



PAPAKŌLEA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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

HAWAII TOURISM
AUTHORITY

Subject: RFP 17-07 Protest for Non-Selection of the *Puōwaina Community Restoration 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 17-07, PCDC proposed the *Puōwaina Community Restoration Project*, which requested funds to develop a land restoration and stewardship plan for a 14-acre parcel located on the slopes of Punchbowl (Puōwaina), wherein, community will have a comprehensive plan to remove invasive species and plant Native plants and fruit / flower trees, utilizing subject matter experts, community, the visitor industry, and collaborative partners.

I am writing to formally protest non-selection of the *Puōwaina Community Restoration Project* for funding under the Hawai'i Tourism Authority Aloha 'Āina Program RFP 17-07. PCDC sufficiently addressed the evaluation criteria within the application character limitations, and we presented a project that advanced the goals of the Natural Resources Strategic Initiatives. 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 14 letters of support from a diverse range of project partners representing academia, the local Native Hawaiian charter school, the local public school system, and community-based organizations, that look to PCDC to broaden the reach of their programs.

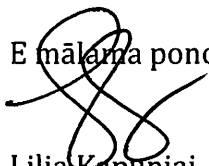
PCDC bases this protest of non-selection, on the statement that “scoring is based on the evaluation committee’s subjective opinions” as stated in the January 27th Debrief Letter by Mr. Ronald Rodriguez. Page 12 of the RFP states that the “HTA intends to conduct a comprehensive, fair, and impartial evaluation 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 *Puōwaina Community Restoration 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 17-07. 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 *Puōwaina Community Restoration Project* proposal;
- A copy of all proposals that were selected for funding under RFP 17-07; and
- A copy of all scoring sheets, including written comments by the individual evaluators, for all proposals funded under RFP 17-07.

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