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IA-0000000807

Individual Application

Application ID	IA-0000000807	Account	
Application Status	Submitted	Contact	Dana McLaughlin

ACT 310 - Application for Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Org/Individual	Hawaii Keiki Museum	DBA	Hawai'i Keiki Museum
Type of Business Entity	501 (C)(3) Non-Profit Corporation	Existing Service(Presently in Operation)	Yes
Mailing Address	69-250 Waikōloa Beach Drive Waikoloa, Hawaii 96738 United States	Amount of State Funds Requested	\$180,000.00
Island	Hawaii (Big Island)		

Program Overview

Program 1 Overview	Purpose: To bring island science literacy and hands-on STEM education into rural communities, introducing keiki to locally relevant science careers that they can pursue on-island.
Program 2 Overview	
Program 3 Overview	
Department Notes	

Agency Eligibility

Recipient of Terminated Federal Funding	Unsure	Able to Provide Documentation Evidence	Yes
Serves Negatively Impacted Populations	Yes	Narrative	Advanced payment is not needed.
Date Funding Stopped	9/1/2025		

Amount of Other Funds Available

State Fund Total Amount	\$0.00	County Fund Total Amount	\$0.00
Federal Fund Total Amount	\$25,000.00	Private/Other Fund Total Amount	\$83,500.00
Total Amount of State Grants	\$190,900.00	Unrestricted Assets	\$142,552.00

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application

Applicant Name	Dana McLaughlin	Applicant Title	Founder / Executive Director
Applicant Phone	8089874181	Applicant Email	dana@hawaiiikeikimuseum.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 Keiki Museum	Organization DBA	Hawai'i Keiki Museum
EIN	██████████	Street	69-250 Waikōloa Beach Drive
Account Email	dana@hawaiikekimuseum.org	City	Waikoloa Village
Account Phone	8083158862	State	HI
Website	http://HawaiiKeikiMuseum.org	Zip	96738
Mission Statement	The Hawai'i Keiki Museum inspires curiosity, creativity, and innovation by introducing children to science during their foundational years. The Hawai'i Keiki Museum aims to ignite the imagination, foster innovation, and nurture a love for science in children during their foundational years. Through interactive exhibits and engaging experiences, we strive to develop island science literacy and spark a lifelong passion for learning.		

Point of Contact

Point of Contact First Name	Dana	Point of Contact Last Name	McLaughlin
Point of Contact Title	Founder / Executive Director	Point of Contact Email	dana@hawaiikekimuseum.org
Point of Contact Phone	8089874181		

Leadership

Leadership First Name	Dana	Leadership Last Name	McLaughlin
Leadership Title	Founder / Executive Director	Leadership Email	dana@hawaiikekimuseum.org
Leadership Phone	8089874181		

Background and Summary

Applicant Background	The Hawai'i Keiki Museum is a children's science discovery center that welcomes audiences of all ages and abilities to discover Island Science. It opened in 2022, a grass-roots effort, started by the local community to increase STEM opportunities for island keiki. There is a common sentiment that it's hard to have a STEM career on the Big Island, which dampens enthusiasm for STEM learning. On this island, science is literally "all around us". There are many opportunities for island keiki to become leaders in STEM industries - right here. It is critical that we show keiki that opportunities here on the Big Island not only exist, they are exciting. Research shows that learning and engagement in science is a cultural process (Banks et al., 2007). Connecting keiki to the 'aina emboldens them to take charge of their future. Rich and memorable interactions teach keiki kuleana (respect and responsibility) to the 'aina (our seas, our lands, and the sky beyond). Sharing indigenous knowledge that is not traditionally recognized as science makes them proud of local
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achievements, demonstrates how to kuleana to the 'aina, encourages them to become responsible stewards of our precious resources, and teaches them to be respectful of other people.

Funding Request Purpose	Objectives: Deliver 60 outreach visits to rural schools, community centers, and partner organizations across Hawai'i Island within one year. Engage at least 3,000 keiki in hands-on, locally relevant science and technology activities focused on geology, marine biology, renewable energy, and sustainable living. Integrate indigenous knowledge and cultural practices into all outreach modules to reinforce connections between science, culture, and place. Intended Outcomes: Increased exposure of rural youth to real-world STEM applications found on Hawai'i Island. Greater sense of belonging in STEM learning environments among Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander participants. Strengthened community partnerships supporting lifelong science literacy. Long-Term Impact This \$180,000 investment will enable the Hawai'i Keiki Museum to reach thousands of keiki who currently lack access to hands-on science education. By connecting cultural knowledge, local science, and career exploration, this outreach program will continue to help build a generation of island youth who see themselves as contributors to Hawai'i's scientific and sustainable future.
Geographic Coverage Served	Hawai'i Island is the largest and most geographically diverse island in the state, yet its population is widely dispersed across rural districts. Many schools and families in areas such as Ka'ū, Hāmākua, Pāhoa, and Kohala face significant barriers to accessing enrichment programs due to distance, transportation costs, and limited community resources. The outreach program brings museum-quality, hands-on science education directly to these communities, eliminating travel barriers and ensuring equitable access to STEM learning. This outreach program directly addresses the lack of equitable access to science education caused by Hawai'i Island's geographic isolation, socioeconomic disparities, and transportation limitations.
Public Purpose or Need Served	Hawai'i Island's unique geography and cultural richness offer unparalleled opportunities for STEM education. However, very few of the children who are educated on Hawai'i Island choose STEAM-related career pursuits. While the island boasts rich science endeavors and research opportunities, such as the ROV exploring the ocean floor aboard the RV Nautilus, local keiki haven't traditionally been exposed to them. Even entry-level support positions in marine biology, renewable energy, volcanology and astronomy are typically recruited from the mainland, while many high school graduates struggle to find rewarding careers locally. More than half of them resort to moving to the mainland to find steady work and to be able to afford living expenses. From our research, the two main reasons for this disconnect are a lack of exposure to members of the local science industry, and a correlating gap in discipline specific skill sets. Community-based museums linked into their distinctive natural environments are among the most community-engaged, wellbeing-oriented catalysts for building social sustainability and resilience. (Brown, 2019)
Target Population Served	The Hawai'i Keiki Museum's Aloha Ambassador: Island Science Outreach Program will serve Hawai'i Island keiki and their caregivers, with a particular focus on rural and underserved communities that have limited access to science and technology learning opportunities. Age range: Primarily keiki ages 4–14, including early learners, elementary, and middle school students. Communities served: Predominantly Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and local kama'āina families, many of whom live in low- to moderate-income households. By fostering science literacy, workforce readiness, and cultural pride, the Hawai'i Keiki Museum contributes to Act 310's goal of strengthening Hawai'i's communities through locally driven, sustainable initiatives.

Summary and Outcomes

Measure(s) of Effectiveness	The Hawai'i Keiki Museum will report the following measures of effectiveness to the State agency administering Act 310 funds: Participant Reach Measure: Total number of keiki, families, and community members who attend outreach events and Vendor Science Fairs. Target: At least 20,000 participants annually, including rural and underserved communities. Student Intern Engagement Measure: Number of student interns successfully onboarded, trained, and actively participating in outreach program delivery. Target: 20 interns per year, completing at least one seasonal internship and contributing to program activities. Program Frequency and Accessibility Measure: Number of outreach visits, mobile exhibit sessions, and Vendor Science Fairs conducted annually. Target: Minimum of 60 outreach visits and 50 Vendor Science Fairs per year. Community and Partner Engagement Measure: Number of community partnerships established and maintained with schools, community
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organizations, and local industry partners.

Target: Minimum of 10 active community partnerships supporting program delivery.

Documentation and Replicability

Measure: Number of weekly YouTube videos published and final Data Story completed.

Target: 52 weekly videos documenting program activities and a comprehensive final report/Data Story demonstrating replicable outreach methods.

Projected Annual Timeline

The Aloha Ambassador: Island Science Outreach Program runs on a 12-month implementation cycle. Activities are structured to ensure steady, year-round community engagement, with evaluation checkpoints each quarter.

Throughout the year, HKM staff will:

Conduct weekly team check-ins and coordination meetings to review logistics, participant data, and scheduling.

Manage program evaluation processes, collecting feedback and documenting measurable outcomes.

Continue advertising and communications efforts (outside the scope of this funding request) to ensure public awareness and participant recruitment.

Quality Assurance and Evaluation Plans

The Hawai'i Keiki Museum (HKM) is dedicated to ensuring that the Aloha Ambassador Outreach Program maintains the highest standards of quality, inclusivity, and community relevance. HKM embraces a "tinkering" mindset—testing, reflecting, and improving continuously. This approach ensures that both process and outcomes evolve in response to community needs and participant feedback.

Monitoring and Quality Assurance

Program activities will be monitored through structured observation, participant feedback, and quantitative data tracking. By documenting successes and challenges through measurable data and narrative stories, HKM continuously refines its outreach model. The project's inherent focus on capacity building ensures that trained interns, staff, and volunteers continue to deliver high-quality science engagement beyond the life of the grant.

Scope of Work

The Hawai'i Keiki Museum brings island science directly into low-income neighborhoods, opening dialogue with vulnerable community members. This grassroots approach moves at the speed of trust, prioritizing relationship building and cultural relevance. This funding will expand the number and frequency of outreach events, ensuring consistent access to hands-on science learning.

- High school and college students are trained as Science Ambassadors to assist in delivering programs, gaining mentorship and leadership experience while inspiring younger participants.

Increase

This funding will double the number of outreach visits allowing the program to continue without interruption.

Tasks and Responsibilities

Outreach Director: Manage implementation, partnerships, and evaluation.

Outreach Educators (2 part-time): Deliver hands-on programs, mentor student ambassadors.

Keiki Ambassadors: Assist in program delivery and serve as peer role models.

Financial Information

Q1 Requested Amount	\$45,000.00	Q3 Requested Amount	\$45,000.00
Q2 Requested Amount	\$45,000.00	Q4 Requested Amount	\$45,000.00
Sources of Funding	Koi Pond Bridges Kukio Fund Multiple HCF grants County GIA State GIA	State and Federal Tax Credits	0
State and Federal Contracts and Grants	We are a contracted DOE vendor but this is a compensated contract on a per-service rendered basis for schools.	Prior FY Balance of Unrestricted Assets	143,340

Experience, Capability, and Personnel

Skills and Experience	The Hawai'i Keiki Museum (HKM) is uniquely positioned to deliver the Aloha Ambassador: Island Science Outreach Program due to its demonstrated skills, knowledge, and experience in community-based STEAM education. Founded as a grass-roots effort by and for the Big Island community, HKM has been providing hands-on science learning experiences for over two years, directly engaging keiki and families across Hawai'i Island.
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HKM has operated vendor booths at popular local events and celebrations, providing interactive exhibits featuring drones, coding robots, hydrogen fuel production, and other emerging technologies. These events have lowered barriers to access and brought science directly into community spaces.

Industry Partnerships: Through consistent engagement with STEAM business leaders, HKM has earned invitations to employer outreach fairs. The museum is well-positioned to build relationships between local industry and youth, exposing students to dozens of support, technician, and skilled research jobs that can be pursued on-island.

Facilities The Hawai'i Keiki Museum (HKM), located in Waikoloa on Hawai'i Island, serves as a home base for program preparation, staff training, student internships, and storage of mobile exhibits and educational materials. The facility includes interactive exhibit areas, flexible workshop spaces, storage and preparation areas for outreach equipment, and administrative offices to support program coordination and evaluation. While the museum provides a central location for planning and training, the Aloha Ambassador Outreach Program is primarily mobile, delivering hands-on STEAM learning directly to schools, parks, community centers, and public events across the island, ensuring access for rural and underserved keiki. The facility is fully adequate to support these activities, and in the event that additional space is needed for program expansion, HKM has established partnerships with local schools and community organizations that can provide temporary staging or indoor space, allowing outreach to continue without interruption.

Proposed Staffing and Service Capacity The Hawai'i Keiki Museum's staffing pattern for the Aloha Ambassador Outreach Program ensures high-quality delivery, effective supervision, and meaningful community engagement. Project Director Dana McLaughlin, with expertise in business and science, aligns educational objectives with community and industry needs and leads program design, implementation, and evaluation. Lead Educational Advisor Michelle Buck, a retired educator with 30 years of classroom experience, volunteers to coordinate with partners, mentor student interns, and tailor STEAM programs to diverse and underserved populations, including Native Hawaiians and Micronesians. STEAM Outreach Educators Taase Iona and Kerin Meyer provide logistical support, manage Vendor Science Fair sites, and mentor students directly during outreach activities. At the heart of the program are high school students, who not only engage with their communities through hands-on science education but also develop valuable life skills, gain work experience, and learn to mentor younger peers. Together, this team combines strategic oversight, classroom expertise, and youth leadership to ensure the program is effectively staffed, administered, and responsive to community needs.

Staff Position(s) and Compensation The three highest paid employees of the Hawaii Keiki Museum make \$20,000/year. They are Neil McIntyre our Marketing Director, Taase Iona our Branch Manager, and Joanie Lau the Cleaner.

Other Information

Pending Litigation None

Special Licensure or Accreditations N/A

Private Educational Institutions No

Confirmations

Documentation of Federal Impacts ☒

Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate ☒

IRS Determination Letter ☒

Records Retention Policy ☒

Authorized Representative Certification ☒

Active Status with the Hawaii AG ☒

Certificate of Good Standing by the DCCA ☒

By-laws or Corporate Resolutions ☒

Signee Title Founder / Executive Director

System Information

Application Type	Act 310 Nonprofit Grant Application	Applied Date	10/23/2025, 3:51 PM
Owner Name		Category	Grant Application
Created By	Dana McLaughlin, 10/23/2025, 1:42 PM	Created Date	10/23/2025, 1:42 PM
Last Modified By	Dana McLaughlin, 10/23/2025, 3:51 PM	Last Modified Date	10/23/2025, 3:51 PM

Federal Grants

Aloha Ambassador: A Rural Community Outreach Program

Name of Program	Program 1
Original Funding Award	\$200,000.00
Amount Reduced or Cut	\$200,000.00
Grant Cycle of Award	FY2026

Files

Screenshot 2025-10-23 at 3.50.34 PM	501c3
Last Modified 10/23/2025, 3:50 PM	Last Modified 10/23/2025, 3:50 PM
Created By Dana McLaughlin	Created By Dana McLaughlin
DataManagementPlan	HKMbylaws
Last Modified 10/23/2025, 3:49 PM	Last Modified 10/23/2025, 3:48 PM
Created By Dana McLaughlin	Created By Dana McLaughlin
certificate	Sustainability
Last Modified 10/23/2025, 3:47 PM	Last Modified 10/23/2025, 3:43 PM
Created By Dana McLaughlin	Created By Dana McLaughlin
Budget Request By Source of Funds	BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES
Last Modified 10/23/2025, 3:08 PM	Last Modified 10/23/2025, 3:02 PM
Created By Dana McLaughlin	Created By Dana McLaughlin
BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES	certificate
Last Modified 10/23/2025, 2:56 PM	Last Modified 10/23/2025, 2:21 PM
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310 Grant	
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