

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) Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate (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

BYRNES YAMASHITA
PRINT NAME AND TITLE

JANUARY 19, 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: NISEI VETERANS LEGACY CENTER, INC.

Issue Date: 01/16/2024

Status: **Compliant**

Hawaii Tax#: [REDACTED]
New Hawaii Tax#: [REDACTED]
FEIN/SSN#: XX-XXX7505
UI#: No record
DCCA FILE#: 235375

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

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.

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](#).

The Nisei Veterans Legacy (NVL) embodies the idea that the incredible stories of sacrifices and acts of heroism and patriotism demonstrated by the Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJA) during the course of World War II (WWII) as well as their significant contributions to our post-war society, need to be preserved, protected and promoted by and for the next generations.

We hope that our promotion of community awareness of the values of good citizenship, such as loyalty, gratitude, humility and racial equity exemplified by the Nisei veterans will lead to a greater sense of civic responsibility among these generations.

We believe these tenets comprise a public purpose in accordance with Section 42F-102, HRS.

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 Nisei Veterans Legacy Center, Inc. (dba Nisei Veterans Legacy) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization formed in 2012. Our membership primarily consists of

descendants of the Nisei (second-generation AJA) soldiers of WWII, who were initially discriminated against and declared “enemy aliens” and prohibited from serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Once allowed to serve in segregated all-Japanese American units, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) went on to become the most highly decorated unit in American military history for its size and length of service. The men of the Military Intelligence Service are credited with shortening the Pacific war and saving many American lives by translating captured Japanese information that provided the U.S. forces superior intelligence on the enemy’s plans.

Upon returning from the war, the Nisei veterans were determined to change the social, economic, and political environment of Hawaii to become a more democratic and fair society. Young people growing up in Hawaii today owe much to their hard work and sacrifices.

Our mission is to preserve and promulgate the history and story of the Nisei soldiers with the general public to promote good citizenship. We are the only such educational organization in Hawaii that promotes the stories and legacy of all the Nisei Army units of WWII on a state-wide basis and in Japan. We believe that all of the men who served their country during the war to prove their loyalty as Americans deserve to be remembered for their service and sacrifice.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;

We are committed to ensuring that future generations learn about Hawaii’s Nisei soldiers who served gallantly during WWII in the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd RCT, the Military Intelligence Service and the 1399 Engineer Construction Battalion.

We strive to share their remarkable life stories, from plantation villages to military service, and how they were a driving force behind Statehood, the pursuit of redress for the mass incarceration of the Japanese community during WWII and the re-shaping of our islands into the vibrant state it is today. Our primary audiences are the younger generations of Hawaii, and Japanese visitors and students. However, through our website and exhibits we also intend to reach national and global audiences.

Through these activities, we hope to educate and motivate young people to become active participants in society and to carry on the struggle for social equity and racial justice.

3. The public purpose and need to be served;

We believe that the stories of the incredible sacrifices made by the AJA during WWII as well as their significant contributions to our post-war society need to be preserved and promoted, especially here in Hawaii. We hope that a greater sense of civic responsibility will transpire by promoting community awareness of the values of good citizenship exemplified by the Nisei soldiers.

As the Nisei generation passes on, it is increasingly important that its history and stories be kept alive for future generations of young people in Hawaii and the world.

4. Describe the target population to be served; and

The NVL, through our traveling exhibits had initially been targeting Hawaii residents for our educational programs. Our target audience is the general public but with a special focus on the younger generations so that they can appreciate the rights and freedoms that were attained by the hard work and sacrifices of the Nisei soldiers.

We expanded our outreach through a significant investment in a permanent airport exhibit located inside Terminal 1 of the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport. The expansive historical exhibit documents the wartime and post war contributions of the Nisei veterans through text, photographs, and artifacts.



NVL Nisei Soldier Exhibit at DKI Airport.

Airport officials estimate that pre-COVID, as many as 3 million travelers per year walk through the area where our exhibit is located and this is one of the main reasons the State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation, Airports Division, partnered with the NVL on this effort.

We continue to improve and develop our interactive website to allow even greater access to the tremendous stories of sacrifice of our Nisei veterans. The website has made it possible for users worldwide to access the information about the history of the Nisei soldiers. We have added Japanese translation to the website content to make the information available to the Japanese-speaking audience. We believe that this will contribute to increased tourism and interactions between Japanese visitors and the local community. This effort is particularly important due to the drop in Japanese visitor numbers due to COVID restrictions and yen valuation.

Since December 2016 when President Obama and Prime Minister Abe held the Joint Statement Ceremony at Pearl Harbor, Japanese visitation to Pearl Harbor had steadily

risen until the COVID pandemic shut down the Japanese visitor industry. Prior to 2020, we had made numerous presentations to Japanese students coming to Hawaii for educational and cultural exchange. We pivoted to online presentations to keep the interest alive until the tourist and student visits can resume. An in-person visit from the Rainbow Kids, children orphaned by the 2011 Fukushima tsunami and earthquake was conducted in March 2023 and an in-person visit by students from Usa City, Japan is scheduled for August 2024.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

While our initial efforts targeted geographic locations primarily within the State of Hawaii with traveling exhibits on Oahu, Maui, Hawaii and Kauai, we have been expanding our geographic outreach. In 2017 and 2018, we displayed the Hawaii Nikkei Legacy Exhibit in over 10 cities throughout Japan.

The exhibit tour focused on those Japanese prefectures that sent the majority of immigrants to Hawaii known as the *Kanyaku Imin*, or contractor immigrants.

Through this experience, we learned about the high level of interest in the Nisei soldier story among the Japanese and are working to increase their awareness of this important piece of Hawaii's history. To make the information more accessible to the general Japanese public we have included Japanese translations of our historical information on our website and are continuing to deepen our relationships with Japan oriented entities such as the Japanese Consulate of Honolulu, and Hawaii Tourism Japan (HTJ).

We also work with other Nisei veterans' organizations across the country on collaborations for educational functions like development of high school curriculum and gathering exhibit materials for the new National Museum of the U.S. Army (NMUSA). We are working with the Nisei Veterans Network on a major exhibition on Oahu about Nisei veterans in conjunction with the NMUSA in 2026. Thus, we strive to serve as a state-wide clearinghouse for national efforts to preserve the Nisei soldier legacy.

III. Service Summary and Outcomes

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

1. Describe the scope of work, tasks and responsibilities;
 - a. The NVL conducts educational programs primarily via permanent and travelling exhibits, presentations, videos, social media such as Instagram and our website.

In 2018 and 2019, the NVL displayed the Hawaii Nikkei Legacy Exhibit (HNLE) in several locations around the State as part of the Gannenmono commemoration, see

details at Section V. Experience and Capability. The HNLE is a 26-panel photographic traveling exhibit that features the Nisei soldier story and includes information on their post war contributions, as well as the initial Japanese immigration to Hawaii. We partnered with the Japanese Consulate of Honolulu to identify venues, publicize the showing, and do set-up and take down of the exhibit. Guided tours are also offered to the public interested in learning more details about the Nisei soldiers.

On Oahu, we had showings at the Waimalu Shopping Center and the Pearl City and Kaimuki Public Libraries in 2019. With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, several large venues such as the Honolulu Festival were cancelled until it resumed in 2023.

- b. As COVID restrictions eased, we have resumed our educational outreach presentations to local students, visiting Japanese students and various community and military organizations. Details of presentations over the past few years are listed at Section V. Experience and Capability. In the interim, we turned our efforts to the production of videos, advertising and writing articles to help continue the educational effort.
- c. In 2022, we completely updated the NVL website to reflect a new focus on the modern day relevance of the Nisei soldier story to issues such as social equity and racial justice.
- d. Also in 2022, we supported local newspaper writer Jayna Omaye's "Nisei Impact Youth Program", a special class in journalism for high school students that featured research on the Nisei soldiers in writing their articles. We offered the students background information on the Nisei soldiers and veterans as interview subjects.
- e. In 2023, we donated \$2,000 in scholarships to Junior ROTC cadets at four high schools on Oahu. In 2022, we participated in an educational contest amongst JROTC high school programs. In the past, we also supported the 442nd RCT scholarship program.



NVL Director Phyllis Hironaka presenting scholarship check.

- f. Special Events - In 2019, we helped sponsor a special education event in conjunction with the MIS Veterans Education Society of Hawaii that featured a dramatic presentation on the experience of people during WWII along with a presentation by author Tom Coffman on the contributions of the Nisei soldiers. Over 100 people attended the event at the 100th Infantry Battalion Clubhouse.
- g. National History Day – Each Spring, students around the State and Nation develop projects that reflect each year’s designated values or achievements in history. On an ongoing basis, the NVL assists students with reference information and arranging interviews with Nisei veterans. In 2023, one of our directors was one of the chaperones at the NHD competition in Washington, D.C. We also donated copies of Tom Coffman’s book, “Inclusion” to the participants of the “Sacrifice for Freedom” workshop held on Oahu.
- h. Nisei Soldier Film: In 2023, we provided funding to support the production of a new film on a Nisei veteran. “Shikata Ga Nai” tells the story of a Nisei veteran and the trauma he suffered during the war that haunted him many years later. The film is being produced by local actor and director, Eric Nemoto, and a cast and crew of volunteers.
- i. Book on Japanese forced relocation in Hawaii during the war: We provided funding support for William Kaneko’s new book on the Japanese families that were forced to relocate at the outbreak of WWII because of the proximity of their homes and farm to military installations. This support is part of an effort to raise the public’s awareness of the racial injustices that occurred during the war in order that we can prevent such events from happening again.
- j. Communications Plan - In 2021, we completed a communications plan that identified our core product and status in the community, targeted affinity groups, and defined promotional goals and measurements.

As part of this communications plan, in 2022 and 2023 we sponsored ads and PSAs in the press like the Honolulu Star Advertiser and Hawaii Herald along with ads in local television programs to reach the broader public.

We issue a semi-annual newsletter called “NVL News” and augment it with an electronic version called “Ganbari” that is shorter and easier to read on mobile devices.

We use television media to help spread the story of the Nisei soldiers. In 2018, the HNLE tour in Japan was featured in a piece by Japanese station NHK World which was aired in 150 countries.

In 2020, as part of the events commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, we participated in a special KITV program featuring several stories about the war and its impact on Hawaii.

In 2021, then President Lynn Heirakuji was interviewed in a History Channel special on the Nisei soldiers that was aired nationally. In 2022, she was interviewed for the "Island Focus" community information program about veterans' organizations. In 2022, she was also interviewed for the O'lelo program "Island Focus" on a piece on veterans' organizations.

k. Summary of request for fiscal year 2025:

- Presentations and Exhibitions	\$ 2,000
- Communications Program	\$10,000
- Education Programs/Website Improvements	<u>\$13,000</u>
Total	\$25,000

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

We will be participating in this year's Honolulu Festival in March and a group of orphans from Fukushima, Japan will receive a presentation also in March along with students from Usa City, Japan. Presentations at local high schools and universities will be conducted throughout the year, but there are little to no costs associated with these events.

New video programs are in progress. We are working on a video highlighting the post-war accomplishments of the Nisei veterans and a series of short videos highlighting historic sites on Oahu and their linkage to the Nisei soldiers. Examples include the Brothers in Valor monument and U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii in Waikiki, the Killed in Action Memorial in Kaneohe, the Keehi Lagoon Memorial, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl.

The filming efforts were suspended but are scheduled to resume as COVID restrictions in public spaces have been eliminated at this time. All videos currently in progress will be completed by June 2025.

The locally produced film by Eric Nemoto "Shikata Ga Nai" completed filming in 2023 and is in final production. The film will be publicly released sometime in CY 2024 and we plan to help with the publicity efforts to gain public attention. The film features a story about a Nisei veteran and his PTSD trauma 40 years after the war. It shares a part of their experience that was little talked about or known.

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

As a primarily education-focused organization, the NVL is in a constant state of quality assurance and self-evaluation. We believe that in order to have credibility our website, presentations and exhibits require accuracy and appropriate reference citations.

We collaborate with other legacy organizations such as Densho in Seattle and the Go For Broke National Education Center in Los Angeles to develop applicable standards of reference citation to enable researchers to use information and data provided on our website. In CY2024, we will be collaborating with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii in revising their curriculum on the Nisei soldiers.

We also encourage feedback from the public and users of our information on how we can improve the quality of our offerings as well as ease of access. While touring the HNLE around the State, we offered feedback forms produced in conjunction with the Japanese Consulate of Honolulu to obtain inputs from the public as well as any questions for additional follow-up.

Questions and inquiries from our website are referred to the proper NVL individual for response. Any critiques or suggestions for improvement are incorporated in the website improvement plan.

In 2021, we conducted an internal organizational assessment using metrics developed by a national non-profit support organization. This feedback assessment identified the progress in organizational improvements that we had made towards national standards and identified areas that we need to continue to focus on.

We conduct presentations to our NVL Advisors group annually during which we solicit feedback and guidance on our accomplishments and objectives. We incorporate recommendations into our plans moving forward.

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 the measure(s) of effectiveness will need to be updated and transmitted to the expending agency.

We have instituted a survey feedback tool at our traveling exhibits which will allow us to better monitor how that portion of our activities are progressing. A summary of sample comments can be included in our progress reports. We can also provide visitor estimates to help assess the popularity of the exhibits.

We are also currently exploring ways in which we can more effectively track the number of interactions occurring at our newly opened permanent exhibit at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport, Interisland Terminal.

We can also obtain feedback from venue exhibitors such as the public libraries on the feedback provided by their clients.

In 2018, we initiated an Instagram account through which we highlight significant events or historically significant dates in the Nisei soldier timeline. The number of subscribers can be used as a metric of the level of interest in our information. We currently have over 350 followers as of the end of 2023, representing an almost 20% gain over 2022.

All website visits and interactions are recorded and we are able to accurately track the number of visits to our website. We believe this data will be extremely helpful in determining where we should extend outreach efforts. These data can be reported to the expending agency if requested.

We have a question and answer feature on our website through which we provide information to students seeking research information as well as Nisei soldier descendants looking for information about their father's or grandfather's experiences.

One of our major website efforts includes expanding the Japanese translations. These translations are made locally, then sent to the Japanese Overseas Migration Museum in Yokohama for review of the language and factual content. This is an arduous but necessary process since the translation process from English to Japanese is so difficult. We have received feedback from several Japanese that have visited our website that our translations are easy to understand and correct grammatically.

As mentioned earlier, the NVL prepares semi-annual newsletters outlining our achievements during the year. Our reports to the expending agency can include these newsletters which provide an overview of our educational and collaboration activities. A copy of the latest newsletter is attached.

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 2025.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
	\$12,500		\$12,500	\$25,000

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

The NVL has scaled back its GIA application request this year due to the cessation of the annual Nisei Soldier Memorial Service. We have hosted the event for ten years and have offered our assistance to other Nisei veterans' organizations if they choose to sponsor the event. This decision eliminated one of our major budget items. Like many other non-profit organizations, we are tightening our belt and looking for ways to best use our resources through collaboration and cooperation with other like organizations.

We plan to submit a grant request to the Kosasa Family Foundation again this year. We have received grants from the foundation for the past three years.

Our income also includes membership dues and donations from members and other private parties. We do not anticipate holding a fundraiser event in CY2024.

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 NVL has neither applied for nor does it intend to apply for any 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 2025 for program funding.

In 2023, the NVL applied for a grant of \$35,000 from the State Grant-in-Aid Program and was appropriated \$25,000. We are not planning to apply for any other government grants or grants-in-aid for fiscal year 2025 besides the State Grant-in-Aid program.

6. The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2023.

Total unrestricted assets as of December 31, 2023, was \$66,700.00.

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.

- a. In addition to this leadership group, the NVL has a cadre of dedicated volunteers who are primarily descendants of Nisei soldiers. The core group consists of individuals with backgrounds in engineering, law, government service and education. We also have younger generation supporters who work on individual events or projects on an ad hoc basis.
- b. The NVL conducts educational programs primarily via permanent and travelling exhibits, presentations and our website. For the past ten years we conducted an annual memorial service to honor the Nisei soldiers.
- c. Additionally, the NVL has installed a permanent exhibit at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport - Interisland Terminal - The "Hawaii Nisei Veterans" Exhibit. The materials and construction of this exhibit was funded by a State Legislature GIA. The design, planning and content installation were completed by volunteer labor from the Nisei soldier descendant community.
- d. In 2017 and 2018, the NVL partnered with Hawaii Tourism Japan (HTJ) to take the HNLE to several locations in Japan as part of its Aloha Program to promote Japanese tourism to Hawaii.

We estimated that over 50,000 visitors saw the exhibit at these locations. In addition, several presentations were made to interested audiences on the history and culture of Hawaii AJA.



HNLE Opening Ceremony Participants, Hiroshima, November 2017.

In 2018, the HNLE toured the State of Hawaii as part of the 150th anniversary celebration of the initial Japanese immigration to Hawaii, known as the Gannenmono. The tour was a partnership between the NVL and the Japanese Consulate of Honolulu.



Hawaii High School Students at Honolulu Festival, March 2018.

In 2019, the HNLE was displayed at numerous locations on Oahu. These exhibits were suspended from 2020 to 2022 due to COVID restrictions and are expected to resume as public restrictions have been removed.



Guided tour at Pearl City Public Library, August 2019.

Largely due to these efforts regarding the HNLE, the NVL received the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Spirit of Aloha award in June 2018 and the Consul General of Japan's Commendation Award in November 2018.



JCCH Spirit of Aloha Awardees, June 2018. NVL Former President Wes Deguchi on the left.



Consul General of Japan Commendation Awardees, November 2018. NVL former President Wes Deguchi and current President Byrnes Yamashita, (second row, far left).

- e. Nisei Soldier Memorial Service (NSMS) – For the past ten years, the NVL has been the primary sponsor for the annual Nisei Soldier Memorial Service which serves to honor the Nisei Soldiers of WWII.

Those attending in the past represented various military organizations, veterans' groups, high school JROTC cadets and members of the general public.

2023 was the last service to be sponsored by the NVL. We have alerted the other Nisei veterans' organizations on Oahu of this change and in the event that one or more of them want to sponsor the event, we are ready to assist.



Nisei Soldier Memorial Service participants September 2019. (Photo courtesy of iHiPhotography)

- f. The NVL's comprehensive website is continually updated as content is prepared, (nvlchawaii.org). A total site upgrade was completed in 2022 moving to a more user-friendly operating system that allows us to make the updates by ourselves, reducing the cost to maintain the website.

- g. Japanese Educational Outreach. Over the past several years, the NVL has made presentations to many Japanese organizations and groups about the history of Hawaii's Japanese community and the Nisei soldier story. These presentations have been both in Japan and in Hawaii.

In conjunction with the HNLE tour of Japan, numerous presentations were made to high school and university students along to the general public. Through these presentations, we learned that the Japanese people have a tremendous interest in Hawaii and the story of the Nisei soldiers.



Presentation at Nagaoka City, Japan Auditorium, July 2018.

According to the Japanese Consulate of Honolulu, pre-COVID over 10,000 Japanese middle, high school and university students visited Hawaii each year for educational and cultural exchanges. The NVL has made numerous presentations to some of these student groups including tours of facilities like the 100th Infantry Battalion clubhouse.



Presentation and tour to Japanese students from Fukushima, Japan, March 2018 at the 100th Infantry Battalion Clubhouse.

Additionally, the NVL supports researchers and students from Japan to find information on the Nisei soldiers including arranging interviews.



Japanese researcher Ms. Nao Fukuoka from Hiroshima, Japan (second from right) with interview subjects at the NVL office, November 2019.

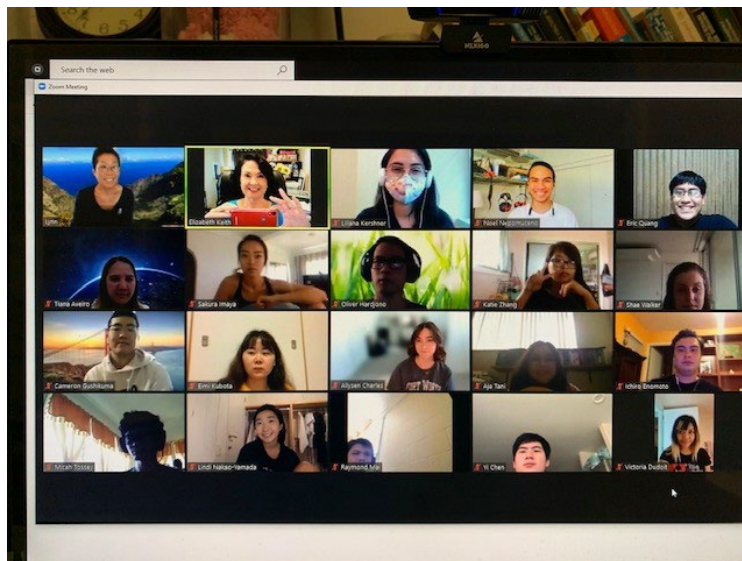
During the COVID pandemic, we continued to support these educational presentations to Japanese students via online services.



President Byrnes Yamashita (first row, second from right) during presentation to Japanese students in Usa City, Oita Prefecture, Japan. Mililani Middle School students also participated (upper left).

- h. Hawaii Community Educational Outreach. The NVL offers a speaker bureau to local schools and organizations to make presentations about the history and achievements of the Nisei soldiers.

In early 2020, with the advent of the COVID pandemic, in-person presentations were greatly curtailed. The NVL pivoted to online presentations to maintain the educational outreach. We hope to resume in-person presentations since COVID restrictions have been eliminated.



NVL former President Lynn Heirakuji (upper left) during presentation to University of Hawaii at Manoa students online.

- i. National Nisei Organization Coordination and Collaboration. The NVL assists in coordinating amongst Nisei veterans' organizations both within the State of Hawaii as well as across the nation.

For example, in June 2018 NHK World Japan sponsored a showing of a documentary on the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. NHK wanted to invite members of the Nisei veteran community but had no idea of how to contact them. The NVL reached out to the local Nisei veterans' organizations and put NHK World Japan in touch with each of the organizational Presidents. Through this coordination, over 400 people including over 15 Nisei veterans and their wives or widows, attended the showing at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

In August 2018, then Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono visited Hawaii and asked to meet with the various Nisei veterans organizations. The NVL coordinated with all the major units and hosted a meeting at the 100th Infantry Battalion Clubhouse. We also conducted a special tour of the Hawaii Nikkei Legacy Exhibit for Mr. and Mrs. Kono at the University of Hawaii West Oahu.



Japan Foreign Minister Kono and Mrs. Kono at right, UH West Oahu, August 2018.

In 2019, the NVL among other organizations, was contacted by the Nisei Veterans Network in Washington, D.C. to assist with gathering stories and memorabilia of Nisei soldiers in Hawaii for inclusion in the National Museum of the U.S. Army. The NMUSA hosted a special event featuring the Nisei Soldier Experience exhibit in August 2021 in Ft Belvoir, Virginia.

In 2019, the Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) headquartered in Los Angeles sent a video crew to Hawaii to record interviews and oral histories from Nisei soldiers. The NVL coordinated with the various Nisei organizations to set up the interview sessions that will be edited and then provided via the GFBNEC website for future generations of researchers.

In 2021, the GFBNEC in cooperation with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and the NVL introduced a class curriculum in the Hawaii public schools on the Nisei Soldiers. The NVL donated funds to be used for stipends for public school teachers to take the training, offer the curriculum and provide feedback.

Also in 2021, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) announced the release of a Forever Stamp honoring the Japanese American Soldiers of WWII. Hawaii held its Go For Broke stamp unveiling event at the 100th Infantry Battalion Clubhouse on June 4, 2021. NVL President Lynn Heirakuji was the co-chair for the event and served as emcee for the ceremony which was live streamed with no live audience due to COVID restriction.



Go For Broke Stamp Unveiling Ceremony, June 2021.

In 2023, the NVN again reached out the NVL for support in coordinating a site visit in December with the National Museum of the United States Army (NMUSA) for preliminary discussions about bringing an exhibit on the Nisei soldiers to Oahu.

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.

We are currently leasing a small (226 SF) office space at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. This space provides a desk workspace and a small conference area for meetings. It has been used for conducting interviews with Japanese researchers and press along with recording oral history interviews of Nisei veterans.

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 work of the NVL is being performed strictly with the extensive use of volunteers and community organizations. We pay an accountant and accounting assistant to perform duties as needed.

We have various committees that supervise work in different functional areas as shown below:

Communications:	Chairperson Dr. Lynn Heirakuji
Education:	Chairperson Byrnes Yamashita
Membership:	Chairperson Warren Yamamoto
By-Laws:	Chairperson Lawrence Enomoto
Philanthropy and Legacy Gift:	Currently Vacant
Website:	Chairperson Dr. Caitlin Shishido

The committee chairs have a broad range of professional experience and community service work that makes them very qualified to carry out their duties. These committees have permanent and/or ad hoc members that work on the different functions or projects as requirements evolve.

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.

NVL Leadership:

President – Byrnes Yamashita

- Retired, U.S. Navy Engineer
- Director, United Japanese Society of Hawaii
- Member, Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT
- Member, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
- Member, Hawaii United Okinawa Association
- Member, Hawaii Aloha Life Enrichment Association

Vice President – Micah Benavitz

- Mililani High School history teacher
- President, Wahiawa Community Businessman’s Association
- Chaperone, National History Day Competition Hawaii Student Delegation

Treasurer – Kristen Alm Kamakahi

- Managing Director at Remedy Intelligent Staffing
- Past President of the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce
- Director, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
- Member, Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce
- Co-Chair, Cherry Blossom Festival

Secretary – Currently Vacant

Board Member – Dr. Lynn Heirakuji

- Retired Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army
- Board Member, Maunalani Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
- Member, Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT

Board Member – Dr. William Wright

- PhD in Computer Science and Operational Analysis
- Retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel
- Former consultant to Microsoft and the Department of Homeland Security
- Member, Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT

Board Member – Lawrence Enomoto

- Past President, Military Intelligence Service Veterans Club of Hawaii
- Past Interim President, Nisei Veterans Legacy
- Major (Retired) Enomoto served for 22 years in the U.S. Air Force and has a law degree from the University of Hawaii
- Actively involved with many veteran-related organizations

Board Member – Joanne Tachibana

- Over 40 years at the Office of the City Clerk – Honolulu City Council
- Board Member, Pau Hana Downtown Rotary Club
- Officer - Knights of Service, the Order of St. John
- Board Secretary - Dr. Sun Yat-sen Hawaii Foundation
- Lifetime Member – Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
- Emeritus Publications coordinator SGI-Hawaii Buddhist Association

Board Member – Warren Yamamoto

- Former President, 100th Infantry Battalion Legacy Foundation
- Semi-retired civil engineer with over 40 years of professional engineering experience.

Board Member – Dr. Caitlin Shishido

- PhD in Marine Biology
- Biologist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Member, Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT

Advisor – Major General (Retired) Suzanne Vares-Lum

- President, East-West Center
- 34 years, U.S. Army (first Native Hawaiian female general)

- Former Mobilization Assistant to the Commander U.S. Indo-Pacific Command
- Board Member, American Red Cross Pacific Islands Region
- Former Advisor, Hawaii Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council

Advisor – Brigadier General (Retired) James Hirai

- Deputy Executive Director, Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies
- Retired U.S. Army general with over 30 years of command and leadership experience
- Former Director, Go For Broke National Education Center

Advisor – Warren Haruki

- President, Grove Farms, Inc.
- Former President, Hawaiian Telephone Co.
- Serves on several boards of directors

Advisor – Barbara Tanabe

- Former television news anchor
- President, Hoakea Communications
- University of Hawaii Distinguished Alumnus

Advisor – Gary Okuda

- Civil and Commercial Litigation lawyer
- Partner, Leu, Okuda and Doi
- Member, State Land Use Commission

Advisor – Wes Deguchi

- Former President, Nisei Veterans Legacy
- Member, Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT (former President)
- Former Director, 442nd Regimental Combat Team Foundation
- President, AD2 International, Inc. Has over 40 years of experience as an architect

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.

The Nisei Veterans Legacy has no current salary commitments.

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 non-sectarian private educational institution. Please see [Article X, Section 1, of the State Constitution](#) for the relevance of this question.

No portion of this grant will be used to support or benefit a sectarian or non-sectarian private educational institution.

4. Future Sustainability Plan

The applicant shall provide a plan for sustaining after fiscal year 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
- (b) Not received by the applicant thereafter.

Pre-COVID, The NVL typically received between \$5,000 to \$10,000 annually from various organizations that support the organization's Nisei soldier legacy efforts or Japanese educational tourism.

For example, in 2018 and 2019 the Hawaii Senior Life Enrichment Association donated \$1,000 from the proceeds of its annual charity golf tournament. Also in 2019, Hawaii Tourism Japan donated \$2,500 from the proceeds of its Aloha Program educational program where Japanese learn about Hawaii history and culture.

When the COVID pandemic began in 2020 and the State Grant-in-Aid program was suspended, we took two major actions: 1) we requested an extension of our FY 2019-2020 GIA grant until June 2021, and 2) we adjusted our budget execution in order to stretch our funds over the two-year period.

In 2020-2023, we applied to several private foundations for funding support and received grants from the following:

- Bank of Hawaii Foundation (\$7,500)
- Kosasa Family Foundation (\$85,000)

- Atherton Family Foundation (\$10,000)
- CPB Foundation (\$10,000)

Between 2021 and 2023, we also received donations from the Iosue Family of Chicago (\$30,000).

These grants and donations allowed us to continue our normal educational activities and supported our operating expenses.

Additionally, our fundraising drives such as a dinner banquet and special guest presentations are expected to raise between \$20,000 to \$30,000 each. In 2021, we conducted a virtual fundraiser event which raised \$20,000. In 2022, we conducted an in-person fundraiser which raised \$30,000.

These unrestricted funds allowed us to cover our operational expenses for our office space, website maintenance and accounting support. We currently have no plans to conduct a fundraiser in 2024.

In addition to the facility costs for our small office, we also use the services of a CPA and an accounting assistant to prepare our financial records and reports for tax and reporting purposes.

If not funded beyond fiscal year 2025 we will continue our fundraising efforts and may resort to options like crowdfunding in order to sustain our activities. One proposal is to create a donation page in Japanese to tap funding support from Japan based on our past and ongoing educational activities.

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Applicant: Nisei Veterans Legacy Center dba Nisei Veterans Legacy

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			
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	0			
3. Fringe Benefits	0			
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	0	0	0	0
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island	0			500
2. Insurance	0			1,000
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment	0			0
4. Lease/Rental of Space	0			9,500
5. Staff Training	0			0
6. Supplies	0			500
7. Telecommunication	0			1,000
8. Utilities	0			1,000
9. Tax Preparation/Accounting Support	0			4,000
10. Presentations/Exhibitions	2,000			0
11. Communications Program	10,000			0
12. Education Programs/Website	13,000			0
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	25,000	0	0	17,500
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	0			
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES	0			
E. CAPITAL	0			
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	25,000	0	0	17,500
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	25,000	Byrnes Yamashita (808) 728-9900		
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested	0	Name (Please type or print) Phone		
(c) Total County Funds Requested	0	<i>Byrnes Yamashita</i> 1/19/2024		
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	17,500	Signature of Authorized Official Date		
TOTAL BUDGET	42,500	Byrnes Yamashita, President Name and Title (Please type or print)		

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES

Period: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Applicant: Nisei Veterans Legacy Center dba Nisei Veterans Lega

POSITION TITLE	FULL TIME EQUIVALENT	ANNUAL SALARY A	% OF TIME ALLOCATED TO GRANT REQUEST B	TOTAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED (A x B)
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
TOTAL:				
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: Not applicable. Nisei Veterans Legacy is operated solely by volunteers.				

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Applicant: Nisei Veterans Legacy Center dba Nise

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: Not applicable. No Equipment funds requested.				

DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	NO. OF VEHICLES	COST PER VEHICLE	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: Not applicable. No motor vehicle funds requested.				

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Applicant: Nisei Veterans Legacy Center dba Ni

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: 2022-2023	FY: 2023-2024	FY:2024-2025	FY:2024-2025	FY:2025-2026	FY:2026-2027
PLANS						
LAND ACQUISITION						
DESIGN						
CONSTRUCTION						
EQUIPMENT						
TOTAL:						
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: Not applicable.						

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

Applicant: Nisei Veterans Legacy Center dba Nisei Veterans Legacy

Contracts Total: 20,000

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1	Hawaii State Grant-in-Aid	7/2023 to 6/2024	Department of Defense	State of Hawaii	20,000
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
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