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IA-0000000678

Individual Application

Application ID	IA-0000000678	Account	AUW Grants Management
Application Status	Submitted	Contact	Melanie Rule

ACT 310 - Application for Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Org/Individual	Malama Pono Health Services	DBA	
Type of Business Entity	501 (C)(3) Non-Profit Corporation	Existing Service(Presently in Operation)	Yes
Mailing Address	4370 Kukui Grove Street, Suite 115 Lihue, Hawaii 96766 United States	Amount of State Funds Requested	\$200,000.00
Island	Kauai		

Program Overview

Program 1 Overview	The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (Part B) provides funding to improve the quality, availability, and organization of health care and support services for low-income individuals living with HIV who are uninsured or underinsured. Key Ryan White Part B Services Provided by MPHS: Medical Case Management (MCM): Coordination of care and ongoing support for people living with HIV, including linkage to medical, dental, and behavioral health services. Medication Assistance: Support through the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) for uninsured clients or those with high co-pays. Medical Premium Assistance: Payment support for insurance premiums and co-pays to maintain access to treatment. Non-Medical Case Management: Assistance with transportation, housing referrals, and access to social services. Supportive Services: Food assistance, utility vouchers, and emergency needs support to promote stability and adherence to care plans. Outreach and Re-Engagement in Care: Active outreach to re-engage clients who have fallen out of care and connect newly diagnosed individuals to services quickly.
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Program 2 Overview

Program 3 Overview

Department Notes

Agency Eligibility

Recipient of Terminated Federal Funding	No	Able to Provide Documentation Evidence	Yes
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**Serves Negatively
Impacted Populations** Yes

Narrative

Malama Pono Health Services respectfully requests that the Selection Committee consider the significant funding challenges our organization is currently facing. These challenges directly threaten the essential safety net services we provide to Kauai's most vulnerable residents.

This year, MPHS received only a partial Ryan White Part B award. While Ryan White is a federal program, we receive our funding through the Hawaii State Department of Health, which experienced reductions in its overall federal allocation. These cuts have directly impacted our ability to maintain continuity of care for people living with HIV. The Ryan White grant supports lifesaving services such as medical case management, prescription assistance, and linkage to care; services that are not easily replaced on our rural island.

In addition to the Ryan White reduction, we anticipate upcoming cuts in Medicaid, which currently funds a full-time staff member and represents the primary health coverage for the majority of our patients. A reduction in Medicaid reimbursements will further destabilize our organization and compromise access to care for the low-income and medically underserved individuals who rely on us most.

The people we serve are among the most affected by these federal and state-level funding cuts, and also among those most targeted by the current administration's policies and rhetoric. Our patient population includes individuals living with HIV, members of the LGBTQ community (including many transgender patients who receive hormone replacement therapy through our clinic), women seeking free healthcare and contraception, youth and teens seeking confidential care, the houseless population, and undocumented individuals who already face immense barriers to accessing health services.

Cuts to funding streams that sustain our programs, particularly those tied to HIV care, gender-affirming treatment, and reproductive health, create not just administrative challenges, but moral ones. We are being asked to do more with less at a time when the populations we serve are under increased social, political, and economic threat. These reductions are not just numbers in a budget. They translate into fewer appointments, delayed medication refills, and increased health disparities for people who already face stigma and systemic inequities.

Despite these obstacles, MPHS remains steadfast in our mission to meet the evolving health needs of Kauai through compassionate, inclusive, and accessible care. We are actively seeking new funding opportunities, exploring partnerships, and investigating innovative models of service delivery to ensure that no one is left without care. However, the loss of these critical funds places enormous strain on our limited resources and threatens our ability to maintain operations. If these funding cuts persist, we may be forced to close its doors, ending over 40 years of dedicated service to the Kauai community

We ask that the Selection Committee recognize the extraordinary impact that even modest funding support can have on our ability to sustain essential health services for those who have nowhere else to turn. Continued investment in MPHS is an investment in the well-being of Kauai's most marginalized residents.

Date Funding Stopped 4/1/2025

Amount of Other Funds Available

State Fund Total Amount	\$232,484.00	County Fund Total Amount	\$48,000.00
Federal Fund Total Amount	\$80,080.00	Private/Other Fund Total Amount	\$190,000.00
Total Amount of State Grants	\$1,412,420.00	Unrestricted Assets	\$25,000.00

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application

Applicant Name	Melanie Rule	Applicant Title	CEO
Applicant Phone	(808) 246-9577	Applicant Email	melanie@mphskauai.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	Malama Pono Health Services	Organization DBA	
EIN	██████████	Street	4370 Kukui Grove Street, Suite 115
Account Email	melanie@mphskauai.org	City	Lihue, HI
Account Phone	(808) 246-9577	State	

Website	https://www.mphskauai.org	Zip	96766
Mission Statement	Malama Pono Health Services is dedicated to promoting and protecting the health and well-being of Kauai's community through compassionate, inclusive, and accessible care. We provide comprehensive services in HIV treatment, LGBTQ+ health, women's wellness, and behavioral health. Our mission is to meet the island's evolving health needs with dignity, respect, and aloha.		

Point of Contact			
Point of Contact First Name	Melanie	Point of Contact Last Name	Rule
Point of Contact Title	CEO	Point of Contact Email	melanie@mphskauai.org
Point of Contact Phone	(808) 246-9577		

Leadership			
Leadership First Name	Melanie	Leadership Last Name	Rule
Leadership Title	CEO	Leadership Email	melanie@mphskauai.org
Leadership Phone	(808) 246-9577		

Background and Summary	
Applicant Background	Malama Pono Health Services (MPHS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has served the Kauai community for over 40 years. Founded during the height of the HIV/AIDS crisis, MPHS began as a grassroots effort to provide care, compassion, and advocacy for those living with HIV. Over the decades, our mission has evolved to meet the island's broader public health needs while maintaining our commitment to serving populations most at risk and often overlooked by traditional healthcare systems. Today, MPHS offers comprehensive services including HIV testing and treatment, gender-affirming care, women's wellness exams, reproductive health services, STD testing and treatment, needle exchange programs, tobacco cessation, and case management. We are the only organization of our kind on Kauai dedicated to providing inclusive, stigma-free care to LGBTQ individuals, women, houseless residents, and others who face barriers to accessing healthcare. Our team works closely with state and local partners—including the Hawai'i Department of Health and other community-based organizations—to ensure that every person, regardless of background or ability to pay, has access to quality healthcare. MPHS remains a trusted safety net provider and advocate for health equity, compassion, and dignity for all.
Funding Request Purpose	To sustain and strengthen access to essential health and other services for Kauai's most vulnerable populations amid ongoing funding cuts and targeted hate campaigns. Objectives: Maintain Core Health Services: Ensure uninterrupted access to HIV care, gender-affirming treatment, and women's health services, for at least 95% of current patients despite reductions in federal Ryan White and Medicaid funding. Preserve Staffing Capacity: Retain all clinical and case management positions, including the two full-time staff members currently supported through Ryan White funds and Medicaid reimbursements. Strengthen Financial Stability: Identify and secure alternative funding sources, including private donations, grants, and local partnerships, to offset at least 50% of the anticipated funding shortfall within the next fiscal year. Enhance Community Outreach: Expand outreach and education efforts to underserved populations—including houseless, LGBTQ, and undocumented individuals—to ensure they continue to access care without fear or stigma. Ensure Continuity of Operations: Develop a sustainability plan that prioritizes operational efficiency, strategic partnerships, and community-based collaboration to prevent potential program or clinic closures.
Geographic Coverage Served	MPHS serves the entire island of Kauai, reaching residents across both densely populated and remote areas, ensuring that geography is never a barrier to services. Our main clinic is located in Lihue, which serves as the central hub for patient care, outreach, and community health programming. In addition to clinic-based services, MPHS conducts extensive community outreach to meet people where they are, especially those experiencing houselessness. Our outreach team visits encampments and community gathering areas

across the island to provide harm reduction services, including needle exchange programs, safe disposal of used syringes, and education on reducing the spread of infectious diseases. During outreach, we also offer on-site testing for HIV, Hepatitis, and other communicable diseases, which are more prevalent in communities where injection drug use and needle sharing occur. These efforts not only save lives but also protect the broader public health of Kauai by preventing disease transmission and connecting individuals to ongoing medical care and support services.

We also collaborate with sister organizations on neighboring islands—such as Maui AIDS Foundation, Kumukahi Health + Wellness on Hawaii Island, and Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center on Oahu—to ensure continuity of care for patients who relocate or travel inter-island.

**Public Purpose or
Need Served**

Malama Pono fulfills a vital public purpose by ensuring that all residents of Kauai, regardless of income, identity, or circumstance, have access to compassionate, high-quality healthcare. As the island's only nonprofit community health organization specializing in HIV care, LGBTQ+ health, gender-affirming treatment, women's wellness, and sexual health services, MPHS plays an essential role in protecting public health and advancing health equity.

The need for our services is urgent and growing. Kauai's geographic isolation and shortage of providers create significant barriers to care, especially for individuals who are low-income, houseless, or uninsured. Many of our patients face stigma and discrimination that prevent them from seeking care elsewhere. MPHS bridges this gap by providing a safe, inclusive, and confidential environment where patients can receive the care and support they need.

Our programs not only improve individual health outcomes but also strengthen the health and safety of the entire community by reducing the spread of HIV and other STDs, providing preventive care to women and youth, and supporting those with substance abuse disorders. With federal and state funding cuts threatening these essential services, sustaining MPHS is critical to maintaining Kauai's public health safety net.

The public purpose of this request is to preserve equitable access to healthcare for populations who would otherwise go without. This will ensure continuity of care, prevent disease, and promote dignity, compassion, and wellness across the island.

**Target Population
Served**

MPHS serves Kauai's most vulnerable and medically underserved populations, those who experience the greatest barriers to accessing healthcare and are disproportionately impacted by poverty, stigma, and systemic inequities. Our clients represent a diverse cross-section of the community, unified by one common factor: without MPHS, many would have no other source of care.

Our primary target populations include:

People Living with HIV: Individuals across Kauai who rely on MPHS for ongoing medical care, case management, medication assistance, and support services funded through the Ryan White Program. Many face co-occurring challenges such as housing insecurity, mental health issues, and limited transportation.

LGBTQ+ Community: MPHS is the only clinic on Kauai specializing in inclusive care for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals. This includes comprehensive gender-affirming hormone therapy (HRT), sexual health services, PrEP/PEP access, and counseling—all provided in a safe, affirming environment.

Women and Adolescents: We provide affordable gynecologic health care, well-women exams, and teen contraception services. These services are especially critical given the limited number of women's health providers on the island and the ongoing national threats to reproductive rights. We have caught several cancer cases in early stages that would have gone untreated for these uninsured women if our clinic was not here.

Houseless and Uninsured Individuals: Many of our patients live without stable housing or insurance and depend on MPHS for no-cost or low-cost care, case management, and basic health services that help prevent medical crises and emergency room visits.

Undocumented and Marginalized Individuals: We serve those who are often afraid to seek care due to immigration status, discrimination, or lack of identification. MPHS provides confidential, culturally sensitive care that prioritizes safety, dignity, and access for all.

The majority of our patients live at or below the federal poverty level and rely on Medicaid as their primary or only form of health coverage. Cuts to Medicaid and federal programs such as Ryan White disproportionately affect these individuals, threatening their access to lifesaving treatment and preventive care.

Summary and Outcomes

Measure(s) of Effectiveness**1. Access to Gender-Affirming Care**

Objective: Expand access to gender-affirming medical services for transgender and nonbinary residents of Kauai.

Measures of Effectiveness:

Increase in Patients Served: At least a 25% increase in the number of clients receiving gender-affirming care within 12 months.

Patient Retention: Maintain at least 85% continuity of care (patients completing follow-up visits and treatment plans).

Satisfaction Ratings: Achieve 90% or higher satisfaction from patient surveys regarding access, inclusivity, and quality of care.

2. Mental Health and Peer Support Services

Objective: Improve mental health, connection, and emotional resilience among high-risk populations, including transgender individuals, LGBTQ+ youth, women, and people living with HIV.

Measures of Effectiveness:

Support Groups Established: Launch at least three ongoing peer or clinician-led support groups within the project year.

Participation Levels: Engage a minimum of 50 unique participants across support groups.

Mental Health Outcomes: At least 75% of participants report reduced feelings of isolation and improved emotional wellbeing, as measured by post-program surveys.

Referrals to Care: At least 50% of group participants who express a need for mental health or case management services are successfully referred and connected to ongoing care.

3. Harm Reduction and Community Outreach

Objective: Reduce the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis among houseless and high-risk populations through expanded harm reduction outreach.

Measures of Effectiveness:

Outreach Encounters: Conduct a minimum of 1,000 community outreach encounters across the island of Kauai over 12 months.

Testing and Prevention: Perform at least 400 HIV and Hepatitis tests, with 100% of positive cases linked to follow-up care and treatment.

Needle Exchange: Distribute and safely dispose of at least 25,000 clean syringes through needle exchange and collection services.

Education and Risk Reduction: Document at least 300 individuals receiving harm-reduction education, health supplies, or referrals to medical and behavioral health services.

4. Program Efficiency and Sustainability

Objective: Strengthen organizational sustainability and quality assurance to maintain essential safety net services despite funding reductions.

Measures of Effectiveness:

Alternative Funding Secured: Obtain at least 50% of replacement funding needed to offset federal and Medicaid cuts through new grants, partnerships, or donations.

New Partnerships Established: Formalize at least three new or expanded partnerships with healthcare providers, behavioral health organizations, or community-based nonprofits within 12 months to share costs and decrease our overhead.

Projected Annual Timeline**Months 1–2: Program Planning and Infrastructure Development**

During the first two months, MPHS will focus on planning, staff preparation, and infrastructure improvements necessary for program expansion. Activities will include:

Finalizing a detailed implementation plan with defined goals, deliverables, and evaluation measures.

Conducting staff meetings to clarify roles and establish clear lines of communication between clinical, outreach, and administrative teams.

Complete contracts with neighbor island gender-affirming healthcare providers and the Trevor Project who has agreed to offer support and education.

Reviewing and updating policies and clinical protocols to reflect expanded services.

Months 3-5: Implementation of Mental Health and Peer Support Groups

In response to rising anxiety, depression, and isolation among our clients, particularly those affected by stigma and political hostility, MPHS will launch structured peer and clinician-led support groups. These groups will address the needs of transgender individuals, LGBTQ+ youth, women, and people living with HIV. Activities will include:

Developing trauma-informed, culturally sensitive group curricula.

Offering both in-person and virtual sessions to increase accessibility.

Partnering with mental health professionals and peer advocates to lead sessions and ensure supportive, inclusive dialogue.

Months 6-8: Expansion of Gender-Affirming Care Services

With the foundation in place, MPHS will begin expanding access to gender-affirming care, which has seen a substantial increase in demand across Kauai. Efforts will include:

Increasing provider hours and appointment availability for hormone replacement therapy (HRT) and related preventive care.

Partnering with off-island specialists to provide telehealth consultations, ensuring comprehensive, continuous care.

Enhancing patient navigation and follow-up systems to support ongoing treatment and medication management.

Conducting community outreach to inform the public about available gender-affirming services and reduce barriers to care.

Months 6–12: Expansion of Harm Reduction and Outreach Services

Throughout the project period, MPHS will expand its community-based outreach to houseless populations and individuals at risk of infectious disease transmission. The outreach team will:

Conduct weekly visits to encampments and underserved areas to distribute clean needles, collect used syringes, and provide HIV and Hepatitis testing.

Offer harm reduction education, hygiene kits, and linkage to medical care for those testing positive.

Increase Narcan and substance abuse education trainings for businesses and schools.

Quality Assurance and Evaluation Plans

MPHS is deeply committed to maintaining the highest standards of care, accountability, and continuous improvement. Our quality assurance and evaluation plan ensures that all activities funded through this project are monitored for effectiveness, client satisfaction, and long-term sustainability. The purpose of this plan is to measure outcomes, identify gaps, and implement data-driven improvements so that MPHS continues to deliver compassionate, inclusive, and equitable healthcare.

1. Quality Assurance Framework

MPHS operates under a structured Quality Management framework that aligns with state and federal health standards, including Ryan White quality measures and Department of Health performance guidelines. This framework is applied across all service areas to ensure consistency, compliance, and excellence in care delivery.

Key Components:

Policies and Procedures: All clinical and outreach programs follow standardized protocols reviewed annually by the Medical Director and Executive Director to ensure they reflect best practices and current evidence-based guidelines.

Data Integrity: Staff utilize our Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system to accurately capture service data, patient demographics, and outcomes. Monthly audits are conducted to ensure data accuracy and timely reporting.

Confidentiality and Ethics: All staff complete annual HIPAA and ethics training to safeguard client privacy and uphold trust within the community.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation Activities

Quantitative Measures:

Number of new patients accessing gender-affirming care.

Average wait time for appointments.

Number of participants attending mental health and peer support groups.

Outreach encounters, testing rates, and successful linkages to care.

Retention in care and medication adherence for HIV and HRT patients.

Qualitative Measures:

Patient satisfaction surveys conducted semiannually to capture feedback on access, inclusivity, and quality of care.

Focus groups and interviews with support group participants to assess emotional outcomes and community connection.

Staff and peer facilitator debriefs to identify emerging trends or barriers in service delivery.

3. Using Evaluation to Drive Sustainability

Evaluation findings not only demonstrate impact but also inform future funding proposals, strategic planning, and community partnerships. Trends identified through data analysis guide the organization's long-term efforts to sustain and expand programs that show the greatest benefit to patients.

Scope of Work

MPHS will carry out a coordinated plan to expand critical health, mental health, and outreach services to meet the increasing needs of Kauai's most vulnerable residents. This project directly responds to the rising demand for gender-affirming care and the growing emotional strain felt by our patients, many of whom are facing heightened fear, stigma, and isolation due to current political and social climates.

1. Expansion of Gender-Affirming Care

The demand for gender-affirming care on Kauai has grown significantly in the past two years. Many patients have shared that our clinic is their only safe and affirming healthcare option. To meet this need, we will expand its clinical capacity to ensure timely and continuous access to hormone replacement therapy (HRT), primary care, lab services, and preventive health screenings for transgender and nonbinary patients. We will partner with off-island providers for telehealth consultations and increase available appointment slots for both new and existing patients. Our Clinical Care Team and Clinic Coordinator will manage patient flow, scheduling, and follow-up. The Executive Director will supervise overall implementation, ensuring the program aligns with MPHS's mission and state and federal care standards.

2. Launch of Mental Health and Peer Support Groups

To address the growing mental health concerns among our patients, MPHS will establish structured support groups tailored to specific populations, including transgender individuals, LGBTQ+ youth, parents of LGBTQ+ children, and people living with HIV. These groups will focus on reducing isolation, building resilience, and promoting mental well-being through peer support and professional facilitation.

Groups will be offered both in-person at our Lihue clinic and virtually to reach residents in remote parts of the island. Each session will be trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, and designed to foster a sense of belonging. Our Director of Client Services will oversee group design and facilitation, supported by licensed clinicians, case managers, and trained peer advocates. Recently a pre-teen was attacked in Lihue due to his identification as Mahu. What made the night worse was when the police arrived and showed very little compassion for this youth because he is biologically male and their attackers (yes more than one), were biologically female. We will expand our education series to include LGBTQ+ sensitivity training for community members.

3. Strengthening Community Outreach and Harm Reduction Services

MPHS will continue and expand its outreach and harm reduction programs, which serve as vital public health interventions for Kauai's houseless and high-risk populations. The need has grown exponentially over the past few years. We provide needle exchange services, safe syringe disposal, and testing for HIV, Hepatitis, and other infectious diseases often spread through shared needles. We also distribute wound care supplies, hygiene kits, condoms, naran, and educational materials on disease prevention and safer practices. These direct outreach services are essential to reducing transmission rates, connecting individuals to medical and behavioral health care, and building trust with those who have been marginalized or criminalized.

Financial Information

Q1 Requested Amount	\$50,000.00	Q3 Requested Amount	\$50,000.00
Q2 Requested Amount	\$50,000.00	Q4 Requested Amount	\$50,000.00

Sources of Funding	Hawaii Department of Health, Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction, MedQuest, Kauai County, Women's Foundation, AIDS United, Ryan White Part B,	State and Federal Tax Credits	Not applicable
State and Federal Contracts and Grants	Federal - Ryan White Part B State - Department of Health - Harm Reduction Branch Grant in Aid - Fiscal year 2023-2024	Prior FY Balance of Unrestricted Assets	\$1,000

Experience, Capability, and Personnel

Skills and Experience	Malama Pono has more than 40 years of experience providing compassionate, inclusive healthcare to the people of Kauai. Founded during the height of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, MPHS began as a grassroots effort to care for individuals living with HIV when few others would. Over the decades, we have evolved into a comprehensive community health organization offering HIV care and prevention, gender-affirming medical services, women's wellness, harm reduction, and more. Our deep roots, trusted reputation, and established infrastructure make us uniquely qualified to implement the proposed program and ensure its lasting impact. MPHS is the only organization on Kauai specializing in HIV and LGBTQ+ healthcare. Our team includes licensed medical providers, nurses, case managers, outreach workers, and peer support specialists—many of whom have lived experience or strong cultural and community connections that help us reach individuals who are often left out of traditional healthcare systems. All staff receive ongoing training in trauma-informed care, harm reduction, gender-affirming best practices, and health equity to maintain clinical excellence and cultural sensitivity. Our CEO brings over 15 years of experience in healthcare leadership, public health, and nonprofit management, with a strong focus on social justice and health equity. As the parent of a transgender child, the mission of Malama Pono Health Services is profoundly personal to her. This lived experience strengthens her resolve to ensure that every transgender person on Kauai receives respectful, affirming, and compassionate care. Our Medical Director is a respected OB/GYN physician from Wilcox Medical Center, who generously volunteers his personal time—often on his days off—to provide care through MPHS's women's health clinics. His dedication ensures that women on Kauai, especially those who are uninsured or underinsured, have access to high-quality preventive care close to home. His expertise in obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive health adds tremendous clinical credibility and depth to MPHS's medical programs. Our Case Managers and Prevention Specialists have a shared passion for the work we do at MPHS. Many have lived experience which give them a very special and unique perspective to their roles and tremendously helps a normally skeptical and cautious population trust us and our intentions. Their collective experience in community health and direct service delivery allows MPHS to respond quickly and effectively to emerging needs.
Facilities	Malama Pono operates from its main clinic located in Lihue, which serves as the central hub for all medical and administrative operations. Our facility is easily accessible by public transportation and strategically located near other essential health and social service providers, allowing for coordinated referrals and care continuity. The clinic includes exam rooms, counseling offices, a laboratory draw station, a conference and education space, and administrative offices. Each exam room is fully equipped to provide comprehensive medical services, including gender-affirming care, reproductive health services, and HIV testing and treatment. The facility is compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements and equipped with gender-neutral restrooms, ensuring a welcoming and inclusive environment for all patients. In addition to clinical operations, MPHS maintains dedicated space for case management and confidential patient consultations. These private rooms are designed to ensure comfort and confidentiality, particularly important for patients who face stigma or discrimination related to HIV status, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Our conference and multipurpose room will serve as the primary location for newly developed peer and mental health support groups, providing a safe and affirming space for community members to gather, share experiences, and access resources. The room is equipped for both in-person and virtual sessions, allowing for hybrid meetings that reach individuals across the island, including those in rural or remote areas. MPHS also operates mobile outreach that extends services beyond the clinic walls. The vehicle is used by the harm reduction and outreach teams to provide needle exchange, HIV and Hepatitis testing, and health education directly to houseless individuals and others who cannot easily travel to the clinic. The mobile unit is

equipped with testing supplies, educational materials, and safety equipment to ensure quality service delivery in the field.

Proposed Staffing and Service Capacity

The Nurse Practitioner serves as the primary care provider and is the cornerstone of MPHS's medical services. With a dual background in behavioral health and primary care, she brings invaluable skills in treating patients with complex diagnoses and social barriers. Her behavioral health training allows her to approach care holistically—addressing both medical and emotional needs—and to establish trust with patients who may have previously avoided care due to stigma or trauma. She provides hormone therapy management, preventive health screenings, and contraception options, ensuring that every visit is affirming, confidential, and culturally responsive.

The Harm Reduction Case Manager leads MPHS's community outreach and syringe exchange program. She brings lived experience as a former heroin addict, now 15 years sober, and has transformed her personal recovery into a powerful source of empathy and connection. Having earned her bachelor's degree and currently pursuing a master's in social work, she provides care that is completely free from judgment. She meets clients exactly where they are in their recovery journey—offering not only clean supplies and testing but also emotional support, hope, and pathways toward treatment and stability. Her story and dedication have made her a trusted figure among the houseless and substance-using communities.

The HIV Ryan White Case Manager has lived on Kauai her entire life and embodies the cultural and interpersonal skills necessary to serve this close-knit island community. She understands the unique cultural nuances and stigma surrounding HIV on Kauai, allowing her to connect with clients in a way that is both sensitive and effective. Having worked closely with a behavioral health counselor for several years, she has developed exceptional communication and active listening skills. For many of our Ryan White clients, she is far more than a case manager—she is a lifeline. She assists clients with daily needs such as securing housing, maintaining medication adherence, attending appointments, and, just as importantly, provides companionship and emotional support to those experiencing isolation or loneliness. Her work has been instrumental in maintaining viral suppression rates and improving the quality of life for people living with HIV on the island.

Staff Position(s) and Compensation

1. CEO/President - \$80,000 annually
2. Director of Clinical Services - \$65,000 annually
3. Director of Client Services - \$60,000 annually

Other Information

Pending Litigation

Not applicable

Special Licensure or Accreditations

MPHS maintains all required certifications, licensure, and professional credentials necessary to ensure compliance with state and federal standards for healthcare delivery. These qualifications demonstrate our capacity to provide high-quality, safe, and evidence-based services consistent with the scope of this request.

Clinical Licensure and Accreditation

CLIA Certification: MPHS operates a fully certified Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)-approved onsite laboratory. This certification authorizes the organization to conduct diagnostic testing, including HIV, Hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infection (STI) screenings, under strict quality and accuracy standards. The CLIA certification ensures that all laboratory testing adheres to federal and state requirements for reliability, confidentiality, and clinical integrity.

Licensed Medical Providers: All clinical services are delivered by licensed healthcare professionals, including a Board-Certified OB/GYN physician who serves as the Medical Director and a licensed Nurse Practitioner who provides primary, reproductive, and gender-affirming care. Both are in good standing with the Hawaii State Board of Nursing and the Hawaii State Medical Board, respectively.

Nursing and Clinical Support Staff: Clinical support personnel hold current Hawaii State nursing or medical assistant certifications and maintain annual continuing education credits in infection control, HIPAA compliance, and trauma-informed care practices.

HIV/STD Outreach, Testing, and Linkage (OTL) Certification: All MPHS prevention specialists and outreach team members have successfully completed the HIV and STD Outreach, Testing, and Linkage (OTL) training, provided by the Hawaii State Department of Health. This certification ensures that each staff member is proficient in risk assessment, pre- and post-test counseling, specimen collection, confidentiality standards, and linkage-to-care procedures for individuals testing positive.

Private Educational Institutions

Malama Pono Health Services confirms that no portion of this grant will be used to support or benefit any sectarian or non-sectarian private educational institution.

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	CEO

System Information

Application Type	Act 310 Nonprofit Grant Application	Applied Date	10/24/2025, 1:19 PM
Owner Name	Grants Management	Category	Grant Application
Created By	Melanie Rule, 10/22/2025, 3:37 PM	Created Date	10/22/2025, 3:37 PM
Last Modified By	Geneveive Kosay, 10/26/2025, 7:43 PM	Last Modified Date	10/26/2025, 7:43 PM

Federal Grants
Ryan White Part B

Name of Program	Program 1
Original Funding Award	\$114,749.00
Amount Reduced or Cut	\$34,669.00
Grant Cycle of Award	2025-2026

Files

MPHS_Budget	Malama_Pono_Records_Retention
Last Modified 10/24/2025, 1:16 PM	Last Modified 10/24/2025, 12:56 PM
Created By Melanie Rule	Created By Melanie Rule
MPHS_ByLaws	MPHS_DCCA
Last Modified 10/24/2025, 12:48 PM	Last Modified 10/24/2025, 12:47 PM
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Malama Pono_impact funding	MPHS_Sustainability_Plan
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Malama Pono_OrgChart	Malama Pono_IRSLetter
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