact of food import replacement is significant; replacing just 10 percent of the food the state currently imports would amount to an increase of \$313 million circulating in the local economy. Furthermore, in 2016 the North Kohala Community Development Plan (NKCDP) set a district goal to produce 50% of the food it consumes and to support local agriculture by re-establishing the district's ag-based education programs. Despite these efforts to increase local food production and alleviate strain on the local economy, Hawai'i state continues to struggle with supply chain issues and price inflation due to its dependence on shipped goods,

most notably food products. To resolve these pressing issues, Hawai'i requires innovative and highly accessible ways to revive its agricultural industry and inspire new generations of small-scale growers, farmers, and value-added producers. The KFSI will work to create a highly replicable agricultural modality in which participants will receive the necessary guidance, training, and marketing opportunities to pursue agriculture as a viable career pathway. Land, water, and processing infrastructure will be improved, expanded and opened to beginning farmers. In turn, Hawai'i residents will benefit from an increase in local produce and products leading to increased positive health outcomes for our populace and increased local dollars supporting local diversified industries.

One of the biggest challenges that Hawai'i County faces is that the majority of farmers in Hawai'i are aged 60 or older. The state currently lacks the necessary workforce to replace them, thus preventing the expansion and development of new agricultural lands for food production. Additionally, there is an immense lack of infrastructure and capital to move the agricultural industry forward. In recognition of these challenges, The KFSI will conduct its project with an emphasis on reaching youth to middle age locally based participants to foster a new generation of farmers and value-added producers with ties to community and 'aina to ensure that there is a sustainable future for Hawai'i-based agriculture.

Additionally, Hawai'i residents face tremendous health issues, with heart disease being the leading cause of death in the state. This condition is closely followed by diabetes, hypertension, and various strains of cancer. Although serious, most of these health conditions are considered highly preventable when practicing healthy dietary habits and leading more active lifestyles. The KFSI promotes a healthy lifestyle within its participant network by encouraging active careers while adding to the availability and affordability of fresh locally grown produce.

As the project advances through phases I-III, initiative partners and staff will focus their efforts on agricultural land and water improvements within the North Kohala district. There is an urgent need among local farmers for general land accessibility, infrastructure and reliable agricultural water and irrigation system resources. The farmer training aspect of this project will teach participants how to perform general maintenance on productive land and irrigation systems. With the increase in skilled growers and the opportunity to profit financially from those skills, it is more likely that agricultural lands will be utilized for the intended purpose. This strengthens the argument against commercial development and leasing and promotes stricter regulations for properly using ag-zoned lands. The KFSI will meet Hawai'i's most pressing challenges with sustainable, economic, and environmentally sound solutions while prioritizing Hawai'i residents.

Describe the target population to be served;

The overall target population includes the rural and economically challenged residents of Hawai'i County, where according to the most recent census data 202,906 individuals are residing (*census.gov, 2021*). In total, 16.6% of Hawai'i island's residents live below the poverty line. The median age among the populace is 42.8 years of age, and the average per capita income is \$65,401.00 (*datausa.io, 2020*). Despite the statistics gradually rising in terms of median household income and the minimum wage rate, this data does not consider the individual communities that Hawai'i County comprises. The average income and economic opportunities fluctuate wildly between lower-income and rural communities and communities with heightened geographical demand. One example of this cost discrepancy is between Hawai'i County's two largest municipalities. The monthly salary (after taxes) in Kailua-Kona averages \$4,502.00, whereas Hilo averages \$1,709.00 (*livingcost.org*). Despite the apparent difference between community-based income, all Hawai'i county residents are faced with the same expenses including essentials such as groceries and food. The KFSI will work to extend equal opportunities and affordable food accessibility to each participating Hawai'i island community.

In Phase 1 of the KFSI, project managers and key personnel will focus primarily on training program participants, small-scale farmers, and agricultural enthusiasts from within the immediate communities of Kapa'au (pop.1,927), Hawi (pop.1,325), Kawaihae (pop.12,060), and Waimea (pop.10,969). The initiative will outreach to this demographic to assess participant interest and offer new and diverse career pathways. Data culled from this phase will enable the initiative to determine best practices to move forward. Additional local food supply will open opportunities to deliver to neighboring districts including Puako (pop.250), Waikoloa (pop.7,366), and Kailua-Kona (pop. 22,972) where the food grown and processed within the initiative will begin to be delivered during Phase I, with volume exponentially increasing during Phase II as more acreage is put into production.

According to reports from the CDC, the leading cause of death in the state of Hawai'i continues to be preventable conditions including heart disease and diabetes. These conditions are especially prevalent among socio-economically disadvantaged communities. Phase III of the initiative project will advance to developing an agriculture park and focus more directly on the equity issues surrounding food costs in Hawai'i County. Partner organization Kohala Food Hub currently serves SNAP/EBT customers and maintains lower margins than other grocery stores to maintain more equitable food access in the region. During Phase III, the initiative will work to extend this benefit to Hawai'i County as a whole as regional production scales. The nutritional benefits highlighted during this phase promote the value of eating locally and organically-grown nutrient-dense foods and the corresponding positive health outcomes. Ideally helping to alleviate state-sponsored healthcare costs for diseases such as Diabetes Type II, hypertension, and other obesity-related illnesses.

Describe the geographic coverage:

'Iole is located on the 'Iole ahupua'a in the North Kohala district of Hawai'i island. The 'Iole

ahupua'a is one of the few remaining intact ahupua'a extending from the coastline to the mountain ridge covering approximately 2,400 acres. The ahupua'a holds high historical significance to the North Kohala region and was once designated "crowned land" comprising 3 ancient *lo'i kalo* (taro patch) sites and the original locations of 4 ancient *heiau* (temples). The Kauhola point on the coast of the ahupua'a once contained King Kamehameha the Great's fish pond. The entirety of the land has been utilized as bountiful agricultural land since the early 1800s.

The district of North Kohala is a remote area located in the northwestern corner of the island, at the end of the Akoni Pule Highway and the Kohala Mountain Road, which are the only access routes in and out of the Kohala district. Along the western shore of the district, the topography is relatively level, gently sloping upward from the coast to the Kohala Mountains. In contrast, the windward side of North Kohala contains deep canyon-like valleys and steep vertical cliffs. The overwhelming majority of Kohala lands are zoned for agriculture; 84.6% (67,977 acres) according to County zoning and 80.5% in the State Agricultural district (64,713 acres). The sentiment of Kohala residents is generally that they would like to see this land utilized for agriculture. One of the biggest concerns is the misuse of this land for luxury subdivisions and/or "gentlemen's estates." (*North Kohala Development Plan, 2008*).

Both Hawai'i Island and Hawai'i State experience difficulty in regulating the proper use of agricultural lands. According to a statement in Hawai'i Civil Beat Magazine by Rep. David Tarnas of the Big Island, "We've got so many subdivisions on ag land on Hawai'i island you just can't ignore the issue." (Yerton, 2021).

There are currently four state district boundaries: urban, rural, agricultural, and conservation in Hawai'i state and according to the Hawai'i Data Book, there is an approximate total of 4,112,388 acres of land in the State of Hawai'i, of which approximately 48% is designated as conservation, 47% is designated as agricultural, 5% is designated as urban, and less and .5% is designated as rural. A majority of Hawai'i's designated agricultural land comprises a variety of terrain, from mountainous pasture settings to dry deserts and rainforests. However, this is especially true on Hawai'i Island, which contains a total of 8 out of the 13 climate zones found on planet Earth. Hawai'i Island also holds the vast majority of the state's acreage in commercial forestry (20,921 acres) and pasture (552,091 acres). It is the primary producer of many important crops, including coffee, flowers/foilage/landscape, macadamia nuts, papaya, and tropical fruit (*UH Hawai'i at Hilo, 2020*).

III. Service Summary and Outcomes

Scope of work, tasks and responsibilities;

Objective 1: Improve and expand the agricultural land base and agricultural water

infrastructure at 'Iole to increase regional growing capacity. Goals and measured results will be carried out by the 'Iole Programs and Partnerships Director and 'Iole 'Aina and Infrastructure Technician under the supervision of 'Iole's CEO, with support from partner organizations Kahua Pa'a Mua, Kohala Food Hub, and HIP Agriculture.

- Repair irrigation lines from the existing 3 million gallon reservoir on site to the new agricultural plots
- Install new irrigation lines within the agricultural plots to ensure crop health
- Repair fencing around the agricultural plots to ensure feral pigs do not enter the production area and crops remain intact
- Install security cameras in trees around the production area to prevent agricultural theft
- Increase staffing security presence to prevent agricultural theft
- Designate and dedicate 1 acre to be used in Phase I beginning farmer training program
- Install basic shelter and portable restroom facility for dedicated Phase I program area
- Designate, dedicate and improve additional 3-5 acres to be divided into plots to be used in the subsequent Phase II incubator program
- Put a total of 3-5 additional acres into mixed crop agricultural production directly following the end of Q4

Objective 2: Increase number of farmers and value-added processors to grow workforce capacity for regional agricultural production. Goals and measured results will be carried out by Director level personnel from partner organizations Kahua Pa'a Mua, HIP Agriculture, and Kohala Food Hub, with support from the manager tier of each organization.

- Consult with key Go Farm personnel to design and implement a durable, replicable and successful Phase I training program with incubator and accelerator phases to follow
- Graduate a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 new agricultural sector workers based in Kohala from a 9-month training program
- Train 10-18 farmer training program participants in multiple diverse sites in a wide range of agricultural practices including agroforestry, Korean Natural Farming, animal husbandry, cattle ranching, permaculture, organic vegetable gardening, and kalo cultivation
- Train 2-4 value chain professionals participants in a wide range of value chain coordination elements including sorting and grading produce, food safety requirements, portioning and packing best practices, food manufacturing, brand development, labeling requirements, packaging development, and marketing and sales activities
- Deliver regular participant surveys and evaluations and provide individual mentorship to participants as needed
- Graduate a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 18 participants into the 1-Year Phase II incubator program
- Connect training program graduates with agricultural professionals and opportunities in the region for paid employment upon graduation.

Objective 3: Increase the volume of regionally grown produce and protein processed and distributed through Kohala Food Hub. Goals and measured results will be carried out by personnel from partner organization Kohala Food Hub by its Director, Manager, and support staff.

- Increase the volume of fresh produce and eggs aggregated and distributed by Kohala Food Hub by 50% from 2022 to 2024
- Construct a shared-use commercial kitchen at Kohala Food Hub for KFH value-added processing and low-cost usage by regional producers
- Increase Kohala Food Hub line of value-added products processed and sold by KFH by 100% from 2022 to 2024
- Increase Kohala-made value-added products sold through KFH by 75% from 2022 to 2024
- Increase SNAP/EBT KFH sales by 50% from 2022 to 2024
- Increase wholesale sales by 33% from 2022 to 2024
- Increase sales to other food hubs in the county by 50% from 2022-2024
- Meet with West Hawai'i Complex Area Superintendent to build Farm to School partnerships
- Build partnership with new Kohala cafeteria Manager/Buyer
- Restart farm to school sales to West Hawai'i Schools
- Design and begin sales of semi-processed products produced at KFH for Farm to School
- Create new wholesale accounts with private schools and institutions

Objective 4: Develop strategic plan, timeline and funding goals for Phases II and III of the project to scale regional agricultural production and processing capacity. Goals and measured results will be achieved by 'Iole CEO in consultation with key personnel from partner organizations Kohala Food Hub, HIP Agriculture, Kahua Pa'a Mua, and consultants from Go Farm.

- Design Phase II of KFSI's incubator project to launch immediately following the end of Phase I Q4.
- Secure additional funding for Phase II incubator
- Identify location(s) and design the layout of ¼-½ acre Phase II incubator plots
- Identify location(s) and finalize the design of Phase III 'Iole Agricultural Park
- Submit a State CIP proposal and other funding requests to private, county and federal entities for the Phase III ag park by the due date for 2024.

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

Over 12 months beginning when awarded State funds are released, 'Iole will work together with its initiative partners to construct a full circle regional food system within the ahupua'a where the 'Iole organization is based as the primary location, and with secondary locations at neighboring Kahua Pa'a Mua and HIP Agriculture production areas. The challenges to increased regional production are significant and varied. Only a systems-based collaborative approach can truly

move the needle toward the food self-sufficiency the state has identified as necessary. 'Iole's land base, reservoir, and existing fencing and irrigation infrastructure will serve as the ideal site for the Phase I training program, Phase II incubator program, and Phase III agriculture park. KFSI partners Kahua Pa'a Mua and HIP Agriculture have over 10 years of experience training new farmers in Kohala and deep connections with Kohala High School and other local community-based entities. As such they are the ideal partners to deliver the educational beginning farmer training program. 'Iole's partner Kohala Food Hub is the only aggregator in the region and has more than 3 years of experience in aggregating and distributing local produce. As such, it is the ideal partner to ensure that the produce grown through the program will be consumed by community members in Kohala and neighboring districts and to successfully deliver the value chain training program. The ultimate intention is for graduates of the training program to move through the Phase II incubator program and then receive a longer lease at the 50+ acre 'Iole agriculture park that will be cleared and improved in 2025-2026.

Timeline:

Q1: 3 months beginning when awarded funds are released

Objective 1:

- Improve 'Iole agricultural land base:
 - Repair fencing
 - Repair irrigation system
 - Install new irrigation lines
- Clear 1 acre parcel of fenced and irrigated 'Iole land of overgrowth and prepare the land for production, amending soil as needed
- Install security cameras, both hidden and visible to act as deterrents to potential theft

Objective 2:

- Multiple iterative meetings with key project personnel from all four organizations to plan, schedule and coordinate amongst organizations
- Consult with Go Farm personnel on design and implementation of Phase I training program
- Purchase majority of project equipment and supplies
- Repair fencing at Kahua Pa'a Mua Ho'ea Rd. location
- Meet with Kohala High School Natural Resource teacher Dean Snelling to solicit KHS student participation in farmer and value chain training programs
- Recruit training program participants via:
 - Outreach to KHS, North Kohala Community Resource Center, Kohala Center, and other similar organizations
 - Social Media posts
 - Newsletters from all four partner organizations
 - Flyers

- Craigslist and other job posting sites as needed
- Finalize training program agreements with participants

Objective 3:

- Finalize commercial kitchen construction and certification process
- Continue to build demand for local produce through growing Kohala Food Hub's retail and wholesale sales accounts via marketing efforts including:
 - Newsletters
 - Social Media
 - Postcards and Flyers
 - Networking with similar organizations
- Gain acceptance into The Food Basket's Da Bux program to double up dollar value for SNAP/EBT customers
- Continue to service existing free and paid food programs and track participant numbers served and poundage of food distributed
- Meet with Janette Snelling-West Hawai'i Complex Area Superintendent at Hawai'i State Department of Education regarding Farm to School efforts in Kohala
- Schedule and meet with new Kohala cafeteria manager to understand needs and menu

Objective 4:

- Initial coordinated internal meetings with four partner organizations regarding strategic plan, timeline and funding goals for Phases II and III of KFSI
- Plan and conduct a day-long regional agriculture strategic planning session with broader stakeholders including private landowners, regional organizations and agencies, North Kohala CDP Action Committee and Agriculture subcommittee membership, Hawai'i State and County elected representatives, private foundations

Q2: Subsequent 3 months

Objective 1:

- Maintain agricultural production area in prime conditions for growing:
 - Ongoing fencing and irrigation repairs
 - Weeding
 - Pest management
 - Security
- Maintain shared-use tractor and other equipment
- Identify plot sizes and locations and begin design for Phase II incubator program

Objective 2:

- Begin Phase I farmer training program:
 - First month entire cohort meets 2 days/week at 'Iole to design and plant out formerly fallow 1 acre plot into production

- Subsequent 2 months cohort will be split into two segments with 1 segment led by Kahua Pa‘a Mua Director and the other segment by HIP Agriculture Director:
 - 1 day/week at Kahua Pa‘a Mua’s sites and HIP Agriculture’s sites respectively
 - 1 day/week entire cohort convenes for hands-on training at 'Iole
- Begin Phase 1 value chain professional training program at Kohala Food Hub focused on food safety, grading and sorting, weighing, portioning and packing.
- Intra-partner Q2 meeting with key personnel to assess progress and refine program delivery as necessary
- Conduct subject matter comprehension and satisfaction participant training surveys at end of Q2
- Conduct participant evaluations at end of Q2
- Submit funding requests for Year II of Phase I training program

Objective 3:

- Develop value-added product labels and packaging
- Purchase value-added processing equipment and supplies
- Finalize DOE West Hawai‘i Complex Area menu items to be sourced by Kohala Food Hub with superintendent and cafeteria manager
- Begin purchasing faster growing produce and eggs from Phase I farmer training program for sale to existing markets
- Continue to grow CSA, retail, wholesale, and community feeding program markets through ongoing marketing efforts, strategic partnerships and fundraising efforts and track growth

Objective 4:

- Strategic planning with 'Iole Board of Directors to incorporate regional stakeholder day-long strategic planning goals into 'Iole’s land management and development plan
- Submit private and county funding requests for Phase II incubator program
- Create draft budget and design and initiate outreach to funders and partners for Phase III agricultural park

Q3: Subsequent 3 months:

Objective 1:

- Continue to maintain agricultural production area and equipment in prime conditions for growing and conduct repairs and security activities as needed
- Begin improvements to additional 3-5 acres of agricultural land for Phase II incubator

Objective 2:

- Purchase additional program supplies as needed

- Continue Phase I farmer training program:
 - First 2 months of Q3, cohort segments remain with Q2 location and trainer assignments
 - Last month of Q3, cohort segments switch trainers and sites - Kahua Pa‘a Mua’s segment transfers to be led by HIP Agriculture and vice versa for maximum exposure to diverse agricultural practices, training styles, and land bases
- Continue Phase I value chain professionals training program focused on value-added processing, labeling requirements, packaging and brand development
- Conduct subject matter comprehension and satisfaction participant training surveys at end of Q3
- Conduct participant evaluations at end of Q3
- Intra-partner Q3 meeting with key personnel to assess progress and refine program delivery as necessary
- Design Phase II incubator application and selection process
- Identify candidates for Phase II incubator program and solicit applications

Objective 3:

- Begin value-added processing with training program participants and Kohala Food Hub staff
- Process semi-processed products for Farm to School (ie. cut and peeled vegetables and fruit) and sell to DOE West Hawai‘i Complex Area
- Approach private schools and other institutions to sell them fresh produce and value-added products
- Continue serving all paid and free food programs and accounts
- Continue to grow all markets through ongoing marketing and sales efforts
- Initiate outreach to other food hubs in the county to collaborate on intra-food hub sales

Objective 4:

- Consult with Go Farm personnel on Phases II and II of the initiative
- Finalize Phase II incubator land use design and logistics
- Install new fencing and irrigation lines for Phase II incubator
- Continue work on development, design, budget and strategic partnerships for 50+ acre agricultural park

Q4: Final 3 months:

Objective 1:

- Continue to maintain agricultural production area and equipment in prime conditions for growing and conduct repairs and security activities as needed
- Finalize improvements to additional 3-5 acres of agricultural land for Phase II incubator
- Put additional 3-5 acres into agricultural production immediately following end of Q4

Objective 2:

- Continue and conclude Phase I farmer training program
- Continue and conclude Phase I value chain training program
- Develop and finalize schedule, curriculum and mentorship design for Phase II incubator program
- Review applications for Phase II incubator program, interview candidates and enroll participants
- Conduct subject matter comprehension and satisfaction participant training surveys at end of Q4
- Conduct participant evaluations at end of Q4
- Connect graduates with agricultural professionals and opportunities in the region for paid employment in the agricultural sector including food processing
- Intra-partner Q4 meeting with key personnel to debrief, assess outcomes and refine program delivery for subsequent year as necessary

Objective 3:

- Continue value-added processing activities with training program participants and staff
- Continue growing all markets through ongoing marketing, sales and partnership efforts
- Continue serving all paid and free food programs and accounts
- Finalize strategic partnerships with other Food Hubs in the County including Adaptations, Hilo Food Hub and OK Farms, sell KFH made value-added products and any surplus of fresh produce to them and buy from them to serve Kohala

Objective 4:

- Finalize plans for Phase III Ag Park and submit funding requests
- Receive funding for Phase II incubator program

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

'Iole is committed to identifying and evaluating the indicators of success and achievement of KFSI through the following measures:

- Create and implement a comprehensive tracking system for all four initiative objectives designed by the KFSI Project Managers in collaboration with key project personnel
- Solicit quarterly progress reports from key personnel and input into tracking system
- Track all output metrics for effectiveness measures in the categories listed below
- Hold quarterly intra-partner meetings to assess progress and refine delivery as needed
- Administer participant surveys through G-Forms and collate responses through G-Sheets

Measure(s) of effectiveness that will be reported to the State agency through which grant funds are appropriated (the expending agency):

Output Metrics Tracking Categories Listed By Objective:

Objective 1:

- Acreage of land formerly fallow improved and put into agricultural production by beginning of incubator program (end of Phase I Q4)
- Footage of irrigation lines repaired
- Footage of new irrigation lines installed
- Footage of fencing improved
- Footage of new fencing installed

Objective 2:

- Training program instructional hours completed
- Training program participant evaluation responses
- Training program participant attendance
- Training program survey responses
- Funding awarded for ongoing Phase I training program
- % of participants who retain paid employment in the agricultural production sector post-training
- % of participants who retain paid employment in the agricultural value chain sector post-training
- % of participants who graduate to KFSI Phase II incubator program

Objective 3:

- Poundage of food grown in the farmer training program and purchased by KFH
- Poundage of food processed into VAP by value chain training program participants and KFH staff
- Finalization of shared-use commercial kitchen construction
- # of free community food program participants served
- # of paid CSA program participants served
- % increase in retail and wholesale accounts from 2022-2024
- % increase in VAP sales from 2022-2024
- % increase in SNAP/EBT customers from 2022-2024
- % increase in sales to other Hawai'i County food hubs from 2022-2024
- Sales restarted to West Hawaii DOE Complex Area
- Sales initiated to private schools and institutions

Objective 4:

- Finalization of logistics and land base designation and design for Phase II incubator
- Funding awarded for Phase II of the initiative
- Strategic planning completed, strategic partnerships formed, and initial budgets and designs completed for Phase III 50+ acre Agriculture Park

- Funding proposals submitted for Phase III

IV. Financial

Budget

Please see the budget included in the submission packet.

The applicant shall provide its anticipated quarterly funding requests for the fiscal year 2024.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
\$160,325	\$80,159	\$85,309	\$72,315	\$398,108

The applicant shall provide a listing of all other sources of funding that they are seeking for fiscal year 2024.

Operational philanthropy from Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF), Arizona State University (ASU), and others to be determined is dedicated at approximately \$2.2M. Iole’s business plan has a three year ramp up, during which its operational costs are weighted as it builds out infrastructure, program design, partnerships, and other opportunities.

\$900,000 is secured in program funding from a variety of funders including HCF, ASU, University of Hawai‘i, Kamehameha Schools, and others.

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

The applicant shall provide a listing of all federal, state, and county government contracts, grants, and grants in aid it has been granted within the prior three years and will be receiving for fiscal year 2024 for program funding.

N/A

The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2022.

\$203,186.09

V. Experience and Capability

Necessary Skills and Experience

'Iole's board of directors reflects not only three high-capacity organizations but nine extremely accomplished and committed individuals. The board recruited a leader for their non-profit with years of experience managing large tracts of important and sensitive lands across Hawaii including the largest agricultural land holding in the state. The leadership of 'Iole understands how to manage lands, work with lessees and partners, engage communities, and deliver programmatic outcomes.

'Iole is a relatively new non-profit and will be launching programming this year. However, it has acted as the manager of 'Iole this past year through a contract with the New Moon Foundation, so its CEO and other key personnel are intimately familiar with these lands, the environment, and the infrastructure in place. In addition, several of 'Iole's staff members have worked for a number of entities who have managed these lands over the years. Collectively, they have over twenty years of experience on these lands. Finally, all of 'Iole's staff are from Kohala and all but two have lived their entire lives here. Most of them have been working, hunting, and ranching on these lands their entire lifetime. 'Iole's primary function for the KFSI is to host the initiative's programmatic components and manage and develop the lands for agricultural production, which we are the experts for.

KFSI partner organizations have ample and longstanding experience developing and implementing successful agricultural programs in the Kohala region, detailed in other sections of this proposal.

A description of the skills and experience of key project personnel can be found in section VI. below titled: "Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing".

Facilities

'Iole:

'Iole comprises an entire ahupua'a spanning approximately 2,408 acres of land in North Kohala. Facilities include a recently remodeled grouping of historical buildings made up of a dormitory, dining hall, commercial kitchen, conference rooms, studio space, and living quarters. Ten one-bedroom bungalows are just mauka of the historic building complex and provide the capacity to house a variety of learners as the units are capable of hosting one to three people each. Existing agricultural infrastructure includes two low level aquifers, a three million-gallon private reservoir, irrigation lines, and multiple fenced areas with roadways and gated access. 'Iole works with multiple lessees including cattle ranchers, macadamia nut farmers, and a 4H club operation that rescues and rehabilitates horses and offers community horseback riding and rodeo classes to the community. A fully fenced section in the prime agricultural belt houses a productive 'ulu orchard, citrus trees, and banana patches.

Kohala Food Hub:

Kohala Food Hub is located on Ho‘ea Rd. in Hawi and is regularly used for aggregating, washing, packing, and distributing locally grown produce, protein, and locally made food products. It contains a loading bay with truck and van access for produce deliveries, a wash pack for washing and sanitizing produce according to food safety standards, a walk-in refrigerator, walk-in freezer, large enclosed storage area that is in process of becoming a commercial kitchen, hand washing sink, restroom, and office. It holds an active Food Establishment Permit and a “Pass” from the Hawai‘i Department of Health.

Kahua Pa‘a Mua

The Kahua Pa‘a Mua farm is located in North Kohala on Hawai‘i Island and comprises 3 essential production sites.

1. The Ho‘ea Rd. Site

Totaling 6.75 acres, the Ho‘ea Rd. Site is complete with a portable restroom and an animal husbandry facility (1 acre), a fruit orchard (2 ¼ acres), and productive croplands (3 ½ acres) These facilities contain (1) 8x8 sow birthing pen (2) 12x12 hog pens, (1) 15x15 egg laying pen, (2) 4x10 chicken tractors, and (6) 4x4 rabbit hutches.

2. Kapanaiia Agroforestry Site:

Totaling 3.25 acres, the Kapanaiia Agroforestry Site has a functional bathroom and shower, a designated agro forest (¼ acre), and open pasture lands (3 acres). This site contains (1) 20x20 verified Imu area, (1) 12x25 hog pen (currently contains 2 sows with 1 litter)

3. Kokoiki Cattle Ranch:

Totaling 50 acres of designated pasture lands, this facility contains a 100x100 branding corral.

HIP Agriculture Farm

The HIP Agriculture farm comprises 26 acres of combined productive market gardening, tropical agroforestry lands, and citrus orchards. It serves as a classroom for its educational programming and beginner farmer training program. This site contains 6 bungalows for staff and apprenticeship housing, an outdoor classroom, an outdoor kitchen and dining area, and (3) 24x70 on-site greenhouses.

VI. Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing

Proposed Staffing, Staff Qualifications, Supervision and Training

Key KFSI Project Personnel including Albert Nahale-a, David Fuertes, Dashiell Kuhr, Maya Parish, 'Iole's Director of Programs and Partnerships, Keahi Akana, Carol Fuertes, Jesse

Rubendall, and Katie Wortman will co-design, implement and track progress for KFSI's Phases I, II and III.

Albert Nahale-a will serve as Director of KFSI, leading and providing his guidance and expertise to ensure the initiative is successful and that the planned phases stay on track regarding outcomes, schedules, and budgets. He will run quarterly progress meetings and oversee all land-based aspects of the program at 'Iole including Objectives 1 and 4.

David Fuertes and Dashiell Kuhr will co-design the initiative and tracking system, co-direct and implement the beginning farmer training program, track data, and ensure successful outcomes related to Objective 2.

Maya Parish will serve as Project Co-Manager of KFSI alongside 'Iole's Director of Programs and Partnerships. She will co-design the initiative, co-design and implement the initiative's tracking system, direct the value chain training program, ensure successful outcomes related to Objectives 2 and 3, collate data from other key personnel, and provide reports to the State agency through which grant funds are appropriated.

'Iole's Director of Programs and Partnerships will serve as KFSI Project Co-Manager alongside Maya Parish and will be responsible for co-designing the initiative and tracking system, coordinating with 'Iole's 'Aina & Infrastructure Director and technicians, tracking key 'Iole initiative-related land-based data for reporting, and collaborating with other key 'Iole personnel to build relationships, plan and fundraise for Phases II and II.

'Iole's 'Aina and Infrastructure Technician Keahi Akana will assist in clearing and maintaining the 1-acre parcel for Phase I and the 3-5 acres for Phase II. He will repair and install new irrigation lines, prepare and install new fencing, maintain the shared-use equipment, and maintain the agricultural production area at 'Iole at regular weekly intervals.

Carol Fuertes and Jesse Rubendall will manage the beginning farmer training program for Kapua Pa'a Mua and HIP Agriculture respectively, including coordinating logistics, communications with training program participants, administering surveys, and tracking and reporting data to KFSI Project Managers.

Katie Wortman will manage the value chain training program, including coordinating logistics, and communications, overseeing food safety and processing practices, and tracking and reporting key data to KFSI Project Managers.

All key KFSI personnel have been selected for their subject matter expertise and experience in the service area. The personnel qualifications are delineated in the biosketches below:

Qualifications

Albert “Alapaki” Nahale-a, CEO 'Iole:

Alapaki Nahale-a is the CEO of the Global Resiliency Hub at 'Iole where they are committed to modeling how regenerative governance leads to abundance for people and the environment.

Born and raised in Hilo, Nahale-a is a 1986 graduate of Kamehameha Schools and holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Pennsylvania.

Nahale-a spent 30 years serving the community in various roles, including as director and chairman of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. He served in various roles at Kamehameha Schools including senior director of community engagement and resources for Hawai'i Island. He also worked extensively for charter schools as president and executive director of the Hawai'i Charter School Network, director of Laupāhoehoe Community Public Charter School and director of Ka 'Umeke Ka'eo Hawaiian Immersion Public Charter School.

Alapaki has served on a variety of community boards and commissions including chairperson of the County of Hawai'i Cultural Resources Commission, member of the County Charter Commission, board member of the Boys and Girls Club of the Big Island, and board member of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation. He is currently one of the Hawaii Island Regents for the University of Hawaii.

President Obama appointed Nahale-a to serve on the Presidential Scholars Commission where he helped to set commission policy and select top high school scholars from around the country.

'Iole Director of Programs and Partnerships (In Recruitment)

This 'Iole position is currently in process of being recruited and hired. The onboarding date is estimated to be March 1st, 2023.

Keahi Akana, 'Iole 'Aina & Infrastructure Technician

Keahi Akana is a lifelong resident of Kohala who is deeply committed to the well-being of his place, community, and 'ohana. Keahi has worked for more than twenty years in Kohala almost exclusively out and around the lands of this special place. For the past year he has been the lead 'Aina and Infrastructure technician for 'Iole ensuring that the grounds are well maintained, our plants thriving and healthy, our fences and roads in good condition, and pests managed. He is also one of the keepers of our cultural practice.

Prior to 'Iole Keahi worked for Takata Farms serving primarily to care for and tend to their Kentia palms business. Keahi has spent many years deep in the valleys of Kohala helping with the Kohala ditch repair and restoration, rebuilding trails, and ensuring safe engagement for

visitors and contractors. Keahi has also done landscaping and caretaking work for several Kohala businesses.

Keahi's connection to Kohala and 'aina started as a keiki as his family were traditional hunters and gatherers and also raised pigs and cattle throughout Kohala. He continues to raise his family with the same traditions.

David Fuertes, Kahua Pa'a Mua Executive Director:

David Fuertes is the “grandfather” of agriculture in North Kohala. David served 30+ years in the Hawai'i State Department of Education teaching Agriculture, Career Technical Education and was the West Hawai'i District Resource Teacher and State FFA Executive Secretary. Mr. Fuertes has also served as Chairperson for the State's Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism's (DBEDT) Community Based Economic Development Board. He has served on numerous County, State, and Federal boards and commissions including 8 years with the State Board of Agriculture. Mr. Fuertes is a former Hawai'i County Deputy Managing Director and has served as the Hilo/Hamakua Community Liaison to revitalize plantation communities for the State's DBEDT. His agriculture experiences are extensive, and he has undergone Korean Natural Farming Certification with Master Cho of South Korea. He has even taken 3 follow-up training including a site visit to South Korea.

Mr. Fuertes is a part-time rancher, Hawaiian saddle-maker, and advocate for increased food self-sufficiency statewide. Mr. Fuertes has successfully executed numerous programs, events, and educational activities in his 40+ years of community service in North Kohala. His particular passion is working with families and youth in entrepreneurial development programs.

He is currently the Program Director of Ho'okahua 'Ai Youth Mentorship with grant funding from the Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation, an innovative youth mentoring program that melds traditional knowledge with contemporary methodologies.

Dashiell Kuhr, HIP Agriculture Co-Director:

Dashiell Kuhr is the co-founder and co-director of Hawai'i Institute of Pacific Agriculture. Dashiell has managed farms and led educational programs in North Kohala for over 14 years. Leading classes and hands-on in-field instruction, hosting guest speakers, and coordinating field trips, Dashiell has hosted and provided farmer training to over 200 adults in HIP Ag's residential farmer training programs.

Under Dashiell's leadership, Hawai'i Institute of Pacific Agriculture has grown to be the largest commercial specialty fruit and vegetable farm in North Kohala with a model farm demonstrating row crops, agroforestry, and orchards in Kapa'au, HI.

As executive director of Hawai'i Institute of Pacific Agriculture, Dashiell has raised over 2 million dollars for implementing its core programming of farmer training, youth education, and the Kohala Food Hub. In 2019, Dashiell led the Hawai'i Institute of Pacific Agriculture to become the first non-profit providing fresh produce to the Lt Governors Farm to School Pilot. His team has developed the Kohala Food Hub's capacity to supply farm to school and is now working to increase local farmers' and new landowners' production capacity.

Dashiell was the legislative chair for Hawai'i Farms Union United for 3 years and President of the Hawai'i Farms Union Kohala Chapter for 6 years. He has lobbied extensively at the Hawai'i state legislature for food hubs, farmer training, agriculture parks, and other agriculture legislation and initiatives. Connected with local politicians and other non-profit organizations Dashiell has built partnerships to increase impact and transform community food systems.

Maya Parish, Kohala Food Hub Director:

Maya Parish has worked in support of Kohala-based agricultural initiatives for 5+ years. After producing HIP Agriculture's large-scale annual fundraiser 'Āina Fest from 2017-2019, she produced, directed and promoted 'Āina Lessons, a successful and highly viewed 16-episode educational series about regenerative farming techniques and healthy locavore cooking. In 2021 Parish began directing Kohala Food Hub, which has experienced exponential growth since she assumed leadership. She co-created and organized HIP Agriculture's 2022 Seed To Market Initiative, a series of community education workshops and planting activities to build local food sovereignty.

Maya's previous employment includes Operations Manager at Escape Hatch LLC and Programs Manager at 'Iole. Serving her community and increasing environmental, community, and individual health and wellness is central to Parish's career and purpose. She has worked extensively as a volunteer community organizer on events such as the Kohala Country Fair, the Kona Women's March, the People's Climate March, and the Democratic Party of Hawai'i County and State Conventions. She has served as an Elected Representative on the Democratic Party of Hawai'i's County and State Leadership Committees. She currently sits on North Kohala's CDP Action Committee and Agricultural sub-committee.

Carol Fuyertes, Kahua Pa'a Mua Secretary & Treasurer:

Carol is the driver behind Kahua Pa'a Mua, keeping all aspects of the organization on track. Retired, Mrs. Fuyertes was employed at the Kohala Dental Center for 32 years as a Business Manager. She was responsible for all aspects of office management, accounts receivables, accounts payables, payroll, business taxes, and general office duties. She is proficient in QuickBooks Business and QuickBooks Payroll systems.

Currently, she is a Grants financial administrator, administering funding from KPM's many projects and coordinating budgets. She is a grant writer, reporting logistics, and human resource coordinator for Kahua Pa'a Mua.

Mrs. Fuertes served as Project Assistant and Bookkeeper for the Community Harvest Hawai'i project, funded by the Island Innovation Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation. She was also responsible for bookkeeping and reporting for the Natural Farming Educational Training grant through the Hawai'i Community College at Hilo and the Hawai'i State Department of Labor. Earlier in grant funding, she served as fiscal management and reporting of the Noho Lio program, an educational program brought into Laupahoehoe, Konawaena & Kohala High Schools and funded by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Jesse Rubendall, HIP Agriculture Programs, Marketing & Communications Manager:

Jesse plays an integral role in HIP Agriculture's community, the farm, and the educational agritourism experiences offered at the nonprofit's host property, Starseed Ranch. He supports HIP Ag with his proficiencies in marketing, branding, public relations & communications. Jesse also assists in organizational development, planning and coordinating the farmer training programs, and fundraising events. Additionally, he provides a variety of professional skills for HIP farm and eco-lodging operations including event planning, community outreach, program development, land operations, Farm to Table dinners, and leading Farm Tours.

Katie Wortman, Kohala Food Hub Manager:

Katie is dedicated to supporting the local farming community and increasing access to fresh, nutritious food throughout North Kohala and Hawai'i Island. Katie moved from Ka'u to Kohala with her husband Cody in July 2022 after spending several years teaching agriculture and natural resources in the DOE and leading the Pāhala Resilience Food Hub. Since their move up north, Katie has been helping to run Kohala Food Hub's weekly farm-fresh produce subscription program, managing their online farmers market, and organizing weekly free food distributions for the community.

Katie has a deep passion for natural farming and wrote her college senior thesis on "Shizen Nōhō: Restoring the Relationship Between Food, Nature, and People in Japan" based on the research she conducted in Central Japan, which included the perspectives and practices of her own family who have been farming for generations in Ōkute-juku, Mizunami-shi, Japan. Katie is happy to be continuing her family's legacy through her work at Kohala Food Hub.

Organization Chart

Link to the Organization Chart for 'Iole with added Partner Organizations for Kohala Food System Initiative:

SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENT

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.

1. CEO: \$120,000 - \$200,000
2. Director of Programs and Partnerships: \$75,000-\$110,000
3. Director of Operations and Systems: \$75,000-\$110,000

VII. Other

1. Litigation

The applicant shall disclose any pending litigation to which they are a party, including the disclosure If applicable, please explain.

N/A

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

4. Future Sustainability Plan

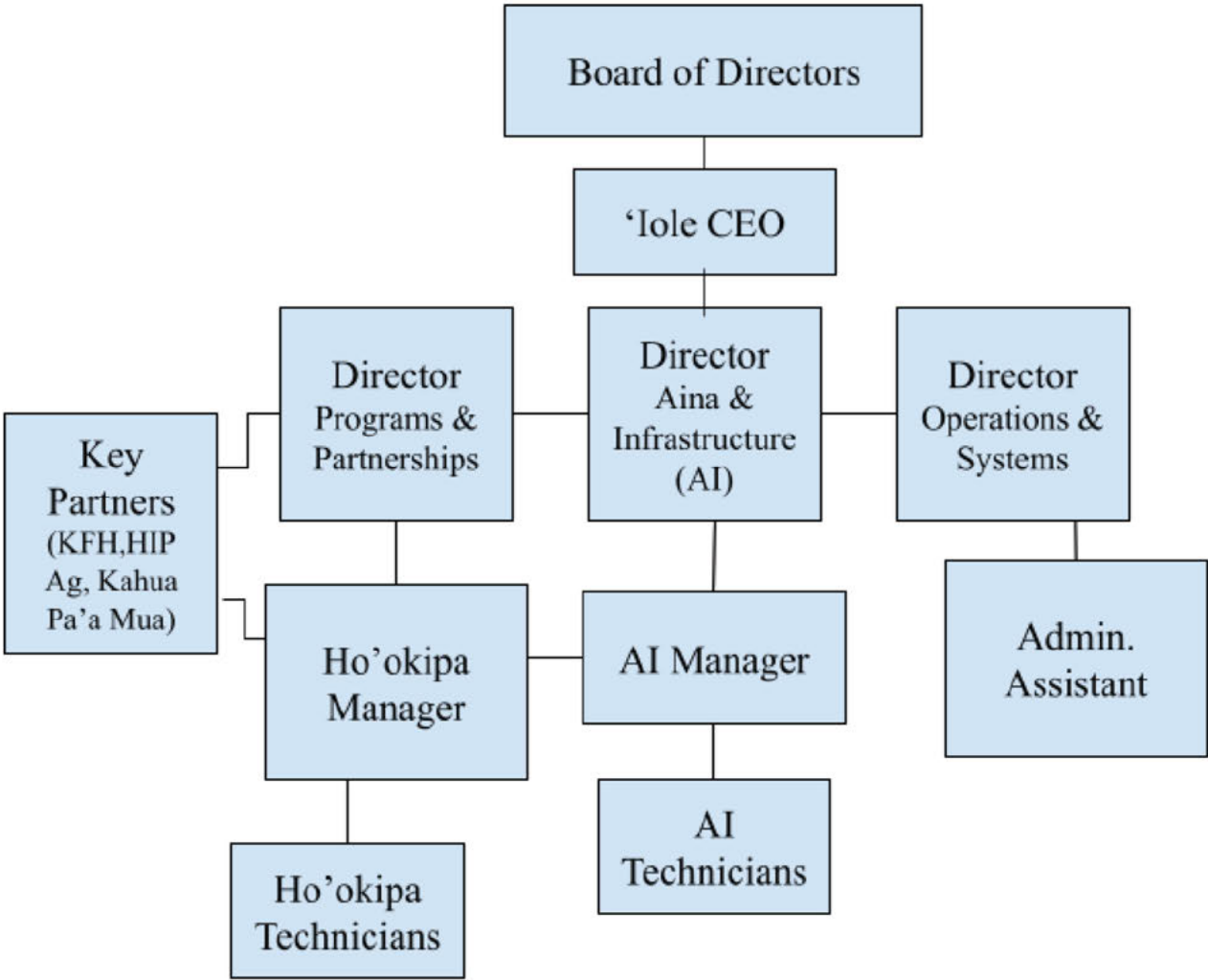
The applicant shall provide a plan for sustaining after fiscal year 2023-24 the activity funded by the grant if the grant of this application is:

- (a) Received by the applicant for the fiscal year 2023-24, but
- (b) Not received by the applicant thereafter.

If funding is received for FY 2023-2024 but not received thereafter, 'Iole will continue to host agriculture and place-based programming and continue to build out agricultural infrastructure on our property in alignment with our core objective of food security regardless of ongoing state funding. Federal, county, and private funding will be sought elsewhere during FY 2023-2024 to ensure uninterrupted implementation of Phases I and II of the KFSI in 2025 and beyond.

'Iole will continue to make agriculture lots available for production whether or not additional funding from the State is received for this initiative beyond FY 2023-2024.

Partner organizations will continue to collaborate to seek ongoing and supplemental funding through donor development, private foundations, and county and federal funding to deliver the ongoing Phase I training program to additional cohorts in FY 2024-2025 and beyond.



BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES

Applicant: 'Iole

Period: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

POSITION TITLE	FULL TIME EQUIVALENT	ANNUAL SALARY A	% OF TIME ALLOCATED TO GRANT REQUEST B
CEO	100/100	150,000	10
Director of Programs & Partnerships	100/100	85,000	10
Aina&Infrastructure Technician	100/100	55,000	20
TOTAL:			

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

'Iole CEO to guide and direct the initiative and ensure success estimated at 3-4⁷hours/week, 'Iole Programs and Partnerships Director to work with key initiative partners to ensure success and tracking at 4 hours/week, 'Iole AI Technician to perform initial clearing and repair of systems and ongoing maintenance of production area at 8 hours/week

Application for Grants

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES

Period: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

TOTAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED (A x B)	
\$ 15,000	-
\$ 8,500	-
\$ 11,000	-
\$	-
\$	-
\$	-
\$	-
\$	-
\$	-
\$	-
\$	-
\$	-
\$	-
\$	-
\$	-
34,500	

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Applicant: 'Iole _____

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
Tractor & Implements	1	\$75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	75000
Fencing Improvements & New Installation	1	\$10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	10000
Irrigation System & New Installation	1	\$10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	10000
Spader	1	\$10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	10000
Front End Loader	1	\$10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	10000
Commercial Kitchen Equipment	2	\$5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	10000
TOTAL:			\$ 125,000.00	125,000

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: Tractor and implements for shared use at 'Iole land base to support new agricultural land base
 Fencing and irrigation improvements and new installation to support new agricultural land base
 Spader for HIP Agriculture Farm, Front End Loader for Kahua Pa 'a Mua Farm, Commercial Kitchen Equipment for Kohala Food Hub

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

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: