



**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
560 NORTH NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE 200  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817**

April 29, 2021

**REQUEST FOR QUOTES (RFQ) No. COMPL 2021-025**

**NU'UANU REBURIAL VAULT DESIGN/BUILD  
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

**ADDENDUM 1 – Questions and Answers**

**1. What kind of design is OHA looking for?**

The scope of work provides specific details regarding the design. The vault will be rectangular per the dimensions in the scope of work and capped. There are also alternative designs that are proposed for the vault cap (i.e., dirt mound with plantings, gravel). As for the protective barrier mentioned in the scope, there is a request to do the chain and stanchions with a Hawaiian aesthetic. This could be through perhaps metal ihe (spears) stanchions linked with a chain made to look like an 'aha strand (braided cordage). There is some flexibility there though.

Overall, the design concepts and alternatives were developed in consultation with Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners who worked with OHA on the repatriation effort as well as cultural descendants recognized by the O'ahu Island Burial Council (OIBC). So, we don't want to deviate much from what is proposed in the RFQ. As stated in the scope of work, OHA will evaluate the alternative designs and select one. As part of this process, OHA will consult again with the same cultural practitioners and descendants we've already been working with.

**2. Will work be seven days a week? What kind of work hours?**

We do not expect the contractor to work on weekends or holidays. We do expect the contractor to work normal Monday through Friday daytime business hours. However, we will likely request the contractor work at night on the final day of construction out of respect for Native Hawaiian burial practices. For many Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, there is a general belief that iwi should not be exposed to sunlight. So, burials are typically done at night.

As an example, we recently completed a burial vault last year where the contractor worked at night during the closing ceremony. First, cultural practitioners deposited the iwi into the ground, chanted, and provided ho'okupu (offerings); and then, the

contractor used a bulldozer to pour dirt and sand over the iwi. The contractor then proceeded to seal up the vault cap. The ceremony lasted about 3.5 hours.

The RFQ does in fact mention that we are requiring the contractor to have experience or willingness to participate in a Native Hawaiian burial ceremony.

**3. What kind of schedule are we looking to start the project? What kind of permits are needed?**

Well, the current solicitation is set to end on May 10. But that could be extended by one or two weeks if we have less than 3 quotes. Once a vendor is secured though, we will proceed to contracting. Ideally, maybe we can get to a Notice to Proceed (NTP) by July or August or latest, September. With the issuance of an NTP, the contractor will then proceed to the design phase of the project.

The overall project time frame for Design, Permitting, and Construction is estimated at 14 months. This is detailed on page 4 of the RFQ. However, the timeline could be much shorter if no permits are needed and design work goes faster than expected. Currently, its unknown if permits will be needed. Per the RFQ, this will be something the contractor will need to be responsible for by providing a list of permits (if any) to OHA when design work is completed. The last burial vault project we did last year did not require any permits given its limited height and footprint. However, that design was smaller than the current proposed vault.

We are fortunate though that we already have the okay from the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) for Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) 6E-8 review and the project has been exempted from HRS 343, environmental review, by the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). Additionally, the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL) will not be requiring any kind of conditional use permit or conservation district use permit even though the project area is in a conservation district. If anyone would like copies of the letters we received for OCCL, SHPD, BLNR, please let us know as we have them on file.

On a final schedule related note, I can say though that the cultural practitioners and descendants that we've been working with would like to see this completed as fast as reasonably possible since that would mean these iwi can be laid to rest sooner. While OHA would like to see this too, we understand that there are processes in place that prevent us from jumping right to construction.

**4. What staging areas are available? Can the parking area be used for staging or blocked off?**

There is a grassy area adjacent to the project area that borders the entry walkway that can be used for construction staging. This can be finalized with State Parks, as they manage the land. In initial talks with State Parks, a dust shield or temporary construction fencing was thought to be needed. We would further need to discuss with State Parks whether parking spaces could be blocked off or if a portion of the parking lot can be used for construction staging as well. State Parks is very amiable to this project, so we will be able to work something out.

**5. What kind of cultural protocols will be necessary for this project?**

As detailed in the question above regarding work hours, we do expect the contractor to be willing to participate in the closing night time reburial ceremony. We may also elect to have a blessing at the time construction work is initiated.

**6. What is known about the iwi being buried here?**

It is believed that the iwi are the po‘o (skulls) of female warriors that took part in the Battle of Nu‘uanu. While this can’t be said with absolute certainty since we don’t have the rest of the skeleton, it makes sense per the context in which they were found at the base of the Nu‘uanu pali (cliff). On that topic, the question about why not burry these iwi at the base of the pali did come up during discussions with the descendants and the OIBC. However, there are many safety concerns about accessing the area for installation and maintenance purposes. Furthermore, we believe there would be a greater chance of disturbing more iwi if we dug around in that area. The current location was chosen in collaboration with State Parks, and makes sense from a logistical standpoint as well as a cultural standpoint since we believe that no new iwi will be disturbed during construction.

**7. Is there access to water?**

We don’t currently know at the moment and will need to check with State Parks.

**8. Are there bathrooms?**

No, there are no bathrooms in the area. For the previous burial vault contract we did last year, the contractor arranged to have a portable Chemi-Toi at the work site since that location also did not have bathrooms.

**9. Can we ask more questions later?**

If there are any further questions, please email Charmaine Matsuura of OHA’s Procurement Unit. Charmaine’s email is in the RFQ. You can also copy me on the email.

**10. Any kind of design for temporary fencing when construction is occurring? Like does it need to be Hawaiian or show some kind of OHA related display.**

No, we do not have any kind of design preferences for any type of construction fencing that is proposed by the contractor for the project. However, we will recommend consulting with State Parks as part of the design process for fence placement.

**11. Is there a budget or budget range? This will help us figure out how elaborate or simple to make the design.**

I have been advised by OHA Procurement not to disclose the project budget. While I understand that this may pose difficulties with establishing the cost of the project, this is being solicited as an RFQ and the award will go to the lowest bid. The fact that we are doing an RFQ for a small purchases design/build project should give you an idea though of what we are looking at. This is not meant to be an overly elaborate design.

**12. Will there be a kick-off meeting or blessing?**

While not stated in the scope, we will likely call a meeting with the winning contractor once Notice to Proceed (NTP) is issued. Then, whenever construction actually starts,

we will likely coordinate some kind of blessing or cultural protocol with the cultural practitioners and descendants we've already been working with.

**13. Can the bollards blocking the walkway entrance be removed?**

Two of the bollards are in fact removable. However, if any more need to be removed, we will need to work with State Parks on that.

**14. Can we bill monthly for this project?**

The payment schedule will be negotiated during the contracting portion with the lowest qualified bidder. For the last burial vault project that we did, the contractor elected to have the following pay schedule: 1) mobilization upon receipt of NTP, 2) payment at 50% completion, and 3) payment at 100% completion. In that case, billing was not monthly. But, as I stated, the payment schedule will be negotiated during contracting.

**15. Do we need to hire our own cultural people for ceremony?**

No, as previously stated, OHA has already been working with Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners and recognized descendants for this project. As such, they will be leading the cultural protocols.

**16. What are the bonding requirements?**

As stated on page 2 of the RFQ, a 5% surety bond is being request when the quote is submitted and a 25% performance bond will be required at time of contract execution.

**17. Who will contract manage the project?**

Currently, I (Kamakana Ferreira, OHA Lead Compliance Specialist) will be managing the contract.