

**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:

The Children's Law Project of Hawai'i

Amount of State Funds Requested: \$ 89,594

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

The Children's Law Project of Hawai'i ("CLPHI") is implementing a Multidisciplinary Team ("MDT")-based approach to Guardian ad Litem ("GAL") legal representation of children under the supervision of the State of Hawai'i Child Welfare Services. We are requesting funds to support salary and training expenses for MDT members including mental health professionals and/or lived experience mentors. Through the use of MDTs, CLPHI intends to more thoroughly engage children in foster care, more closely track their welfare, and respond more comprehensively to their needs. In doing so, CLPHI aims to improve outcomes for these children, their families, and our community as a whole.

Amount of Other Funds Available:

State: \$ 0 (does not include contract funds)

Federal: \$ 0

County: \$ 15,000 (to be requested)

Private/Other: \$ 55,833 (7/1/23 - 6/30/24)

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

\$ 0

Unrestricted Assets:

\$ 193,926.16

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:

101 Aupuni St. Ste. 1014A

City: Hilo State: HI Zip: 96720

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application	
Name: Valerie J. Grab, Esq.	Title: Executive Director
Email: valerie.grab@clphi.org	Phone: (808) 959-CLPH x1

Federal Tax ID#: XXXXXXXXXX	State Tax ID# XXXXXXXXXX
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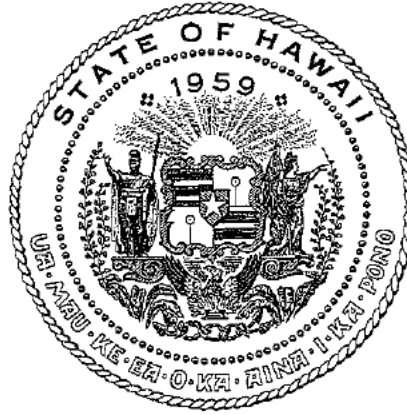
Authorized Signature

Valerie J. Grab, Esq., Executive Director

Name and Title

1/20/2023

Date Signed



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

THE CHILDREN'S LAW PROJECT OF HAWAII

was incorporated under the laws of Hawaii on 03/17/2017 ;
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 17, 2023

Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs



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

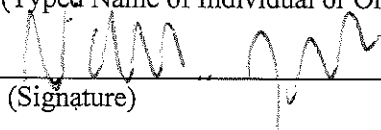
The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies the following:

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

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

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

The Children's Law Project of Hawaii
(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)


(Signature)

1/20/2023
(Date)

Valerie J. Grab, Esq.
(Typed Name)

Executive Director
(Title)

APPLICATION FOR GRANTS

I. Certification

1. Certificate of Good Standing

Attached after Cover Page.

2. Declaration Statement

Attached after Certificate of Good Standing.

3. Public Purpose

This grant shall be used for a public purpose pursuant to Section 42F-102, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

Specifically: The Children's Law Project of Hawai'i ("CLPHI") is implementing a Multidisciplinary Team ("MDT")-based approach to Guardian *ad Litem* ("GAL") legal representation of children who are involved with the State of Hawai'i Child Welfare Services. We are requesting funds to support salary and training expenses for MDT members including mental health professionals and/or lived experience mentors. Through the use of MDTs, CLPHI intends to more thoroughly engage with children in foster care, more closely track their welfare, and respond more comprehensively to their needs through advocating for their best interests. In doing so, CLPHI aims to improve outcomes for these children, their families, and our community as a whole.

II. Background and Summary

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

The Children's Law Project of Hawai'i ("CLPHI") is a nonprofit law firm founded in March 2017 by two experienced family law attorneys on Hawai'i Island. Now, our organization is home to four attorneys, two social workers, a paralegal, and an office manager. Our team strives to provide the highest quality legal representation for court-involved children in Hawai'i County. CLPHI attorneys are routinely appointed as Guardians *ad litem* ("GALs") in a wide variety of Family Court cases, but primarily where children are under the foster custody of the State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services ("DHS"). GALs are specialized attorneys who independently investigate children's circumstances, litigate for their best interests in Family Court, and advocate for their needs in an expansive array of arenas including education, physical health and emotional well-being. As GALs, our CLPHI team works both to protect and empower children through our youth-focused legal advocacy and address systemic gaps affecting court-involved youth.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request:

Every child who enters foster custody is assigned a specialized attorney or GAL to represent his/her best interests in the Family Court proceedings. To ensure better outcomes for children, CLPHI GALs already utilize an expansive legal approach and advocate for children's best interests in a range of areas such as permanency, special education, behavioral accommodations, mental health services and disability benefits.

In order to better implement legal case plans truly centered on each child's unique circumstances, CLPHI is piloting a Multidisciplinary Team ("MDT")-based approach to GAL advocacy. Instead of acting alone, CLPHI GALs will center their advocacy on the diverse perspectives and broad knowledge base of an MDT. CLPHI MDTs will include not just the GAL and the child, but will also engage trauma-informed professionals, caregivers and/or those with "lived experience" (such as individuals who were foster youth themselves or who were exposed to similar trauma experienced by the foster child.) Through the use of these MDTs, CLPHI intends to develop comprehensive and individualized legal advocacy plans that ultimately engage our young clients who are in foster care, closely track their welfare, and respond comprehensively to their needs.

3. The public purpose and need to be served:

When children are removed from their homes and placed in foster custody, they experience disruptions in all aspects of their lives. Typically, they are immediately severed from familial relationships, school, even their very community. The trauma endured by youth who enter foster care often results in unique medical, mental health,

educational and developmental needs. If not properly addressed, these needs can develop into lifelong issues that affect not only the child, but his or her wider family and community. By using MDTs to provide comprehensive assessment, engagement, and oversight into children's circumstances, CLPHI aims to implement individualized legal advocacy plans for children in foster care which will result in improved outcomes for these children, their families, and their communities as a whole.

4. Describe the target population to be served:

Our target population is children in DHS Child Welfare Services foster care or family supervision (where they are under the supervision of the Family Court but living with a parent or legal guardian) on Hawai'i Island.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

CLPHI attorneys and staff cover GAL appointments throughout Hawai'i Island. Geographically, approximately 65% of our cases are from East Hawai'i (Hilo, Puna and surrounding areas) and 35% are from West Hawai'i (Kona, Kohala and surrounding areas.)

III. Service Summary and Outcomes

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

Our MDTs will help fill in the gaps left by the current child welfare system and ensure the most vulnerable members of our community are not left behind. First, we will select cases to receive expanded MDT representation. The number of cases that receive expanded MDT representation will depend on the amount of supplemental funding our organization receives. For each case selected, we will develop a customized team that will meet at least monthly to report on tasks, provide updates, and offer support.

In developing our teams, we will work with Hawai'i HI HOPES Youth Leadership Board (a group of current and former foster youth who work with community providers and foster youth throughout Hawai'i). We are also reaching out to former clients, parents, resource caregivers, and mental health and social work professionals in the community to identify individuals with the desire and capacity to engage with the child welfare system through this novel MDT approach. It is anticipated that some of these will be part-time professionals and will each be able to assist in 5 to 10 cases each. We expect this pilot project will cover approximately 10 to 20 cases each year for the first three years.

Our MDT teams will begin by assessing children's needs (developmental, educational, mental health, physical, emotional, and legal). As working relationships are established and rapport developed with our clients, we plan to coordinate services between MDT members and involved agencies (such as Department of Education, Juvenile Probation and Department of Health Family Guidance Centers.) Monthly team meetings will identify needs, assign tasks, develop support systems, and engage youth on case direction. Significantly, with the expertise of a multi-faceted team, CLPHI GAL attorneys will have the guidance and knowledge foundation necessary to request court orders implementing vital supports and interventions in the Family Court proceedings.

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

Months 1 - 2

- Recruit and hire trauma-informed professionals with: (1) social work / mental health expertise; (2) lived experience with child welfare, and/or; (3) experience with trauma and trauma recovery.
- Train new hires as necessary on confidentiality, relevant legal processes and advocacy needs for foster youth. This will provide our lived experience professionals with an in-depth understanding of the legal system as it relates to foster children in order to better elicit their advice and collaboration.

- Identify initial cases that need specialized MDT support. Identify needs and goals for each client. Determine team members for each client. Conduct initial meetings. Identify initial needs and goals with a focus on tangible and measurable goals. Assign tasks to team members for follow up.

Month 3 - 12

- Ongoing training of new hires, including extensive shadowing on home visits and at court to help orient them to the existing system and identify areas of systemic advocacy.
- Continue to identify cases for MDT representation, provide documents and case history to new team members, hold initial meetings for these cases.

MDTs will convene 1-2 times each month on each case. Teams will collaborate in developing legal case plans that address advocacy in Family Court, education, physical and mental health, financial concerns, and independent living skills.

- GAL attorneys implement the legal case plans, first through informal negotiations, then through litigation when necessary.
- MDTs constantly reevaluate and adjust case plans based on changing circumstances and needs.
- Staff polled twice annually regarding implementation of MDTs.

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

Inherent in the MDT process is a constant evaluation and re-evaluation of the functioning of the team. As part of each meeting's agenda, all team members will be prompted to identify concerns for the client, case, and team. Summaries will be produced for each team meeting and monitored by the attorney assigned to the team. Any issues within a team that cannot be resolved will be referred to the CLPHI Executive Director or Managing Attorney. Because goal-setting is also an important part of the MDT process, through these meeting summaries we will be able to track the initial goals, revised goals, and outcomes for each client. The CLPHI Executive Director or Managing Attorney will review MDT cases quarterly to ensure goals are appropriate and the teams are taking appropriate steps towards meeting the client's needs.

The measures of effectiveness will be tailored for each case, although relevant tracking would address the following:

- Do the children live in a safe home; How does the child identify what safe means to them?
- Do the children have someone willing to listen to them and help process their emotions; this would most likely be professional therapeutic support or counseling services. How often do they speak?
- Do the children have any physical impairments or outstanding medical concerns that should be addressed?
- Do the children have assistance in meeting educational goals? What school learning supports were in place for them?
- Are their rights as children in foster care being respected? Is there any specific legal advocacy necessary?
- Are they set-up for age appropriate skill-development programs and/or pertinent social objectives?
- Is there a follow-up, after-care plan in place for them after discharge from foster custody?

Specifically, we will survey both the youth we represent as well as other professionals involved in their lives (such as teachers, counselors, social workers) regarding the youth's engagement in the primary areas of education, community engagement, familial relationships and placement (including the number of placements in foster custody as well as reunification and permanency with nonparent caregivers.) We expect responses to these surveys to report a high level of foster youth engagement in programs (at least 80% engagement in school, counseling and community programs) as well as a strengthening of familial relationships and fewer placements in foster homes and permanency with nonparent caregivers (at least 80% reporting placement stability in their foster homes and increased connections with their families.)

- 4. List the measure(s) of effectiveness that will be reported to the State agency through which grant funds are appropriated (the expending agency). The measure(s) will provide a standard and objective way for the State to assess the program's achievement or accomplishment. Please note that if the level of appropriation differs from the amount included in this application that the measure(s) of effectiveness will need to be updated and transmitted to the expending agency.**

The measures of effectiveness that will reported to the State are:

- 1) Number of children receiving MDT representation

- 2) Average number of professionals on each team
- 3) Types of professionals engaged in MDT representation
- 4) Average level of MDT-represented youth engagement in programs (determined by survey)
- 5) Average placement stability and family connections for MDT-represented youth (determined by survey)

IV. Financial

Budget

1. Budget:

- a. Budget request by source of funds: *See attached.*
- b. Personnel salaries and wages: *See attached.*
- c. Equipment and motor vehicles: *See attached (not applicable).*
- d. Capital project details: *See attached (not applicable).*
- e. Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid: *See attached.*

2. Anticipated quarterly funding requests for the fiscal year 2024:

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
\$22,399	\$22,399	\$22,398	\$22,398	\$89,594

3. All other sources of funding that CLPHI is seeking for fiscal year 2024:

- Third Circuit Judiciary Guardian ad Litem and Legal Counsel Contract
- County of Hawai‘i Grant Agreement: Project Permanence: Guardianships and Adoptions for At-Risk Kids
- County of Hawai‘i Grant Agreement: Multidisciplinary Team Representation of Children in Foster Care
- Atherton Foundation: Multidisciplinary Team Representation of Children in Foster Care
- Geist Foundation: Multidisciplinary Team Representation of Children in Foster Care
- Hawai‘i Community Foundation West Hawai‘i Fund: Multidisciplinary Team Representation of Children in Foster Care
- Hawai‘i Community Foundation East Hawai‘i Fund: Multidisciplinary Team Representation of Children in Foster Care
- Hawai‘i Community Foundation Kuki‘o Fund: Multidisciplinary Team Representation of Children in Foster Care
- Hawai‘i Women’s Legal Foundation: Project Permanence: Guardianships and Adoptions for At-Risk Kids
- IOLTA Grant Request
- State of Hawai‘i Department of Human Services: Non-reoccurring Reimbursements for Guardianships and Adoptions performed on behalf of resource caregivers
- Program Activities: Fees for private pay Guardian *ad Litem* services
- Donations: Annual donation drive

4. All state and federal tax credits CLPHI has been granted within the prior three years and all state and federal tax credits CLPHI has applied for or anticipates applying for pertaining to any capital project, if applicable:

- None, not applicable

5. All federal, state, and county government contracts, grants, and grants in aid CLPHI has been granted within the prior three years and will be receiving for fiscal year 2024 for program funding:

Project	Government Entity / Amount / Period
A Multidisciplinary Team Approach to Holistic Legal Advocacy for Children in Foster Care	County of Hawai'i Grant-in-Aid \$15,000 to be requested 07/01/23 – 06/30/24
Project Permanence: Guardianships/Adoptions for At-Risk Kids	County of Hawai'i Grant-in-Aid \$10,000 to be requested 07/01/23 – 06/30/24
Third Circuit Judiciary Guardian ad Litem and Legal Counsel Contract	Hawai'i State Judiciary RFQ TBD paid per case 7/1/2023-6/30/25 Approximately \$335,000 per fiscal year
Project Permanence: Guardianships/Adoptions for At-Risk Kids	County of Hawai'i Grant-in-Aid \$10,000 07/01/22 – 06/30/23
Victim Options for Investigation, Child Empowerment and Safety (VOICES)	County of Hawai'i Grant-in-Aid \$15,000 07/01/22 – 06/30/23
Victim Options for Investigation, Child Empowerment and Safety (VOICES)	Victim of Crimes Act Federal Award (Deallocated funds, Administered by State of Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General) (2018-V2 GX-0015) \$78,089, 01/01/2022 – 09/30/2022
Third Circuit Judiciary Guardian ad Litem and Legal Counsel Contract	Hawai'i State Judiciary RFQ J23008 paid per case 7/1/2021-6/30/23 Approximately \$335,000 per fiscal year
Project Permanence: Guardianships/Adoptions for At-Risk Kids	County of Hawai'i Grant-in-Aid \$11,700 07/01/21 – 06/30/22

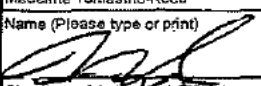
Victim Options for Investigation, Child Empowerment and Safety (VOICES)	County of Hawai'i Grant-in-Aid \$11,700 07/01/21 – 06/30/22
Project Permanence: Guardianships/Adoptions for At-Risk Kids	County of Hawai'i Grant-in-Aid \$11,850 07/01/20 – 06/30/21
Victim Options for Investigation, Child Empowerment and Safety (VOICES)	County of Hawai'i Grant-in-Aid \$12,850 07/01/20 – 06/30/21
Third Circuit Judiciary Guardian ad Litem and Legal Counsel Contract	Hawai'i State Judiciary RFQ J19219 paid per case 7/1/2019-6/30/21 Approximately \$300,000 per fiscal year
Victim Options for Investigation, Child Empowerment and Safety (VOICES)	Victim of Crimes Act Federal Award (Administered by State of Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General) (2018-V2 GX-0015) \$355,988 07/01/2019 – 06/30/2021

6. The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2022: **\$193,926.16**

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Applicant: The Children's Law Project of Hawai'i (MDT Program)

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	68,117	0	15,000	48,298
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	5,994	0	0	4,250
3. Fringe Benefits	4,632	0	0	3,284
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	78,744	0	15,000	55,833
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare	7,000	0	0	0
2. Insurance	0	0	0	0
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment	0	0	0	0
4. Lease/Rental of Space	0	0	0	0
5. Staff Training	3,850	0	0	0
6. Supplies	0	0	0	0
7. Telecommunication	0	0	0	0
8. Utilities	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	10,850	0		
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	0	0	0	
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES	0	0	0	
E. CAPITAL	0	0	0	
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	89,594	0	15,000	55,833
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	89,594	Madeline Tomasino-Reed (808) 747-9085		
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested	0	Name (Please type or print) Phone		
(c) Total County Funds Requested	15,000	 1/20/23		
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	55,833	Signature of Authorized Official Date		
TOTAL BUDGET	160,427	Madeline Tomasino-Reed, Managing Attorney Name and Title (Please type or print)		

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES

Period: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Applicant: The Children's Law Project of Hawai'i (MDT Program)

POSITION TITLE	FULL TIME EQUIVALENT	ANNUAL SALARY A	% OF TIME ALLOCATED TO GRANT REQUEST B	TOTAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED (A x B)
Executive Director	1	\$85,000.00	10.00%	\$ 8,500.00
Managing Attorney	0.75	\$49,920.00	10.00%	\$ 4,992.00
Staff Attorney 1	0.75	\$64,000.00	10.00%	\$ 6,400.00
Staff Attorney 2	0.75	\$54,553.20	10.00%	\$ 5,455.32
Social Worker 1	0.125	\$8,840.00	25.00%	\$ 2,210.00
Social Worker 2	1	\$54,080.00	25.00%	\$ 13,520.00
Social Worker 3	1	\$62,400.00	25.00%	\$ 15,600.00
MDT Staff 1	0.25	\$11,440.00	25.00%	\$ 2,860.00
MDT Staff 2	0.25	\$11,440.00	25.00%	\$ 2,860.00
MDT Staff 3	0.25	\$11,440.00	25.00%	\$ 2,860.00
MDT Staff 4	0.25	\$11,440.00	25.00%	\$ 2,860.00
				\$ -
				\$ -
TOTAL:				68,117.32
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: CLPHI has been able to secure a number of grants to support this project that end in December 2023. This Grant-in-aid would allow us to maintain the program after the private foundation grants have terminated. Our expectation is that by the time this Grant-in-aid cycle is complete, we will have more data and information to share with potential funders to help us to establish a more permanent funding stream for the project.				

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Applicant: The Children's Law Project of Hawai'i (MDT Program)

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
not applicable			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: <u>not applicable</u>				

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

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Applicant: The Children's Law Project of Hawai

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: 2021-2022	FY: 2022-2023	FY:2023-2024	FY:2023-2024	FY:2024-2025	FY:2025-2026
PLANS			0			
LAND ACQUISITION			0			
DESIGN			0			
CONSTRUCTION			0			
EQUIPMENT			0			
TOTAL:			0			
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: not applicable						

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

Applicant: The Children's Law Project of Hawai'i (MDT Program)

Contracts Total: 360,000

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1	Third Circuit Judiciary Guardian ad Litem and Legal Counsel Contract RFQ No. J23008	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	The Judiciary - State of Hawai'i	State of Hawai'i	335,000
2	County of Hawai'i Grant Agreement: Project Permanence: Guardianships and Adoptions for At-Risk Kids	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	County of Hawai'i	County of Hawai'i	10,000
3	County of Hawai'i Grant Agreement: Victim Options for Child Empowerment and Safety	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	County of Hawai'i	County of Hawai'i	15,000
4					

V. Experience and Capability

1. Necessary Skills and Experience:

CLPHI is currently staffed by four child welfare attorneys: Executive Director Valerie J. Grab, Managing Attorney Madeline Tomasino-Reed, and Staff Attorneys Laura J. Knudsen and Asia Vanavichai. All of our attorneys are well-versed in child abuse, domestic violence and family law proceedings, and both of our senior attorneys have been practicing in the area of Child Welfare Law on Hawai'i Island for over a decade.

We have already begun to bring on professionals from non-legal disciplines, with Social Workers Brenda Levesque and Sossity Rapoza already on staff. Both have extensive experience in the field of social work on Hawai'i Island. Additionally, Paralegal Rebekah Hamilton and Office Manager Jenny Rasmussen both have experience in family law, advocacy and support tasks.

CLPHI was founded to address systemic gaps experienced in advocating for court-involved children and youth on Hawai'i Island. Since its inception in March 2017, CLPHI has:

- Represented hundreds of court-involved children as GALs in contested family court matters, specially-appointed to serve as GALs in foster custody and contested custody cases involving victims of crime;
- Established the a program to provide child victims of crime a GAL;
- Developed GAL Resource Centers in Hilo and Kona that provide safe, confidential, child-friendly environments where children and caregivers can be interviewed. These centers have also hosted trainings for GALs and house extensive resource materials;
- Collaborated with the Hawai'i State Judiciary, government agencies and provider groups to address systemic gaps in the delivery of services to abused and neglected children.

2. Facilities:

CLPHI has established offices in both Hilo and Kailua-Kona on Hawai'i Island.

These facilities are located near the island's courthouses and meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The Hilo and Kona locations offer resource libraries for GALs supplied with legal guides and other reference materials. We also offer kid-friendly spaces for client interviews. We also have a communal space that we have used to host trainings in Hilo..

VI. Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing

1. Proposed Staffing, Staff Qualifications, Supervision and Training

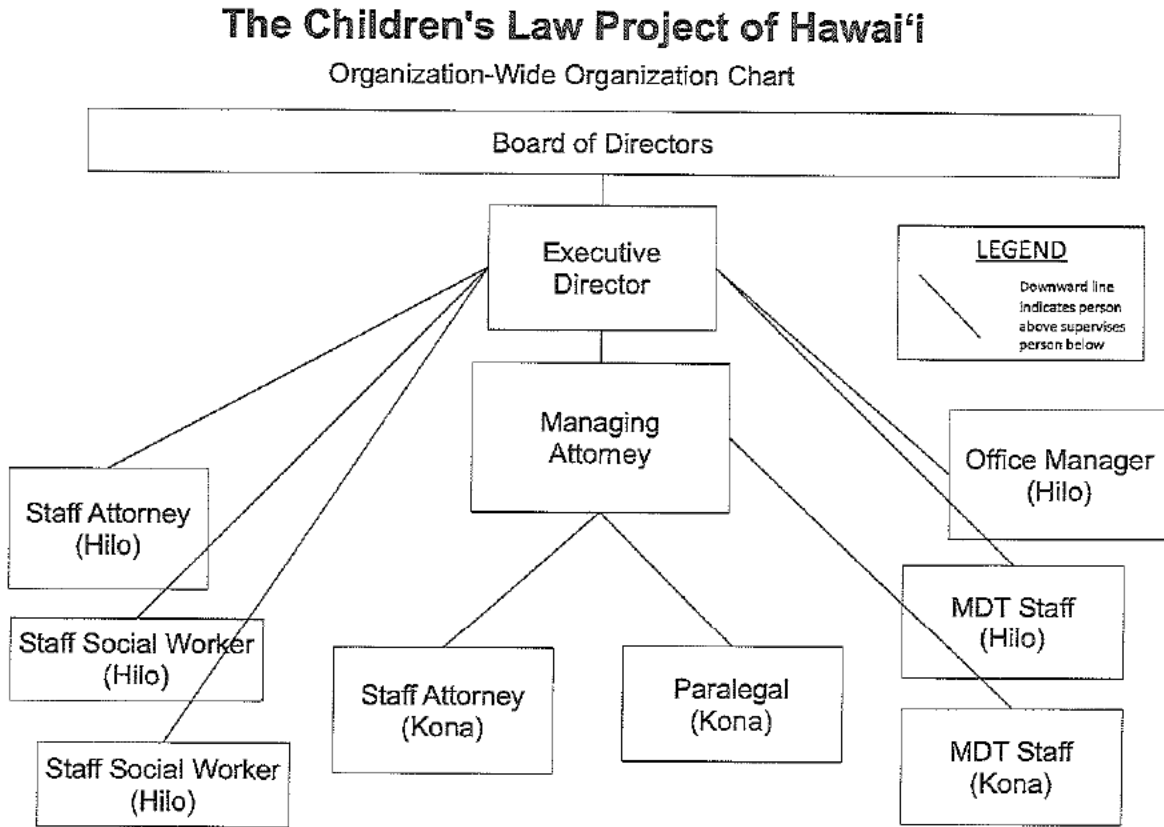
Name/Position	Position Qualifications	Staff Qualifications
Executive Director	Law Degree & License; Experience in contested family court matters, mediation, organizational management, and project coordination	J.D. Degree; 19 years of legal representation and advocacy; Bar Membership in Hawai'i, California and Washington D.C.
Managing Attorney	Law Degree & License; Experience in contested family court matters, mediation, organizational management, and project coordination	J.D. Degree; 12 years of legal advocacy in family law; 11 years of small business experience, 6 years of non-profit management
Staff Attorney 1	Law Degree & License; Experience in contested family court matters	J.D. Degree; 9 years of legal representation in public interest and child welfare matters
Staff Attorney 2	Law Degree & License in contested family court matters	J.D. Degree; 6 years of court experience; 3 years practice in family court, 1.5 years practice as a Guardian ad Litem
Staff Social Worker 1	Degree in Social Work or related field; working knowledge of court procedures.	Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Masters in Social Work, experience as family court probation officer
Staff Social Worker 2	Degree in Social Work or related field; working knowledge of court procedures.	B.A. in Psychology, MA Candidate with Capella University, 8 years of social work experience on Hawai'i Island
Staff Social Worker 3	Degree in Social Work or related field; working knowledge of court procedures.	To be hired
Paralegal	High School Diploma; Administrative support experience.	B.A. Degree in Political Science; 10 years of youth advocacy, office support and direct services

Office Manager	High School Diploma; Administrative support experience.	Real Estate License; 7 years of office administration
MDT Staff 1	Either: 1) lived experience with the child welfare system or 2) specialized professional experience relevant to needs of children in the child welfare system	To be hired
MDT Staff 2	Either: 1) lived experience with the child welfare system or 2) specialized professional experience relevant to needs of children in the child welfare system	To be hired
MDT Staff 3	Either: 1) lived experience with the child welfare system or 2) specialized professional experience relevant to needs of children in the child welfare system	To be hired
MDT Staff 4	Either: 1) lived experience with the child welfare system or 2) specialized professional experience relevant to needs of children in the child welfare system	To be hired

Each child or sibling group selected for MDT representation will be assigned one GAL attorney to be their primary advocate in court. The attorney will draft and sign reports and be responsible for litigating on behalf of the child. The child will also be assigned a Social Worker who will be the primary point of contact for the child and resource parent. Additional team members will be selected based on the individual needs of the child. This could include a mental health specialist, lived-experience advocate, family member, educational specialist and/or other support personnel. The attorney on the team has the ultimate responsibility of ensuring all legal and statutory duties are met. However, all teams will be collaborative and all staff report to either the Executive Director or Managing Attorney.

The Managing Attorney and Paralegal collaborate to ensure that all grant reporting deadlines and obligations are met. The Paralegal is responsible for tracking outcomes, distributing data, and maintaining statistics regarding the MDT program.

2. **Organization Chart**



3. **Compensation**

Annual salary range paid (for 2022) by the applicant to the three highest paid officers, directors, or employees of the organization by position title:

- Executive Director: \$83,263
- Staff Attorney 2: \$54,262
- Managing Attorney: \$53,699

VII. Other

1. Litigation

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

None, not applicable.

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:

Licensed Attorney: Executive Director, Managing Attorney, Staff Attorneys 1 & 2

Licensed Clinical Social Worker: Social Worker 1

3. Private Educational Institutions

The grant will NOT be used to support or benefit a sectarian or non-sectarian private educational institution.

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 received by the applicant for fiscal year 2023-24, but not received by the applicant thereafter.

Currently, the Hawaii State Judiciary pays GALs between \$0 - \$245 per month per sibling group, depending on how long a case has been open. This base rate has been the same for over a decade (although there is a proposed temporary maximum rate increase to from \$245 to \$310 through July 2023). Currently, even with the increase, this fee only covers the barest bones legal advocacy. Children in foster care are often represented by solo attorneys with massive caseloads, sparse availability, limited training, and vulnerability to implicit bias. Through our experiences with youth in the child welfare system, we recognize the comprehensive effort it takes to address the immediate and longer-term needs of our clients. We also seen the perils of an over-burdened Child Welfare System, compounded with a taxed and over-extended pool of GALs.

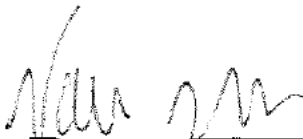
We hope to create systemic change within our island's child welfare system and create an environment that is more attuned to the unique needs of each child under governmental care and supervision. Our ultimate goal is to secure long-term funding for this work once its value has been demonstrated to the courts. We anticipate achieving this through one or more of the following means:

- 1) Establishing a stable funding stream from the Hawai'i State Judiciary for a centralized law office providing high-quality team-based legal representation to foster youth;
- 2) Renegotiating of the contract governing Guardian *ad Litem* appointments in the Third Circuit; and/or
- 3) Coordinating a partnership between the Hawai'i State Judiciary and the State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services to access Title IV Social Security reimbursement of up to 50% for representation of children in foster care.

Application Submittal Checklist

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

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



AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

VALERIE J. GRAB, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PRINT NAME AND TITLE

1/20/2023

DATE