



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

## Funding Opportunity

# Holomua Marine Initiative

## Laulima Grants

**Online Application Deadline: Friday, July 26, 2024, 4:00 p.m. HST**

**ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS:** Applicants must be a non-profit organization with a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. Organizations who do not have 501(c)(3) status may collaborate with a fiscal sponsor to apply for this funding opportunity.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2016, the State launched the Sustainable Hawai'i Initiative, a multi-pronged effort to ensure a healthy environment and economy for Hawai'i's people. As part of this effort, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) committed to effectively manage Hawai'i's nearshore waters.

Hawai'i has led the nation in its contributions towards the achievement of international conservation goals of protecting and effectively managing marine resources and ecosystems. Leading scientists agree that a minimum level of 30% protection of marine areas can significantly help prevent mass extinctions, preserve critical ecosystem services, and help avert the worst impacts of climate change. Through the Holomua Marine Initiative, DLNR has outlined how its Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) will work in partnership with communities to build on effective traditional management practices and knowledge, along with guidance from fishers, cultural and scientific experts, and community leaders, to effectively manage Hawai'i's nearshore marine areas. DAR has identified four pillars in their roadmap to achieving shared nearshore management goals.

1. **Place-based planning** aims to partner with communities and stakeholders to build a cohesive, ecologically-connected network of areas for improved marine management.
2. **Pono Practices** encourages responsible behavior guided by Hawaiian values and perspectives through education and outreach, rules, strengthened enforcement, and local partnerships to encourage sustainable behaviors and practices in nearshore waters.

3. **Monitoring** measures and documents current conditions, tracks progress following implementation of new management approaches, and uses data to identify areas where management actions need to be further adapted.
4. **Protection and Restoration** builds on existing strategies to prevent damage to fragile nearshore ecosystems from invasive species, disease, and environmental damage events and expands efforts to restore and enhance impacted areas

The Initiative carries forward commitments made by public and private organizations that launched the [Aloha+Challenge](#), a statewide commitment to achieve Hawaii's sustainability goals and framework to implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and by partners who issued the [Promise to Pae'āina](#), which is a collective commitment for measurable change in Hawai'i's ocean.

Created by the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF), the CHANGE Framework strives to create a shared movement to solve Hawai'i's greatest challenges. Through a common set of data, the Framework identifies Hawai'i's strengths, gaps, and opportunities so that efforts can be aligned to take collective action. HCF puts the Framework into action by supporting networks that encompass a broad range of partners who are working to achieve a shared goal and have a commitment to equity. HCF supports the efforts of the Holomua Marine Initiative through this lens of the CHANGE Framework.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support organizations and programs that make meaningful contributions to achieving the goals and objectives of the Holomua Marine Initiative, which focus on effectively managed nearshore marine areas in Hawai'i with strong community co-management.

## **GRANT FOCUS**

The priorities for Laulima grants will include the following focal areas for this funding opportunity.

- **Capacity:** Projects/programs that strengthen community or organization capacity to deliver programs and results toward effective community co-management of nearshore marine areas. Examples could include (but are not limited to) strengthening technical capacity, leadership and organizational effectiveness, planning and evaluation, management, communications, advocacy, education, traditional knowledge, and cultural competency.
- **Coordination:** Projects/programs that strengthen coordination and collaboration between diverse groups or agencies to support the achievement of Holomua Marine Initiative goals and objectives. Examples could include (but are not limited to) cross-sector collaboration, strengthened coordination between state, county, and community entities, and coordination between communities, resource managers and academia on biological and socioeconomic monitoring.
- **Data:** Projects/programs that improve data collection, analysis, management, and application to resource management, decision-making, and community awareness and

knowledge. Examples could include (but are not limited to) monitoring programs, evaluation of management effectiveness, uplifting and integrating local and traditional knowledge into monitoring and resource management, establishing baselines, development of systems to improve data management, development of intellectual property agreements, and data collection and reporting in collaboration with communities.

- **Engagement:** Projects/programs that strengthen community engagement in effective management of nearshore marine areas. Examples could include (but are not limited to) education, awareness, and outreach to various stakeholder groups, communications, strategies that broaden inclusivity, and community events that highlight shared core values between nearshore marine resource management and community development aspirations.
- **Governance:** Projects/programs that lead to the achievement of Holomua Marine Initiative policy goals, good governance, and effective management of nearshore marine areas. Examples could include (but are not limited to) development of policy and regulations, adoption of site designations and management regimes such as Community-based Subsistence Fishing Areas (CBSFAs), advocacy, strategic communications, and strategies targeted at ensuring community priorities for effective nearshore marine management are adequately reflected in all levels of decision-making, particularly within government decision-making.

Examples of activities that HCF will consider for funding include but are not limited to:

1. Communications and social media campaigns, outreach activities to decision-makers, formal and informal education activities, and outreach to target communities.
2. Training, workshops, learning exchanges, mentorships, and community events.
3. Developing and implementing methods and protocols for use, protection, and perpetuation of community, traditional, and Indigenous knowledge.
4. Leadership coaching and mentoring, strategic planning, and organizational development activities.
5. Community-invited applied research.
6. Biological, human behavioral, and socio-economic monitoring in collaboration with communities, state agencies and a broad range of partners.
7. Management planning and implementation at site, region, island or statewide levels and evaluation of effectiveness of implementation of management plans.
8. Community-designed and led surveillance and enforcement activities that lead to decrease in rules violations.
9. Promotion and development of innovative entrepreneurial strategies that contribute to effective community co-management of nearshore marine resources
10. Other activities that will result in moving towards achieving effectively managed nearshore marine areas in Hawai'i, with strong community co-management.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

**Grant Term:** Grant requests for projects with a duration of 12-24 months (2 years maximum) will be considered.

**Funding:** Grant requests for up to \$50,000 USD will be considered from organizations with a 2024 operating budget of less than \$500,000. HCF anticipates the award of 12-15 grants within this funding range. Organizations with a 2024 operating budget of \$500,000 or more have the option to apply for up to \$50,000 and be considered within the aforementioned funding range or submit a grant request for up to \$150,000; however, HCF anticipates awarding no more than 2-4 grants within this higher funding range. Funding decisions will be made in September 2024.

**Reporting:** Grantees will be required to submit interim progress reports and a final project and financial report to HCF.

**Requirement:** Organizations must be a non-profit organization with a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. Organizations who do not have 501(c)(3) status may collaborate with a fiscal sponsor to apply for this funding opportunity.

HCF will prioritize projects and programs from community-based organizations that strengthen community co-management of nearshore marine areas.

Projects centered on research must be community-invited applied research and applicable to effective community co-management of nearshore marine areas.

Proposals from government entities, including state and county, must be developed and submitted in partnership with community organizations to be considered for this funding opportunity.

Proposals from federal entities will not be considered for this funding opportunity.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

### **Online Application**

This application is available for online submission. Beginning January 2022, the Hawaii Community Foundation transitioned to a new Grants Portal. New users may register for an account here [https://hawaiicf.smartsimple.com/s\\_Login.jsp](https://hawaiicf.smartsimple.com/s_Login.jsp). Registered users may log in to their account to submit an application. Please give yourself adequate time before the submission deadline to access the system and familiarize yourself with the application process and requirements.

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

- Only complete and timely applications will be accepted.
- The online application has fillable boxes with character limits. The character counts in MS Word may not match the character counts in the application. If you cut and paste your work into the application, please be sure your text fits the space provided.

## **ORGANIZATION PROFILE**

As part of the online application your organization profile must be certified prior to submission

of grant applications and must be certified annually. Information needed to complete your organization's profile includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter (not required if previously applied to the Foundation or if applying through a fiscal sponsor)
- Number of full-time, part-time, or regular volunteer staff
- Organization Mission
- Service Location(s)
- Types of services provided (including age, gender, and target populations served)
- Financial Statements
  - Annual Operating budget for current year
  - Income statement (or profit/loss statement) for the most recently completed fiscal year
  - Balance sheet for the most recently completed fiscal year
  - Audited financial statements are preferred but not required
  - Local units of national organizations must submit local unit financial information
- Board of Directors List

## APPLICATION

The application consists of 4 tabs. Information needed to complete your application includes, but is not limited to the following:

- **Program Overview:**
  1. Provide general information and characteristics about the program including program title, duration, area of interest, program location(s), ages and genders served, and the CHANGE sector(s) your program most closely aligns with.
  2. For more information about the CHANGE framework, please visit our website <https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/change>.
  3. If you have a fiscal sponsor, you will be asked to identify your fiscal sponsor. Please note, your fiscal sponsor must first be registered in the Grants Portal prior to submitting your application.
- **Program Information:**
  1. **Organization Description:** Describe the history and mission of the organization/program as well as your organization's vision and aspirations. *(Maximum 2,500 characters = ¾ page)*
    - What is the organization's experience implementing this program and staff capabilities to conduct the proposed work?
  2. **Executive Summary:** Summarize the proposed project and indicate how it is linked to your organization's vision. *(Maximum 2,500 characters = ¾ page)*
  3. **Problem or Opportunity:** Describe the need or opportunity you are trying to address and why this is critical. *(Maximum 3,000 characters = ¾ page)*
  4. **Program Activities:** Describe the activities that will be completed to address the need/opportunity. Explain why you chose this approach. Provide a program timeline. Describe how your project aligns with the priority of the fund you are applying. *(Maximum 3,500 characters = 1 page)*

- 5. Expected Results:** Describe what you hope to achieve and how you will measure the effectiveness of your program. *(Maximum 3,500 characters = 1 page)*
- **Budget:** Provide your total program budget, amount requested through this application, and upload a copy of your program's budget, showing income and expenses, indicating sources of income that are pending and secured. *(Note: budget template attached to this RFP may be used).*
  - **Support Documents & Certification:** Upload any additional required documents as listed in the application guidelines.

### **ADDITIONAL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

Please use this space to provide:

1. workplan for proposed activities *(Note: use workplan template attached to this RFP);*
2. proposal budget narrative; and,
3. any strategies or plans that link your program and the needs identified in your proposal *(Please Note: These documents are not required, however, if your organization has these documents, they would be helpful).*

### **FISCAL SPONSORS**

- Resolution by fiscal sponsor's board of directors authorizing fiscal sponsorship
- Fiscal sponsor's agreement form  
*Both forms can be found at: <http://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/grants/fiscal-sponsor-materials>*
- Fiscal sponsor's IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter

### **RESOURCES**

Please use this space to provide any additional information or resources, such as specific activities, work plans and additional letters of support.

### **EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS**

Proposals will be evaluated against the following criteria:

1. Organization's capacity to deliver proposed project or program, and alignment of organization mission with proposed project or program.
2. Urgency of problem(s) the proposed project or program aims to address and strength of opportunity for project or program to address it.
3. Proven history or convincing likelihood of methods and activities proposed towards achieving effective community co-management towards restoring healthy nearshore marine ecosystems and abundant marine resources in Hawai'i.
4. Partnerships, particularly with communities and community-based organizations, in place to support and contribute to the design and implementation of proposed project or program.

5. Achievability and alignment of project or program's expected results with Holomua Marine Initiative goals and objectives.
6. Soundness of funding plan and organizational capacity for fiscal management of funds and resources for proposed project or program.

### **INFORMATION SESSION**

A virtual information session about this funding opportunity, the HCF Grants Portal, and procedures for creating an account in the HCF system and submitting a proposal will be conducted on June 25<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Those who intend to participate should register using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlpduCvrzksH9J5WV1PBygBiMrH6-PkZa0D>

### **DEADLINE**

**Submit your application by clicking the "Submit" button at the end of the application no later than 4:00 p.m. HST, Friday, July 26, 2024**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please visit the Holomua Marine Initiative [website](#) for more information about the Initiative. If you have additional questions about the RFP, these guidelines, or the Holomua Marine Initiative you may contact:

Tiare Holm by phone at 808-566-5573 or via email at [tholm@hcf-hawaii.org](mailto:tholm@hcf-hawaii.org).

Neighbor Islands may call our toll-free number at 1-888-731-3863

For technical assistance with the online application process, please contact HCF's technical support team at [Websupport@hcf-hawaii.org](mailto:Websupport@hcf-hawaii.org). We will get back to you within one business day.