Holomua Marine Initiative
Pāpio Grants
Funding Opportunity

OVERVIEW

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

Hawaiʻi has led the nation in its contributions towards the achievement of international conservation goals of protecting and effectively managing marine resources and ecosystems. 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 Hawaiʻi's nearshore marine areas. DAR has identified four pillars 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 programs and projects that will achieve specific strategic outputs and outcomes that make meaningful contributions to effectively managed nearshore marine areas in Hawai'i with strong community engagement, stewardship and co-management.

Grant Focus

The priorities for Papio 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 and Monitoring:** 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 achieve specific strategic results towards effectively managed nearshore marine areas in Hawai'i, with strong community engagement, stewardship, and co-management.

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.

Applicants must have completed and submitted all required final reports for any previously awarded HCF Holomua Marine Initative Pooled Fund Pāpio grant.

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.

Grant Term: Grant requests for projects with a duration of up to 12 months (1 year maximum) will be considered.

Funding: Grant requests for up to $10,000 USD will be considered. Funding decisions will be made in July 2025.

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

APPLICATION PROCESS
Online Application
This application is available for online submission through the Hawaiʻi Community Foundation's Grants Portal. New users may register for an account here 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. Please reference our Applicant User Guide for further instructions.

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 every 6 months. 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 <u>most recently completed fiscal year</u>
  - Balance sheet for the <u>most recently completed fiscal year</u>
  - 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. **Problem or Opportunity:** Describe the need or opportunity you are trying to address and why this is critical. *(Maximum 3,000 characters = ¾ page)*
  3. **Program Activities:** Describe the activities that will be completed to address the need/opportunity. Explain why you chose this approach and how it aligns with the goal of effective nearshore marine management with strong community

engagement, stewardship, and co-management. Provide a program timeline. Describe how your project aligns with the priority of the fund you are applying. *(Maximum 3,500 characters = 1 page)*

4. **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.

DEADLINE
Submit your application by clicking the "Submit" button at the end of the application no later than the following deadlines:

2025 Deadlines	Review Periods	Decision Dates
Q2 - Friday, June 27, 2025, 4:00 p.m. HST	July, 2025	31-Jul-25
Q3 - Friday, September 26, 2025, 4:00 p.m. HST	October, 2025	31-Oct-25
Q4 - Friday, December 19, 2025, 4:00 p.m. HST	January, 2026	30-Jan-26

CONTACT INFORMATION
Please visit the Holomua Marine Initiative website for more information about the Initiative

If you have additional questions about this funding opportunity, 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.

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

For technical assistance with the online application process, please submit a support ticket at https://hawaiicf.odoo.com/helpdesk/customer-care-1.