

**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:

Kauai Economic Development Board, Inc.

Amount of State Funds Requested: \$ 1,460,590

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

Funds to implement the Kauai Creative Technology Center, including the procurement of industry-grade equipment, programmatic funding, staffing costs, and supplies to leverage other funding sources to invest in the implementation of the high-tech workforce development hub.

Amount of Other Funds Available:

State: \$ 1,460,590

Federal: \$ _____

County: \$ 25,000

Private/Other: \$ 200,000

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

\$ 597,000

Unrestricted Assets:

\$ 1,432,846

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 3621

City:

Lihue

State:

HI

Zip:

96766

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application

Name:
Jaclyn Kaina

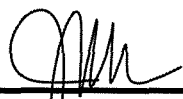
Title:
Executive Director

Email:
jkaina@kedb.com

Phone:
(808)245-6692

Federal Tax ID#:
[REDACTED]

State Tax ID#:
[REDACTED]



Authorized Signature

Jaclyn Kaina, Executive Director

Name and Title

January 19, 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.

- 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

Jaclyn Kaina, Executive Director

PRINT NAME AND TITLE

January 17, 2024

DATE



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF VENDOR COMPLIANCE

This document presents the compliance status of the vendor identified below on the issue date with respect to certificates required from the Hawaii Department of Taxation (DOTAX), the Internal Revenue Service, the Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), and the Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA).

Vendor Name: KAUAI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.*

DBA/Trade Name: KAUAI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.*

Issue Date: 12/30/2023

Status: **Compliant**

Hawaii Tax#: [REDACTED]

New Hawaii Tax#:

FEIN/SSN#: XX-XXX1581

UI#: XXXXXX9460

DCCA FILE#: 58590

Status of Compliance for this Vendor on issue date:

Form	Department(s)	Status
A-6	Hawaii Department of Taxation	Compliant
8821	Internal Revenue Service	Compliant
COGS	Hawaii Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs	Exempt
LIR27	Hawaii Department of Labor & Industrial Relations	Compliant

Status Legend:

Status	Description
Exempt	The entity is exempt from this requirement
Compliant	The entity is compliant with this requirement or the entity is in agreement with agency and actively working towards compliance
Pending	A status determination has not yet been made
Submitted	The entity has applied for the certificate but it is awaiting approval
Not Compliant	The entity is not in compliance with the requirement and should contact the issuing agency for more information

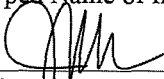
**DECLARATION STATEMENT OF
APPLICANTS FOR GRANTS PURSUANT TO
CHAPTER 42F, HAWAII REVISIED STATUTES**

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, 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; and
- 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.
- 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, 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>Kauai Economic Development Board</u> (Typed Name of Individual or Organization)	
 (Signature)	January 17, 2024 (Date)
<u>Jaclyn Kaina</u> (Typed Name)	<u>Executive Director</u> (Title)

Applicant: Kaua`i Economic Development Board, Inc.

Declaration Statement

Kaua`i Economic Development Board, Inc. affirms its compliance with Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Public Purpose

Kaua`i Economic Development Board, Inc. affirms this project and respective funding request is for public purpose pursuant to Section 42F-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes to begin the implementation of the Kaua`i Creative Technology Center. The grant request is \$1,429,250.

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. Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate (If the Applicant is an Organization)

If the applicant is an organization, the applicant shall submit one (1) copy of a Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate from the Comptroller of the Department of Accounting and General Services that is dated no earlier than December 1, 2023.

HCE Certificate Attached

2. Declaration Statement

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

Attached

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.

Attached

1. The name of the requesting organization or individual;

Kaua'i Economic Development Board, Inc., Kaua'i Creative Technology Center (KCTC)

2. The public purpose for the grant;

The mission of the Kaua'i Creative Technology Center (KCTC) is to establish a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to fostering workforce development and economic growth on Kaua'i. This center will focus on equipping residents with vital skills for emerging industries, promoting innovation, and creating job opportunities through technology and creativity. Supported by a broad coalition from the film, business, education, technology, and cultural sectors, as well as local and federal officials, the KCTC is poised to be a transformative force for Kaua'i's economy. Its programs will address the critical need for job diversification and skill development in rural communities, while retaining local talent and stimulating entrepreneurship. The KCTC represents a strategic investment in Kaua'i's future, empowering residents to thrive in an evolving global landscape.

3. The services to be supported by the grant;

The KCTC will deliver workforce development programs and workshops in emerging technologies, creative media, and entrepreneurship. Through industry and postsecondary partnerships, participants will learn skills that lead to job placement, advanced certifications, or entrance into higher education. This grant will support the development and implementation of these programs and equitable access to state-of-the-art equipment for rural communities on Kaua'i.

4. The target group; and

The KCTC will serve a diverse population of Kaua'i residents including thousands of K-12 DOE public/charter teachers and students, community college students, adults and seniors; Kaua'i businesses; and creative/tech industry professionals from out of state. The facility will be in walking distance from Waimea High School and Waimea Canyon Middle School, both Title 1 schools with 36.3% and 32.9% population of Native Hawaiian students, respectively¹.

5. The cost of the grant and the budget.

Grant: \$1,460,590

Total Budget: \$1,685,590

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 Kaua'i Economic Development Board (KEDB) is a private, non-profit organization established in 1984 by visionary business leaders who identified the need to diversify and fortify Kaua'i's economy. The primary purposes of the organization are to explore potential areas for economic diversification and to create and strengthen industries that can flourish on Kaua'i. Over the years, KEDB has successfully initiated and managed dozens of high impact projects in partnership with businesses as well as state and federal government agencies, driving economic growth in diverse sectors including high technology, energy, tourism, agriculture, and education.

Since 1999, KEDB has:

- Initiated and managed over \$20 million in capital construction projects.
- Administered program grant appropriations totaling over \$5 million.

In the past decade, KEDB has successfully led and administered multiple economic development projects related to technology, education, and innovation.

KEDB's accomplishments include:

¹ "State of Hawaii - School Status & Improvement Report (22-23)." *State of Hawaii Department of Education*, Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance; Assessment and Accountability Branch; Accountability Section, 13 Nov. 2023, arch.k12.hi.us/reports/ssir.

- Continued development and implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Kaua'i, convening top business and community leaders in industry cluster committees.
- Fostering interest in science and math in education by awarding more than \$700,000 in grants for STEM-based class projects and, via Aloha `Ike Program, more than \$500,000 to supplement diverse class curriculum in nearly every elementary, middle, and high school on Kaua'i in grades K-12. Contributed more than \$3,000 per year over four years to support Kaua'i Community College's - Kid's College Program.
- Developing and delivering successful Agriculture Business Plan Competitions.
- Hosting island-wide Summer Student and Teacher workshops.
- Coordinating annual conferences, workshops, and training modules on renewable energy and agriculture to stimulate community discussion across various industry clusters; presented on panels in a range of statewide conferences exploring renewable energy, and entrepreneurship in Hawaii.
- Funding and participating in local and statewide robotics and other STEM-based student programs.
- Since 2019, KEDB serves as the Work-Based Learning Intermediary for the Department of Education and the island of Kaua'i - representing all three public high schools by creating an integrated employer-education system that introduces all Kaua'i High Schools to the world of work through progressive work-based learning opportunities.
- Supporting the Creative Industries Sector by developing and building the Kaua'i Creative Technology Center.

We are seeking funding of \$1,460,590 million to cover the costs of implementing the Kaua'i Creative Technology Center (KCTC) - Kaua'i first and only High-Tech Workforce Development Hub. This funding will be used for purchasing high-quality equipment and implementing our planned programs. The primary goal of the KCTC is to create job opportunities and enhance workforce development through technology while promoting creativity and innovation. It will operate a cutting-edge facility that provides industry-standard equipment and technology-focused programs, aimed at nurturing local talent and driving economic growth on Kaua'i.

By investing in this project, our goal is to empower individuals with the necessary skills required for employment opportunities within these growing industries. The KCTC will serve as a catalyst for economic growth on our island by equipping participants with practical knowledge while also fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

In all, the KCTC has received overwhelming support by Kaua'i film, business, education, technology, and cultural communities as well as by local, state, and federal government officials.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;

The concept of a creative technology center was initially introduced in the Kaua'i Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) report, which was published in March 2010 by the State of Hawai'i's Office of Planning, Department of Business Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT), together with the Kaua'i Economic Development Board (KEDB). This project has undergone multiple revisions since 2010 due to unforeseen circumstances like the COVID-19 Pandemic. Nevertheless, up until now, despite being reduced in scale from its original plan, the vision and purpose of the KCTC have remained unchanged.

The goals of the High-Tech Workforce Hub (KCTC) are:

Goal 1: Workforce Development and Training: Workforce development and training offer numerous benefits to rural communities like Waimea and Kekaha. These initiatives effectively address the limited job opportunities and the need for economic diversification. They equip residents with the necessary skills for emerging industries, stimulate entrepreneurship, and generate local employment. Additionally, these programs help retain talented youth, attract individuals seeking educational and career advancement, bridge skills gaps in specific industries, enhance community resilience to economic shifts, foster social cohesion through inclusive education options, and contribute to sustainable community growth. By investing in education initiatives that unlock our residents' potential, the west-side of Kaua'i can thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Participants in these programs will have access to the KCTC's Licensed Pearson VUE Test Center to take exams and obtain valuable certifications. These certifications can open doors to higher-paying employment opportunities as well as remote work options.

Furthermore, it is important to note that all schools on the west-side of Kaua'i are Title I schools. Title I schools have a poverty threshold of at least 47.2%, indicating that roughly half of their student population comes from low-income families.

Objective 1: Incubate and deliver flexible skill-building opportunities to the community, catering to individuals of all ages.

Objective 2: Increase equity and access to training and resources in information and SMART technologies, creative industries, trades, etc.

Objective 3: Provide professional certifications that validate candidates' training and capability in high-demand fields.

Objective 4: Establish a publicly available testing center on Kaua'i for job placement and advancement certifications.

Goal 2: Emerging Technologies: Embracing emerging technologies is highly beneficial to rural communities. It bridges geographical gaps, enhances connectivity, drives economic development, promotes sustainability, encourages entrepreneurship and innovation, and improves overall quality of life. By adopting these technologies strategically and tailoring them to local needs, the west side of Kaua'i will thrive in the digital age while preserving its distinct identity.

Objective 1: Forecast and develop skills for emerging technologies by offering programs that align with industry trends.

Objective 2: Stay updated with technological advancements to ensure relevant training opportunities are provided.

Goal 3: Sustainability Integration: Sustainability is important to rural communities as it promotes long-term environmental, social, and economic well-being. Programs and training designed to address sustainability in agriculture, energy, and technology are crucial for minimizing environmental impact, diversifying economies, reducing vulnerability to external factors, fostering community engagement/collaboration while enhancing overall quality of life. By embracing sustainable practices through education initiatives tailored to local needs, rural areas can thrive in a more sustainable future.

Objective 1: Develop a comprehensive curriculum that provides training in various aspects of film production, including cinematography, sound design, editing, and production management.

Objective 2: Collaborate with local film industry professionals to offer mentorship programs and workshops that provide hands-on experience and guidance to aspiring filmmakers.

Objective 3: Establish partnerships with local production companies and studios to create internship opportunities for Kauaʻi residents interested in gaining practical experience in the film industry.

Objective 4: Organize networking events and industry showcases to connect aspiring filmmakers with established professionals, fostering collaboration and career opportunities.

Objective 5: Provide resources such as equipment rentals, studio spaces, and post-production facilities to support local film productions on Kauaʻi.

Objective 6: Facilitate connections between local talent (actors, crew members) and visiting productions seeking local hires for supporting crew roles.

Objective 7: Collaborate with educational institutions to develop pathways for students interested in pursuing careers in the film industry through internships or specialized coursework.

3. The public purpose and need to be served;

The KCTC has been designed with a strong focus on serving the community and addressing its needs. Supporting programs are in alignment with the County of Kauaʻi's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), Statewide CEDS, and the Kauaʻi General Plan, all of which focus on diversifying the island's economy beyond tourism and includes agriculture, sustainability, energy, film, and high-tech industries. Listed below are key ways in which it will fulfill its public purpose.

The KCTC will offer flexible skill-building opportunities for individuals of all ages, catering to diverse backgrounds and interests. By providing accessible training programs, we aim to empower our community members with valuable skills that align with high-demand fields such as information technologies, creative industries, trades, and more. This will enhance employability prospects and contribute to economic growth on Kauaʻi.

The local community will be actively engaged through various initiatives such as networking events, industry showcases, mentorship programs, and workshops. These activities will foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and networking opportunities among aspiring professionals, established industry experts, and community members at large. By serving as a hub for creativity, innovation, and technological advancement on Kauaʻi, the KCTC will contribute to the overall growth of our island's economy while empowering individuals to pursue fulfilling careers in emerging industries.

Access to Emerging Technologies and Growing Industries: One of our primary objectives is to increase equity and access to training resources in information technologies, SMART technologies (e.g., drone technology, smart farming), creative industries, and other emerging fields. By removing barriers such as affordability or geographical limitations, we strive to ensure that everyone has equal opportunities for personal growth and professional development.

The KCTC will ensure a readily available workforce for film productions on the island. Across the State of Hawaii, in 2023, there was a 196% increase in new jobs for Motion Picture and Video Production. Kauaʻi has a history of being an iconic filmmaking location from *Blue Hawaii (1961)*, *Gilligan's Island (1964)*, to recent blockbusters like *Jurassic World (2015)*, and *Jungle Cruise (2020)*. According to the State of Hawaii Creative Industries Division 2021 Creative Economy Update, film production in 2019 generated \$405 million in production expenditures and \$707 million in economic impact (production and induced jobs combined). KEDB will collaborate with Creative Lab Hawaii to develop and implement programs that train Kauaʻi residents to become employed in supporting crew roles. These roles include camera

operators, coordinators and assistants, grips and gaffers, sound and lighting engineers, set designers, and many more.

Esports presents a unique opportunity to capture the interests of students and adults through gaming, while offering an array of employable skills in computer science, marketing, art, and communications. The KCTC will include Kaua'i's first state-of-the-art esports arena for participants to compete and learn in a billion dollar growing industry².

The KCTC will provide professional certifications that validate candidates' training and capability in their respective fields of expertise. These certifications not only enhance employability but also instill confidence among employers seeking skilled professionals while promoting industry standards within our community.

Job Placement and Advancement Certification Testing Center: In an effort to bolster career progression prospects on Kaua'i, the KCTC will host a Pearson VUE Test Center accessible to all. Here, individuals can earn certifications tailored to their respective fields or careers, underscoring their expertise and bridging the gap between job seekers and employers in search of skilled professionals.

There is a growing demand for an information technology (IT) workforce to support national defense operations at the Pacific Missile Range Facility, only a 15-minute drive from the KCTC. KEDB is actively developing a cybersecurity workforce pipeline in collaboration with Good Jobs Hawaii, Kaua'i Community College, and cybersecurity employers supporting Hawaii's defense sector. The certifications identified by the IT Sector Partnership steering committee, made up of technical job hiring managers and staff, included Microsoft, Red Hat Linux, and CompTIA, of which are in the top-10 most in-demand certifications for jobs on Kaua'i as of December 2023³. In 2023 there were 162 job openings on Kaua'i for Computer and Mathematical operations, a 105% increase from 2022⁴.

As the sole Pearson VUE Test Center open to the public on the island, the KCTC will remove the burden and additional costs for locals who previously had to travel to Oahu. This initiative reflects our commitment to fostering equitable access to professional development resources within our community.

Kaua'i's supply chain and transportation industries also continue to experience major workforce gaps in the years following the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023 there were 492 advertised job openings that listed Commercial Drivers License (CDL), an increase of 12% from 2022. With limited training opportunities to earn a CDL, Kaua'i employers will continue to struggle in filling these roles. The KCTC will have Kaua'i's first and only professional driving simulator for CDL training. Simulators provide a safe way for drivers to learn vehicle operations in a controlled environment prior to hands-on training on the road.

² Gough, Christina. "Global Esports Market Revenue 2025." *Statista*, 13 Dec. 2023, www.statista.com/statistics/490522/global-esports-market-revenue/.

³ "Kaua'i County - Advertised Job Trends." *HireNet Hawaii*, www.hirenethawaii.com/vosnet/analyzer/JobTrends.aspx. Accessed 16 Jan. 2024.

⁴ "Kaua'i County - Advertised Job Trends." *HireNet Hawaii*, www.hirenethawaii.com/vosnet/analyzer/JobTrends.aspx. Accessed 16 Jan. 2024.

4. Describe the target population to be served;

The KCTC is designed to cater to a variety of individuals in Kaua'i, including K-12 DOE public/charter teachers and students, community college students, adults, seniors, Kaua'i businesses, and professionals in the creative/tech industry from out of state. The location of the KCTC was specifically chosen for its close proximity to industry partners such as the Pacific Missile Range Facility and major agriculture producers like Corteva Agrisciences, Hartung Brothers Inc., Aloun Farms, Kaua'i Coffee Co., and Kaua'i Shrimp. This allows the facility to meet the diverse needs of the community and provide the necessary skills for job advancement and retention.

Furthermore, the facility will be conveniently located within walking distance from Waimea High School and Waimea Canyon Middle School. These schools are both Title 1 schools with Native Hawaiian students comprising 36.3% and 32.9% of their populations, respectively.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

The proposed funding will serve the County of Kaua'i; students, industry professionals, and residents throughout the communities of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau, including military and civilian employees of the Pacific Missile Facility Range. Hours of public access will be established to enable equitable access to state-of-the-art equipment.

III. Service Summary and Outcomes

Service Summary:

The Kaua'i Economic Development Board (KEDB) is currently seeking funding for the implementation of workforce development programs and equipment in the Kaua'i Creative Technology Center (KCTC). The main goal of this initiative is to diversify Kaua'i's economy and advance the Creative Industries and Technology sectors by providing a comprehensive platform that combines educational goals, professional development, and work experiences.

The KCTC will function as a dedicated center for workforce development and training, contributing to immediate positive impacts on Kaua'i's workforce. With state-of-the-art equipment obtained through this funding, our aim is to support programs that lead to professional certifications and job placements in various fields including Creative Industries, Information Technologies, SMART Technologies such as Drone Technology, and Smart Farming.

Through investing in this project, we envision empowering individuals with relevant skills required for employment opportunities within these expanding industries. The KCTC will act as a catalyst for economic growth on our island by equipping participants with practical knowledge while fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

Outcomes:

1. **Workforce Development:** Through the implementation of flexible skill-building opportunities catered to individuals of all ages, the KCTC will incubate talent by providing access to training resources in information technologies, SMART technologies (e.g., drone technology), creative industries, trades, etc. This will enhance employability prospects for participants while addressing skills gaps in specific industries.

2. **Equity & Access:** By increasing equity and access to training resources through affordable programs tailored to local needs, KEDB and the KCTC shall ensure that individuals from diverse backgrounds have equal opportunities for personal growth and professional development within emerging fields such as information technologies or creative industries.

3. **Professional Certifications:** The KCTC shall provide access to professional certifications that validate candidates' training capabilities in high-demand fields. These certifications will enhance employability prospects while promoting industry standards within our community.

4. **Testing Center:** To support job placement/advancement certifications on Kaua'i specifically, KEDB and the KCTC shall establish a publicly available testing center. This will enable individuals to showcase their skills and facilitate connections between employers seeking qualified candidates.

5. **Emerging Technologies:** By offering programs aligned with industry trends and staying updated with technological advancements, KEDB and the KCTC shall forecast and develop skills for emerging technologies. This will ensure that participants are equipped with relevant training opportunities in rapidly evolving fields.

6. **Sustainability Integration:** KEDB and the KCTC shall incorporate sustainability practices into programs focused on SMART technologies like drone technology and smart farming. By fostering environmentally conscious careers within creative industries, the KCTC will educate participants on sustainable practices while promoting long-term environmental, social, and economic well-being.

7. **Esports Development:** Through the establishment of a state-of-the-art esports arena within the KCTC, KEDB and the KCTC shall create an inclusive environment for individuals interested in pursuing careers in the esports industry. Coaching, training, and competitive opportunities will be provided to nurture talent and offer pathways for professional growth.

8. **Film Industry Support:** KEDB and the KCTC shall collaborate with Creative Lab Hawaii to develop comprehensive training programs that equip Kaua'i residents for supporting crew roles in film productions. Networking events, internships, resources such as equipment rentals or studio spaces will be provided to support local film productions on Kaua'i while connecting aspiring filmmakers with established professionals.

The implementation of these outcomes will serve as evidence of how the KCTC fulfills its public purpose by addressing workforce development needs across various sectors on Kaua'i while fostering economic growth through innovation and entrepreneurship.

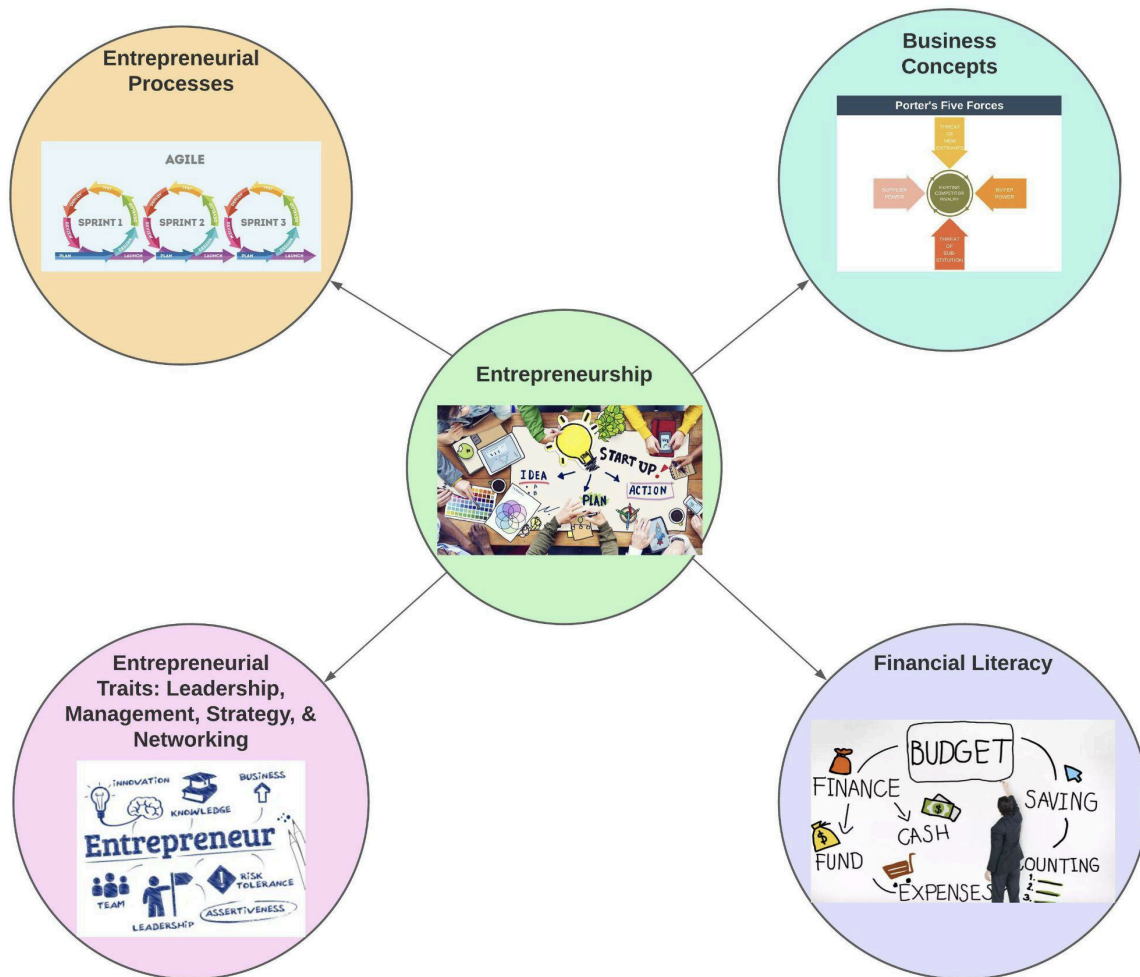
1. **Describe the scope of work, tasks and responsibilities;**

Workforce Development and Training

KEDB in partnership with Pilina Education Alliance will offer an Entrepreneurship Course focusing on the Business Management, Finance, and Marketing Career Pathway. This course is designed for entrepreneurs to learn about the design cycle and how to start a business. Participants will brainstorm ideas, develop a budget and business plan, and learn about product development and marketing. By the end of the semester, students will have a business plan outline that includes professional feedback. The course aims to help students gain practical skills, build a resume, and navigate their future prospects.

Entrepreneurship 1

Objective: By the end of the semester, participants will have a business plan outline that explains their product or service and details the action plan. This plan will also include multiple iterations based on professional feedback.



Emerging Technologies

Partnering with Pilina Education Alliance, KEDB will be offering a Design Thinking, AI and Engineering Program with Oceanit. Participants will learn and use the Design Thinking Process to create a project to positively impact the community, in collaboration with other companies/organizations in Hawai'i. Projects developed will focus on how AI can be used for good in our world. Participants will have several opportunities to pitch their ideas for essential feedback with leading industry professionals.

AI (Level 1 Course)



AI (LEVEL 1 COURSE) EXAMPLE

8 WEEK COURSE

2-3 hours per week
90 Min Sessions
+ Independent Work

Max Number of Participants: 16

2-3 Experts working with student group

Facilitated Remotely Through Zoom

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
INTRO TO AI	INTRO TO REAL WORLD PROJECT	ALGORITHMS IN AI	PROJECT PITCHES AND FEEDBACK	MACHINE LEARNING
INTRO TO COMMUNITY PARTNER	PERCEPTION AND INTELLIGENCE	INTRO TO CREATING A DATA DASHBOARD	CAREERS/JOB LINKED TO AI	FACE DETECTION
INTRO TO DESIGN THINKING	INTRO TO APPLIED STATISTICS	PROJECT WORK		PROJECT WORK
INTRO TO PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL SKILLS	INTRO TO COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION	INTRO TO PRESENTATIONS AND PITCHES		CREATING A PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO

WEEK 6	WEEK 7	WEEK 8
DEEP LEARNING USING TENSORFLOW & NEURAL NETWORKS	HUMANS AND AI	PROJECT PITCHES AND FEEDBACK
INTRODUCTION TO PYTHON AND RASPBERRY PI	INTRO TO PROJECT MANAGEMENT	INTRO TO CREATIVITY AND CHARACTER
PROJECT WORK	COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES SPECIALIZING IN AI	

Esports Development

Through our partnership with Vanta, the KCTC will offer programs in 2024 aimed to create student and teacher skill development, and community building opportunities. KEDB will continue to partner with the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, Vanta, Waimea High School (WHS), Waimea Canyon Middle School (WCMS), Hawaii P-20, and Kaua'i Community College to offer both postsecondary and workforce pathway opportunities.

Esports Professional Development Program

This program targets educators and esports program facilitators. It is imperative that schools are well-prepared to guide their programs and gamers to successful outcomes. Understanding the esports ecosystem, esports scholarship opportunities for students, having in-depth game knowledge and coaching strategies are vital for the success of an esports program and sustainability, as well as showcasing the overall value and ROI of esports. In 2024 we plan to have 30 individuals complete this program, followed by an additional 60 in 2025.

Esports Team Coaching

Dedicated, trained, and vetted esports coaches will train students at WHS and WCMS in top game titles (Overwatch 2, Super Smash Bros., and more). Game titles will be selected based on student interest and alignment with postsecondary opportunities. Students will be part of a structured esports program, mirroring other scholastic sports that require discipline, teamwork, and strategy to accomplish their goals.

Game Specific Camp

These will be three-month intensive training camps aimed at enhancing gameplay mechanics, strategy, teamwork, and leadership skills led by expert esports coaches. This program will be offered to the community to provide opportunities in skill development and team building. We plan to offer this camp to 30 individuals each summer.

Film Industry Support

Native Hawaiian Storytelling through Digital Animation

Storytelling is an innate part of Hawai'i's culture, so local students have huge potential to become experts in the field. Whether it be for narrative storytelling, marketing, or science communication & data visualization, skills in graphic design and animation are foundational to tell stories through visual mediums. Through this introductory course, high school students will begin to learn skills and methods that will help them in their journey as budding creative media professionals.

Intended outcomes for the students:

- An understanding of foundational graphic design and animation principles.
- Experience in completing a simplified animation pipeline using industry standard software.
- Creation of an online portfolio to serve as a foundation for whatever pathway they would like to pursue.
- A final project in which the student shares an animation telling a story about Kaua'i wahi pana.

KEDB is planning to pilot this course with 10 students from WHS during Summer 2024. The class will then be scaled and improved based on student feedback. This program offering will be available to adults and the community once the pilot is completed.

Spectra Fest

Through a partnership with Creative Mornings Honolulu, Hawaii Walls, Art & Flea, and the Gangway Gallery, KEDB plans to host the inaugural Spectra Fest in the Koloa Village Mall. The event will be a multi-day arts festival in March 2024. Included are murals by local and international artists, in addition to Adobe workshops that teach participants how to use industry standard tools, leading to employable skills. An additional objective for the event is to attract and grow the visual arts community of Kauai.

In-person events offer a chance for artists to collaborate, exchange ideas, and network in a comfortable setting.

Creative Lab Hawai'i Immersive Programs

Through a strong partnership developed with Creative Lab Hawai'i (CLH), KEDB has implemented programs to support the careers of creative entrepreneurs on Kaua'i. In 2017, the first neighbor island Transmedia Ideation Weekend was provided for 30 Kaua'i residents. The two-day boot camp helped participants to take their idea, concept, and other creative content toward getting fully developed, produced, sold, or distributed across multiple platforms (i.e., motion pictures, television, games, web-series, publishing, etc.). From 2017-2019, KEDB partnered with CLH by hosting the Writers Immersive and Producers Immersive programs. The program connected participants with successful industry coaches to develop business plans for their own projects. Finalists from the programs were selected to travel to entertainment industry conferences, and an additional eleven month coaching program. KEDB will continue to partner with CLH to offer these programs through the KCTC.

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

KEDB requests \$1,506,090 for the implementation of workforce development programs and equipment in the Kaua'i Creative Technology Center (KCTC).

Q1:

- Conduct needs assessment and gather client requirements
- Develop project plan and set goals
- Finalize project plan and obtain necessary approvals
- Assemble project team and assign roles/responsibilities
- Contract Subject Matter Experts
- Identify and procure equipment for program(s) (Hardware for esports arena and CDL simulator)
- Begin professional development training of cohort of coaches for esports

Q2:

- Begin implementation of service activities
- Conduct initial training sessions or workshops
- Monitor progress and address any challenges
- Evaluate effectiveness of service delivery so far
- Make any necessary adjustments or improvements
- Expand service offerings based on client feedback/requests
- Explore potential partnerships or collaborations to enhance services
- KCTC Grand Opening
- Pilot Native Hawaiian Animation Summer Program with Waimea High School and Waimea Canyon Middle School
- Launch summer esports program
- Trip to South Korea with Design Thinking Hawaii to explore SMART Technologies in Agriculture and Education (cohort of 20 comprised of Kaua'i DOE educators, industry partners, higher education, and KEDB program managers)

Q3:

- Conduct mid-year review to assess progress against goals/outcomes
- Identify areas for improvement

- Implement changes based on mid-year review findings
- Provide additional training/support as needed
- Continue delivering services with a focus on achieving desired outcomes
- Monitor performance metrics to track progress
- Launch esports programs with Waimea High and Waimea Canyon Middle Schools

Q4:

- Evaluate overall impact of the service on clients/organizations served
- Collect feedback from clients for future enhancements
- Prepare annual report summarizing achievements, challenges, and recommendations
- Present findings to stakeholders
- Reflect on the year's accomplishments
- Plan for the upcoming year's objectives and strategies

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

To ensure quality assurance and effective evaluation, the following plans will be implemented:

- Monitoring:** KEDB shall establish a dedicated team responsible for ongoing monitoring of program activities, participant progress, and overall performance. This team will regularly collect data on program enrollment, participant demographics, completion rates, certification attainment rates, job placements/advancements, and feedback from participants.
- Evaluation:** KEDB shall conduct regular evaluations to assess the effectiveness of their programs in achieving desired outcomes. These evaluations may include surveys or interviews with participants to gather feedback on program satisfaction and perceived impact. Additionally, data analysis will be conducted to measure key performance indicators such as employment rates post-program completion or success in obtaining professional certifications.
- Stakeholder Engagement:** KEDB recognizes the importance of engaging stakeholders throughout the evaluation process. This includes collaborating with industry partners to gather feedback on program relevance and alignment with industry needs. Additionally, input from participants themselves will be sought through focus groups or advisory committees to ensure that their voices are heard in shaping program improvements.
- Continuous Improvement:** Based on monitoring data and evaluation findings, KEDB shall identify areas for improvement within their programs. This may involve revising curriculum content based on emerging industry trends or adjusting training methodologies based on participant feedback. Regular review meetings will be held to discuss evaluation findings and make informed decisions regarding necessary improvements.
- Partnerships for Expertise:** KEDB plans to leverage partnerships with educational institutions such as Kaua'i Community College, Waimea High School, Waimea Canyon Middle School, Hawaii P-20, and industry experts within creative industries or technology sectors for guidance in evaluating program effectiveness against established benchmarks or best practices.

- f) **Data-Driven Decision Making:** All monitoring data collected throughout program implementation will be analyzed systematically to inform decision-making processes related to resource allocation or modifications needed within specific program components. This data-driven approach will ensure that improvements are based on evidence and align with the desired outcomes.

This commitment to ongoing evaluations and assessments will enable KEDB to make informed decisions, enhance program effectiveness, and ensure the sustainability required for participants to receive high-quality training opportunities aligned with progressive industry needs on a continuing and anticipatory basis at the KCTC.

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 status reports will be provided, including a narrative of accomplishments and upcoming tasks, as well as performance data against budget and timelines. Any changes to the project scope will require formal approval, with the Executive Director's signature. Changes impacting the budget or timelines will also need to follow change control procedures. KEDB's Fiscal Operations Policy Manual provides audit controls and oversight from the Finance and Executive Committees.

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](#))

These items are included as attachments.

2. The applicant shall provide its anticipated quarterly funding requests for the fiscal year 2025.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
\$376,523	\$376,522	\$376.522	\$376.523	\$1,506,090

3. The applicant shall provide a listing of all other sources of funding that they are seeking for fiscal year 2025.

TBD

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.

Not Applicable

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 2025 for program funding.

Attached

6. The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2023. \$1,432,846. The funds are the result of fundraising efforts for the KCTC Hub capital construction project and will be spent in 2024; fixed assets such as equipment and the Waimea Tech Center Phase II building are also included. Final total with depreciation will be available in February 2024.

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.

KEDB has successfully managed state, federal, and private grants for more than 35 years, accumulating extensive expertise in overseeing, training, and executing extensive government-funded projects.

- Operation of a publicly available Pearson VUE Test Center from January 2023, during planning and development months of the KCTC, delivering certification tests for IT, healthcare, social services, and agriculture.
- Development of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Kaua'i, convening top business and community leaders in industry cluster committees.
- Coordinating the first annual Broadband Ho'ike, the first in-person gathering of the Broadband Hui, bringing awareness to the importance of internet connectivity to the community and Hawai'i policymakers.

- Provided community support through “pop-up” events for the Affordable Connectivity Program, helping low-income families and individuals afford the broadband they need for work, school, and healthcare.
- KEDB serves as the Work-Based Learning Intermediary for the Department of Education and the island of Kaua'i - representing all three public high schools by creating an integrated employer-education system that introduces all Kaua'i High Schools to the world of work through progressive work-based learning opportunities.
- KEDB has coordinated career fairs for all three public high schools, including the development of Employer Advisory Committees designed to build skill-building opportunities for students.

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.

KEDB owns and manages Phase 2 of the West Kaua'i Technology and Visitor Center, which will be the location of the KCTC and its supporting programs. The KCTC is a 4,000 square foot renovation of two existing office spaces within the building. Construction is scheduled to begin on January 22nd, 2024 with an estimated completion date of May 31, 2024.

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.

KEDB has successfully managed state, federal, and private grants for more than 35 years, accumulating extensive expertise in overseeing, training, and executing extensive government-funded projects. The staff dedicated to fulfilling this specific request consists of:

Senior management for the program:

Jaclyn Kaina - Kaua'i Economic Development Board, Inc., Executive Director

Jaclyn is a dedicated leader and catalyst for economic development initiatives on the island of Kaua'i, Hawaii. As the Executive Director of the Kauai Economic Development Board, she oversees the organization's administration, programs, and strategic plan. With a focus on fundraising, marketing, and community outreach, Jaclyn collaborates with the executive board to ensure the financial health and mission fulfillment of the organization. Prior to her current role, she held positions as the Director of Programs & Business Development and Program Manager for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan, where she spearheaded efforts to expand businesses, develop sustainable goals, and ensure successful project outcomes. Jaclyn holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a major in Accounting from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, conferred in May 2002. Prior to this, she earned an Associate of Arts degree with a major in Liberal Arts from Kapiolani Community

College in May 1998. She completed her high school education at Kamehameha Schools - Kapālama in Honolulu, HI, graduating in May 1995.

Christine Gorospe - Kaua'i Economic Development Board, Inc., Finance Manager

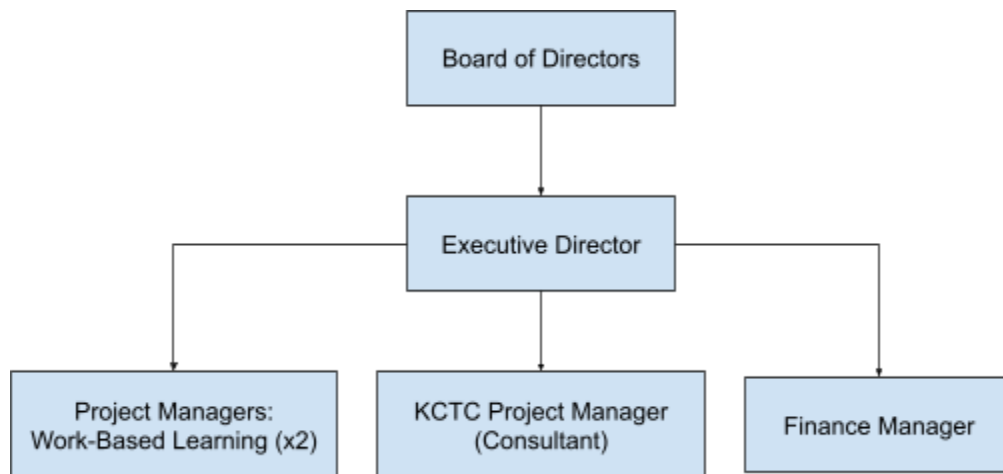
Christine is a dedicated and skilled Finance Manager specializing in nonprofit accounting. With expertise in financial management, budgeting, grant management, and accounting, she has made significant contributions to the success of KEDB. Her meticulous attention to detail and ability to implement robust financial systems ensure transparency, accountability, and long-term financial sustainability. Christine holds an Associates Degree in Office Administration and Technology; and has over 20 years of experience in business finance.

Jason Bryant - Kaua'i Economic Development Board, Inc., Science & Technology Committee Chair

Jason is a Systems Engineer for both DoD and Commercial systems in IT, Radar, RF Communications and Cybersecurity. Over fifteen (20) years of experience in Air Force and Navy open systems architecture, sensor, communications and mission systems. More than ten (10) years of experience in data systems and network design. Eight (10) years work experience as a cybersecurity professional with emphasis on cyber engineering and cyber architecture. Proven Technical Professional with the ability to connect with customers and executive leadership in areas where technology meets business and mission needs. Also demonstrates a history of truing under-performing and under-funded programs.

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.



3. Compensation

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

Executive Director - FTE \$100,000

Finance Manager - FTE,	\$ 65,000
WBL Program Manager - FTE,	\$ 63,000

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.

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.

Not applicable.

3. Private Educational Institutions

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

Funding will only be used to support public educators, students, and the community-at-large.

4. Future Sustainability Plan

The applicant shall provide a plan for sustaining after fiscal year 2024-25 the activity funded by the grant if the grant of this application is:

(a) Received by the applicant for fiscal year 2024-25, but

The KCTC is a project with extensive community backing and demand on Kaua'i. KEDB envisions a sustainable future for KCTC not only for our programs but for the community we serve. This proposal includes the opportunity to serve as a hub, offering services that align with our mission while generating revenue streams through program fees, space and equipment rentals, commissions from professional certification delivery, as well as hosting specialized training for professionals of various industries. Additionally, funding from the State will be an investment in equitable community access to state-of-the-art equipment and high-impact workforce development programs at little to no cost to users. The continued usage of KCTC will empower our organization to adapt to changing community needs, building responsiveness over time.

(b) Not received by the applicant thereafter.

Applicant: Kaua'i Economic Development Board, Inc.

If future funding from the State is not received, the KCTC will continue to operate and serve Kaua'i through its fee-based services, building additional community partnerships, resource sharing and collaboration as well as advocacy and awareness.

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES Period: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Applicant: Kauai Economic Development Board, Inc.

POSITION TITLE	FULL TIME EQUIVALENT	ANNUAL SALARY A	% OF TIME ALLOCATED TO GRANT REQUEST B	TOTAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED (A x B)
Executive Director		\$100,000.00	35.00%	\$ 35,000.00
Finance Manager		\$65,000.00	30.00%	\$ 19,500.00
Operations Director		\$100,000.00	70.00%	\$ 70,000.00
Project Coordinator		\$40,000.00	100.00%	\$ 40,000.00
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
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TOTAL:				164,500.00
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: We anticipate hiring an Operations Director at PTE in 2024 and FTE in 2025.				

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES Period: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Applicant: Kauai Economic Development Board, Inc.

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
Desktop Computers	16	\$3,399.00	\$ 54,384.00	
Desktop Monitors	16	\$499.00	\$ 7,984.00	
Desktop Peripherals - Keyboards, Mouse	16	\$69.00	\$ 1,104.00	
Gaming furniture	16	\$399.00	\$ 6,384.00	
Gaming headsets	16	\$89.00	\$ 1,424.00	
Flat screen TV for events	5	\$500.00	\$ 2,500.00	
Apple iPad / Apple Pencil	10	\$899.00	\$ 8,990.00	
Commercial Driver's License Simulator	1	\$150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	
Business Center AIO Computer	2	\$1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	
TOTAL:	98		\$ 234,770.00	

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

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

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:
NA

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS Period: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Applicant: Kauai Economic Development Board, Inc.

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						
DESIGN/ CONSTRUCTION		930009				
EQUIPMENT		219991				
TOTAL:		1150000				
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: \$650,000 received from Community Project Funding under the Department of Housing and Urban Development. \$500,000 received from Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation.						

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

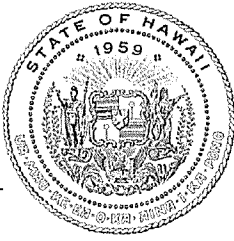
Apr

Kauai Economic Development Board

Contracts Total:

2,441,254

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1	Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education- Gear Up Hawaii	8/1/2022 - 4/30/2025	Hawaii P-20	Federal	350,000
2	HUD Community Project Funding	2/1/2023 - 2/1/2030	Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Community Planning and Development Congressional Grants Division	Federal	650,000
3	Hawaii P-20 Intermediaries Grant	8/1/2023 - 6/30/2025	Hawaii P-20	Federal	200,000
4	CEDS & ECON Dev Sector Support Funding FY21-22	6/8/2022 - 7/30/2023	County of Kauai Office of Economic Development	County of Kauai	313,125
5	COVID-19 CEDS Sectors	6/1/2022 - 5/31/2022	County of Kauai Office of Economic Development	County of Kauai	174,129
6	KEDB Kuleana Ambassador Krew Grant	5/1/2022 - 6/30/2024	County of Kauai Office of Economic Development	County of Kauai	150,000
7	ARPA Sustainable Ranching Program	7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023	County of Kauai Office of Economic Development	County of Kauai	100,000
8	ARPA Creative Industries	9/2/2022 - 9/1/2023	County of Kauai Office of Economic Development	County of Kauai	182,000
9	Regional Food Hub & Data Center	10/25/2022 - 12/31/2023	County of Kauai Office of Economic Development	County of Kauai	122,000
10	Economic Development Sector Support- CEDS Plan	6/21/2023 - 6/30/2024	County of Kauai Office of Economic Development	County of Kauai	200,000
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**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

January 18, 2024

Ms. Jackie Kaina
Executive Director
Kaua'i Economic Development Board
1824 Haleukana St., Bldg. 1 – Unit 2
Lihue, Hawai'i 96766

Aloha Ms. Kaina,

The State of Hawai'i's Creative Industries Division (CID), in the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) is pleased to provide a letter in strong support of the Kaua'i Economic Development Board's (KEDB) Grant-In-Aid (GIA) application for the ongoing development of the Kaua'i Creative Technology Center (KCTC). As the agency designated to manage construction and facilities development for the KCTC, CID looks forward to expanding its collaboration with KEDB, Mayor Kawakami and the KCTC on Workforce Development Programming for the County of Kaua'i.

CID is the State's lead agency dedicated to advocating for and accelerating the growth of Hawai'i's creative economy. Through initiatives, program development, and strategic partnerships, the division and its branches implement activities to expand the business development, global export and investment capacity of Hawai'i's arts, culture, music, film, literary, publishing, digital and new media industries. CID/DBEDT is positioning the state to be a national and global leader in creative sector development as well as a hub for creative media and film production in the Pacific.

The KCTC aims to diversify Kaua'i's economy and advance creative workforce opportunities at the intersection of arts and technology, by providing a comprehensive platform that combines educational goals, professional development, and work experiences through internships. Facilities such as the KCTC will have an immediate and positive impact on Kaua'i's workforce development efforts, a critical need in our ongoing recovery and resiliency efforts statewide.

This center will act as a dedicated workforce development and training facility, offering immediate impact on the island's workforce. Hawai'i's creative community was hit by the COVID 19 pandemic, resulting in over 90% job losses for Hawai'i's creative communities. This is

one of the most affected communities often overlooked in this crisis, particularly in Hawai'i where we are experiencing a 98% impact to our once thriving tourism sector. According to the June 2020 report by Brookings Institute, *The LOST ART: MEASURING COVID-19's DEVASTATING IMPACT ON AMERICAS CREATIVE ECONOMY*, the creative economy is one of the sectors most at risk from the COVID-19 crisis. It also notes that the State of Hawai'i has been identified as one of the top 5 States with a creative sector that has been affected with job and revenue losses greater than the national average of 30.3%.

The KCTC is in direct alignment with and has been identified as an integral component under CID's Pillars of Workforce Development and Infrastructure Development. The facility will serve as an important component toward the development of a broader infrastructure to support the needs of the growing community of creative entrepreneurs, an infrastructure that includes additional facilities for coworking and studio spaces in support of high growth clusters for the State beyond tourism.

CID is excited to support and continue its ongoing work with the Kaua'i Economic Development Board on the KCTC project to develop the facilities/infrastructure and workforce development programming needed to support creative, technology and export ready products to be competitive on a global scale, providing a model for other communities throughout the State to follow.

Sincerely,

Georja Skinner

Georja Skinner, Chief Officer
Creative Industries, DBEDT



January 16, 2024

Letter of Support for Kauai Creative Technologies Center

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the establishment of the Kauai Creative Technologies Center (KCTC) and to convey the unwavering endorsement of Pilina Education Alliance for this transformative initiative. The KCTC's mission to diversify Kauai's economy and advance the Creative Industries and Technology sectors aligns seamlessly with our vision at Pilina Education Alliance, where we strive to bridge academia and industry to bring free experiential learning opportunities to high school students in Hawai'i.

The importance of developing skills in creative industries and technology cannot be overstated, especially in today's rapidly evolving landscape. By providing a comprehensive platform that combines educational goals, professional development, and work experiences, the KCTC is poised to play a pivotal role in nurturing talent and fostering innovation and entrepreneurship within our community.

We firmly believe that your support will contribute significantly to the success of the KCTC. Some of the ways your support will help grow a better future include:

The Importance of Developing Skills in Creative Industries and Technology for Economic Growth:

The significance of developing skills in creative industries and technology cannot be overstated, particularly in the dynamic landscape of today. The KCTC's holistic approach, combining educational goals, professional development, and work experiences, positions it as a pivotal player in nurturing talent and fostering innovation and entrepreneurship within our community. This commitment aligns seamlessly with the evolving needs of the workforce, serving as a catalyst for economic growth.

Potential Impact on Job Creation, Industry Advancement, and Talent Retention:

The KCTC's focus on workforce development and training is poised to have a substantial impact on job creation, industry advancement, and talent retention in Kauai. By providing a comprehensive platform, the center ensures that the skills acquired are directly applicable to the needs of the local workforce. This will undoubtedly result in a positive and immediate effect on Kauai's workforce, further contributing to the overall economic prosperity of the region.

Pilina Education's Commitment to Supporting Educational Courses and Initiatives for Economic Prosperity on Kauai:

Pilina Education Alliance is steadfast in its commitment to supporting initiatives that drive economic prosperity on Kauai. Beyond academic classes, our organization offers an ecosystem of support that infuses students' educational experience with relevance. The impact we have achieved, reaching over 450 students across 40 schools represented across five islands, underscores our dedication to fostering economic growth and development.

Collaborations or Partnerships in Workforce Development and Technology Advancement:

Pilina Education Alliance is actively working on developing a partnership with Waimea High School, other public and charter schools across Kauai, and KCTC to provide quality after school courses in our Pathway to Purpose program. This collaboration aims to enhance workforce development and technology advancement by offering students valuable learning experiences that align with the goals of the KCTC.

Pilina Education Alliance is fully committed to supporting the Kauai Creative Technologies Center and believes that our collaboration will contribute significantly to the success of this initiative. We look forward to the positive impact that the KCTC will have on Kauai's economic landscape and the opportunities it will provide for the aspiring talents in creative industries and technology. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me. My email is: mary@myp2pi.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Wenstrom', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mary Wenstrom
Founder and CEO of Pilina Education Alliance



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
OFFICE OF THE COMPLEX AREA SUPERINTENDENT
KAUA'I SCHOOLS
3060 EIWA STREET, ROOM 305
LIHUE, HAWAII 96766

January 17, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

It's a pleasure to recommend the Kauai Economic Development Board's (KEDB) application for your strong consideration in support of the vision for the Kauai Creative Technology Center (KCTC). This technology center will definitely diversify Kauai's economy and advance the Creative Industries and Technology sectors by providing a comprehensive platform that combines educational goals, professional development, and work experiences. This center will act as a dedicated workforce development and training facility, offering immediate impact on our island's workforce.

Throughout the years, we have witnessed KEDB's Executive Director, Jackie Kaina's leadership and exceptional support of our three high schools by continuing to further their academy work in building our future workforce. Examples of the current work include:

- Working with Kauai's businesses and high schools to develop the Academies of Kauai Teacher (AOK) Externship Program. This extern partnership is an opportunity for teachers to observe and interact with various companies or non-profit organizations and to have real world experience to bring back to their classrooms;
- Assists in building strong relationships that connect schools and work partners in providing access for student learners to work-based experiences;
- Removing barriers allowing for work partners and schools to build mutually beneficial relationships.
- KEDB continues to provide leadership, direction and purpose for our island's work-based learning community;

The Kauai Complex Area Schools are in full support of the Kauai Creative Technology Center as it aims to diversify Kauai's economy and advance the Creative Industries and Technology sectors in providing a comprehensive platform. Some definite key areas area:

- Developing skills in creative and technology for continued economic growth;
- Potential impact of KCTC in job creations, industry advancement and the retention of our talent;
- Strong partnership and focused work with KEDB and Kauai Schools;
- Our collective work is related to workforce development and technology advancement.

January 17, 2024
Daniel S. Hamada
Kauai Economic Development Board

Students, teachers and our island community will benefit from Kauai Creative Technology Center (KCTC) and I humbly ask for your serious consideration.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 274-3502.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel S. Hamada". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "H".

Daniel S. Hamada
Kauai Complex Area Superintendent



January 17th, 2024

Mrs. Jaclyn Kaina
Kaua'i Economic Development Board
1824 Haleukana Street. Bldg 1 – Unit 2
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

RE: Kauai Creative Technology Center (KCTC)
Vanta Esports Development Program

Dear Mrs Kaina:

I am writing to support the Kauai Creative Technology Center (KCTC) State-Grant-In-Aid application to advance the Creative Industries and Technology sectors on Kauai by providing a comprehensive platform that combines educational goals, professional development and work experiences.

Esports is a place where students and adults can learn valuable social-emotional, technical, and problem-solving skills, connecting them to college and career opportunities, to help them discover their passions, and prepare them for their futures. It is important to invest in the development of skills in the creative industries and technology will lead to future economic growth for Kauai. The creation of the Kauai Creative Technology Center will provide Kauai residents opportunities not easily accessible on island. These skill development opportunities can provide a potentially significant impact on Kauai job creation, industry advancement and talent retention.

Vanta Development Group (www.vanta.gg) is a youth esports development program that was founded in response to one of their founder's children being cyberbullied playing esports online. Vanta provides expert team based coaching, professional development to teachers/school administrator, competitive leagues, development camps, uber-safe platform and in person culminating activities to showcase skills developed in a public setting. Vanta's mission is to develop leaders of character that will make positive change in our communities. We teach kids meaningful skills that can lead to college scholarships and positive digital citizenship. We also teach adults esports industry and how to build sustainable programs at schools so kids can benefit.

Vanta has budgeted to provide KCTC a range of programs and services: competition, team based coaching, teacher/adult professional development, platform and in person culminating activities. We are committed to supporting the initiatives that drive economic prosperity at the KCTC and from the Kauai Economic Development Board.



Vanta has had the privilege to partner with other organizations like Games for Change (NY) and East Metro STEAM (OR) that focus on workforce development and technology advancement. I am excited to partner with Kaua'i Economic Development Board and KCTC to develop skills and provide career pathway opportunities to students and adults across Kauai through the Vanta Esports Development Program at KCTC.

I enthusiastically support the Kauai Creative Technology Center Grant application and I look forward to participation in the KCTC esports initiatives when the grant is funded.

Sincerely,
Ed Lallier
Chief Corporate Development Officer
Ed@vanta.gg
415-218-1666

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NALANI K. KAAUWAI BRUN, DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

January 18, 2024

Aloha,

The County of Kauai Office of Economic Development and Kauai Film Commission would like to express our enthusiastic support for the application for the Kauai Economic Development Board's State Grant-In-Aid Application for the Kauai Creative Technology Center (KCTC).

As a Director of the Office of Economic Development, I have had the privilege of witnessing the impactful work and dedication of the Kauai Economic Development Board on many projects, some ongoing. They have been steadfast partners working towards diversifying and strengthening our economy.

The KCTC will continue to help us to diversify Kauai's economy and advance the Creative Industries and Technology sectors by providing a comprehensive platform that combines educational goals, professional development, and work experiences. This center will act as a dedicated workforce development and training facility, offering immediate impact on our island's workforce. The West Side of Kauai, where the facility is located, is a growing area and this project has the potential to help train future workforce that can live, play and work right in their home on the west side of the island. Funding for programs, equipment and operations of the center are detrimental to the success of this initiative.

The successful completion of this project will undoubtedly contribute positively to Kauai's creative community, and it aligns closely with our goals and objectives. I believe that the Kauai Economic Development Board possesses the expertise, passion and commitment needed to bring this project to completion.

Please feel free to contact me at nbrun@kauai.gov if you require further information regarding this letter of support. We encourage your support of this valuable, worthwhile project on Kauai.

Mahalo,

Nalani Brun
Director