

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



TAEYONG KIM, SECRETARY

JANUARY 20, 2023

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

PRINT NAME AND TITLE

DATE

**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:

Korean American Foundation Hawaii

Amount of State Funds Requested: \$ 150,000

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

This request is for the funding of a three part project titled "Origins". Component one will be the development of a public domain metaverse platform which provides access to historic and cultural data and content. The second portion is for a film festival that showcases films regarding the immigration experiences both past and present of Hawaii's many ethnic and cultural groups. The third component consists of working meetings and travel to establish agreements with overseas governments and content providers in support of the metaverse project and the film festival.

Amount of Other Funds Available:

State: \$ 0

Federal: \$ 0

County: \$ 0

Private/Other: \$ 0

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

\$ 75,000

Unrestricted Assets:

\$ 70,000

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:

1881 East-West Road

City:

Honolulu

State:

HI

Zip:

96822

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application

Name:
Taeyong Kim

Title:
Secretary

Email:
environcom1@gmail.com

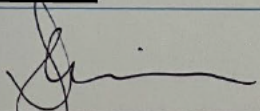
Phone:
8085284661

Federal Tax ID#:

██████████

State Tax ID#

NA



Authorized Signature

Taeyong Kim, Secretary

Name and Title

Jan. 20, 2023

Date Signed

**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.

Korean American Foundation Hawaii
(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)


(Signature) January 20, 2023
(Date)

Taeyong Kim
(Typed Name) Secretary
(Title)

Application for Grants

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

I. Certification – Please attach immediately after cover page

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

If the applicant is an organization, the applicant shall submit one (1) copy of a certificate of good standing from the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs that is dated no earlier than December 1, 2022.

2. Declaration Statement

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

3. Public Purpose

The applicant shall specify whether the grant will be used for a public purpose pursuant to [Section 42F-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes](#).

II. Background and Summary

This section shall clearly and concisely summarize and highlight the contents of the request in such a way as to provide the State Legislature with a broad understanding of the request. Please include the following:

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

The Korean American Foundation Hawaii is a leading organization serving the community at large through the preservation and promotion of Korean culture. Originally founded in 1999 as the Centennial Committee of Korean Immigration to the United States of America (CCKI) in planning for the centennial events marking the first 100 years of Korean immigration to Hawaii, the organization was then renamed the Korean American Foundation Hawaii (KAFH) when the centennial activities concluded. The KAFH continues its mission of cultural preservation and promotion and serves as a benefactor organization many smaller non-profit organizations.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;

The purpose of the request is three-fold. The first is to create a working portal and example model of historic and current information in a Metaverse format

platform where digitized information can be easily accessed by the public through a single all encompassing virtual experience. This portal will provide visitors access to historic information, scholarly works, historic and current art works, film, entertainment and other cultural assets and activities through a single gateway. This project and its development can then be saved as a “skin” for other ethnic groups who can modify and provide content for an experience unique to their point of origin.

The second component of this request is to create and host a Diaspora Film Festival where films from Hawaii’s many ethnic groups can showcase their own unique immigration stories. This festival, which will be benchmarked to the South Korean Diaspora Film Festival will also be used as content they will be accessible through the Metaverse project.

The third component is the establishment and strengthening of working relationships that will support the other components of this request. These meetings and agreements will be an important part of ensuring the Metaverse project continues to grow and become ever more inclusive in its content. This will include meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Overseas Korea Foundation, the international film festival organizers and content and technical support providers. Locally the Department of Education is expected to be a participant with its high school students being actively engaged in the 3D modeling activities and learning experiences with Yonsei University. Other local participants are likely to include the Hawaii International Film Festival and the Pacific Asian Affairs Council.

3. The public purpose and need to be served;

The public purpose of this project is to provide the public with easily accessible information and content through the most current Metaverse forms. The Metaverse is often referred to as the third generation of the world wide web or the internet as we now know it.

The need for this project was determined by KAFH during its efforts to assemble and coordinate its 2023 120th year events. It became apparent that a tremendous amount of information exists but is not generally accessible to the common public. Significant effort is often required to seek information through a multitude of sources before results are obtained. It is the intent of the applicant’s request that a model for all of Hawaii’s ethnicities be created with information can be easily obtained through a single portal.

4. Describe the target population to be served; and

The target population for this project includes all residents, visitors, interested organizations and individuals, and students. As presently envisioned, Hawaii’s DOE students will be actively engaged in the development of this Metaverse

platform. It is our understanding that this project will be in alignment with the Hawaii Tourism Authority's current direction in supporting culturally and environmentally aware visitors.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

This project is not geographically targeted and will be available everywhere as a public domain portal.

III. Service Summary and Outcomes

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

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

All efforts will be lead and managed by the Korean American Foundation Hawaii. Technical work to be conducted will be through contracted vendors and academic institutions. Tasks to be accomplished can be broken down to the technical and the administrative. Technical tasks will include 3D modeling, platform development, and system and server maintenance. Administrative tasks include project management of the technical tasks, film festival benchmarking and organizer relations, licensing agreements and promotion of government relationships and goodwill.

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

Initial meeting and coordination will be conducted from early summer of 2023 and are expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2024. A working model of the Metaverse platform is also expected by the first quarter of 2024. The film festival and content propagation for the platform will be completed by the end of 2024.

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

Quality assurance and evaluation plans will be in place prior to the commencement any expenditures. As successfully accomplished in 2019's E pluribus unam project, contract administration is the key role of the KAFH in this grant request. KAFH has a successful record for managing projects on time and on budget since its inception. Evaluation is a constant factor in the KAFH's operations and it existing relationship with other organizations, individuals and contractors facility ensure successful completion of KAFH's projects.

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.

Quarterly reports on project progress will be provided to the expending agency. While a definitive timeline is not available at this stage of planning, quarterly progress is assured and all tasks accomplished will be itemized with supporting information provided to detail each task. In the event that the amount of the appropriation is decreased, a proportionate decrease in content will be expected. Digitized assets will be decrease and the amount of content shown in the film festival will likely be decreased.

IV. Financial

Budget

1. The applicant shall submit a budget utilizing the enclosed budget forms as applicable, to detail the cost of the request.
 - a. Budget request by source of funds (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)
2. The applicant shall provide its anticipated quarterly funding requests for the fiscal year 2024.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
\$40,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$40,000	\$150,000

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

No other funding sources are available at this time however part 3 of the project will actively solicit financial support from the Overseas Korea Foundation. The KAFH will support project activities to the greatest amount available if the grant is approved until funds are obligated and ready for disbursement. This will be done to ensure timely delivery of the scope-of-service items.

4. The applicant shall provide a listing of all state and federal tax credits it has been granted within the prior three years. Additionally, the applicant shall provide a

listing of all state and federal tax credits they have applied for or anticipate applying for pertaining to any capital project, if applicable.

The KAFH has not received any state or federal tax credits.

5. 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.

The KAFH has not received any federal, state or county government contracts or grants in the prior three years. A grant in the amount of \$75,000 was awarded by the State in 2019. The project activities were successfully completed in 2020.

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

The unrestricted current assets of the KAFH are presently \$70,000. An investment fund with approximately \$300,000 is available but is restricted to Board approval.

V. Experience and Capability

1. Necessary Skills and Experience

The applicant shall demonstrate that it has the necessary skills, abilities, knowledge of, and experience relating to the request. State your experience and appropriateness for providing the service proposed in this application. The applicant shall also provide a listing of verifiable experience of related projects or contracts for the most recent three years that are pertinent to the request.

The KAFH has a lengthy record of successfully managed projects since its inception. The most visible projects can be viewed through its website <https://www.kafoundationhi.org>. The successful completion of the 2019 E pluribus unam projects demonstrate a forerunner project that has been acknowledged as successfully completed by the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Projects recently completed include the support of multiple documentary films that have been aired on KBFD television, the installation of commemorative plaques on sites deemed important to Hawaii's Korean immigrant population, gravestone recording, art exhibitions at the Korean Festival (of which KAFH is the primary sponsor) and Honolulu Hale.

2. Facilities

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

The KAFH does not have its own facilities but has an official address at the University of Hawaii Center for Korean Studies. No facilities will be required for the management of the proposed project.

VI. Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing

1. Proposed Staffing, Staff Qualifications, Supervision and Training

The applicant shall describe the proposed staffing pattern and proposed service capacity appropriate for the viability of the request. The applicant shall provide the qualifications and experience of personnel for the request and shall describe its ability to supervise, train and provide administrative direction relative to the request.

The KAFH is comprised of unpaid volunteers who contribute their time and resources to the advancement of the community. Each Board member contributes to their area of expertise. It is anticipated that all Board members will have an active role in the management of this project.

Edward Shultz, KAFH President, retired dean of Asian Studies, UH Manoa
Gina Nakamura, KAFH Vice President, Vice President at Central Pacific Bank
Taeyong Kim, KAFH Secretary, President of Environmental Communications Inc.
Myong Hyo Jang, KAFH Treasurer, owner of Myong Hyo Jang CPAs
Ivan Chong, Board Member, President of IC Construction
Kloe Kang, Board Member, Professor of Art and University of Hawaii
Rex Kim, Board Member, Attorney at Law
Jeff Chung, Board Member, President of KBFD
Francis Park, Board Member, President of Hon Graphics

Each member listed has been active in the management of the aforementioned activities.

2. Organization Chart

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

The proposed project will be led by the following Board members for the components of this request.

Edward Shultz: Administrative leadership
Taeyong Kim: Technical administration
Kloe Kang and Jeff Chung: Content

3. Compensation

The applicant shall provide an annual salary range paid by the applicant to the three highest paid officers, directors, or employees of the organization by position title, not employee name.

There are no paid positions within the Korean American Foundation Hawaii.

VII. Other

1. Litigation

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

There is no pending litigation or any past judgements involving the KAFH.

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.

The KAFH does not hold any special licenses or accreditations.

3. Private Educational Institutions

The applicant shall specify whether the grant will be used to support or benefit a sectarian or non-sectarian private educational institution. Please see [Article X, Section 1, of the State Constitution](#) for the relevance of this question.

The KAFH does not have any affiliation with any private educational institutions.

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

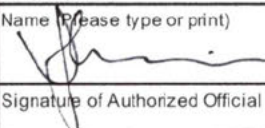
Upon completion of the proposed project, KAFH has the ability to provide sustaining funding to operate the Metaverse project. Any funding required prior to the transfer of GIA funds will be advanced by KAFH until reimbursement is received from the State.

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

App

Korean American Foundation Hawaii

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	0	0	0	0
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	0	0	0	0
3. Fringe Benefits	0	0	0	0
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	0	0	0	0
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island				
2. Insurance				
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment				
4. Lease/Rental of Space				
5. Staff Training				
6. Supplies				
7. Telecommunication				
8. Utilities				
9. Metaverse development	55,000			
10. Film Festival	40,000			
11. Travel exp. for working agreements	55,000			
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	150,000			
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	0			
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES	0			
E. CAPITAL	0			
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	150,000			
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	150,000	Taeyong Kim 808-528-4661		
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested	0	Name (Please type or print) Phone		
(c) Total County Funds Requested	0			
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	0	Signature of Authorized Official Date		
TOTAL BUDGET	150,000	Taeyong Kim, Secretary, KAFH		
		Name and Title (Please type or print)		

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES

Period: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Korean American Foundation Hawaii

POSITION TITLE	FULL TIME EQUIVALENT	ANNUAL SALARY A	% OF TIME ALLOCATED TO GRANT REQUEST B	TOTAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED (A x B)
None	NA	NA	NA	\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
TOTAL:				

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Applicant: Korean American Foundation Hawaii_____

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
None	NA	NA	\$ -	0
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

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

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

App: Korean American Foundation Hawaii

Contracts Total: -

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
27					Application for Grants

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Applicant: Korean American Foundation Hawa

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	NA					
LAND ACQUISITION	NA					
DESIGN	NA					
CONSTRUCTION	NA					
EQUIPMENT	NA					
TOTAL:	NA					
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:						

In 2019 the Korean American Foundation Hawaii (KAFH) was awarded a Grant-in-Aid (GIA) for a project titled “E pluribus unam, out of many, one”. This grant was used to fund several community events that focused on the collective immigration experience that makes the ethnically diverse population of Hawaii unique and compelling as a model of unity through shared experiences. Projects under this banner included a cultural art and photo exhibition, an essay writing contest open to students and the public, a multi-culture festival, an oral history initiative in an academic forum setting, a cultural mini-film festival, and a working exchange with The Museum of Emigration History in Incheon South Korea. All of these activities were successfully completed under the terms of the GIA agreement with interim and final reports filed with the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. All of the projects were well received and also identified the need for even more activities which support the collective cultural, historic, and unique characteristics of our earliest immigrants.

During the planning of the 2023 120th Anniversary of Korean Immigration activities, the KAFH determined that the wealth of information that has been uncovered, recorded and separately presented would benefit from a more singular presentation format. Essentially, a “one stop shop” for cultural information ranging from historic records, to current research endeavors, to contemporary cultural arts could be made accessible through a “metaverse” platform. This would be a singular portal providing easy interactive access to all things related to Hawaii’s immigrant multicultural communities.

Since 2019, KAFH has supported several projects related to the Korean diaspora. Each project has been deemed worthy of public presentation however KAFH feels that information should continue to be easily accessible rather than archived as a completed project and left to languish in physical or digital storage. KAFH identified that there are no centralized repositories of historic and cultural information that are easily accessed by the public without a significant effort to find this information. In recent years there have been significant changes in the way that information and content is accessed. Where previously the pursuit of information started at a library or personally known knowledgeable source, information is now often sought on the internet and “Googled”. The technological revolution now advances this even further and the leading edge of information management is conducted virtually with forms other than two dimensional narratives or static graphics. 3D modeling is now commonplace, audio is available in autonomous sensory meridian response (ASMR) form, and content seekers constantly look for new ways to find information. Understanding the technological and cultural content now available, the KAFH proposes to conduct a series of projects which will create a platform to archive and make accessible to the public historic and contemporary cultural information related to the immigration experience under the working title “Origins”.

The Origins project will be comprised of three (3) components. The first is the development of a virtual access and storage platform that can incorporate cultural content through a series of pre-formatted models or “skins” where content can be retrieved through an interactive experience. The second component will consist of an initial collection of content through a diaspora-oriented film festival. The third component will consist of the development of official ties with supporting government and academic agencies that can provide content and technical

support and management for this project and will continue to contribute towards the enrichment of this new resource platform.

Origins Metaverse

The Metaverse Platform proposed will commence with the documentation of Korean immigration to Hawaii. This platform and associated modeling can then be applied to all ethnicities which will in total represent the major cultures present in Hawaii. This effort will be led by former KAFH Board Member Professor Jun Yoo who is presently with Yonsei University's Department of Korean Literature and Language and also runs the Yonsei Korea Metaverse Lab. Professor Yoo is also a Director in Vrillar, a leading platform and digital assets developer. An excerpt written by Professor Yoo explains the technical aspects of the Origins project.

The Metaverse Platform this project seeks to create a digital replica of a sugar plantation on Oahu at the turn of the 20th century. Its primary purpose is archival. It aims to scan relevant documents, photos, letters, personal items, and newspaper clippings of Korean plantation workers and preserve them in a virtual museum. To make the experience interactive, visitors will board the SS Gaelic at Nagasaki Port with the other 102 Korean immigrants, whose names, ages, and gender will appear by simply clicking the mouse button on their avatars. Visitors will experience the trip across the Pacific Ocean and, upon disembarking the ship at Honolulu Harbor, will be teleported to the Oahu Sugar Company. Several Korean camp houses will be open for visitors to peruse photos, documents, and personal collections. Through gamification (e.g., quests), visitors will experience a more immersive world. We are currently testing user experience with our Israel-Korea metaverse platform.

Professor Yoo further explains:

I taught Korean history at the University of Hawaii at Manoa for 13 years. One of the things I regret not doing is creating a digital archive of documents and material artifacts of Koreans in Hawaii. I still remember my experiences teaching my Korean history course to local heritage students. I required them to reflect on their cultural identity and family histories for their final projects through creative storytelling. I realized that many of my heritage students no longer felt attached to the past. Despite the rich archives at the Hamilton Library and the Center for Korean Studies Library, I noticed the disconnect, which left a powerful impression on me and spurred action when I returned to South Korea to teach. I have come across a new generation of diasporic Koreans from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Japan, China, and the U.S. mainland who have turned to digital platforms like YouTube and Tiktok to reconnect with their past. Working both as an academic and an executive of a tech company, I feel an urgency to take advantage of all this digital technology and build an interactive platform that can be utilized as an archive and a teaching tool.

While creating such immersive virtual worlds will undoubtedly take time, companies and stakeholders must stay on top of these changes. Just like when the world wide web was beginning to find its way into every household, we will inevitably experience a third iteration of

the internet (Web 3.0) that goes beyond simply sharing or delivering information. With the ever evolving blockchain technology, cloud applications, non-fungible tokens (NFT), virtual/augmented reality, and artificial intelligence (AI), governments and businesses must adapt to this decentralized and autonomous ecosystem.

Project Beneficiaries This virtual replication of the SS Gaelic and a Korean camp at a sugar plantation on Oahu should interest tourists, scholars, professionals, and students. It would be great to work with the Department of Education (K-12) and create several educational mini-games on immigration for their social science curriculum. Additionally, holding quarterly webinars or documentary screenings in a seminar room (please look for the seminar room on the 2nd floor of the Israeli metaverse video) could be fun town-and-gown events.

The vision behind this initiative is to create a new platform that directly addresses and serves the needs of diverse communities in Hawaii through the metaverse, which can also serve as a hub for artists and scholars. Critical to the design of this platform will be an emphasis on leveraging digital assets and making them available to teachers, film producers, game developers, and other agencies to product place Hawaii. The long-term goal should be to create digital repositories for preservation of all things Hawaiian.

The Origins project will work with existing partners in the development of this seed project with existing working relationships with the University of Hawaii Center for Korean Studies, Yonsei University, the Incheon Emigration Museum, and the Overseas Korea Foundation. Possible future partners also include the State of Hawaii Department of Education and the South Korea Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Because the platform will be a public domain endeavor, this project is particularly exciting as development of the project can strongly incorporate Hawaii's public school students in the creation of digital assets and provide them the opportunity to work with a leading foreign university, all for the benefit of the public.

Diaspora Film Festival

The second component of the Origins project is organization and production of a Diaspora Film Festival that would also be used as content for the Metaverse project. This project would showcase films about the immigration experience similar to the mini Film Festival project conducted in 2019 but would expand it to showcase current, as well as older films. The Origins project will use the South Korean Diaspora Film Festival as a benchmark and may also work with the Hawaii International Film Festival in presenting this showcase of diverse film works. We are presently seeking partners in Japan and Taiwan for this component of the Origins project. With this film showcase, the film producers will also be able to show film trailers or their films in their entirety in the Metaverse project in their respective ethnic collection. Because film works are intellectual property and are generally shown for a fee, the trailers will be hosted in the Metaverse without charge and links to their pay per view films will be provided for viewers who wish to pursue the full-length version of the films.

This film festival will be highly informative and educational and will likely be the first in Hawaii that specifically showcases films about the history, development and transitions of our immigrant population to Hawaii as well as the United States and other countries.

Ties That Bind

The third component of the Origins project will be the establishment of new working relationships with potential supporting official government organizations, educational institutions and content providers. The year 2023 is particularly opportune in that it marks the 120th anniversary of Korean immigration to Hawaii and a substantial amount of attention has spotlighted the relationship between Hawaii and Korea with numerous governmental, political and institutional officials visiting Hawaii. The KAFH and its proposed Origins project would like to leverage this attention by strengthening working relationships with these organizations and individuals to advance a framework for future educational and cultural activities.

It should also be noted that the proposed Origins project would largely be in alignment with the Hawaii Tourism Authority's focus on seeking better informed visitors rather than increasing visitor counts. The Metaverse project could be used by the travel industry to help educate future visitors about the relationship between Hawaii's many ethnic communities, shared history and relationship with our 'Āina.

A planning delegation will be sent to Korea and possibly to Japan and Taiwan to seek content partners, and governmental and institution organizations to advance the Metaverse project. Organizations outside of South Korea have not yet been contacted, however interest in discussing this project have been received by the South Korea Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Incheon Emigration Museum, Yonsei University, and various private enterprise companies. This delegation will also discuss the project with Hawaii's Sister State officials in Seoul and Jeju, as well as with Honolulu's Sister City Incheon.

Hawaii's Origins

In sum, the Origins project will provide historians, content developers, the academic community, students, visitors and the public with an easy one-point source that will serve as a gateway for a collection of Hawaii's immigration history and current cultural content. Origins should be considered a living and constantly evolving compendium of multi-media resources that will let its visitors delve ever deeper into the immigration experience. It will also provide a virtual meeting place where people interested in Hawaii's immigration history can meet virtually. Most importantly, it will provide easy access where the mutual understanding of the unique and shared experiences of Hawaii's many cultures can be readily found effortlessly, and a mutual respect for each other and the community in total can be achieved.