

Current Events

July 21, 2025

Subject: Letter of Intent – General Education and Training Category

Aloha,

Current Events is pleased to submit this letter of intent to apply for funding under the County of Hawai'i Department of Research & Development's General Education and Training category.

Our organization is committed to advancing community knowledge, skill development, and workforce readiness through accessible education and training opportunities rooted in local needs. With decades of experience producing major public events throughout Hawai'i Island, we understand the importance of equipping individuals with practical tools, cultural awareness, and professional insight to engage meaningfully in the event, tourism, and community development sectors.

Through this opportunity, we aim to support efforts that strengthen community capacity, provide inclusive cultural learning experiences, and foster long-term economic and social resilience. We look forward to the chance to submit a full proposal that reflects our dedication to education and community empowerment.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Ross Wilson, Jr

Principal

General Education and Training Statement of Qualification

Firm: Hawaii Sports Management Corp dba Current Events
75-5751 Kuakini Highway #202
Kailua-Kona HI 96740

Contact: Ross Wilson Jr., Principal
O (808) 326-7820
C (808) 937-3678
E ross@current-events.com

Building a community isn't just about bringing people together; it's about fostering connections, empowering individuals, and creating a shared sense of belonging that transcends boundaries.

Overview – A Bit About Us

Current Events, an award-winning strategic communications agency, is headquartered in Kailua, Kona on Hawai'i Island. For the past 35 years, our multi-disciplinary work has provided our clients with strategic communication initiatives, public profile, brand reputation and exposure, insights into policymaking and managing critical issues. We have a longstanding record of providing superior counsel.

Current Events, comprised of three veteran employees, is the only public relations firm on Hawai'i Island with the expertise and capacity to develop authentic messaging, amplify and shape brand reputation, engage community stakeholders and navigate clients through turbulence.

We are honored to work with both high-profile international clients and local nonprofits. We're local and we love that this island is our home. After decades of crafting our professional expertise, we have deeply-rooted networks island wide. We are curious and fascinated by this island's historical context.

Account Team

Ross Wilson Jr.
Laura Aquino
Amy Young

Current Events staffed a full service Big Island Eclipse Center, shaped thought leaders by crafting a point of view by ghostwriting Focus on the Economy local newspaper columns for the Hawaii Island Economic Development Board, pitched media and provided meaningful content for the Big Island Visitors Bureau, worked on community building with the Saddle Road Task Force to develop Federal funding for a cross island highway, consulted with Federal, State and Local elected and appointed officials on issues and initiatives and worked with Alii Trust Organizations including Kamehameha Schools and Liliuokalani Trust on various programs and initiatives on Hawaii Island. We're working with an international consortium including the governments of Japan, China, India, and Canada and US universities including Caltech, University of Hawaii and the University of California system on the Thirty Meter Telescope project. We continue to work with iconic events and festivals in West Hawaii including Kona

Coffee Cultural Festival, Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament and the Queen Liliuokalani Long Distance Canoe Race.

Previous Projects - Highlights

Big Island Eclipse Information Center

Staffing a full-service international communication and media center

Hawaii Island Economic Development Board

Shaping thought leaders and crafting a point of view by ghostwriting Focus on the Economy newspaper columns

Ironman Triathlon World Championship

Staffing a full-service international communication and media center

Saddle Road Task Force

Community building and award-winning interpretive signage

Jacoby Development

Community building and stakeholder outreach

Tradewinds Forest Products

Community building and stakeholder outreach

Forest City Hawaii Kamakana Villages

Community building and stakeholder outreach

Kona Village Resort

Public relations

Kamehameha Investment Corp

Communications, Keauhou Heritage Center design, Heritage Corridor designation and interpretive signage

Kamehameha Schools

Hawai'i Island communications and stakeholder outreach

County of Hawaii

Ocean Energy Workshop

Be Pono Signage Campaign

Ho'okaulike Signage project

Kamehameha the Great Dynasty Island-wide Interpretive Signage

Hawaii Island Economic Development Board

Native Hawaiian Perspective Webinar Series

Makani Airborne Wind Turbine

A Google X 20kw prototype energy kite announcement after election season, and announcing an enhanced separation package for affected employees.

Firm Principal and Client Team

ROSS WILSON JR.



EXECUTIVE PROFILE

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- President, Current Events (1990 – Present)
- West Hawaii Field Representative, U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono (2013 – Present)
- Executive Director, Kailua Village Business Improvement District (2022 – Present)
- Kona Field Representative, U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka (2006 – 2012)

EDUCATION & ACCOLADES

- 2021 Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year
- 2012 University of Hawai'i at Hilo Distinguished Alumni Award
- 2010 Hawai'i Community College Mahalo Award
- University of Hawai'i Mānoa, Bachelor of Business Administration, TIM
- Hilo High School

AFFILIATIONS & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- West Hawaii Field Representative, U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono
- Former Kona Field Representative, U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka

- Chair, Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee
- Co-Chair, Board of Directors, Ahu'ena Heiau Inc.
- Vice President, Board of Directors, Donkey Mill Art Center
- Member, Board of Directors, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Kona Community Hospital
- Member, Board of Directors, CU Hawaii Federal Credit Union
- Member, Pohakuloa Training Area Advisory Council
- Member, Board of Directors, Friends of Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge
- Member, Hawaii Community College Chancellor's Advisory Council
- Member, Board of Directors, Hawaii Island Community Development Corporation
- Member, Board of Directors, Hawaii Community Builders
- President, Home Corporation
- Member, Board of Directors, Big Island Press Club
- Member, Board of Directors, Big Island Substance Abuse Council
- Member, Board of Directors, West Hawaii Housing Foundation
- Member, Hawaii Island Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Cmte
- Member, CEDS Statewide Advisory Committee
- Hawaii Island Democratic Party District 6 Chair
- Member, YWCA of Hawaii Island Capital Campaign Committee
- Member, Hawaii Food Basket Guided Feasibility Campaign Study Committee
- Former Member, Kuki'o Community Fund Advisory Committee
- Former Chair, UH Hilo Chancellor's Advisory Committee
- Former Board Chair, Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce
- Former Board Chair, Kona Family YMCA
- Former President, Kuakini Exchange Club
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- Former Treasurer, Board of Directors, Friends of NELHA
- Former Member, KALA Committee, County Product Enrichment Program
- Former Member, Workforce Investment Board Outreach Committee
- Former Treasurer & Director, Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union
- Former Member, State Natural Disaster Claims Commission
- Former Sponsor Liaison, Ironman Triathlon World Championship
- Former Director, Na Leo O Hawaii, Inc.
- Former Commissioner, Hawai'i County Transportation Commission

LAURA AQUINO



EXECUTIVE PROFILE

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Account Director

Current Events, a Strategic Communications Agency (1994 – Present)

Public relations practices centered on community building, media relations, community affairs, issues management, visitor marketing and special events

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- Member, Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce & Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce

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