



June 18, 2024

Mr. Douglass Adams, Director
Research and Development, County of Hawai'i
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1301
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

RE: Professional Services

Aloha Director Adams,

On behalf of Vibrant Hawai'i I am submitting our statements of qualifications and interest to provide professional services for the following categories:

- RD.1) Community Planning (Community and Economic Development, Community Engagement, Culture and Indigenous Science, Data Science, Strategic Planning)
- RD.3) Community Planning (Public Relations and Event Planning)
- RD.5) Education and vocational training (Workforce Development)
- RD.7) Education Services (Coaching)
- RD.9) General Education and Training
- RD.11) Instructional Systems (Design of Training, Facilitation, and Evaluation Programs)

Contact Information

Janice Ikeda, Executive Director | Phone (808) 936-2268 | Email: janice@vibranthawaii.org
Vibrant Hawai'i | 230 Kekuaaoa Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 | Email: contact@vibranthawaii.org

Organization Background

Vibrant Hawai'i is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization, incorporated in 2021. Over the past (5) years, we employ an average of 6 full-time Hawai'i Island residents.

Qualifications Summary

Founding Executive Director Janice Ikeda brings over 20 years' experience in nonprofit management, community organizing and facilitation, community based research, and program evaluation. Janice received her MA in Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University and was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws in 2023 from Gonzaga University.

West Hawai'i Director, Toni Symons brings over 20 years' experience in grassroots advocacy, community organizing and facilitation, and program design. Her completed coursework at UH Mānoa and the University of Phoenix includes Organization Management, Communications, and Sociology.

'OAKA Coordinator, Amylia-Rae Gandolf, is a 2018 graduate of the Kamehameha Schools and recently earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. Amylia brings 2-years of experience in community engagement and facilitation, with a focus on youth engagement.



Graphic Artist, Cole Fuertes, is responsible for both print and nonprint media to advance the goals of Vibrant Hawai'i, publications of annual and impact reports, web presence, and social media campaigns. Cole provides support in data analysis and design of infographics to ensure effective communication with diverse stakeholders. Cole received a BA in Business and Marketing from Menlo College.

Recent Projects

Bridging Gaps, Building Futures. An intermediary proposal to assess opportunities, readiness, and barriers in work-based learning on Hawai'i Island. 2023. [LINK HERE](#)

Waiākea Peninsula Design Lab. Design Labs leveraged the collective expertise and diverse perspectives of stakeholders with strong ties to the Waiākea Peninsula to develop a guiding document based on Asset Based Community Development principles, aimed at steering the peninsula's restoration and revitalization in a way that aligns with community goals. Participants ranged from local community members to officials and experts across various sectors, all united by their commitment to the peninsula's future. [LINK HERE](#)

A'ō A Mālama. In partnership with Vibrant Hawai'i's network of over 40 Resilience Hubs, the Vibrant Hawai'i Ambassadors and UH Hilo's Ka Pouhana students connected with over 800 parents of children ages 5 and below to learn more about their childcare and early learning preferences, barriers, and experiences engaging with providers. [LINK HERE](#)


Aloha Vision Conference. The AlohaVision Conference, held in Hilo, Hawai'i Island, Feb. 1-2, 2024, convened a diverse group of community partners to discuss and develop strategies for enhancing Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) access and increasing workforce development opportunities in creative and digital media industries in Hawai'i. This conference brought together educators, local and state government, local business and social service leaders, youth, community members, and PEG industry professionals from across the State to explore the value of PEG TV in workforce development, community engagement, and educational opportunities. [LINK HERE](#)

Client References

- Ashley Kierkiewicz, President, Nā Leo TV. Email: akierkiewicz@naleo.tv
- Shelly Ogata, Legislative Aide for CD 3, County of Hawai'i. Email: Shelly.ogata@hawaiicounty.gov
- Matt Stevens, Executive Director, Workforce Funders Hui. Email: matt@hawaiiwork.org
- Harvey Stone, Executive Director, Koi Pond Bridges. Email: harvey@koipondhui.org
- Marisa Hayase, Managing Director, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. Email: mhayase@hjweinberg.org
- Ben Trevino, Network Coordinator, Omidyar Fellows Hawai'i. Email: bentrevino@omidyarfellows.org

Mahalo nui for your review of our interest and qualifications. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the information provided above.

With aloha,


Janice Ikeda, Executive Director