



RECEIVED

'17 FEB -3 P2:18

February 3, 2017

Mr. Randy Baldemor, Chief Operating Officer
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
1801 Kalakaua Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96815

HAWAII TOURISM
AUTHORITY

Subject: RFP 17-06 Protest for Non-Selection of the *Papakōlea Ha'aheo Project* for Funding

Aloha e Mr. Baldemor:

Papakōlea Community Development Corporation (PCDC) is a community-based nonprofit organization, established in 1999, to serve over 1,800 Native Hawaiians that reside within the Hawaiian homestead communities of Papakōlea, Kewalo and Kalāwahine. The Papakōlea Region is home to the largest concentration of Native Hawaiians in an urban center - Honolulu. PCDC is the steward of the Papakōlea Community Park and Center that serves the entire Papakōlea community, as well as families from neighboring communities, that travel to the Center to participate in cultural, educational, and athletic programming.

Under RFP 17-06, PCDC proposed the *Papakōlea Ha'aheo Project*, to design and pilot a curricula within it's popular Hawaiian language- and culture-based educational program, Kupua'e. The Papakōlea Ha'aheo Project was designed to educate 35 students, ages 3-9, on the history of Papakōlea and stories of significance, through storytelling, music and dance. Included in the curricula, is a 20-minute presentation that would be used by teachers and students to educate and interact with visitors at Kualoa Ranch, on the significance of Papakōlea.

I am writing to formally protest non-selection of the *Papakōlea Ha'aheo Project* for funding under the Hawai'i Tourism Authority Living Hawaiian Culture Program RFP 17-06. PCDC sufficiently addressed the evaluation criteria within the application character limitations, and we presented a project that advanced the goals of the Living Hawaiian Culture Program. PCDC has solid past performance, and has strong capacity to deliver a project of similar scope, that was demonstrated in its detailed work plan. Elements of the proposal are consistent with grant writing standards, and sufficient details were provided to justify the budget request. Moreover, the application included 17 letters of support from a diverse range of project partners representing academia, financial institutions, the local public school system, and community-based organizations, that look to PCDC to broaden the reach of their programs and promote Hawaiian culture.

PCDC bases this protest of non-selection, on the statement that “scoring is based on the evaluation committee’s subjective opinions” as stated in the January 27th Debrief Letter by Mr. Ronald Rodriguez. Page 11 of the RFP states that the “HTA intends to conduct a comprehensive, fair, and impartial evaluation of proposals received in response to this RFP.” Subjective opinions by evaluators do not constitute a fair and impartial evaluation. In fact, a fair and impartial evaluation is a result of objectivity in scoring against the evaluation criteria defined in the RFP.

I am hereby requesting re-evaluation of the *Papakōlea Ha’aheo Project* proposal by the Chief Procurement Officer and the Chief Operating Officer. Further, I am requesting the following documents in accordance with the Uniform Information Practices Act that specifically promotes open and transparent government practices:

- A complete list of all proposals received under RFP 17-06. The list shall include: the name of the applicant, the name of the project, individual scores of each reviewer; the average score for the proposal; their total funding request; and the total amount awarded (if applicable);
- A copy of all scoring sheets that documents the scores and comments by the individual evaluators in scoring the Papakōlea Ha’aheo Project proposal;
- A copy of all proposals that were selected for funding under RFP 17-06; and
- A copy of all scoring sheets, including written comments by the individual evaluators, for all proposals funded under RFP 17-06.

All proposals requesting government funding under a competitive bidding process, shall be provided a fair shot. My hope through this protest is to bring this matter to light, and work to resolve any internal issues that may prevent HTA from conducting a fair review of proposals in future funding rounds. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this protest. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 520.8998 (office), 265.2755 (cell) or via e-mail at lilia@papakolea.org.

E mālama pono,



Lilia Kapuniai
Executive Director

The first of these is the fact that the
the second is the fact that the
the third is the fact that the
the fourth is the fact that the

the fifth is the fact that the
the sixth is the fact that the

the seventh is the fact that the
the eighth is the fact that the
the ninth is the fact that the
the tenth is the fact that the

the eleventh is the fact that the
the twelfth is the fact that the
the thirteenth is the fact that the
the fourteenth is the fact that the

the fifteenth is the fact that the
the sixteenth is the fact that the
the seventeenth is the fact that the
the eighteenth is the fact that the

the nineteenth is the fact that the
the twentieth is the fact that the
the twenty-first is the fact that the
the twenty-second is the fact that the

the twenty-third is the fact that the
the twenty-fourth is the fact that the
the twenty-fifth is the fact that the
the twenty-sixth is the fact that the