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IA-0000000626

Individual Application

Application ID	IA-0000000626	Account	
Application Status	Submitted	Contact	Louis Erteschik

ACT 310 - Application for Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Org/Individual	Hawaii Disability Rights Center	DBA	n/a
Type of Business Entity	501 (C)(3) Non-Profit Corporation	Existing Service(Presently in Operation)	Yes
Mailing Address	1001 Bishop Street, Suite 1110 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 United States	Amount of State Funds Requested	\$250,000.00
Island	Oahu		

Program Overview

Program 1 Overview	Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights (PAIR) has been proposed for elimination under the Executive Budget. This very valuable grant program permits casework on disabilities not covered by the developmental disabilities and mental illness grant programs, such as cancer, diabetes, heart and kidney disease, fetal alcohol syndrome, orthopedic and mobility impairments, etc.
Program 2 Overview	Client Assistance Program (CAP) has been proposed for elimination under the Executive Budget. This grant program assists people with disabilities with vocational rehabilitation, skills training and employment through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living Centers.
Program 3 Overview	Protection and Advocacy for Voter Assistance (PAVA) has been proposed for elimination under the Executive Budget. This grant program removes barriers to voter registration and the voting process encountered by people with disabilities, and aims to increase their overall participation in the electoral process.

Department Notes

Agency Eligibility

Recipient of Terminated Federal Funding	No	Able to Provide Documentation Evidence	Yes
Serves Negatively Impacted Populations	Yes	Narrative	We don't require advanced payments.
Date Funding Stopped	10/1/2025		

Amount of Other Funds Available

State Fund Total Amount	\$135,278.00	County Fund Total Amount	\$0.00
Federal Fund Total Amount	\$167,050.00	Private/Other Fund Total Amount	\$0.00
Total Amount of State Grants	\$619,691.00	Unrestricted Assets	\$6,500.00

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application

Applicant Name	Michael Rabanal	Applicant Title	Operations Manager
Applicant Phone	(808) 275-4013	Applicant Email	mike@hawaiidisabilityrights.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 Disability Rights Center	Organization DBA	n/a
EIN	[REDACTED]	Street	1001 Bishop Street, Suite 1110
Account Email	info@hawaiidisabilityrights.org	City	Honolulu
Account Phone	(808) 949-2922	State	HI
Website	http://www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org	Zip	96813
Mission Statement	The mission of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center is to protect and advocate for the legal, civil and human rights of people with physical and mental disabilities.		

Point of Contact

Point of Contact First Name	Michael	Point of Contact Last Name	Rabanal
Point of Contact Title	Operations Manager	Point of Contact Email	mike@hawaiidisabilityrights.org
Point of Contact Phone	(808) 275-4013		

Leadership

Leadership First Name	Louis	Leadership Last Name	Erteschik
Leadership Title	Executive Director	Leadership Email	louis@hawaiidisabilityrights.org
Leadership Phone	(808) 275-4011		

Background and Summary

Applicant Background	Hawaii Disability Rights Center was established by the U.S. Congress in 1977 and is part of a nationwide network of Protection and Advocacy (P & A) systems. We are 91% funded by Federal funds, with the balance from State of Hawai'i Judiciary grants. There are nine separate P&A grant programs based on disability (developmental disabilities, mental illness, traumatic brain injury) or issue (voter assistance, SSA assistance, assistive technology, vocational rehabilitation, individual rights).
Funding Request Purpose	The goal of this request is to stabilize and sustain the Hawaii Disability Rights Center's core Protection and Advocacy services in response to a projected 44% reduction in federal funding for Fiscal Year 2026. HDRC seeks Act 310 support to maintain essential advocacy, legal representation, and outreach for individuals with disabilities statewide, particularly in light of the loss or reduction of funding for key programs. Grant funds will be used to preserve staff positions, restore service capacity on neighbor islands, and ensure continued compliance with federally mandated protections. The primary objectives are to (1) prevent service interruptions for clients affected by federal program cuts, (2) sustain access to disability rights advocacy and

complaint resolution, and (3) uphold Hawai'i's commitment to equity, inclusion, and legal protection for residents with disabilities.

Geographic Coverage Served

We provide legal and advocacy services to the entire State of Hawai'i from our Honolulu office. Our advocates and attorneys fly to every neighbor island as needed and are skilled in using all forms of telecommunications.

Public Purpose or Need Served

The Act 310 Nonprofit Grant will allow HDRC to stabilize and sustain its essential advocacy and legal protection services for Hawai'i residents with disabilities in the wake of federal funding reductions.

Specifically, grant funds will be used to:

- Preserve service coverage to low-income and neighbor island communities most affected by reduced federal disability and social service funding.
- Maintain staff capacity threatened by federal reductions, particularly in legal advocacy, intake coordination, and rural outreach.
- Enhance inter-agency coordination with federally qualified health centers, housing agencies, and behavioral health providers to mitigate service gaps for clients impacted by federal program terminations.
- Ensure continuity of service in the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy and Client Assistance Programs to enable Hawai'i to remain in compliance with national disability rights protections.

Target Population Served

Approximately 95% of HDRC's clients are at or below the poverty level and receive one or more forms of public assistance. HDRC protects and advocates for the most vulnerable members of our community: people who are physically or mentally disabled who may also be homeless, or immigrants, or special needs students, or injured military veterans, or deemed unemployable and lacking job skills.

Summary and Outcomes

Measure(s) of Effectiveness

Priorities and goals are established before each fiscal year, which forms the basis for individual assignments for casework, monitoring, outreach, education and training, and materials distribution. Demographics are collected and analyzed for each of the nine federal grant programs that HDRC operates. A successful year will have individual casework and outcomes closely match with the annual projected priorities and objectives.

Projected Annual Timeline

Our fiscal year runs from October 1st through September 30th. For FY26, the annual timeline is 10/1/25 to 9/30/26. We would expect to achieve a majority of outcomes within this period.

Quality Assurance and Evaluation Plans

Our federal grants require a comprehensive Program Progress Report (PPR) at the conclusion of each grant year. The PPR contains demographics, actual expenditures, and case narratives. The report is scrutinized by our federal funders and can be made available to Aloha United Way or State oversight upon request. Client surveys and appeals/grievance forms are required upon the opening and closing of each case.

Scope of Work

HDRC investigates suspected abuse and neglect; monitors facilities, patients and records to identify abuse and neglect; opens individual cases to advocate for rights or to remedy discrimination; distributes materials and information; and conducts outreach, education and training.

Financial Information

Q1 Requested Amount	\$62,500.00	Q3 Requested Amount	\$62,500.00
Q2 Requested Amount	\$62,500.00	Q4 Requested Amount	\$62,500.00
Sources of Funding	See attached Grant Programs and Percentages list. Almost all of our federal grant programs have not yet declared or awarded our FY26 allocations, with the exception of the PAIMI program. Under the President's proposal, our total projected grant revenue is expected to decline from \$1,851,126 in FY2025 to \$1,039,280 in FY2026, representing an overall decrease of approximately 44%. The most critical losses occur in the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) program, dropping from \$479,700 to \$167,500 (a 65% reduction), and the complete elimination of funding for the Client Assistance Program (CAP), Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights (PAIR), and Protection and Advocacy for		
	State and Federal Tax Credits	We have not applied for or been granted any state or federal tax credits within the prior three years and do not have plans for any capital projects.	

Voter Access (PAVA) — programs that collectively represent 28% of HDRC's FY2025 funding.

Although modest stability is maintained in the PADD, PABSS, PAAT, SPSSB, and PATBI programs, these remaining sources are insufficient to sustain prior service levels. The organization's combined federal and state revenues are projected to decrease by more than \$800,000, forcing HDRC to reduce staff capacity, outreach, and legal advocacy services statewide unless supplemental funding is secured.

State and Federal Contracts and Grants	See the attached FY23-FY26 Grant Awards spreadsheet.	Prior FY Balance of Unrestricted Assets	\$56,500.00 (\$50,000 IOLTA [state] funds + \$6,500 endowment fund)
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Experience, Capability, and Personnel

Skills and Experience	The Hawaii Disability Rights Center (HDRC) is Hawaii's only designated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) System and Client Assistance Program (CAP), established in 1977 to protect and advocate for the human, civil, and legal rights of people with disabilities.
Facilities	We have a fully ADA-compliant modern office space located at 1001 Bishop Street in Downtown Honolulu. Construction was completed in November 2024 to custom specifications. The office facility is easily accessed by public transit in addition to off street validated parking on site.
Proposed Staffing and Service Capacity	The staff of HDRC includes leadership with advanced degrees including JD, MS, MA and BAs. We have 8 full time advocates and 2 attorneys who provide services across the State of Hawaii. We have decades of specialized experience in the field of disability advocacy services and encourage our staff to pursue Continuing Education opportunities, both virtually and in person. HDRC staff are also volunteer and appointed members of advisory boards and councils, including but not limited to: the Hawaii Association for the Blind, Caregiver Foundation, Developmental Disabilities Council, Hawaii Justice Foundation, Committee for Accessible Transportation, Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association, and the State Rehabilitation Council. Our training and advanced network spans local, regional and national organizations that are largely associated with the National Disability Rights Network.
Staff Position(s) and Compensation	Executive Director \$120,140/yr; Operations Manager \$91,800/yr; Staff Attorney \$80,000/yr.

Other Information

Pending Litigation	Hawaii Disability Rights Center is the organizational plaintiff in a federal civil rights lawsuit to permit Applied Behavioral Analysis on DOE campuses (HDRC v. Kishimoto, CV18-00465). The case is still currently in litigation.
Special Licensure or Accreditations	HDRC was designated as Hawaii's Protection and Advocacy agency by Governor George Ariyoshi. Membership in the nationwide network of Protection and Advocacy agencies -- the National Disability Rights Network. All Social Security Advocates are cleared through federal background check procedures. All Attorneys of HDRC are licensed with the Hawai'i State Bar Association.
Private Educational Institutions	No grant funds will support or benefit any private educational institution.

Confirmations

Documentation of Federal Impacts	☐	Active Status with the Hawaii AG	☐
Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate	☐	Certificate of Good Standing by the DCCA	☐
IRS Determination Letter	☐	By-laws or Corporate Resolutions	☐
Records Retention Policy	☐		

Authorized
Representative
Certification



Signee Title

Operations Manager

System Information

Application Type	Act 310 Nonprofit Grant Application	Applied Date	10/23/2025, 6:25 PM
Owner Name		Category	Grant Application
Created By	Louis Erteschik, 10/21/2025, 5:42 PM	Created Date	10/21/2025, 5:42 PM
Last Modified By	Louis Erteschik, 10/23/2025, 6:25 PM	Last Modified Date	10/23/2025, 6:25 PM

Federal Grants

Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights (PAIR)

Name of Program	Program 1
Original Funding Award	\$195,895.00
Amount Reduced or Cut	\$195,895.00
Grant Cycle of Award	Annual - 10/1 to 9/30

Client Assistance Program (CAP)

Name of Program	Program 2
Original Funding Award	\$131,917.00
Amount Reduced or Cut	\$131,917.00
Grant Cycle of Award	Annual - 10/1 to 9/30

Protection and Advocacy for Voter Assistance (PAVA)

Name of Program	Program 3
Original Funding Award	\$141,043.00
Amount Reduced or Cut	\$141,043.00
Grant Cycle of Award	Annual - 10/1 to 9/30

Files

FY23-26 Grant Awards

Last Modified	10/22/2025, 10:05 PM
Created By	Louis Erteschik

Budget Justification - Equipment and Motor Vehicles

Last Modified	10/22/2025, 10:04 PM
Created By	Louis Erteschik

Budget Justification - Personnel Salaries and Wages

Last Modified	10/22/2025, 10:04 PM
Created By	Louis Erteschik

Budget Request by Source of Funds signed 10-22-25

Last Modified	10/22/2025, 10:04 PM
Created By	Louis Erteschik

Future Sustainability Plan

Last Modified	10/22/2025, 6:17 PM
Created By	Louis Erteschik

FY25-26 Programs & Percentages 10-20-25 exec bdgt

Last Modified	10/22/2025, 5:04 PM
Created By	Louis Erteschik

Budget Narrative

Last Modified	10/22/2025, 5:03 PM
Created By	Louis Erteschik

Certificate of Vendor Compliance

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Created By	Louis Erteschik

Hawaii Charities Org Search - HDRC

Last Modified	10/22/2025, 2:11 PM
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Appendix 3 - Records Retention Policy

Last Modified	10/22/2025, 2:06 PM
Created By	Louis Erteschik

FY26 Organization Chart

Last Modified	10/21/2025, 8:00 PM
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FY26 PAIMI Letter w-Proposed Allotments

Last Modified	10/21/2025, 7:46 PM
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Articles of Amd w-Incorp

Last Modified **10/21/2025, 7:37 PM**

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Certificate of Good Standing

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IRS 501c3 Determination Letter

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