

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

Kūlia K. Tolentino-Potter, President
PRINT NAME AND TITLE

01/17/24
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: POHAHA I KA LANI

DBA/Trade Name: POHAHA I KA LANI

Issue Date: 01/16/2024

Status: **Compliant**

Hawaii Tax#: [REDACTED]
New Hawaii Tax#: [REDACTED]
FEIN/SSN#: XX-XXX0686
UI#: XXXXXX0330
DCCA FILE#: 225274

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 REVISED STATUTES**


The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies the following:

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

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

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

Pōhāhā | Ka Lani
(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)


(Signature) 01/17/24
(Date)

Kūlia K. Tolentino-Potter
(Typed Name) President
(Title)

Application for Grants

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

I. Certification – Please attach immediately after cover page

1. Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate

See the attached Certificate of Good Standing.

Pōhāhā I Ka Lani’s Certificate of Good Standing is dated January 16, 2024.

2. Declaration Statement

See the attached Declaration Statement. Pōhāhā I Ka Lani complies 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](#).

(1) The name of the requesting organizing or individual

Pōhāhā I Ka Lani

(2) The public purpose for the grant

Pōhāhā I Ka Lani will expand the Kāhuli Program’s indigenous stewardship footprint & impact of the culturally and ecologically significant watershed sites in and above Waipi’o Valley to improve the watershed resilience and adapt to the changing climate. Through the expanded & continued Kāhuli Program, Pōhāhā I Ka Lani will expand stewardship work to focus on watershed resilience improvements & climate change mitigation efforts, specifically wildfire prevention, erosion control, slope stabilization, and flood prevention along with the continuation of invasive species removal and indigenous agricultural cultivation. These activities will continue to occur with community stewardship, education, and voluntourism alongside organizational staff.

The program will include the involvement of Hawai’i residents and visitors in the protection and promotion of the cultural heritage of historic Waipi’o Valley through ecologically restorative land stewardship activities on prime, premier sites in and above Waipi’o Valley. As a location that receives large amounts of visitors throughout the year, the program will help to provide a means for deeper visitor connection and reciprocity to a place cherished by kanaka maoli and Hawai’i residents.

(3) The services to be supported by the grant

This grant will provide the ability to conduct watershed resilience and climate change mitigation work, along with host an increased number of residents and visitors to care for important cultural and scenic sites in and above Waipi’o Valley while expanding cultural awareness & knowledge for residents & visitors.

The services fall under the following objectives: 1) Watershed Resilience Improvements; 2) Outreach & Marketing; 3) Expansion of Community Steward program; 4) Cultural workshops; 5) Group hosting & Open community workdays; 6) Expansion of Visitor voluntourism program; and 7) Site and watershed maintenance.

(4) The target group

The target group includes a) Hawaii Island residents; b) Hawai'i Island schools, organizations, community groups, and businesses; c) visiting educational, cultural, and service organizations; d) visitor industry; and e) relevant government agencies.

(5) The cost of the grant and the budget

The budget for the Kāhuli Program we are requesting is \$354,717 from the State of Hawaii Grant In Aid to implement watershed resilience improvement work across all sites under stewardship in and above Waipi'o Valley with resident and visitor participation & support. To ensure the success of this program, funding will provide the continuation of staffing and other program operating expenses. Program activities protect and promote watershed resilience and the cultural heritage of historic Waipi'o Valley through the education & participation of residents and visitors in ecological & cultural stewardship.

Staffing and program expenses provided in this request are critical for program activities to be offered. Program expenses also include:

- a) rental of excavator and chipper for processing of trees felled for safety and cultivation, along with site safety and accessibility.
- b) Insurance, land costs, staff training, site internet, per employee HR fees, and website fees
- c) Staff CPR & First Aid Training
- d) Supplies including fuel, PPE, small tools, land stewardship supplies, health & sanitation supplies, and food & hydration.

II. Background and Summary

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

Pōhāhā I Ka Lani's mission is to revitalize and advance indigenous Hawaiian culture. Established in 2001, Pōhāhā I Ka Lani conducts place-based land stewardship, cultural education, and community engagement at sacred places surrounding Waipi'o Valley (Hāmākua District) and 'Ōla'a (Puna District) on Hawai'i Island.

We offer Hawai'i Island residents and visitors meaningful, enriching opportunities to mālama 'āina and understand the significance of Waipi'o Valley as a wahi pana.

In addition to offering opportunities to learn and participate in land stewardship, we have been assisting families who are in need. Throughout 2020 -2022, due to COVID-19, we expanded our programs to better serve communities on Hawai'i Island through providing weekly donations of food/produce boxes, prepared meals, lā'au lapa'au, PPE, home essential items, donations of plants, trees, cuttings, seeds, and assistance in creating home gardens. Most grants that we applied for in 2020 were canceled due to Covid-19 but through determination and the help of many volunteers, we continue to serve families from different parts on Hawai'i Island. This also included helping other organizations with serving the families they were assisting. For an organization assisting families in lower Puna and Volcano, we assisted them with the 150 families they were servicing by

donating produce and plant cuttings each month from our farm sites. For an organization in Ka‘ū, we assisted them with donating produce, plants/cuttings and PPE for 300 that they were servicing. We also donated snacks for their youth program. We assisted the County of Hawai‘i with servicing 250 by donating plants/cuttings, and gift bags to babies, toddlers, and children. In addition to these donations made to families, we continued with our weekly opportunities for individuals and families to come to our sites to learn, reconnect and have a positive safe space they could come to. We ensured safety precautions were in place to keep all safe.

We also assisted different hubs on Maui beginning in August 2023. We communicated with our Hawaiian healers and they assisted us with knowing what lā‘au lapa‘au would work best to promote healing for Maui residents who were affected by the fire. We communicated with different families and hub leaders to ensure we were able to assist them with what they were in need of. Hub captains requested that traditional teas be packaged in tea bags to make it easier for families on Maui. Our team gathered lā‘au at our farm sites as it is growing organically in those locations. We had a team that took care of the drying process and packaging. We also sent up clothing for kids and adults. Large boxes filled with back packs for kids. We also sent up large bags of kalo that was harvested by our farmers in Waipi‘o Valley. A wide range of oils and salves were also donated to many families on Maui to assist further.

With our normal program, we continue to offer workshops, classes, and weekly volunteer opportunities to many.

Pōhāhā I Ka Lani has a longstanding commitment to mālama ‘āina through physical stewardship of land and collaboration with communities, government, and private agencies to preserve the Waipi'o Valley area. Board members and personnel include educators, natural resource managers, cultural practitioners, science educators, kahuna lā‘au lapa‘au, kumu hula, master hale builders and agricultural leaders with extensive land stewardship experience.

Members have impressive academic and cultural backgrounds including in depth knowledge of Waipi'o, Hāmākua history, land stewardship, and traditional practices, including local songs, hula, and chants.

Since 2007, Pōhāhā I Ka Lani has served as leaseholder of sacred lands at Nāpo‘opo‘o and Apua near Hi‘ilawe waterfall. In 2016, Pōhāhā I Ka Lani became the stewards of the County of Hawai‘i PONC parcel at Koa‘ekea (Waipi‘o Valley Lookout area). In 2019, Pōhāhā I Ka Lani also became the stewards of the 2,100+ acres of the rimlands of Waipi‘o Valley. More than 12,000 residents and visitors participated in programs and projects we offered. In return, participants helped with restoration efforts of ancient taro patches, removal of invasive trees and plants and reforesting the area with native, endemic and beneficial trees and plants.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request:

The Kāhuli Program’s goals are to:

1. Establish wildfire buffer zones, slope stabilization areas to prevent soil erosion, and river bank stabilization areas to improve watershed resilience.
2. Reduce invasive species and increase native & beneficial tree & shrub species to improve watershed resilience.
3. Increase resident & visitor support and participation of Waipi‘o Valley watershed stewardship to increase watershed resilience.

4. Increase community awareness and knowledge of cultural and ecological importance of the Waipi‘o Valley watershed

The Objectives of the program are:

Objective 1: Perform Watershed Resilience Improvements across the sites including wildfire, soil erosion, & flood mitigation, invasive species removal, and indigenous agricultural cultivation.

Objective 2: Conduct Outreach & Marketing to educate & engage residents & visitors.

Objective 3: Expand Community Stewards opportunities for residents & visitors to commit support physically, socially, and financially.

Objective 4: Conduct Indigenous Knowledge & Tradition Workshops to increase indigenous community foundation & capacity.

Objective 5: Host resident group and open-community workdays to cultivate resident involvement in watershed resilience improvements.

Objective 6: Expand Visitor Voluntourism Program for visitors to participate in watershed resilience improvements as an ecotourism model.

Objective 7: Conduct Site & Watershed Maintenance to ensure safety & accessibility of sites and maintain progress of Watershed Resilience Improvements.

4. Describe the target population to be served; and

The target group includes a) the residents of the nearby communities and Hawai‘i Island at large; b) educational, cultural, and organizations (local and visiting); c) visitor industry; and d) relevant government agencies.

Hawai‘i Island residents are familiar with the Waipi‘o Valley and the Waipi‘o Valley rimlands via either: a) general awareness of Waipi‘o; b) history with the area from the sugar plantation era; c) hunting for feral pigs in the area; d) ocean access; and/or e) hiking. However deeper cultural knowledge and ecological knowledge is needed to cultivate a sense of kuleana among residents who could help protect and improve Waipi‘o Valley.

Organizations who would like to participate in stewardship would be solicited to help with stewardship activities. Many organizations return upon request, and we intend to reach to more organizations as our organization expands with staffing.

The visitor industry would be solicited for visitors interested in cultural ecotourism and voluntourism experiences to participate and support stewardship. Visitors can provide a significant source of support in the stewardship activities of our stewarded cultural sites and their native ecosystems. The ecotourism and voluntourism opportunities for tourists allow them to learn about the ecology and culture while supporting the stewardship monetarily and physically (if able).

Relevant government agencies who can provide support and spread awareness, and as well as participate would be engaged in this project. In the past, the US Forest Service, local firefighters, and other government agencies have participated in our programs as community give-backs or volunteer service activities.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

Waipi'o Valley has many freshwater springs, and historically food and medicinal plants were cultivated abundantly in Waipi'o Valley. Whenever famine hit, Waipi'o Valley could supply food to the entire island. Additionally, Waipi'o Valley is known as a place for healing where even ali'i (chiefs) and warriors would come to heal.

Pōhāhā I Ka Lani's programs are focused in and above Waipi'o Valley, located in the Hāmākua, District 1 of Hawai'i Island. Waipi'o Valley and the Waipi'o Valley rimlands are ecologically and culturally significant areas, where famous myths and legends are rooted, sacred waters flow from Mauna Kea into Waipi'o Valley, and the remnants of the once thriving native species exist along the cliffside after the sugar plantation era cleared historical and ecological resources.

Post-sugar plantation era brought the monocropping of Eucalyptus trees and later tour operations that ignored the natural & cultural resources of these lands. Native and endemic species such as 'Ōhi'a, Lama, Kolea, 'Ōlapa, 'Ala'alawainui, Kopiko, and others remain in the area, but have been uncared for with invasive species pressuring them. 'Ōhi'a is especially threatened with the fungal disease R.O.D., and is in danger of being tracked in by trespassing residents and visitors. Furthermore, multiple landslides occurred along the cliffs due to overuse and negligence.

Key to our proposals for stewardship of the parcels we currently have, was ensuring the ecological and cultural integrity of the areas, which are intimately linked. Recent research supports this, asserting that indigenous peoples and institutions "can shape sustainable human-landscape relationships in many places" (Garnett et al., 2018).

III. Service Summary and Outcomes

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

The Kāhuli Program will expand the focus of Pōhāhā I Ka Lani's cultural stewardship of the culturally, ecologically, and geographically lands in and above Waipi'o Valley to improve watershed resilience in the face of a changing climate.

Funding will support increased watershed resilience through wildfire prevention, soil erosion control, slope stabilization, flood mitigation, invasive species removal, and watershed improving indigenous agricultural cultivation through community stewardship, education, and voluntourism.

Funding continues a stewardship program that ensures the continued, expanded and sustainable stewardship of important Waipi'o Valley watershed sites while including a holistic opportunity for many to participate and benefit from.

The outcomes of the funding for the Kāhuli Program are:

Outcomes

- Minimum of 400 invasive trees removed
- Minimum of 10,000 sq. ft. of invasive species removed
- Minimum of 400 Linear feet of wildfire buffer zones
- Minimum of 400 Linear feet of slopes stabilized
- Minimum of 400 Linear feet of river bank stabilized
- Minimum of 100 of native plants outplanted for wildfire, soil erosion, and flood mitigation.

- Minimum of 80 outreach & marketing social media posts
- Minimum of 1,200 outreach & marketing emails sent
- Minimum of 80 of new community steward members
- Minimum of 4 Indigenous knowledge & traditional workshops
- Minimum of 12 groups hostings for stewardship
- Minimum of 12 open-community workdays
- Minimum of 12 different organizations participating in stewardship
- Minimum of 400 Hawai'i Island residents participating in stewardship
- Minimum of 200 visitors participating in stewardship
- 100% of site safety and accessibility plan priority phases completed.
- 100% of watershed maintenance plan implemented
- 90% of participants are satisfied
- 90% of participants are likely to return to the project in the future
- 90% of participants that have gained a greater understanding & appreciation for Waipi'o Valley's cultural heritage and it's natural resources.

The scope of work, tasks, and responsibilities that Pōhāhā I Ka Lani will conduct under this program are in the following objectives:

- Objective 1) Watershed Resilience Improvement
- Objective 2) Outreach & Marketing
- Objective 3) Community Steward Membership program
- Objective 4) Indigenous Knowledge & Tradition Workshops
- Objective 5) Resident Participation
- Objective 6) Visitor Voluntourism Participation
- Objective 7) Site & Watershed Maintenance

Details of the seven (7) objectives are below:

Objective 1: Watershed Resilience Improvement

Watershed Resilience Improvement work will occur across the multiple sites that Pōhāhā I Ka Lani stewards, focusing on activities that impact the overall health of the watershed to mitigate dry and wet weather risks, i.e. wildfire, soil erosion, landslides, and flooding. To accomplish this, we will be conducting: wildfire mitigation through creating buffer zones, wildfire fuel reduction & outplanting; soil erosion mitigation through slope stabilization with vetiver grass; flood mitigation through invasive species removal & outplanting of beneficial species; invasive & detrimental species removal, and moisture-holding and soil stabilizing outplantings & agricultural cultivation. Vetiver grass and other plants will be planted to prevent soil erosion and river bank stabilization.

Wildfire mitigation will include: 1) removal & chipping of fallen plant matter to reduce wildfire fuel hazard; 2) falling of trees for reduction of potential wildfire fuel load and creation of buffer zone area; 3) outplanting of moisture holding beneficial plants. Species to reduce wildfire fuel hazard primarily include: a) guinea grass (*Megathyrsus maximus*) that builds up large amounts of dry organic matter; and b) trees that provide a dry fuel source through breaking, die back, etc, including eucalyptus, guava, chocolate albizia, and others. Wildfire fuel reduction will include the active removal of species mentioned along with chipping of the hundreds of already fallen trees that currently exist and the numerous more that fall each year.

Soil erosion mitigation will include: 1) removal of invasive & detrimental species along slopes; 2) outplanting of soil stabilizing plant species along slopes. Removal of invasive or detrimental species will be removed to allow for outplanting as needed along slopes to stabilize slopes to prevent landslides and soil erosion in areas where ground surface water is expected. Outplanting will primarily include outplanting of vetiver grass for slope stabilization to prevent soil erosion. Other beneficial & native plants for soil erosion mitigation to uptake surface water and percolated soil water, such as kukui trees, bananas and other beneficial and native trees & shrubs will be outplanted.

Flood mitigation will include: 1) removal of invasive & detrimental species along rivers; 2) outplanting of soil stabilizing & flood prevention plant species along rivers. Removal of invasive or detrimental species will be removed to allow for outplanting as needed along river banks to reduce flooding & bank erosion. Outplanting will primarily include outplanting of vetiver grass and kukui trees for river bank stabilization, along with other beneficial & native plants for flood mitigation to uptake surface water and percolated soil water, such as bananas and other beneficial and native trees & shrubs.

Invasive species removal is integral to the watershed health as a whole, and to facilitate the wildfire, soil erosion & flood mitigation as mentioned. The primary invasive species anticipated to be removed include common guava, strawberry guava, guinea grass, white ginger, chocolate albizia, and african tulip, along with other weed species. Removal of invasive plants such as guinea grass and trees that are fallen and dry will reduce wildfire fuel hazard.

Indigenous agricultural cultivation will occur across the sites to further wildfire, soil erosion & flood mitigation, and invasive species displacement. Planting indigenous methods paired with modern scientific understandings will allow for land to hold more moisture in the soil, air, and plants to prevent wildfires, have plantings along waterways and slopes that prevent soil erosion & flooding, and to create areas of cultivation where invasive species are less likely to take hold due to not only human maintenance but competition from indigenous agricultural ecosystems. Beneficial plant species will assist with preventing erosion, cleaning soil and providing a food source for plants and trees. Chipping of felled and already fallen trees will provide mulch to cultivate crops and hold soil moisture.

Responsibilities

- The Project Manager and the Project Specialists would be primarily responsible for the watershed resilience work, including: a) conducting the work and; b) planning and coordinating for public participation of residents and visitors.
 - o The Project Manager and Project Specialists would conduct the skilled work of arborist work, heavy machine work, work layout and preparation, and installation of the watershed resilience improvements.
 - o The Project Manager and Project Specialists would also help lead and coordinate the resident and visitor participants who would be volunteering to help with the watershed resilience improvements.

Objective 2: Outreach & Marketing

Outreach & marketing will include social media and email campaigns, integrated via our newly designed websites CRM (customer relationship management) software. These campaigns will be aimed to educate and engage residents and visitors to understand the need & benefits of watershed resilience improvements of the program along with solicitation for general participation in the Kāhuli Program. The online campaign will include a minimum of 20 social media posts per month, and a minimum of 300 emails per month. Posting on our social media pages will help bring

awareness of our upcoming projects, workshops and provide information about our on-going efforts to care for the 'āina, honua and kanaka.

Monthly open-community workdays and quarterly watershed resilience cultural workshops will form the in-person aspect of the campaigns, where new participants will be solicited and further educated about the program at the event.

The outreach and marketing will be targeted towards the demographics mentioned, i.e. Hawai'i Island residents, public, neighbor island residents, organizations in Hawai'i and beyond, and U.S. mainland visitors. Our outreach & marketing campaign will: educate and garner participants for participation in the Kāhuli Program; solicitation to become a Community Steward member; Indigenous Knowledge & Traditional workshops; organizational & community workdays.

Responsibilities

- The Project Manager will be responsible for conducting the outreach and marketing campaign, working with our website and CRM management company Ono Web Design and the Pōhāhā I Ka Lani Board of Directors.

Objective 3: Community Steward Program

The Community Steward Program will solicit residents and visitors to support the programs watershed resilience improvement work through financial, in-kind, donations, and/or volunteer support. Each participant will be solicited to become a community steward member via on-site or digital application, with an option of how to support. Each steward member will be integrated into our CRM and stay up to date with progress on the programs Waipi'o Valley watershed resilience improvements.

Watershed resilience improvement work is something that affects many, and the community steward program addresses the love residents and visitors have for the watershed resources and benefits. Community stewards are committing their support through volunteering as community stewards to help mālama (improve and maintain the watershed), with will be an emphasis on Hawai'i island 'ohana to become on-going participants as to cultivate generational kuleana (responsibility). Participants given opportunities to get involved in mālama 'āina / mālama honua (caring for the land / caring for the world) all while caring for oneself and others.

Financial and in-kind support will be optional for community steward members to support the watershed resilience improvement work. For those that can contribute financially, such as businesses or economically able individuals, it will be a sustainable way to contribute to the long-term watershed resilience work that Pōhāhā I Ka Lani plan to do. In-kind donations of goods, commodities, or services, with examples such as professional services of heavy equipment, construction, arborist, or trucking, materials for construction, tools, supplies, or anything else that would contribute to the watershed resilience work.

Responsibilities

- The Project Manager will be responsible for conducting the community steward program, working with our Pōhāhā I Ka Lani Board of Directors and the website and CRM management company Ono Web Design.

Objective 4: Indigenous Knowledge & Tradition Workshops

Workshops to cultivate indigenous knowledge & traditions focused on watershed resilience will be from one of the following categories: a) hale (indigenous structure) building; 2) hula (dance); 3) mele & oli (song & chant); 4) uhau humu pōhaku (rockwall building); 5) lā‘au lapa‘au (medicine); 6) mahi ‘ai (agriculture); 7) hei (string storytelling); and 8) na helu pō (moon phase agriculture). A workshop will be held at minimum once per quarter, with the workshop type determined by the availability of the cultural practitioner to lead the workshop. The workshop will be held at one of Pōhāhā I Ka Lani’s sites in and above Waipi‘o Valley

Responsibilities

- The workshops will be lead by the cultural practitioner on the cultural topic related to the watershed and watershed resilience work being done. The cultural practitioner will be given an honorarium.
- Pōhāhā I Ka Lani staff, primarily the Project Manger, will support the workshop with information related to the overall watershed resilience work being done and scientific supporting information for the work and the topic of the workshop.

Objective 5: Resident Participation

Pōhāhā I Ka Lani will host Hawaii resident individuals, families, organizations, schools/colleges/universitives, or businesses via solicitation or request for group hostings, or through open-community workdays. by the organization at the sites we are stewarding. We will offer snacks, supplemental hydration, and PPE for volunteers participating in the watershed resilience improvement work, along with offering plant donations to families/individuals to further help families/individuals cultivate watershed improving plants at home such as kukui, banana, etc.

The location of resident group hostings will be based on various factors, including the groups learning and service interests, logistics, and weather. Group hosting will be regular with 2–4+ hostings per month.

Open-community work days will be held monthly at one of our sites depending on the current watershed resilience work underway. Open-community work days will be open to the general public, with marketing for the workdays aimed at nearby community members, Hawai‘i island residents, and outer island residents. Community workdays will also serve as a means to solicit individuals and ‘ohana for the Stewardship Program. Open-community work days will be open to the general public in which we will work on volunteer accessible tasks such as removing invasive plants and trees, creation or maintenance watershed improving gardens and wildfire buffer zones, and outplanting for wildfire, soil erosion, and flood mitigation. With the numerous ecological issues affecting the watershed, residetns will be educated of the ecological issues of the watershed work while participating and through post-participation communications.

Responsibilites

- The Project Manager will be responsible for conducting the resident participation, working with our Pōhāhā I Ka Lani Board of Directors and the Project Specialists for support.

Objective 6: Visitor Voluntourism Participation

The Visitor Voluntourism Program will provide holistic voluntourism experiences for visiting individuals, families, organizations, schools/colleges/universitives, and businesses to learn about the watershed ecology and culture of Waipi‘o Valley while participating in the watershed resilience improvement work. Visitors will be marketed through online and social media channels.

along with partnerships with industry organizations and vendors. We will offer snacks, supplemental hydration, and PPE for volunteers participating in the watershed resilience improvement work.

The location of visitor group hostings will be based on various factors, including the groups learning and service interests, logistics, and weather. Group hosting will be regular with 1–2+ hostings per month.

Voluntourism work will be volunteer accessible tasks such as removing invasive plants and trees, creation or maintenance watershed improving gardens and wildfire buffer zones, and outplanting for wildfire, soil erosion, and flood mitigation. With the numerous ecological issues affecting the watershed, visitors will be educated of the ecological issues of the watershed work while participating and through post-participation communications.

Responsibilities

- The Project Manager will be responsible for conducting the visitor voluntourism program, working with our Pōhāhā I Ka Lani Board of Directors and the Project Specialists for support.

Objective 7: Site & Watershed Maintenance

Site and watershed work maintenance are critical for the safety and function of the program. As our sites in Waipi‘o Valley and much of the rimlands above the valley are areas that are only accessible by 4x4 vehicle and/or foot with many large trees, steep slopes, and remote roads & trails, upkeep is important for the safety of participants and staff.

Site maintenance includes primarily addressing safety and usage of gravel/dirt roads, foot trails, work sites, and areas around existing structures & storage containers. A site safety and accessibility plan will be created with priority levels 1-4 of work to be completed. Priority level 1 will include immediate safety work such as hazard trees to be felled and urgent road & trail work to completed. Priority level 2 will include tree, road & trail work that will improve safety but is not an immediate risk. Priority level 3 work will include any maintenane work of tree, road, & trail safety and accessiblity that will be done as needed as part of regular maintenance.

Maintenance of watershed resilience improvement is important as community participation via group hostings and workdays will contribute but not be sufficient to make all progress needed to maintain the area. A watershed resilience improvement maintenance plan will be implemented to ensure that wildfire, soil erorion, and flooding mitigation work is preserved, along with maintenance of indigenous agricultural cultivation that contributes to the watershed resilience. Maintenance of the wildfire, soil erosion, and flooding mitigation work will include: a) invasive weed species maintenance via a combination of mechanical (mower, forestry mulcher, etc.), physical (weedmat), and hand maitenance; b) watering & fertilization of outplanted plants; and c) any other work needed.

Responsibilities

- The Project Manager and Project Specialists staff will conduct regular site maintenance of areas for safety of program staff & participants and to preserve watershed resilience improvements made throughout the program.

3. The public purpose and need to be served:

Hawaii residents face a dual storm of tough socioeconomic conditions and the ever present danger of natural disasters such as wildfires and flooding due to extended periods of drought coupled with high winds and short-periods of heavy rainfall. Due to inflation, lack of jobs, and the rising cost of living in Hawai'i including food, housing, and everyday goods & services, many are dealing with socioeconomic and personal challenges, such as loss of income, depression, anxiety, and social connections. The Lahaina wildfires in 2023 burned 2,200 acres, 2,700 homes, and 80% of Lahaina town, killing 100 people. The 2021 Hawaii Island fire in Hāmākua burned 1,400 acres and threatened homes. The 2023 Lahaina fires exacerbated the already difficult social and economic conditions residents were facing. Flooding events occur yearly in Hawaii, trigger house damage and soil erosion including landslides.

The Hāmākua coast and Waipi'o Valley specifically are prone to heavy rains and subsequent soil erosion landslide events, and during extended periods of drought have sufficient wildfire fuel in the form of dry grasses and fallen trees. With the changing climate, the Waipi'o Valley watershed serves an integral role in and above Waipi'o Valley with the multiple streams feeding the valley and the forested areas above and in Waipi'o Valley. The watershed lands above Waipi'o Valley under Pōhāhā I Ka Lani stewardship need to be cared for to prevent wildfires in the large eucalyptus plantation and for soil erosion down the cliffsides and along the rivers feeding the valley from above. The watershed lands inside Waipi'o Valley under Pōhāhā I Ka Lani stewardship need to be cared for to be maintain the waterways and prevent soil erosion and flooding. Both in and above Waipi'o Valley, the ecological health and security of the watershed are vitally important to protect the native and endemic species from being overrun by invasives to ensure the waters flow pono. In addition, Waipi'o Valley rimland watershed area has thousands of 'ōhi'a trees that are threatened by Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death.

Funding of this project will benefit the watershed in and above Waipi'o Valley along with the residents and visitors, whether they are participants or not. Through implementation of stewardship and cultural education activities, we aim to support individuals with having respectful relationships with others and the 'āina (land) / honua (earth), ensuring our local farmers and residents are kept safe during this time of uncertainty. This project is vitally important to cultivate reciprocal relationships between those who visit the wahi pana of Waipi'o Valley, through cultural education and service-learning opportunities that protect cultural and ecologically important areas. This project is which is driven by our cultural connection to this wahi pana above and the historic valley below. These lands need a holistic and sustainable way to preserve and perpetuate their ecological and cultural integrity.

Through our programs, we believe participants will be moved at a deeper level to protect and care for Hawai'i and its fragile environment as well as understand and respect the Hawaiian culture. We believe through this program we will provide a space where individuals can come and learn and experience the beauty of the area while being guided and given an opportunity to give back to this special place, contributing the health of the watershed.

This project builds upon over two decades of Pōhāhā I Ka Lani's cultural perpetuation and stewardship initiatives in Waipi'o Valley. Pōhāhā I Ka Lani offers meaningful, enriching opportunities to mālama 'āina and understand the significance of Waipi'o Valley as a wahi pana. Our programs are designed to help with nurturing, providing knowledge needed for healthy social and emotional development to empower their self-esteem, self-confidence, self-control, problem solving, self-sufficiency, focus, patience, good communication skills, and empathy. These skills play a critical role in a family's and individual's overall wellbeing.

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

Pōhāhā I Ka Lani has the capacity, experience, and commitment necessary to implement the proposed program successfully. The timeline for the program is a 12- month period, commencing when the State issues an official Notice to Proceed.

The timeline will consist of two phases, running concurrently. The first Planning Phase will last approximately 1 month, occurring in the first month of the timeline. The second Implementation Phase will last the full 12 months, the entire time for this funding.

In the Planning Phase, our staff will be implementing planning, coordinating, and marketing the expanded watershed focus of the Kāhuli Program. This will prepare the year's work plan, and implement our outreach and marketing for the success of the Kāhuli Program.

In Phase II (Implementation), the scope of work categories will be implemented. This will be a continuation and expansion of the program, as the program is currently limited by staffing and financial resources.

Phase I: Month 1 (Planning Phase)

- Objective 1
 - Planning of Watershed Resilience Improvement stages across sites
- Objective 2
 - Development of updated outreach & marketing campaign
- Objective 3
 - Review, update, & plan for Community Stewardship Program with new expanded watershed focus for residents & visitors to support
- Objective 4
 - Scheduling of workshops with cultural practitioners.
- Objective 5
 - Review, update, & plan for expanded watershed focus for residents to participate.
 - Planning of scheduled community workdays & volunteer work activities.
- Objective 6
 - Review, update, and solicitation for Visitor Voluntourism Program with expanded watershed focus for visitors to participate, including fee-based tiers.
- Objective 7
 - Plan safety and accessibility work across sites.

Major Tasks & Milestones for Phase I:

- Objective 1
 - End of Month 1:
 - Identify and map site areas to be included in scope of work.

- Create watershed resilience improvement work plan for sites.
- Secure sourcing of vetiver, banana, and other plants for wildfire, soil erosion, and flood mitigation
- Objective 2
 - End of Month 1:
 - Consultation and coordination with local photographers for collaborative development of outreach and marketing campaign to be implemented through website, email, and social media channels.
 - Update website to include information on watershed resilience improvements.
 - Create communications to resident & in-state community steward members the expanded stewardship efforts of watershed resilience improvements and opportunities for participation.
 - Create communications to visitors & out-of-state community steward members the expanded stewardship efforts of watershed resilience improvements and opportunities for participation.
 - Expand and develop new partnerships with educational, cultural, and community organizations and the visitor industry.
- Objective 3
 - End of Month 1:
 - Plan and solicit for expanded opportunities for residents & visitors to participate in stewardship.
- Objective 4
 - End of Month 1:
 - Consultation and coordination with cultural practitioners for workshops.
 - Create workshop schedule for the 12-month term
- Objective 5
 - End of Month 1:
 - Create open community workdays schedule for 12-month term for across sites.
 - Contact new and returning resident organizations for participation.
- Objective 6
 - End of Month 1:
 - Plan and solicit for expanded opportunities for visitors to participate in stewardship, including fee-based hosting of various group types and sizes.
 - Contact new and returning visitor organizations for participation.
- Objective 7
 - End of Month 1:
 - Identify and map site safety and accessibility issues.
 - Create site safety & accessibility plan across sites, in
 - Create watershed maintenance plan for.

Phase II: Months 1-12 (Implementation Phase)

- Objective 1
 - Implementation of Watershed Resilience Improvement work plan stages across sites.
 - Collection of data and documentation for watershed resilience improvements.
- Objective 2
 - Launch of outreach and marketing campaign, including solicitation for Community Stewardship Program and Visitor Voluntourism Program.
 - 1 professional made promotional video
- Objective 3

- Solicit for Community Stewardship Program with expanded opportunities for support for residents & visitors
- Track data and feedback of residents & visitors on impact of support.
- Objective 4
 - Host workshops with cultural practitioners across Pōhāhā I Ka Lani sites.
 - Gather data and feedback from residents during and post participation.
- Objective 5
 - Host scheduled open community workdays & volunteer work activities.
 - Gather data and feedback from residents during and post participation.
- Objective 6
 - Solicit participation for Community Stewardship Program with expanded opportunities for visitors, including fee-based hosting of various group types and sizes.
 - Gather data and feedback from visitors during and post participation.
- Objective 7
 - Implement site safety and accessibility work plan & watershed maintenance plan across sites.
 - Collection of data and documentation for safety & accessibility improvements.
 - Maintenance of watershed resilience improvements.

Major Tasks & Milestones for Phase II:

- Objective 1
 - End of Q1: 25% of Watershed Resilience Improvement work completed.
 - Minimum of 100 invasive trees removed
 - Minimum of 2,500 sq.ft. of invasive species removed.
 - Minimum of 100ft of wildfire bufferzones
 - Minimum of 100ft of slopes stabilized
 - Minimum of 100ft of river bank stabilized
 - Minimum of 25 native plants outplanted for wildfire, soil erosion, and flood mitigation.
 - End of Q2: 50% of Watershed Resilience Improvement work completed.
 - Minimum of 100 invasive trees removed
 - Minimum of 2,500 sq.ft. of invasive species removed.
 - Minimum of 100ft of wildfire bufferzones
 - Minimum of 100ft of slopes stabilized
 - Minimum of 100ft of river bank stabilized
 - Minimum of 25 native plants outplanted for wildfire, soil erosion, and flood mitigation.
 - End of Q3: 75% of Watershed Resilience Improvement work completed.
 - Minimum of 100 invasive trees removed
 - Minimum of 2,500 sq.ft. of invasive species removed.
 - Minimum of 100ft of wildfire bufferzones
 - Minimum of 100ft of slopes stabilized
 - Minimum of 100ft of river bank stabilized
 - Minimum of 25 native plants outplanted for wildfire, soil erosion, and flood mitigation.
 - End of Q4: 100% of Watershed Resilience Improvement work completed.
 - Minimum of 100 invasive trees removed
 - Minimum of 2,500 sq.ft. of invasive species removed.
 - Minimum of 100ft of wildfire bufferzones
 - Minimum of 100ft of slopes stabilized
 - Minimum of 100ft of river bank stabilized

- Minimum of 25 native plants outplanted for wildfire, soil erosion, and flood mitigation.
- Months 1-12: Collection of data and documentation for watershed resilience improvements.
- Objective 2
 - Months 1-12: Collection of high-resolution photography and videography.
 -
 - End of Q1: 1 professional made promotional video
 - End of Q1: Campaign includes 5 social media posts per month and 300 emails sent.
 - End of Q2: Campaign includes 5 social media posts per month and 300 emails sent.
 - End of Q3: Campaign includes 5 social media posts per month and 300 emails sent.
 - End of Q4: Campaign includes 5 social media posts per month and 300 emails sent.
- Objective 3
 - End of Q1: 20 new community steward members signed up
 - End of Q2: 20 new community steward members signed up
 - End of Q3: 20 new community steward members signed up
 - End of Q4: 20 new community steward members signed up
 - Months 1-12: Track data and feedback of residents & visitors on impact of support.
- Objective 4
 - End of Q1: 1 workshop hosted
 - End of Q2: 1 workshop hosted
 - End of Q3: 1 workshop hosted
 - End of Q4: 1 workshop hosted
 - Months 1-12: Gather data and feedback from residents during and post participation.
- Objective 5
 - End of Q1:
 - Minimum 3 group hostings held
 - 3 open-community workday held
 - Minimum 2 different organizations hosted
 - 100 residents participated
 - End of Q2:
 - Minimum 3 group hostings held
 - 3 open-community workday held
 - Minimum 2 different organizations hosted
 - 100 residents participated
 - End of Q3:
 - Minimum 3 group hostings held
 - 1 open-community workday held
 - Minimum 2 different organizations hosted
 - 100 residents participated
 - End of Q4:
 - Minimum 3 group hostings held
 - 3 open-community workday held
 - Minimum 2 different organizations hosted
 - 100 residents participated
 - Months 1-12: Gather data and feedback from residents during and post participation.
- Objective 6
 - End of Q1:
 - Minimum of 50 visitors participated
 - Minimum of 1 visiitor organization hosted
 - End of Q2:

- Minimum of 50 visitors participated
- Minimum of 1 visitor organization hosted
- End of Q3:
 - Minimum of 50 visitors participated
 - Minimum of 1 visitor organization hosted
- End of Q4:
 - Minimum of 50 visitors participated
 - Minimum of 1 visitor organization hosted
- Months 1-12: Gather data and feedback from visitors during and post participation.
- Objective 7
 - End of Q1:
 - Priority level 1 phase of site safety and accessibility work plan completed, and Priority level 3 phase (maintenance) begun.
 - Q1 watershed resilience improvements maintenance actions implemented in accordance with watershed maintenance plan
 - End of Q2:
 - Priority level 2 phase of site safety and accessibility work plan completed and Priority level 3 phase (maintenance) continued.
 - Q2 watershed resilience improvements maintenance actions implemented in accordance with watershed maintenance plan
 - End of Q3:
 - Priority level 3 phase (maintenance) of site safety and accessibility work plan continued.
 - Q3 watershed resilience improvements maintenance actions implemented in accordance with watershed maintenance plan
 - End of Q4:
 - Priority level 3 phase (maintenance) of site safety and accessibility work plan continued.
 - Q4 watershed resilience improvements maintenance actions implemented in accordance with watershed maintenance plan.
 - Months 1-12: Collection of data and documentation for site safety and accessibility work plan & watershed maintenance plan across sites.

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

Pōhāhā I Ka Lani's Quality Assurance & Evaluation Plan (QAEP) will be implemented to ensure all requirements of grants and contracts will be met on time and successfully. The QAEP will have multiple methods of monitoring of program activities and measurement of progress towards the program's goals & objectives.

Records Review

Intake forms and participation forms will be reviewed to assess the number of participants, their demographics, organizations participation or partnership, and any increases or decreases in participation by individuals and/or organizations. Intake forms would include a digital or physical hosting request form to be completed by individuals or organizations directly requesting participation in our programs. Participation forms include the required individual liability waivers that participants submit with their name, contact info, residence, age, ethnicity/race (optional), organization participating with (if applicable), and whether they are a returning participant.

Participant Surveys

Post-participation surveys will be sent to participants digitally to be completed to ask for degrees of satisfaction, willingness to return, and level understanding and appreciation for Waipi‘o Valley’s cultural heritage and natural resources. Surveys will also include open-ended questions for participant comments, including an indication for leaving a comment as a complaint. Demographic information collected in the participation liability waiver form will also be collected in post participation survey.

Participant Complaints

Complaints received via post-participation surveys, verbally, or in writing will be recorded separately and discussed immediately with administrative staff and the Board of Directors. Complaints will be assessed for legal implications and program improvements, and any necessary adjustments to the program implementation will be made and recorded.

Output & Outcome Measures and Performance Indicators

Pōhāhā I Ka Lani will provide for regular measurement, reporting, and analysis the following outcome measures of effectiveness for the program quality assurance and evaluation:

- No. of invasive trees removed
- Sq. ft. Of invasive species removed
- Linear feet of wildfire buffer zones
- Linear feet of slopes stabilized
- Linear feet of river bank stabilized
- Number of native plants outplanted for wildfire, soil erosion, and flood mitigation.
- No. of outreach & marketing social media posts
- No. of outreach & marketing emails sent
- No. of new community steward members
- No. Indigenous knowledge & traditional workshops
- No. of groups hostings for stewardship
- No. of open-community workdays
- No. of different organizations participating in stewardship
- No. of Hawai‘i Island residents participating in stewardship
- No. of visitors participating in stewardship
- Percentage of site safety and accessibility plan priority phases completed.
- Percentage of watershed maintenance plan implemented

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.**

Project-Specific Measures	Expected Goal
No. of invasive trees removed	400

Sq. ft. Of invasive species removed	10,000 sq. ft
Linear feet of wildfire buffer zones	Minimum of 400 ft
Linear feet of slopes stabilized	Minimum of 400 ft
Linear feet of river bank stabilized	Minimum of 100 ft
Number of native plants outplanted for wildfire, soil erosion, and flood mitigation.	Minimum of 100
No. of outreach & marketing social media posts	Minimum of 80
No. of outreach & marketing emails sent	Minimum of 1,200
No. of new community steward members	Minimum of 80
No. Indigenous knowledge & traditional workshops	4
No. of groups hostings for stewardship	12
No. of open-community workdays	12
No. of different organizations participating in stewardship	12
No. of Hawai'i Island residents participating in stewardship	400
No. of visitors participating in stewardship	200
Percentage of site safety and accessibility plan priority phases completed.	100%
Percentage of watershed maintenance plan implemented	100%
Satisfaction Level	Expected Goal

Percentage who are satisfied	90
Percentage who are likely to return to the project in the future	90
Percentage of participants that have gained a greater understanding & appreciation for Waipi'o Valley's cultural heritage and it's natural resources.	90

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
\$88,679.25	\$88,679.25	\$88,679.25	\$88,679.25	\$354,717

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

- County of Hawai‘i PONC Stewardship
- Hawai‘i Tourism Authority ‘Umeke: Kahu ‘Āina Grant
- Hawai‘i Tourism Authority ‘Umeke: Kūkulu Ola Grant
- Native Voices
- Healy Foundation
- Atherton Family Foundation

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.

- County of Hawai‘i PONC Stewardship
- Hawai‘i Tourism Authority ‘Umeke: Kahu ‘Āina Grant
- Hawai‘i Tourism Authority ‘Umeke: Kūkulu Ola Grant
- Native Voices
- Healy Foundation
- Atherton Family Foundation

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

V. Experience and Capability

1. Necessary Skills and Experience

Pōhāhā I Ka Lani has been offering educational programs, caring for the ‘āina (land) / honua (earth), and kanaka (people) for 22+ years. The experience gained throughout the years and with the large support coming from volunteers, Pōhāhā I Ka Lani is capable of further expanding their educational and land stewardship programs to assist when emergencies arise. Taking on kuleana (responsibility) to assist many families such as assisting during 2020 – 2022 due to Covid-19 even when most of our grants were canceled, we assisted families when there was so much uncertainty. When the wild fires happened on Maui we sent in large amounts of assistance to different hubs (including locations beyond Lahaina) from August 2023. Assisting those in need is something Pōhāhā I Ka Lani is capable of doing all while continuing to offer land stewardship activities, classes and workshops each week.

Pōhāhā I Ka Lani was founded in 2001 by Kūlia Tolentino-Potter and her father James Tolentino Jr. as a way to get Mrs. Tolentino-Potter's high school students connected to 'āina based education opportunities. The beginning stages of Pōhāhā I Ka Lani mainly focused on providing after school, weekend, and summer programs to Mrs. Tolentino-Potter's high school students. This has been her volunteer work and continues to be her volunteer work, 22+ years later.

During the first 10 years of Pōhāhā I Ka Lani, programs were funded by Mrs. Tolentino-Potter and her father. Mr. Tolentino instructed his daughter to operate without grants for the first 10 years for a few reasons.

Mr. Tolentino wanted his daughter to experience what it took to make something happen with having "Aloha" as the foundation. She was challenged to do what needed to be done to mālama others and honua and, by putting in the extra work, she learned what it takes to be successful. He wanted his daughter to be determined in her kuleana to help serve the land and its people. With this, if ever came a time when Pōhāhā I Ka Lani did not have grant funds, Mr. Tolentino knew his daughter would know how to carry on.

Through the guidance of the Board of Directors, staff and countless volunteers, Pōhāhā I Ka Lani continues to offer many opportunities each week. One of the large projects that Pōhāhā I Ka Lani is taking care of involves major clean-up efforts beginning in 2016 after illegal water diversions happened above Waipi‘o Valley. Large boulders continue to come crashing down into the valley in the location where three (very large) new waterfalls appeared after the illegal water diversions happened. The engineer who checked out the situation for Pōhāhā I Ka Lani noted the new waterfalls were coming from the rimlands and it is in the company of other tiny waterfalls. If nothing was done to stop the illegal water diversions, a land chunk would come crashing into Waipi‘o Valley. With this, Pōhāhā I Ka Lani took on the kuleana to clean up the mess, not only in the valley but to steward the 2100+ acres above the valley. With this, what is done above the valley will only be of benefit below.

Taking on stewardship of the rimlands was a large task as in addition to cleaning up the mess and care for the ‘āina, many of the eucalyptus trees were uprooting and leaning especially when there was high winds. There has been no funding coming in to assist with cleaning up the mess in the valley due to the illegal water diversion and no funding coming in to clean up the eucalyptus trees. Pōhāhā I Ka Lani staff, individuals and companies who are contracted by Pōhāhā I Ka Lani are taking care of the clean up efforts. To prevent fire hazards, many local families have been coming together to buy equipment and help with clean-up efforts of the trees. It is taking a lot of effort to go through the forest and clean up the mess of many eucalyptus trees.

Having a team of great leaders and the support of many who are dedicated, progress continues. Board of Directors include:

Kulia Tolentino-Potter is the founder and president of Pōhāhā I Ka Lani. She began offering land stewardship educational programs to help her students as many of them struggled with learning indoors. This has been her volunteer work to help do her part as a teacher but also her way of giving back to help mālama. She is a storyteller who shares mo‘olelo of areas in and above Waipi‘o Valley. She knows the place names, different names of the winds, mists, manō (sharks) of the area, names of the different waterfalls, sacred pōhaku etc. She is a hula dancer, chanter, rock wall and ‘ahu builder. She is a taro farmer, assists to grow hundreds of ‘ōhi‘a trees along with her children as one of their projects, grows lā‘au lapa‘au on a large scale and prepares oils, salves, and tea to those who are in need of healing.

Francis Sinenci serves as vice president of Pōhāhā I Ka Lani. Francis served 30 years in the *military*, primarily in the U.S. *Air Force*, where he achieved the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. Francis is widely known for him being a Master Hale Builder in which he teaches others to become certified in building hale. Francis’ contributions to hale building also involves him Creating the Code to ensure hale building will be able to be recognized as a permitted structure. In addition to hale building, Francis has assisted with restoring heiau such as Pu‘ukoholoa and Pi‘ilani’s heiau in Hana, Maui. Francis has a background in masonry as well.

Francis has and continues to teach our participants the different layers of hale building. From learning chants, haka, lashing, debarking trees etc.

Caz Shim serves as treasurer of Pōhāhā I Ka Lani. Caz has family ties to Waipi‘o Valley which motivates him to do what he can to support our efforts in caring for the ‘āina and our educational programs. Caz has a background in business.

Drew Kapp serves as secretary of Pōhāhā I Ka Lani. He teaches Geography at HCC. He has been bringing his students to participate in our programs each semester since 2014. Drew is also a student of Hālau Hula Kuku’ena in which he has also brought the 5hālau to help us with our programs. One of the programs they assisted us with was getting about 100 ulu trees ready (from our farm) to be donated to Hawai’i Island residents. Through his participation as being a hula student, Drew teaches different chants and hei while he is participating in our programs.

Drew is also part of UH Hawai’i Papa O Ke Ao, ‘āina-based learning and sustainability, engage in ‘ahupua‘a research with haumāna in which they brought UHH and HCC students to our farm each month to assist us with our feeding programs which served 300+ families per week.

Drew is also known as one of the hosts for Ka Leo O Ka Uluau (Podcast) in which they feature different individuals who highlight different parts of the Hawaiian culture.

Bulla Kailiwai serves as a director of Pōhāhā I Ka Lani. Bulla is a Kumu Hula as after the passing Kumu Hula JayJay Akiona, he took over as Kumu Hula. He continues to teach hula on his days off as he is a State of Hawai’i employee overseeing the Highway crew in the Kona area. Bulla is a musician, song writer, winner of 1997 Clyde “Kindy” Sproat Storytelling and Falsetto

Singing Contest. He is also the grandson of Slack-Key legend Raymond Kane.

Bulla has family ties to Waipi'o Valley being part of Uncle Kia Fronda's family. Bulla assists us on a regular basis to guide our efforts in our educational programs.

Pauahi Tolentino-Chin serves as a director of Pōhāhā I Ka Lani. He participated in Pōhāhā I Ka Lani programs for the past 22+ years. He assisted with helping to host groups, storytelling, caring for the taro patches on Pōhāhā I Ka Lani's farm. Pauahi assisted Pōhāhā I Ka Lani with gathering produce and plant cuttings which was donated to many families on Hawai'i island.

Ikaika Dombrigues serves as a director of Pōhāhā I Ka Lani. Kumu Ikaika is well known to be a Kahuna La'au Lapa'au. He has and continues to offer lā'au lapa'au workshops for our programs. He continues to guide our efforts to ensure what we are providing people to help with their health problems are the correct lā'au.

2. Facilities

Pōhāhā I Ka Lani currently has no facilities. Tents are currently utilized for workshops, gatherings mālama 'āina days, and camps. We do have plans for facilities which will help provide shelter for volunteers when it is raining or when they need to get some shade when it is too hot.

A facility would also help us in the process of responding to emergencies as there are extra obstacles we face when operating under tents. High winds, heavy rains, and items not being secured.

VI. Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing

1. Proposed Staffing, Staff Qualifications, Supervision and Training

The Project Manager for the proposed project will be Jesse Potter, who has over 10 years of experience managing and implementing projects for previous and similar Pōhāhā I Ka Lani projects. He will be responsible for project management and completion of all objectives. Mr. Potter has extensive experience designing and delivering overseeing and managing land stewardship programs, developing cultural and land-based curriculum in Hawai'i, possesses deep knowledge of natural resources relative to the project, and effectively works with youth and adults from diverse communities. Mr. Potter has a Bachelors of Science in Agriculture specializing in Tropical Horticulture, and is familiar with plant propagation, outplanting, weed managements, arboriculture, agroforestry, soil science, and other relevant fields. Furthermore Mr. Potter has experience in K-12 science education, construction, mechanical repair, and community leadership.

The Project Specialists will be individuals who are skilled tradesmen in construction, forestry, arboriculture, farming, heavy equipment operation, mechanical repair, or other relevant fields. These individuals will be crucial to working with the Project Manager to be able complete the Project Objectives. Our organization has multiple individuals in mind depending on the award and timing of the funding disbursement.

Please see attachmets for job descriptions and qualifications.

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

Project Manager, 1.0 FTE: \$87,360
Project Specialist, 1.0 FTE: \$78,000
Project Specialist, 0.5 FTE: \$39,520

VII. Other

1. Litigation

None

2. Licensure or Accreditation

Pōhāhā I Ka Lani does not have any special licensure or accreditation relevant to this request.

3. Private Educational Institutions

Pōhāhā I Ka Lani will not use the grant to support or benefit a sectarian or non-sectarian private educational institution.

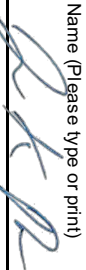
4. Future Sustainability Plan

Pōhāhā I Ka Lani is in the process of implementing multiple revenue streams outside of public and private grant funding. We are aiming to do guided cultural hikes, fee-based hostings of organizations who have available budgets, and merchandise sales, along with partnerships.

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Applicant: Pohaha I Ka Lani _____

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	204,880	0	0	0
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	46,610	0	0	0
3. Fringe Benefits	20,706	0	0	0
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	272,196			
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island	0	0	0	0
2. Insurance	10,949	0	0	0
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment	9,280	0	0	0
4. Lease/Rental of Space	9,616	0	0	0
5. Staff Training	550	0	0	0
6. Supplies	35,200	0	0	0
7. Telecommunication	2,513	0	0	0
8. Utilities	0	0	0	0
9. HR Fee	12,000	0	0	0
10. Website Fees	2,513	0	0	0
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	82,521			
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	0	0	0	0
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES	0	0	0	0
E. CAPITAL	0	0	0	0
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	354,717			
SOURCES OF FUNDING				
(a) Total State Funds Requested	354,717	Budget Prepared By: _____		
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested	0	Jesse K. Potter, Executive Director		
(c) Total County Funds Requested	0	Name (Please type or print) _____ Phone _____		
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	0	Signature of Authorized Official  Date _____		
		Jesse K. Potter, Executive Director		
		Name and Title (Please type or print) _____		
TOTAL BUDGET	354,717			

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES

Period: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Applicant: Pohaha I Ka Lani

POSITION TITLE	FULL TIME EQUIVALENT	ANNUAL SALARY A	% OF TIME ALLOCATED TO GRANT REQUEST B	TOTAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED (A x B)
Project Manager	1	\$87,360.00	100.00%	\$ 87,360.00
Project Specialist	1	\$78,000.00	100.00%	\$ 78,000.00
Project Specialist	0.5	\$39,520.00	100.00%	\$ 39,520.00
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
TOTAL:				204,880.00

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: The Project Manager will perform grant and project management work, along with all types of on-site project work. The Project Specialists will be dedicated to the technical on-site project work and maintenance, as well as assist with resident and visitor participation.

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Applicant: Pohaha I Ka Lani

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:				

DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	NO. OF VEHICLES	COST PER VEHICLE	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:				

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Applicant: Pohaha I Ka Lani

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	N/A	N/A				
LAND ACQUISITION	N/A	N/A				
DESIGN	N/A	N/A				
CONSTRUCTION	N/A	N/A				
EQUIPMENT	N/A	N/A				
TOTAL:						
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:						

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

Applicant: Pohaha I Ka Lani

Contracts Total: 75,000

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1	Kukulu Ola Grant	TBD	HTA	State	TBD
2	Kahu Aina Grant	TBD	HTA	State	TBD
3	PONC Stewardship Grant	TBD	Dept. Of Finance	County	TBD
4	General Support	12/8/23-12/7/24	Atherton Family Foundation	Private	15,000
5	General Support	10/13/23-10/12/24	Healy Foundation	Private	40,000
6	General Support	11/9/23 - 11/8/24	Native Voices	Private	20,000
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8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
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20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
27			10		Application for Grants

28				
29				
30				

Position Title: Project Manager
Organization: Pōhāhā I Ka Lani
Location: Waipi'o Valley, Hawai'i

The role of a Project Manager at Pōhāhā I Ka Lani, a non-profit organization focused on the revitalization and advancement of indigenous Hawaiian culture, encompasses a wide range of responsibilities and skills. This position is essential for overseeing various tasks that combine on-site physical work with strategic project management, all within the context of preserving the cultural and environmental integrity of Waipi'o Valley in Hawai'i.

Core Functions and Responsibilities

Physical Site Management:

- The Project Manager is tasked with organizing and leading site preparation and management for various program and project activities. This includes ensuring the maintenance of sites and facilities.
- Responsibilities extend to hands-on tasks such as fencing, forestry harvesting, farming, and mechanical maintenance and repair, aligned with the organization's goal of protecting and nurturing the land.

Project Coordination and Management:

- A key aspect of the role is the planning and coordination of activities to meet the project's goals and objectives.
- The Project Manager oversees staff management and coordination, ensuring effective teamwork and communication.
- They are also responsible for the procurement of equipment, services, and supplies, as well as for the collection and analysis of project data.
- Collaboration with other administrative staff, including the Executive Director, is crucial for writing and compiling project reports.

Involvement in Key Programs

The Project Manager plays a significant role in the following programs:

- **Kāhuli (Land Stewardship & Cultural Education):** Involvement in stewarding sacred lands and educating both residents and visitors about cultural values and traditions.
- **Mahina 'Ai (Community Feeding & Donation):** Management of community support initiatives, including food donations and farming activities.
- **Ka Lau o Ke Kāhuli (Workshops & Classes):** Coordination and facilitation of workshops and classes on cultural practices and knowledge.
- **Community Steward Membership:** Promotion and management of a stewardship model that maintains ecological and cultural integrity.
- **Voluntourism:** Leadership in immersive cultural experiences for visitors, focusing on stewardship and education.

Site Responsibilities

- The Project Manager is responsible for overseeing the stewardship of multiple sites within Waipi'o Valley, ensuring that each location's cultural significance is respected and integrated into all programs and activities.

Skills and Expertise

- A background in Project Management, Environmental Studies, Cultural Studies, or a related field is essential.
- Experience in project management, particularly in non-profit or cultural environments, is crucial.
- The role requires strong leadership and staff management skills.
- Knowledge and respect for indigenous Hawaiian culture and environmental stewardship are fundamental.
- The position demands the ability to perform physical land management and maintenance tasks.
- Strong communication and organizational skills are necessary.

This role embodies the mission of Pōhāhā I Ka Lani, focusing on intelligent stewardship to perpetuate and advance Hawaiian resources, and requires a dedicated individual committed to the cultural and environmental preservation of Waipi'o Valley.

Job Title: Project Specialist**Organization:** Pōhāhā I Ka Lani**Location:** Waipi'o Valley, Hawai'i

Job Description: The Project Specialist plays a crucial role in furthering our mission by providing expertise in one or more specialty areas such as construction, forestry, arboriculture, farming, heavy equipment operation, mechanical repair, or other relevant fields. This position involves on-site work in various locations within Waipi'o Valley, including ancient village sites, lookout points, and rimlands that hold great cultural and historical significance.

Key Responsibilities:

- Work alongside the Project Manager to lead and manage Project Assistants.
- Apply specialized skills in construction, forestry, arboriculture, farming, heavy equipment operation, or mechanical repair to support and advance project goals and objectives.
- Participate in the planning and execution of projects that align with our mission of land stewardship and cultural education.
- Contribute to the organization's community feeding and donation programs.
- Engage in and support workshops and classes focused on cultural practices and knowledge.
- Facilitate and participate in the Community Steward Membership and Voluntourism programs.
- Ensure the preservation and revitalization of the sites we steward, respecting their cultural and ecological significance.

Qualifications:

- Demonstrated expertise in construction, forestry, arboriculture, farming, heavy equipment operation, mechanical repair, or a related field.
- Passion for indigenous Hawaiian culture and commitment to the mission of Pōhāhā I Ka Lani.
- Experience in leading teams and managing projects.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work effectively in diverse and challenging outdoor environments.
- Respect for cultural traditions and sensitivity to the significance of the Waipi'o Valley and its history.

Application Process: Interested candidates are invited to submit a resume and a cover letter that reflects their connection to our mission and their relevant experience in the field(s) of specialization.

Pōhāhā I Ka Lani is an equal opportunity employer and strongly encourages applications from individuals who will contribute to the diversity of our organization.



January 19, 2024

Growth International Volunteer Excursions (GIVE)
1900 W Nickerson Street STE 116 #123
Seattle, Washington 98119
206-973-7991

To whom it may concern,

GIVE strongly supports the application of Pōhāhā I Ka Lani to your grant. We know firsthand how valuable the impact Pōhāhā I Ka Lani has had on the local community and visitors alike and believe they would be a great organization for you to support.

We intend to continue our partnership with Pōhāhā I Ka Lani going into the future through the volunteer efforts of a multitude of volunteers that are part of our winter, spring, and summer programs. Through our partnership with Pōhāhā I Ka Lani we were able to teach hundreds of visiting volunteers about Hawaiian culture by engaging in the restoration of traditional lo‘i within Waipio valley as well as diving deep into the cultural backgrounds of the surrounding rimlands.

The service work opportunities that Pōhāhā I Ka Lani can provide, give visitors the opportunity to enhance the natural environment by reclaiming and restoring lands and cultural resources that would otherwise be overrun and degraded by invasive species. While Pōhāhā I Ka Lani provides unique opportunities for visitors to the Island of Hawaii, they also directly support the local community through cultural workshops and aiding in the food security issues that have affected not just Hawaii Island but the state as a whole. Throughout the COVID pandemic, they continually pulled together food bags and organized food drops for kupuna in the local community that would otherwise struggle to support themselves and family. Much of the mentioned food came directly from the areas that they manage within the valley. As they expand to the surrounding 2100 acres of rimland, the potential for how Pōhāhā I Ka Lani can help the local community and visitors to these islands while sticking true to traditional Hawaiian values expands exponentially. For all these reasons and more, we fully support Pōhāhā I Ka Lani as they work towards securing funding through your current grant programs.

Sincerely,
Traven Apiki
Hawaii Program Coordinator
Growth International Volunteer Excursions (GIVE)

Growth International Volunteer Excursions
1900 W Nickerson St. STE 116 #123, Seattle, WA 98119 | +1.206.973.7991 |
info@givevolunteers.org



January 8, 2024

To whom it may concern:

Over the last 7 years students from Hawai'i Pacific University have had enriching and meaningful experiences visiting Pōhāhā I Ka Lani in and around Waipi'o Valley. These experiences blending traditional wisdom and modern environmental knowledge while being immersed in nature and part of a community are so impactful and memorable for the students.

As a faculty member who leads field trips within the Hawaiian Islands at Hawai'i Pacific University and teaches environmental science, I am looking for students to be engaged in immersive experiences with communities and the natural environment. There is no finer opportunity that offers enriching experiences of this kind than Pōhāhā I Ka Lani in and around Waipi'o Valley. These cultural and sustainability education experiences for our local and visiting students have played an important role in our visits to the Big Island. Many students have been so influenced by their experience that they seek to pursue further similar experiences and related career paths.

Beginning in Fall 2017, students spent part of the day learning about the history, traditions and legends of Waipi'o Valley, and hiked into the valley to help begin building a lo'i kalo. This experience was incredibly memorable and influential for the students, so much so that several students returned to volunteer on later personal trips and pursued internships and careers in sustainability and resiliency education in the Hawaiian Islands. In November 2021, our Tropical ecology and sustainability field trip spent parts of two days learning about the geology, history and traditions, working in the lo'i, and learning and participating in traditional rock wall building in Waipi'o Valley rimlands area, and we returned in 2022 to learn, visit and work together. These experiences are incredibly influential in the students lives — where they connect to the 'āina, the community and the past in ways that are uniquely enriching in their lives as growing students and adults.

This proposal has my vigorous support and I believe it is extremely important for educational experiences on climate change, natural disasters and resiliency for the future natural environment, resources and community of Hawai'i.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Andrew R. Greene
Associate Professor,
Environmental Science and Studies Program



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®
HAWAII
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

January 9, 2024

Aloha,

It is a privilege and pleasure to submit this Letter of Support for Pōhāhā I Ka Lani, an organization that I have partnered with for many years to engage in educational, cultural and place-based activities for our students and island community.

Since 2014 I have brought my Hawai'i Community College, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, and Early College High School students to work with Pōhāhā I Ka Lani on the lands they steward at Waipi'o, including Nāpo'opo'o, Koa'ekea and the Rimlands. To date I have brought more than 500 students on 20 different huaka'i to learn from and work directly with Pōhāhā I Ka Lani.

On our huaka'i, Kūlia Tolentino-Potter of Pōhāhā I Ka Lani shares mo'olelo, her ancestral knowledge of place, history, environment, generational agricultural practices, the significance of kalo, sustainability, and more. Together with Jesse Potter, Kūlia guides our students through planting and harvesting kalo, maintaining and restoring the po'owai and 'auwai, outplanting native plants, removing invasive plants, caring for cultural sites, and so much more. My students learn through listening, observation, and also through doing. Mālama 'āina is instilled in them through the experience at Waipi'o with Pōhāhā I Ka Lani, as is the importance of protocol and actions that are pono and in alignment with Hawaiian values.

Over the years, my students have submitted written reflections and created video presentations after their huaka'i, and these reflections testify to the powerful experiences they have had with Pōhāhā I Ka Lani. My students describe and represent their growth on so many levels: academically, personally, culturally, spiritually. They speak of positive transformation, and also of the joy that the huaka'i and time with Pōhāhā I Ka Lani bring. For many of my students, the huaka'i clarifies their vision of community, kuleana and their own personal paths forward; some attest to having a newfound focus on sustainability, Hawaiian culture, agriculture and conservation in their future studies and careers.

In addition to hosting my students, Pōhāhā I Ka Lani has also graciously hosted other groups I have brought to Waipi'o, including leaders and coordinators of sustainability initiatives at both Hawai'i CC, UH Hilo, the UH System, as well as cohort members of the hālau hula Unukupukupu. For the last few years our UH community has collaborated to celebrate Lā Honua Earth Day in April at Waipi'o with Pōhāhā I Ka Lani. On each of these occasions and huaka'i, profound connections with place and community were forged and strengthened, as Kūlia Tolentino-Potter shared mo'olelo, place names, and specific practices associated with the areas, rooted in sustainability and indigenous perspective, and Jesse Potter provided the means by which our different groups could participate in hands-on service to the 'āina.

I will continue to bring my college students, colleagues, hula cohort, and Lā Honua Earth Day celebrants to engage in these profoundly significant educational/cultural activities at Waipi'o with Pōhāhā I Ka Lani, as the benefits for both our students, sustainability supporters, cultural practitioners, island community members and Waipi'o are so evident. I am appreciative of the work the organization has done for our communities and our wahi pana or storied places, and for the perpetuation of generational Hawaiian practices and worldviews that our communities must continue to embrace with eagerness and pride as we move forward together.

Drew E Kapp

Drew Kapp

Assistant Professor in Social Science & Geography at Hawai'i Community College



Sam Houston State University

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

ENVIRONMENTAL AND GEOSCIENCES

November 14, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

We are pleased and honored to write a letter of recommendation for Pohaha I Ka Lani, a non-profit organization that is truly dedicated to the preservation of Hawaiian culture and knowledge through land restoration and sustainability efforts for effective climate resilience. Our Geography program in the Department of Environmental and Geosciences at Sam Houston State University regularly offers a *Hawaii Field Course* that explores both the cultural and environmental diversity of the Big Island of Hawaii. An integral component of the course involves a volunteer service day where our students have the opportunity to “give back” to the island.

In December of 2016, we contacted Kulia Tolentio-Potter to organize such an activity. Kulia was amazing in accommodating our last-minute request and coordinated efforts alongside another student group from Japan (students recovering from lost loved ones in the Fukushima nuclear disaster). Our two groups spent a day in the ancient village site of Nāpo'opo'o in Waipi'o Valley clearing invasive species in a taro lo'i. We then got to “stomp” the mud to even out and prepare the field for the planting of native taro. In addition to physically working in the taro field, we learned a lot about the Hawaiian culture and history – the concept of ahupua'a (watershed management), taro farming, and the history of Waipi'o Valley. Furthermore, below is an excerpt from a feature news article published by our university discussing a student perspective from the start of our day:

The group participated in a cultural chant during their trip to Waipio Valley. “When we met up with Pohaha I Ka Lani, it was raining really hard and we could hardly see through the fog,” Shelton said. “A group of students from Japan were also there. The leaders of our groups led us in a native Hawaiian chant, which asks permission to go into the valley, to have a productive workday, for safe travels into the valley, and to clear the rain..... It was an amazing experience.”

Since 2016, we have returned once or twice a year with various student groups and alumni teachers from our university. Each experience is unique – we have learned and maintained ancient Hawaiian practices of taro farming in the same lo'i's used for thousands of years in a valley that regularly floods, learned how to build a rock wall and planted vetiver along the rimlands of Waipio Valley to prevent soil erosion and landslides, and removed invasive species from a garden that has endemic Hawaiian plants used for a variety of medicines and cultural ceremonies. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kulia and volunteers worked hard harvesting taro and other crops to help with food insecurity in the local communities. This invaluable experience provides our students and teachers with priceless knowledge, while exemplifying the Hawaiian concept of aloha aina. The opportunities they offer facilitate discussions and encourage a sharing of core Hawaiian values, but they also directly integrate these values via activities that promote connections to and caring for the land and the people dependent upon it. As a result of our work with Kulia and Jesse, numerous SHSU students and teachers not only have an increased appreciation and respect for the environment, but they also feel intimately integrated within it.

As professional geographers, we have been engaged in several educational projects that focus on the celebration and commemoration of cultural heritages across multiple destinations. For instance, we regularly lead groups of students and/or professionals through the field in conjunction with courses that focus on the interdisciplinary study of a variety of international and domestic destinations – Texas,

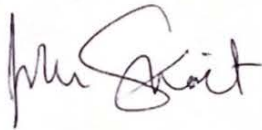
Sam Houston State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

Huntsville, Texas 77340 • 936.294.1451 • Fax 936.294.4203

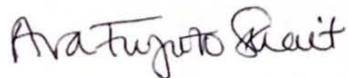
Mississippi Delta, Italy, Spain, and Morocco, just to name a few. These endeavors have provided us the opportunity to interact with a number of excellent field guides. Yet, we can honestly state that the experiences Kulia and Jesse provide our groups are unmatched by any that we have ever worked with. The exuberance, knowledge and passion they possess for Hawaiian heritage, all of which they are more than willing to share with us, are vividly evident to everybody involved. The feedback we have received from participants concerning our field experiences on the Big Island emphasize more than anything else, how all that they learned about Hawaii really came "alive" during our interactions with Pohaha I Ka Lani in Waipi'o Valley. Kulia and Jesse also function as an important community nexus for a broad network of other local contacts that we utilize during our field course. In short, we know of no other organization on the Big Island that facilitates the preservation of the cultural and environmental heritage of Hawaii better than Pohaha I Ka Lani.

In our modern fast-paced world, ancient Hawaiian cultural practices and knowledge are rapidly being lost. Sometimes, the answers to our ecological and social problems can be found by looking to the past. Hands-on learning and in-the-field activities are essential components in education. We firmly believe and support the mission and goals of Pohaha I Ka Lani and are convinced that any assistance and funding would benefit not only the students lucky enough to participate but will have wider implications on the outside world. If you have any further questions about our experience, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone or email.

Sincerely,



Dr. John B. Strait
Professor of Geography, Assistant Chair & Coordinator of Geography Program
jstrait@shsu.edu
936-294-4077



Ava R. Fujimoto-Strait
Instructor of Geography and Lab Coordinator
ava@shsu.edu
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