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IA-0000000666

Individual Application

Application ID	IA-0000000666	Account	
Application Status	Submitted	Contact	Nicole Galase

ACT 310 - Application for Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Org/Individual	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc	DBA	
Type of Business Entity	Other Non Profit	Existing Service(Presently in Operation)	Yes
Mailing Address	PO Box 934 Hilo, Hawaii 96721 United States	Amount of State Funds Requested	\$86,000.00
Island	All Islands		

Program Overview

Program 1 Overview	The Hawaii Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities project supports the production and marketing of climate-smart commodities by providing voluntary incentives to farmers and ranchers, including early adopters, to implement conservation agricultural production practices and measure & quantify associated ecological and economic benefits, including soil health and yields, to promote the market expansion of the resulting climate-smart commodities. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council served on the Producer Engagement Team. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council was originally budgeted \$545,439 over 5 years, but at the termination we lost out on \$351,575. HCC coordinated funds to go direct to producers. This totalled \$2,462,832 over 5 years, but due to the termination, we lost out on \$1,775,303, in addition to more funds that we planned to allocate towards producers.
Program 2 Overview	
Program 3 Overview	
Department Notes	

Agency Eligibility

Recipient of Terminated Federal Funding	Yes	Able to Provide Documentation Evidence	Yes
Serves Negatively Impacted Populations	No	Narrative	Attached is 1) the termination letter from USDA to Lynker, 2) the contract between Lynker and Hawaii Cattlemen's Council showing the new reduced amount of funds received due to the termination, and 3) a Budget showing the original contracted funds expected to the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, vs the actual funds spent and the subsequent amount of funds lost from the grant termination over the 5 year period.
Date Funding Stopped	5/15/2025		

Amount of Other Funds Available

State Fund Total Amount	\$19,999.00	County Fund Total Amount	\$0.00
Federal Fund Total Amount	\$0.00	Private/Other Fund Total Amount	\$0.00
Total Amount of State Grants	\$38,399.00	Unrestricted Assets	\$191,765.00

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application

Applicant Name	Nicole Galase	Applicant Title	Managing Director
Applicant Phone	8082090820	Applicant Email	nicole@hicattle.org

State of Hawaii Eligibility

Organization is Licensed or Accredited	Yes	Nonprofit is a 501c3	Yes
Complies with Anti-Discrimination Laws	Yes	Nonprofit has Governing Board	Yes
Will not Use State Funds for Lobbying	Yes	Is Incorporated Under Laws of State	Yes
Will Allow Access to Audit Records	Yes	Has Bylaws and Policies	Yes

Account Information

Organization Name	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Organization DBA	
EIN	[REDACTED]	Street	154 Waianuenue Ave Ste 1 #934 Hilo, HI 96720
Account Email	nicole@hicattle.org	City	Hilo
Account Phone	(808) 209-0820	State	HI
Website	http://www.hicattle.org	Zip	96721
Mission Statement	The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is a non-profit organization working for the cattle producers of Hawaii in areas of education, promotion and research.		

Point of Contact

Point of Contact First Name	Nicole	Point of Contact Last Name	Galase
Point of Contact Title	Managing Director	Point of Contact Email	nicole@hicattle.org
Point of Contact Phone	(808) 209-0820		

Leadership

Leadership First Name	Nicole	Leadership Last Name	Galase
Leadership Title	Managing Director	Leadership Email	nicole@hicattle.org
Leadership Phone	(808) 209-0820		

Background and Summary

Applicant Background	The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Ranchers are the stewards of almost 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii,
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or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers. We are a small team of 3 staff who each spend a portion of FTE on HCC. We connect Hawaii's ranchers with education and resources, collaborate on research, and ensure ranchers have a voice in key areas of the community as a pivotal player in land stewardship and food production. HCC was part of the Producer Engagement Team of the Hawaii Climate Smart Commodities Project, which lost funding from the federal government. The 5-year grant was cut short in May 2025, with just under 2 years of the grant implemented. HCC lost funds to administer the grant for ranchers, but our producers were also left in the lurch with the grant termination. Six phase 1 ranchers were collectively allocated over \$2.4 million in funds to go towards climate smart projects. During the grant period, HCC assisted the ranchers with developing projects and ensuring compliance with the USDA, and disbursed over \$680k to begin the multi-year projects. Now that the contracts have been terminated, the ranchers are left to complete the projects on their own, or terminate the climate smart projects which would both benefit the land as well and produce beef. Additionally, several million dollars were slated to go to additional historically underserved farmers and ranchers to implement climate smart practices in phase 2. We no longer have access to those funds due to the termination of the grant.

Funding Request Purpose

HCC's request is to utilize funds to continue to provide services to Hawaii's ranchers. The process to apply, qualify, and remain in compliance for grant funding is often arduous and difficult for ranchers to keep up with. HCC's team can provide a necessary service to connect ranchers to available funding, and assist with grant reporting and compliance. In addition to the projects that were cancelled in this grant, there are ranches who are looking for funding for their operations - notably to develop water systems and reservoirs. Assisting ranches with water systems is an effective way to ensure water is available for the community as a whole. Ranches have a track record to successfully completing reservoirs which have been used to provide water for fires in the community. With the increased prevalence of drought conditions and fire, it is imperative for public safety that ranchers are on the ground to manage grazing to reduce fire fuel loads, as well as build and maintain water systems that collect and store water. In addition to finding funds to connect ranchers with, HCC is one of the only organizations in the state that focuses primarily on cattle producers and we serve the industry by engaging with national, state, and county agencies and organizations to reduce costs and improve the ability for cattle producers to provide beef to the public. We are a trusted resource that can connect people with ranchers for opportunities to collaborate and to bring in resources for cattle producers to continue their work on the land. Our priority project for 2026 is to develop the ranchers role in a food resilience plan, as cattle ranches are important sources of food in the case of natural disaster or other crisis. The cattle that are on island can feed people even when ships and planes cannot reach Hawaii. We are engaging with local food baskets and community organizations to better understand the process of distribution and availability of cold storage. We would like to collaborate to ensure that beef is readily available in times when food is not able to be shipped to the state.

Geographic Coverage Served

We serve ranchers throughout the state. For this reason, our request includes a portion to go towards travel. In agriculture, producers work best on a face-to-face basis, and we are able to learn exponentially more when we visit the producer on their ranch. Understanding our producers is a key part of effectively advocating for their needs.

Public Purpose or Need Served

Food security is paramount for Hawaii as a remote state. Hawaii's paniolo are vital players in providing a high-quality protein grown on island. Even ranchers who ship calves to the continent are contributors to local food production - in a survey of several of these ranches, cow/calf operations have recorded providing over 150,000lbs of beef to local food production individually through their cull cows and bulls. In terms of USDA's recommended serving size of 4oz's, that's just one ranch providing about 600,000 meals per year. Likewise, the Hawaii Department of Education recommended serving size is 2 oz's, or the equivalent of supplying 1.2 million school lunches per ranch per year. In addition to providing beef to the community, ranchers are also knowledgeable stewards of the land. Where ranchers manage cattle, we can keep fire fuel loads down with grazing, increase carbon sequestration and improve soil health, and increase groundwater filtration. Ranchers are used to managing large acres of land and have the equipment and expertise to remove invasive species and turn grass into a high-quality protein. Additionally, the terminated grant provided \$8,400 in scholarships funds for historically underserved producers to attend the Cattlemen's College, an educational and networking event for cattle producers. We plan to use a portion of the requested funds to provide up to \$4,200 in scholarships to make the educational event more accessible for producers who normally would not be able to attend.

Target Population Served

The target population we serve are Hawaii's paniolo. We work with our member ranchers, as well as non-member ranchers. The advocacy and community engagement we do to bolster Hawaii's ranchers helps all those in the industry. Helping ranchers to be successful then allows more land to be managed while producing food for the community.

Summary and Outcomes

Measure(s) of Effectiveness

Metric 1: # of Grants Applied to and Awarded
Met: Apply for at least 3 grants and get awarded 1
Nearly Met: Apply for at least 2 grants and get awarded 1
Not Met: Apply for no grants and none are awarded

Metric 2: Engage on Behalf of the Cattle Industry

Met: Work on at least 4 priority topics for the cattle industry throughout the year and engage with appropriate government and non-governmental organizations.

Nearly Met: Work on at least 2 priority topics for the cattle industry throughout the year and engage with appropriate government and non-governmental organizations.

Not Met: No priority topics worked on with partner organizations

Metric 3: Food Resilience Plan

Met: Work with partner organizations to learn about distribution and production needs and compile a document to outline how the cattle industry will respond in times of crisis.

Nearly Met: Work with partner organizations to learn about distribution and production needs

Not Met: No engagement on this topic to learn more.

Metric 4: Event Scholarships

Met: Award the full budgeted \$4,200 towards travel and registration scholarships for historically underserved producers to attend the Cattlemen's College.

Nearly Met: Award at least \$2100 towards travel and registration scholarships for historically underserved producers to attend the Cattlemen's College.

Not Met: No scholarships awarded.

Projected Annual Timeline

Quarter 1: Continue to work with state on transportation costs and livestock flight issues. Collect input from ranchers on funding needs and seek out funding opportunities, then plan out application submittals. Engage with the Pantry, local Food Baskets, and HIEMA on developing a food resilience plan for ranchers.

Quarter 2: Apply for grants (possibly including, but not limited to the state Grant in Aid, USDA RCCP and AFRI grants). Continue to engage with partners on important issues to the industry.

Quarter 3: Assist ranchers with facilitating grant funds awarded. Open scholarship for travel and attendance to the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council Cattlemen's College for historically underserved producers. Continue to engage with partners on important issues to the industry.

Quarter 4: Assist ranchers with facilitating grant funds awarded. Award producer scholarships. Continue to engage with partners on important issues to the industry and share out findings from food resilience plan to ensure next steps are taken.

Quality Assurance and Evaluation Plans

HCC will track the amount of time spent on engaging with partners on key issues, as well as the results each quarter. While many agricultural issues are not easily solvable in 1 year, a lot of progress can be made if we put effort into the issue and bringing about awareness of it. We will also record the partner organizations we engage with, as we should also never underestimate the value of building relationships that will potentially help solve future issues. We will also track the amount of funding applied for, granted, and distributed to ranchers. Results will be shared with our membership, and feedback will be gathered on additional issues that arise as priorities throughout the year.

Scope of Work

HCC proposes the following scope of work:

1. Apply for Grants: Seek out funding sources that will help ranchers implement climate smart practices, build water systems, or otherwise contribute positively to operations and beef production. We have several potential funding sources that we intent to apply to which will then provide funding to ranchers to complete projects on their operations. We will also utilize fund to provide scholarships for historically underserved producers to travel to and attend the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council Cattlemen's College where producers can learn best practices and engage with stakeholders across the state.
2. Represent Cattle Industry: Engage with state agencies and organizations to improve the business conditions and ability for cattle producers to safely get beef to the consumer. This includes improving the pipeline of beef for the farm to school program, addressing agricultural crimes, reducing transportation costs, increasing access to livestock flights, and more.
3. Food Resilience Plan: Develop a plan to streamline the process of beef getting dispersed to families in need in the case of a natural disaster or crisis.

Financial Information

Q1 Requested Amount	\$20,450.00	Q3 Requested Amount	\$24,650.00
Q2 Requested Amount	\$20,450.00	Q4 Requested Amount	\$20,450.00
Sources of Funding	Grant in Aid to assist with trail cameras for agricultural crimes, USDA RCCP for conservation practices	State and Federal Tax Credits	none
State and Federal Contracts and Grants	DAB Special Product and Promotion Grant 2022 DAB Special Product and Promotion Grant 2025 USDA Climate Smart Commodities Grant	Prior FY Balance of Unrestricted Assets	\$168,550

2023

(note that only the SPP25 grant will still be active in 2026)

Experience, Capability, and Personnel

Skills and Experience	The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council has been in existence since 1958. In 2016, the organization hired on a full time Managing Director to handle day-to-day operations and carry out the mission of the organization to work on behalf of the cattle producers of Hawaii. In the past three years, the organization has been able to grow its staff to fulfill more needs of the HCC members. While the Climate Smart Commodities grant was terminated, HCC was successful in enrolling ranchers and assisting them with compliance documents to obtain funding for their projects. Additionally, HCC has participated in the following which have proven to be important areas for ranchers voices to be heard (this is not an exhaustive list): 1. Hawaii County 5-Year Agrifood System Plan Steering Committee 2. Pacific Drought Knowledge Exchange Steering Committee 3. Hawaii-Ag Policy Summit in Washington, DC led by Lt. Gov. Luke 4. Local Food Coalition 5. CTAHR Advisory Committee 6. Farming and Food Systems Decarbonization Working Group 7. Greenhouse Gas Carbon Sequestration Taskforce 8. Hawaii Sentinel Landscapes Steering Committee
Facilities	The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council staff works remotely across the state of Hawaii. This set up works for us, as we save funds by not renting an office, and we can serve our members across the state. With the propose scope of work, we will be able to continue working remotely from our home offices, with the addition of travel.
Proposed Staffing and Service Capacity	Managing Director – The managing director has led HCC for over 6 years and has built solid relationships throughout the agricultural and food systems industry. She has served as the HCC representative on external working groups and works directly with ranchers to understand their needs. She will be the main point of contact in engaging with partners on key issues for the industry. She also serves as the lead grant manager and has managed private, state, and federal grants. The managing director will dedicate 30% of her time worked on HCC to meeting the objectives of this funding (\$19,000). Program Manager – The program manager has worked with HCC since May 2024 and served as the Climate Smart Specialist on the Climate Smart Commodities Project, working directly with ranchers to develop projects and assist with paperwork and compliance. She has experience developing documents for a variety of audiences and will play a key role in working directly with ranchers as well as developing the food resilience plan. The program manager will dedicate 100% of her time worked on HCC to meeting the objectives of this funding (\$6000) Project Coordinator – The project coordinator has worked with HCC since July 2023 and served as a project coordinator for the Climate Smart Commodities Project. She also has extensive experience working directly with ranchers to ensure all parts of the grant agreement are met. She will work directly with ranchers to develop projects as well as developing the food resilience plan and managing the producer scholarships. The project coordinator will dedicate 92% of her time worked on HCC to meeting the objectives of this funding (\$40,000) This team works together on numerous other projects and has systems already in place for communication, tracking progress, and providing deliverables.
Staff Position(s) and Compensation	Managing Director: \$62,791.32 Project Coordinator: \$43,095.00 Program Manager: \$6,000.00

Other Information

Pending Litigation	N/A
Special Licensure or Accreditations	All staff are Beef Quality Assurance Certified
Private Educational Institutions	N/A

Confirmations

Documentation of Federal Impacts



Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate	☒	Active Status with the Hawaii AG	☐
IRS Determination Letter	☐	Certificate of Good Standing by the DCCA	☒
Records Retention Policy	☒	By-laws or Corporate Resolutions	☒
Authorized Representative Certification	☒	Signee Title	Managing Director

System Information

Application Type	Act 310 Nonprofit Grant Application	Applied Date	10/23/2025, 4:43 PM
Owner Name		Category	Grant Application
Created By	Nicole Galase, 10/22/2025, 12:48 PM	Created Date	10/22/2025, 12:48 PM
Last Modified By	Nicole Galase, 10/23/2025, 4:43 PM	Last Modified Date	10/23/2025, 4:43 PM

Federal Grants
Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities

Name of Program	Program 1
Original Funding Award	\$3,008,272.00
Amount Reduced or Cut	\$2,126,878.00
Grant Cycle of Award	5 years

Files

Future Sustainability Plan	HCC Records Retention Policy
Last Modified 10/23/2025, 4:42 PM	Last Modified 10/23/2025, 3:48 PM
Created By Nicole Galase	Created By Nicole Galase
HCC Bylaws Final - Adopted 11-18-2017	Cert of Good Standing_HCC_2025
Last Modified 10/23/2025, 3:46 PM	Last Modified 10/23/2025, 3:45 PM
Created By Nicole Galase	Created By Nicole Galase
Budget Request By Source of Funds	BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES
Last Modified 10/23/2025, 3:27 PM	Last Modified 10/23/2025, 3:27 PM
Created By Nicole Galase	Created By Nicole Galase
Budget Actual vs Contracted	HCC Org Chart
Last Modified 10/23/2025, 3:15 PM	Last Modified 10/23/2025, 2:32 PM
Created By Nicole Galase	Created By Nicole Galase
Certificate of Vendor Compliance 10 23 2025	Updated Lynker Contract
Last Modified 10/23/2025, 11:03 AM	Last Modified 10/23/2025, 9:49 AM
Created By Nicole Galase	Created By Nicole Galase
TRMLTR_NR233A750004G050	
Last Modified 10/23/2025, 9:01 AM	
Created By Nicole Galase	