

**THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
APPLICATION FOR GRANTS
CHAPTER 42F, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES**

Type of Grant Request:



Operating



Capital

Legal Name of Requesting Organization or Individual: Db:

Ocean Alliance Project

Ocean Alliance Project

Amount of State Funds Requested: \$ 149,500

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

Ocean Alliance Project is requesting funding to support the assessment and planning phases of a community-driven coral reef restoration initiative along Oahu's southern coastline, particularly in Maunalua Bay and Waikiki Bay. The grant will enable us to conduct baseline ecological surveys, train community members in monitoring and restoration techniques, and collaboratively develop culturally informed restoration strategies. These efforts aim to address critical environmental justice challenges, including reef degradation, pollution, and the impacts of climate change, while empowering underserved communities through education, engagement, and capacity building.

Amount of Other Funds Available:

State: \$ 0

Federal: \$ 0

County: \$ 0

Private/Other: \$ 0

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

\$ 0

Unrestricted Assets:

\$ \$2856.16

New Service (Presently Does Not Exist): ☐ Existing Service (Presently in Operation): ☒

Type of Business Entity:



501(C)(3) Non Profit Corporation



Other Non Profit



Other

Mailing Address:

298 Moomuku Place B

City:

Honolulu

State:

HI

Zip:

96821

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application

Name:
Dylan Brown

Title:
Executive Director

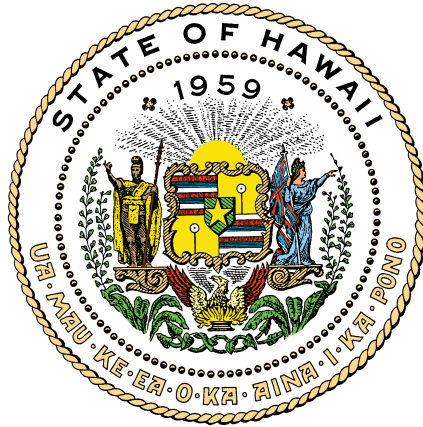
Email:
Dylan@oceanallianceproject.org

Phone:
(808)699-9474


Authorized Signature

Dylan Brown, Executive Director
Name and Title

01/17/2024
Date Signed



Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

I, the undersigned Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs of the State of Hawaii, do hereby certify that

OCEAN ALLIANCE PROJECT

was incorporated under the laws of Hawaii on 01/16/2022 ; that it is an existing nonprofit corporation; and that, as far as the records of this Department reveal, has complied with all of the provisions of the Hawaii Nonprofit Corporations Act, regulating domestic nonprofit corporations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, at Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dated: January 17, 2025

Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs



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

Dylan Brown, Executive Director
PRINT NAME AND TITLE

01/17/2025
DATE

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

The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies the following:

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

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

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

Ocean Alliance Project

(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)

(Signature)

Dylan Brown

(Typed Name)

01/17/2025

(Date)

Executive Director

(Title)

I. Certification

(attached immediately after the cover page)

1. Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate

If the applicant is an organization, the applicant shall submit one (1) copy of a Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate from the Comptroller of the Department of Accounting and General Services. The certificate must be dated no earlier than December 1, 2024.

-See Attached

2. Declaration Statement

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

-See Attached

3. Public Purpose

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

This grant will be used for a public purpose pursuant to **Section 42F-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes**, as follows:

The grant will support coral reef restoration and ecological monitoring initiatives along Oahu's southern coastline, fostering environmental sustainability and resilience. The project promotes environmental justice by addressing critical threats to marine ecosystems, enhancing biodiversity, and creating economic opportunities for underserved communities, including Native Hawaiian populations.

II. Background and Summary

1. Brief Description of the Applicant's Background:

Ocean Alliance Project is a community-based nonprofit dedicated to protecting and preserving Hawaii's marine biodiversity. Established in 2022, our mission is to advance coral reef resilience, increase biodiversity, and create social, cultural, and economic opportunities for local and Indigenous communities. Our efforts focus on coral restoration, ecological monitoring, photogrammetry-based reef mapping, and regenerative tourism programs. Through partnerships with organizations like Malama Maunalua, Kuleana Coral Restoration, and Coral Resilience Lab, we collect corals of opportunity and spearhead community-driven reef restoration initiatives as part of the Restore with Resilience initiative.

2. Goals and Objectives Related to the Request:

The primary goals of this project are:

- **Restoring Coral Reef Ecosystems:** Enhance reef resilience, gather baseline ecological data, and address coral degradation through targeted restoration and scientific studies.
- **Empowering Communities:** Equip residents with skills in ecological monitoring, photogrammetry, and restoration, while integrating traditional knowledge with modern practices.
- **Building Capacity:** Develop citizen science platforms, train volunteers, and create frameworks for rapid environmental threat response, ensuring long-term sustainability.

3. Public Purpose and Need to be Served:

This project addresses critical environmental justice challenges along Oahu's southern coastline, such as pollution, urban runoff, sedimentation, and reef degradation, compounded by global climate change. By restoring reefs, improving water quality, and empowering underserved communities, the project ensures the preservation of marine ecosystems and the cultural, economic, and social resources they sustain.

4. Target Population to Be Served:

Our project prioritizes Native Hawaiian populations, low- to moderate-income residents, and those reliant on reef ecosystems for sustenance and economic stability. These communities often face disproportionate environmental burdens and limited access to conservation resources.

5. Geographic Coverage:

The target area spans Oahu's southern coastline, including Maunalua Bay and Waikiki Bay, regions with vibrant yet threatened coral reef ecosystems. These areas are hubs of cultural significance and economic activity, making their preservation essential for Hawaii's residents and future generations.

III. Service Summary and Outcomes

1. Scope of Work, Tasks, and Responsibilities

Ocean Alliance Project will focus this grant on the assessment and planning phases of the initiative, laying the groundwork for coral reef restoration and long-term community engagement. Key tasks include:

- **Baseline Data Collection:** Conduct ecological surveys using photogrammetry to assess coral health, biodiversity, and water quality in target areas.

- **Community Training:** Provide training for community members in ecological monitoring techniques, empowering them to actively contribute to baseline data collection.
- **Data Analysis and Reporting:** Organize and analyze collected data to identify restoration priorities and inform planning.
- **Collaborative Planning:** Host community workshops and partner meetings to co-develop culturally informed restoration plans and monitoring strategies.
- **Developing Coral Collection Protocols:** Establish guidelines for collecting and handling resilient corals of opportunity in collaboration with local stakeholders.

2. Projected 1-Year Timeline

- **Months 1-3: Community Engagement and Recruitment**
 - Recruit participants through local organizations, outreach events, and community leaders.
 - Host introductory workshops to explain project goals and teach assessment techniques like photogrammetry and ecological monitoring.
- **Months 4-6: Baseline Data Collection**
 - Conduct ecological surveys to document reef health, biodiversity, and water quality.
 - Train community members in field data collection techniques.
 - Use photogrammetry to create 3D models of priority reef zones.
- **Months 7-9: Data Analysis and Preliminary Planning**
 - Compile and analyze collected data to assess baseline reef conditions.
 - Identify knowledge gaps and priority areas for restoration.
 - Share findings with stakeholders to inform restoration planning.
- **Months 10-12: Collaborative Planning and Strategy Development**
 - Host workshops to co-develop culturally appropriate monitoring and restoration strategies.
 - Finalize coral collection protocols in collaboration with partners.
 - Develop educational materials and outreach strategies to engage additional community members.

3. Quality Assurance and Evaluation Plans

The success of our project will be measured through careful tracking of community participation, ecological data collection, and education metrics. We will utilize a combination of quantitative and qualitative data sources to ensure a comprehensive evaluation. Our primary data sources will include feedback from the community, ecological and reef resilience surveys, and direct observations.

4. Measures of Effectiveness

Indicator 1: Increased Community Engagement

- **Data Source:** Records of workshop and event attendance, participant feedback surveys.
- **Collection Method:**
 - Track the number of volunteers and community members attending outreach events, workshops, training programs, and restoration workdays.
 - Administer pre- and post-training surveys and quizzes to gauge improvements in participant knowledge, water skills, and ecological monitoring/restoration techniques.

Indicator 2: Ecological and Environmental Improvements

- **Data Source:** Baseline and follow-up ecological surveys, including photogrammetry data and biodiversity/reef resilience assessments.
- **Collection Method:**
 - Compare baseline reef health data (e.g., coral coverage and health, fish diversity, invertebrate abundance, water quality) across a wide variety of reef habitats along our southern coastline.
 - Use photogrammetry to create 3D models and high-resolution ortho-mosaics to track substrate changes and improvements over time.

Indicator 3: Employment and Citizen Science Capacity Building

- **Data Source:** Employment records, participant feedback, and citizen science contributions.
- **Collection Method:**
 - Track the number of jobs created for community members in conservation and regenerative tourism.
 - Monitor the volume and quality of ecological data contributed by citizen scientists before, during, and after project activities.

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 (See attached)]
 - (b) [Personnel salaries and wages (See attached)]
 - (c) [Equipment and motor vehicles (See Attached)]
 - (d) [Capital project details (Not-applicable)]
 - (e) [Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid (Not-applicable)]

2. Anticipated Quarterly Funding Requests for Fiscal Year 2026

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
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\$37,375	\$37,375	\$37,375	\$37,375	\$149,500
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3. Other Sources of Funding

The applicant shall provide a listing of all other sources of funding that they are seeking for fiscal year 2026.

1. Environmental Protection Agency - Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Region 9 Grant
2. Cooke Foundation Operational Grant - Cooke_2025_00009228
3. Atherton Family Foundation 2025 Q2 Program Requests
4. Long Foundation Programmatic Funding
5. 2025 NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training
6. Minerny Foundation - Bank of Hawai'i
7. HEI charitable foundation
8. NFWF Coral Reef Stewardship Fund

4. Tax Credits

- The applicant shall provide a listing of all state and federal tax credits it has been granted within the prior three years.
- The applicant shall also 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. Federal, State, and County Contracts, Grants, and Grants in Aid

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 2026 for program funding.

-Not Applicable

6. Balance of Unrestricted Current Assets

The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2024.

- \$557.95 (As of December 31, 2024)

V. Experience and Capability

1. Necessary Skills and Experience

Ocean Alliance Project has the organizational expertise and demonstrated experience necessary to successfully implement the proposed project. Our focus on protecting marine biodiversity is supported by a strong foundation of staff skills, strategic partnerships, and a history of impactful initiatives.

The organization is led by a **Principal Investigator** with a Master's degree in Marine Biology, who brings a wealth of experience in coral reef ecology, ecological monitoring, and restoration science. This leadership ensures that all activities are grounded in sound scientific methodology and aligned with conservation best practices. Our staff includes trained **scientific divers** skilled in photogrammetry, ecological surveys, and reef restoration techniques, ensuring operational efficiency and the ability to collect high-quality data.

Our ability to manage projects effectively is evident in our recent accomplishments, which include:

- **Community-Based Coral Restoration:** Partnering with local organizations to collect resilient corals of opportunity and lead restoration efforts that combine scientific innovation with community engagement.
- **Training and Capacity Building:** Developing hands-on programs to train residents in ecological monitoring and photogrammetry, enabling the community to contribute meaningfully to conservation efforts.
- **Rapid Response Initiatives:** Successfully coordinating resources and expertise for reef restoration following anchor damage, demonstrating our ability to act swiftly and effectively in critical situations.

These experiences highlight our organizational capability to execute complex, multi-phase projects that require both technical expertise and community collaboration.

2. Facilities

Ocean Alliance Project currently operates without a dedicated office space but has plans to acquire a permanent facility in 2025 to enhance organizational capacity. Until then, we have secured a partnership with the **Kahala Hotel and Resort**, which has generously offered office space at no cost. This ensures operational continuity and demonstrates our ability to build strategic alliances that support organizational sustainability.

VI. Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing

1. Proposed Staffing, Staff Qualifications, Supervision, and Training

The Ocean Alliance Project's staffing structure ensures efficient management and implementation of all project activities, with a focus on technical expertise, community engagement, and operational safety. The primary staff roles include:

- **Executive Director (Principal Investigator):**
 - Holds a Master's degree in Marine Biology with expertise in coral reef ecology and restoration science.
 - Provides scientific and operational oversight, ensuring alignment with organizational goals and grant requirements.
 - A professional diver with extensive experience in ecological monitoring and restoration, currently pursuing Coast Guard certification to captain the organization's future monitoring vessel.
- **Program and Community Engagement Coordinator:**
 - Combines operational management with outreach responsibilities.
 - Oversees day-to-day field operations, volunteer coordination, and educational workshops.
 - A dive professional with experience in ecological monitoring, photogrammetry, and conservation-focused community engagement.
 - Will complete Coast Guard certification to safely operate the monitoring vessel and supervise marine activities.
- **Independent Contractors (Cultural Practitioners and Dive Professionals):**
 - Cultural practitioners will provide guidance on integrating Indigenous knowledge and cultural practices into the project.
 - Dive professionals will assist with specialized tasks such as coral restoration and training workshops, working under the direction of the Program and Community Engagement Coordinator.
- **Diving Safety Infrastructure:**
 - As part of our planned membership with the **American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)**, we will establish a **Diving Safety Officer (DSO)** and a **Dive Control Board** to ensure all diving activities adhere to national safety standards.

This streamlined staffing structure ensures that core staff focus on project implementation while independent contractors bring specialized expertise as needed.

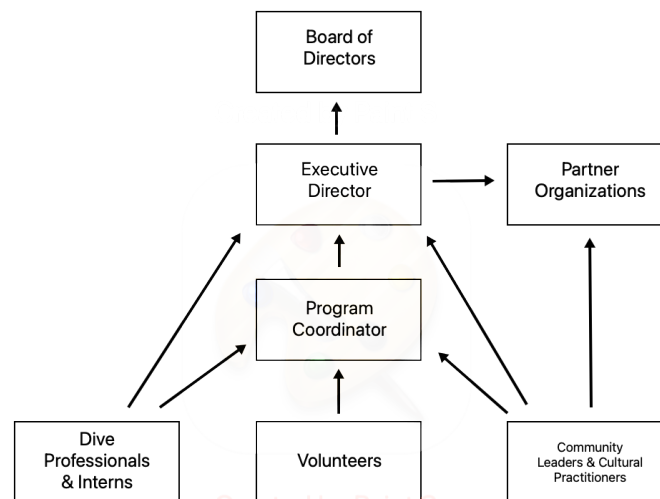
2. Organization Chart

The project's organizational structure is as follows:

- **Board of Directors**
 - Provides strategic oversight and governance.
- **Executive Director (Principal Investigator)**

- Reports to the Board and supervises the Program and Community Engagement Coordinator and Diving Safety Officer.
- **Program and Community Engagement Coordinator**
 - Manages field operations, community engagement, and contractor coordination.
- **Diving Safety Officer**
 - Oversees diving operations and ensures AAUS compliance.

Independent contractors, including cultural practitioners and dive professionals, report to the Program and Community Engagement Coordinator for specific tasks and deliverables.



3. Compensation

The following represents the annual salary ranges for the organization's highest-paid positions:

- **Executive Director (Principal Investigator):** \$70,000 - \$75,000
- **Program and Community Engagement Coordinator:** \$40,000 - \$50,000

Independent contractors, including cultural practitioners and dive professionals, are compensated based on agreed hourly or per-project rates and are not included in the salary breakdown.

VII. Other

1. Litigation

Ocean Alliance Project is not currently a party to any pending litigation, nor are there any outstanding judgments against the organization.

2. Licensure or Accreditation

Ocean Alliance Project is preparing to become an organizational member of the **American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)** in 2025. This membership will include the establishment of a **Diving Safety Officer (DSO)** and a **Dive Control Board**, ensuring that all diving operations meet national standards for scientific diving safety. These qualifications will enhance our capacity to perform ecological monitoring and restoration activities.

3. Private Educational Institutions

This grant will not be used to support or benefit any sectarian or non-sectarian private educational institutions, as defined under **Article X, Section 1** of the Hawaii State Constitution.

4. Future Sustainability Plan

Ocean Alliance Project is dedicated to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the activities funded by this grant beyond fiscal year 2026. Our sustainability strategy prioritizes regenerative tourism as a cornerstone for funding and community engagement:

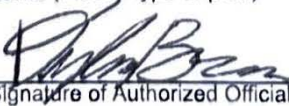
- **Regenerative Tourism Programs:**
Our fee-based regenerative tourism initiatives will provide a reliable revenue stream while involving residents and visitors in meaningful conservation activities. Participants will engage in ecological monitoring, coral restoration, and reef mapping, creating direct economic benefits for the community while fostering environmental stewardship. These programs are designed to:
 - Attract environmentally conscious tourists looking for unique, hands-on experiences.
 - Provide job opportunities for local community members, including dive professionals and cultural practitioners.
 - Generate ongoing support for reef restoration by reinvesting program fees into conservation efforts.
- **Diversified Funding:**
 - Pursue additional grants from federal, state, and private sources.
 - Expand partnerships with local businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations to secure sponsorships and in-kind donations.
- **Community Training and Capacity Building:**
 - Develop citizen science programs, training community members in ecological monitoring and restoration techniques to reduce reliance on external funding.
- **Partnerships and Collaborations:**

- Strengthen collaborations with organizations like Malama Maunalua, Kuleana Coral, and Coral Resilience lab, while strengthening our stake in the **Restore with Resilience initiative**, ensuring long-term resource-sharing and collective action for restoration projects.

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: Ocean Alliance Project

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	120,000			
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	9,000			
3. Fringe Benefits	20,500			
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	149,500			
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island				4,000
2. Insurance				7,725
3. Contract & Professional Fees				19,600
4. Lease/Rental of Space				24,000
5. Staff Training				2,000
6. Supplies				2,200
7. Memberships & Software				3,500
8. Monitoring tools and Equipment				9,000
9. Boat and Vehicle Gas & Fuel				6,000
10. Accounting and Legal Fees				2,700
11. Registration and Certification Costs				4,000
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				84,725
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES		86,097		
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES		42,761		
E. CAPITAL				
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	149,500	128,858	0	84,725
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	149,500	Dylan Brown (808)-699-9474		
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested	128,858	Name (Please type or print) Phone		
(c) Total County Funds Requested	0	 01/17/2025		
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	84,725	Signature of Authorized Official Date		
TOTAL BUDGET	363,083	Dylan Brown, Executive Director Name and Title (Please type or print)		

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: Ocean Alliance Project

POSITION TITLE		FULL TIME EQUIVALENT	ANNUAL SALARY A	% OF TIME ALLOCATED TO GRANT REQUEST B	TOTAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED (A x B)
Executive Director, Principal Investigator		1	\$75,000.00	100.00%	\$ 75,000.00
Program Coordinator, Community Engagement Coordinator		1	\$45,000.00	100.00%	\$ 45,000.00
					\$ -
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TOTAL:					120,000.00
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: The Executive Director will oversee all scientific, operational, and administrative aspects of the project, ensuring activities align with environmental and community goals. The Program and Community Engagement Coordinator will manage field operations, conduct ecological monitoring, and lead community engagement efforts. These positions are necessary to ensure the project is effectively implemented and achieves its objectives.					

Applicant: Ocean Alliance Project

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
Monitoring Vessel (19' Montauk 150hp, T-Top w/ Trailer)	1.00	\$86,097.43	\$ 86,097.43	86097
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:	1		\$ 86,097.43	86,097
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: We are aiming to have the cost of the monitoring vessel covered by the EPA thriving communities grant, not by this grant request				

DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	NO. OF VEHICLES	COST PER VEHICLE	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
2024 Toyota Tacoma XtraCab SR5	1.00	\$42,761.13	\$ 42,761.13	42761
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:	1		\$ 42,761.13	42,761
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: We are aiming to have the cost of the motor vehicle covered by the EPA thriving communities grant, not by this grant request				