



MALAMA O PUNA
P.O Box 1467
Pahoa, Hawai'i 96778
(808) 965-2000

www.malamaopuna.org * malamaopuna@yahoo.com

Protecting Hawai'i's precious natural heritage

May 13, 2024

County of Hawai'i, Research & Development
ATTN: Douglass Adams, Director
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1301
Hilo, HI 96720

Re: Statement of Qualifications for Professional Services

Aloha, Director Adams:

I am writing to submit the Statement of Qualifications on behalf of Malama O Puna for consideration in providing professional services for RD3: Community Planning and RD11: Food Technologies. With our long-standing dedication to sustainability, innovation, environmental preservation, and community-centric solutions, Malama O Puna is poised to contribute significantly to the objectives of your department.

The board and leadership of Malama O Puna possesses a diverse range of expertise, including planning, community engagement, and natural resource preservation. We understand the critical importance of thoughtful community planning in fostering resilience and sustainability.

Our approach emphasizes community engagement, environmental stewardship, and long-term viability. We are committed to advancing innovative solutions for food security, waste reduction, and sustainable agriculture. Our track record of implementing successful projects speaks to our capability to deliver tangible results.

We are excited about the opportunity to collaborate with the Department of Research & Development and contribute to initiatives that positively impact communities and the environment. Please find enclosed our Statement of Qualifications for your review.

Thank you for considering Malama O Puna for professional services.

Mahalo,

Eileen O'Hara, Ph.D.
Executive Director

1. *The name of the firm or person, contact information including email address, the principal place of business, and location of all of its offices;*

Malama O Puna

Eileen O'Hara, Ph.D., Executive Director

POB 1467, Pahoia, HI 96778

malamaopuna@yahoo.com

Organization operates virtually with office space planned in Pahoia in conjunction with a new location for the Pahoia Lava Zone Museum on Pahoia Village Road.

2. *The age of the firm and its average number of employees over the past five years;*

The organization was founded as a 501c3 nonprofit in April 2000. Since 2020, the organization has maintained one employee (Executive Director), and currently has a 9-member Board of Directors who along with project coordinators assist in projects.

3. *The education, training, and qualifications of the individual, or if a firm, its key employees in accordance with HRS 103D-304 and/or the professional and scientific occupation series contained in the United States Office of Personnel Management's Qualifications Standards Handbook (<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classificationqualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/#url=GS-PROF>);*

The resume of the Executive Director is attached along with a description of the 9-member board as elected in May 2024. Board members serve 2-year terms with approximately one-half of the board elected each year.

4. *A list of recent projects and the names of up to five clients who may be contacted, including at least two for whom services were rendered during the preceding year;*

- Feral Pig Control Project – funded by County Research & Development – Glenn Sako, Glenn.Sako@hawaiicounty.gov
- Kealoha Estate Road Restoration – funded under the Kilauea Recovery Grant #2 cycle – Ku'ulei Kealoha Cooper, whipmkealoha@aol.com
- Keaau Intermediate PTSA – funded under CRFs from Councilmembers D4 & D5 – Tiffany Edward Hunt tiffany.edwards_hunt@k12.hi.us
- Wai'ele Stewardship Project – funded under the Hawaii County PONC program – PONC Commission, PONC@hawaiicounty.gov
- Black Sands Community Food Garden – funded under a CRF from Councilmember D4 – Gregory , Dibenedetto, Board President gregdib@yahoo.com
- Nanawale Community Garden and Mobile Kitchen project – funded under a DOA grant – Alison Barrett, NCA Executive Director, allison@nanawalecommunity.com

5. *Any promotional or descriptive literature which the individual or firm desires to submit.*

Please visit our website at www.malamaopuna.org

The Malama O Puna Board of Directors for 2024-25

Returning to the board of Malama O Puna for the second of their two-year terms are:

- 1) **Tim Rowan** (current President) – Tim is a former restaurant chef and butcher who moved to Hawaii from Florida 8 years ago. He resides in Lower Puna where he volunteers in his HOA, NW group, and with Malama O Puna. Tim ensures the Pahoa Roundabout re-landscaping project of May 2023 is properly maintained!
- 2) **Amedeo Markoff** (current Treasurer) – Amedeo has resided on the Big Island for decades with his wife raising two children. He is credentialed in forestry resource management, a woodworker and craftsman, and serves as the President of Pahoa Mainstreet Assn and Executive Director of the Pahoa Lava Zone Museum
- 3) **William ‘Bill’ Steiner** (current Board member) Bill is a past Dean of the UHH College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resource Management. He is working with a group on a project to promote the growth of oil seed palms to provide feedstock for production of biodiesel.
- 4) **Sylvia ‘Maya’ Dolena** (current Board member) – Sylvia is currently a resident of Puna Mauka having lost her farm to lava in Kapoho in 2018. She is very active with the animal welfare groups on the island and is a past corporate planning strategist.

The following individuals elected in May 2024 will serve 2-year terms

- 5) **Sherry Kelso Palmer** (current Secretary) – Sherry is a founding member of Malama O Puna in 2000, and has been an active member since. She maintains a record of minutes and preserves some of the graphics done for MOP including our logo. Sherry is running for re-election.
- 6) **Diane Franciosa** – (Current Board Member) Diane has served as a board member for Malama O Puna for the last three years coming to the organization with a plethora of experience operating and being a board member with nonprofits; specifically United Way. She, along with our recent Vice President, Page Else, are part of a Hula Halau which MOP refers to as our “sister” halau.
- 7) **Issac Pedro** – Issac is a resident of Nanawale Estates, graduated from Hawaii Community College with an AS in automotive repair and working on a teaching credential through Leeward College to teach automotive maintenance and repair at Pahoa Highschool where he is also engaged in the ALPSS program supporting students experiencing difficulty in a traditional learning environment. He has worked with his students at Pahoa Highschool to plant and maintain a dryland taro patch at the Kahuwai working with Keone Kalawe.
- 8) **Jessica Wilkes** – Jessica is a resident of Black Sands Subdivision where she has been a stalwart volunteer in all community activities from the keiki community garden and school, to cleaning up their community spaces. She has volunteered at events to help Malama O Puna showcase the work being done in Black Sands subdivision.
- 9) **Amanda Ternus** – Amanda is currently living in Puna Mauka due to working remotely. She is the State’s Digital Equity Coordinator under DBEDT working from home and traveling to Oahu as needed. She holds an MA in Community Economic Development and has authored a few publications related to sheltering, economic recovery planning; and holds numerous certificates in leadership. She has worked as a Trauma and Addictions Counselor with the indigenous population in B.C., Canada, and as a teacher in Hawaii where she has also worked as a State Hazard Mitigation Strategist, as a Development Director for the Kaua’i Humane Society, and as the Fundraiser Manager at Kulani Oceanside Retreat.

CURRICULUM VITAE

M. Eileen O'Hara, Ph.D.

Physical Address: 15-2782 Papio Street, Pahoia, Hawaii 96778
Telephone: (808) 965-1981-h; (808) 896-1902-c
E-mail: eohara58@gmail.com

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. Agricultural & Resource Economics –1998: Univ. of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI. (3.7 GPA)
Concentration in Urban/Environmental Planning and Resource Economics
M.A. Economics – 1995: Univ. of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI. (3.7 GPA) – Concentration in
Environmental and Energy Economics
B.S. AgBusiness, minor Economics – 1992: University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hilo, HI. (4.0 GPA)
A.S. Horticulture and Landscape Design – 1980: San Francisco City College, San Francisco, CA.
AWARDS: *Graduate Teaching Assistant of the Year Award*, University of Hawaii at Manoa (1993)

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

1997-present *University of Hawaii at Hilo, College of Business & Economics (CoBE) & College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management (CAFNRM). F/T & P/T. Adjunct Faculty and Assistant Professor*. Assigned to teach Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Economic Development, Natural Resource & Environmental Economics, Managerial Economics, Business Statistics, AgEconomics, AgBusiness Management & Marketing, and Technical & Scientific Writing for Environmental Sciences.

2011-2024 *Purdue University Global. P/T Adjunct Faculty*. Teach and design online undergraduate and graduate courses in Environmental Management, Economics, and Public Policy for the School of Legal Studies' Environmental Management & Policy track. Subject area expert.

2007-2022 *DeVry University. P/T Visiting Professor*. Taught and designed undergraduate and graduate courses in economics, renewable energy and sustainability marketing for the School of Arts & Sciences and the Sustainability Program. Subject area expert.

2008-2011 *Grand Canyon University. P/T Adjunct Faculty*. Taught and designed graduate course curriculum in Public Sector and Managerial Economics in the Ken Blanchard College of Business and the College of Doctoral Studies.

1994 - 1996 *Evaluation Section, Department of Education, State of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI. P/T Researcher and Trainer*. Developed internal management performance audit for School/Community-Based Management. Conducted training workshops with school personnel and stakeholders.

1992 - 1994 *University of Hawaii at Manoa, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Honolulu, HI. P/T Teaching Assistant*. Statistics, Econometrics, and Applied Calculus.

1990 - 1991 *Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI. P/T Research Assistant*. Assisted in developing surveys for floriculture industry: retail, wholesale, and cost of production. Conducted anthurium cost of production survey. Compiled the data. P/T

NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2020-present *Malama O Puna, Pahoia, HI. Executive Director*. Manage an environmental nonprofit. (PT)

2016 - 2018 *County of Hawaii, Hilo, HI. County Council Representative, District 4*. Elected to represent the Lower Puna District. Chair of the Environmental Management Committee, Vice Chair of Agriculture, Land and Energy Sustainability & Planning Committees. (PT)

2007 – 2011 *Pacific Biodiesel, Kahului, HI. Business Development Specialist*. Coordinator for financial investment/environmental planning of special projects e.g. Big Island Biodiesel, LLC. Developed federal, state & private grant/loan proposals and managed grants. (FT)

2006 – 2007 *State of Hawaii, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Hilo HI. Contracts Manager*. Procured goods & services for East Hawaii Hospital facilities in compliance with state procurement code, federal healthcare regulations, and all applicable laws. (FT)

- 2001 – 2006** *County of Hawaii, Hilo, HI. Recycling Program Coordinator.* Planned, contracted, and administered county recycling/reuse programs for the Recycling Section of the Environmental Management Dept. Prepared budgets, conducted public education and administered grants. Planner IV. Planning Department staff for the Planning Commission. Researched re-zoning requests, special management area and special use permits, state land use boundary amendments, and conducted environmental reviews. (FT)
- 2002 - 2003** *Recycle Hawaii, Hilo, HI. Executive Director.* Planned and supervised recycling and environmental programs, administered grants & fee-for service contracts to provide public education, operated recyclable collection sites. Collected data & evaluated projects. (PT)
- 1997-2001** *Hawaii Organic Farmers Assn, Hilo, HI. Executive Director/ Quality Control Officer.* Maintained organizational databases, administrative/operating procedure manuals, and oversaw compliance with federal accreditation standards for organic certifications. (PT)
- 1996 - 2000** *Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc. (HELCO), Hilo, HI. Project Coordinator - Solar Electric Programs.* Conducted market research for utility sponsored photovoltaic (solar electric) residential systems and street lighting. Conducted focus groups, interviews, surveys, pilot programs, data collection, evaluation, and public presentations. (FT)
- 1994** *Pacific International Center for High Technology Research (PICHTR), Honolulu, HI. Consultant.* Designed, administered, and reported on a survey of residential photovoltaic systems on the island of Hawaii. Study funded by DBEDT, State of Hawaii. (PT)

GRANTS PROCURED:

UHH-USDA Anthurium Blight Study (1991); **HELCO-Dept. of Energy**-Public Utilities Photovoltaic Group (1996-1999) & Million Solar Roofs, (1999); **Recycle Hawaii – USDA Rural Utility Services.** (2003-05); **Hawaii County – Dell** (2004); **EPA Brownfields** (2005); **Pacific Biodiesel SBA Innovation** grant (2009), **USDA Business grant/loan** (2010); **Malama O Puna USDA/DOA** (2022); **Hawaii County –Lava Recovery grant** (2020), **WaiWai grant** (2022-24), **R&D Ag grant** (2023), **PONC Stewardship grant** (2023-24) and several **County Council CRFs** (2019-2022); **HCF-Puna Strong grants** (2021-23)

APPOINTMENTS:

- *Cost of Gov't. Commission, County of Hawaii, Hilo, HI. Commissioner July 2010 – June 2011.*
- *Envision Downtown Hilo 2025 Vision Keepers, County of Hawaii Planning Department, Hilo, HI. Member 2006-08; Chair 2009-10.*
- *Governor's Environmental Council, State of Hawaii, Office of Environmental Quality Control, Honolulu, HI. State Senate confirmed. Commissioner 2004-08; Chair, Admin. Rules Committee.*

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- *Hawaiian Shores Community Assn., Pahoa, HI. President, BOD 2011-16 & 2020-23.*
- *Hawaii Vacationland Community Assn., Pahoa HI. Vice President, Board of Directors, 2019-21.*
- *Hawaii Electric Light Co. Inc., Integrated Resource Plan Advisory Group, Hilo, HI. 1996-97.*
- *Hawaii Organic Farmers Association, State of Hawaii. Vice President, 1993-94 & 1996-97.*
- *Graduate Student Association, AREC, Univ. of Hawaii at Manoa. President 1993.*
- *National Agri-Marketing Association, University of Hawaii Chapter, Treasurer 1991-92.*

INTELLECTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS – PUBLICATIONS / PRESENTATIONS:

- O'Hora-Weir, M. E., and S. Ganapole (April, 1996). "The Impact of School Level and Socio-Economic Variables on the Adoption of School Community Based Management in Hawaii's Public Schools." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, NY.
- S. Ganapole and M. E. O'Hora-Weir (April, 1996). "Evaluating Site-Based Managed Schools: A Site-Based Approach." Paper presented at the American Educational Research Assn, NY 1996.
- O'Hora-Weir, M. E., and J. F. Yanagida (February, 1997). "The Cost of Public Schooling in Hawaii: an Examination of Size Economies in Elementary Schools." Paper presented at the annual meeting

of the Western Regional Science Association, Hawaii.

- O’Hora-Weir, M. E. (1998). *Technical Efficiency of Hawaii’s Public High Schools*. Doctorate dissertation. University of Hawaii at Manoa. UMI Dissertation Services, Ann Arbor, MI
- O’Hora-Weir, E., and J. F. Yanagida (2000). “Factors Affecting the Adoption of School Community Based Management (SCBM) in Hawaii’s Public Schools,” *The Social Science Journal*, Volume 37, Number 3, pages 473-480.
- Deng, D.F., Ju, Z. Y., Dominy, W., Moriwake, A., O’Hara, M. E., Mosher, P., and Levin, P. (November 2011). “Application of a biodiesel co-product to control apple snail: acute toxicity and active compound identification.” Paper presented at the 32nd annual meeting of the Society of Environmental Technology and Chemistry, North America.

CONSULTING WORKS:

- O’Hora-Weir, M. E. (October, 1994). *Results of a Survey of Residential Photovoltaic Systems in Hawaii County*. Conducted for the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research (PICHTR)/funded by the Hawaii State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.
- O’Hora-Weir, M. E. (December, 1994). *On the Impact of Tax Credits, Energy Prices, and Perceptions of Environmental Risks Due to Fossil Fuel Electrical Generation on the Adoption of Photovoltaic Technology in Hawaii*. Study conducted for the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research (PICHTR), Honolulu, Hawaii.
- O’Hora-Weir, M. E. (August, 1996). *A Market Potential Study for Off-Grid Residential Photovoltaic System on the Island of Hawaii*. Study conducted for Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc. (HELCO). Funded by the Utilities for Photovoltaic Group/U.S. DOE, Hilo, Hawaii.
- O’Hora-Weir, M. E. (August, 1999). *Million Solar Roofs Implementation Plan*. Study conducted for Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc. (HELCO) and funded by U.S. DOE, Hilo, Hawaii.
- O’Hora-Weir, E. (March, 2001). *Organic Certification Handbook*. Compiled for the Hawaii Organic Farmers Association in preparation for accreditation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Organic Program, Hilo, HI.
- O’Hora-Weir, E. (December, 2005). *Transfer Station Enhancement Plan*. Report compiled for the Solid Waste Division, Department of Environmental Management, County of Hawaii, Hilo, Hawaii.

COLLABORATIVE VIDEO PROJECTS:

- Backyard Composting (March, 2005)*. Produced for the County of Hawaii by Out of the Sea Media Arts.
- Recycling Commercial – 30-second spot (Nov. 2005)*. Produced for the County of Hawaii
- Malama I Ka `Aina; One Island’s Struggle with Illegal Dumping. (Dec., 2005)*. 30-minute network broadcast quality documentary produced by Recycle Hawai`i under funding from the County of Hawaii and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utility Services.

REFERENCES:

- Aaron Chung, Attorney, former County Councilmember. PO Box 11458 , Hilo , HI , 96721. (808) 935-0033 (work) and (808) 937-4772 (cell). Served with Mr. Chung on County Council 2016-2018.
- Angelic Ebbers, Lead Controls Software Engineer, TMT (808) 960-5105. Aebbers@tmt.org. Personal reference and collaborator at Kukini Dog Agility Club.
- Bruce Mathews, former Dean of CAFNRM. University of Hawaii at Hilo, 200 Kawili St., Hilo, HI 96720. (808) 217-7393 (cell). bmathews@hawaii.edu. Faculty under Dr. Mathews at CAFNRM.
- Ku’ulei Kealoha Cooper, Trustee, James & Miulan Kealoha Trust, (808) 934-7799 whipmkealoha@aol.com. Community steward and collaborator on Kilauea Recovery projects.
- Russell Ruderman, former State Senator. (808) 443-1703. russell@russellruderman.com. Served briefly as his Office Administrator in his first year. Acquaintance for over 40 years.