Luana Alapa - *Chairperson*
John D. Waihee IV - *Vice Chair*

MEMBERS
Dan Ahuna
Kaleihikina Akaka
Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.
Brickwood Galuteria
Kaiali'i Kahele
Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey
Keoni Souza

OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
KE'ENA KULEANA HAWAI'I
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96817

Phone: (808) 594-1888
Fax: (808) 594-1868

AMENDED(3)

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE (BF)

DATE: Wednesday, September 17, 2025
TIME: 11:00 A.M.
PLACE: Remote Meeting by Interactive Zoom
Virtual Meetings Conference Technology and
In-person Meeting at OHA Mauli Ola Boardroom
Nā Lama Kukui, 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Honolulu, HI. 96817

viewable at https://www.oha.org/livestream OR
Listen by phone: (213) 338-8477
Webinar ID: 815 5778 9307

This meeting can be viewed via livestream on OHA's website at www.oha.org/livestream or listened to by phone using the call-in information above. A physical meeting location, open to members of the public who would like to provide oral testimony or view the meeting, will be available at 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96817.

AGENDA

I. **Call to Order**

II. **New Business**

A. **Action Item BF #25-73** - Approve the reallocation of funds from Strategy and Implementation Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Contracts budget for Ahupuaʻa Moʻolelo program to Strategy and Implementation Grants budget for Aloha ʻĀina Leadership Awards (AALA) in the amount of $**15,000.00** (FY26 and FY27) and Ola Ka ʻĪ event in the amount of **$20,000.00** (FY26) and **$10,000.00** (FY27).*

B. **Action Item BF #25-74** – Approval for Administration to execute the Puʻuhonua: Restorative Justice program from Strategy and Implementation – Health Outcomes Fiscal Year 2026 Contracts budget.*

C. **Action Item BF #25-75** - Approval of funding for Āina Aupuni Hawaiʻi documentary on the legacy of the ʻāina through Hawaiʻi's complex social and political history and proposal for a living trust in the amount of **$135,100.00**.*

D. **Action Item BF #25-76** - Approve the reallocation of funds from Fiscal Year 2026 Personnel & Fringe budget to fund the International Cultural Arts Network (ICAN) in the amount of **$5,000.00** for the September 18, 2025 Chief of War Season 1 Finale Screening at the Hawaiʻi Theatre.*

E. **Presentations by Administration**:
1. Paid family leave update and implementation plan
2. Ke Ala Pono: Sex Trafficking Initiative update
3. Design of an official OHA organizational seal

III. **Adjournment**

Luana Alapa - *Chairperson*
John D. Waihee IV - *Vice Chair*

MEMBERS
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BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
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Honolulu, HI 96817

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, please contact Everett Ohta at 808-594-1988 or by email at everetto@oha.org as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled. Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats.

In the event that the livestream public broadcast is interrupted and cannot be restored, the meeting may continue as audio-only through the phone number and Webinar ID provided at the beginning of this agenda. Meeting recordings will be made available on OHA's website https://www.oha.org/about/leadership/board-of-trustees/ as soon as practicable after the meeting.

Public Testimony will be called for each agenda item and must be limited to matters listed on the meeting agenda. Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 92, Public Agency Meetings and Records, prohibits Board members from discussing or taking action on matters not listed on the meeting agenda.

*Document(s) associated with this agenda item are anticipated to be included in the board packet for this meeting. The board packet will be available for the public to inspect at OHA's main office located at 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96817, OHA's neighbor island offices, and on OHA's website https://www.oha.org/bf no later than two business days before the meeting. The 72 Hour rule, pursuant to OHA BOT Operations Manual, Section 49, shall be waved for distribution of new committee materials.

Testimony can be provided to the Board of Trustees either as: (1) *written testimony* or (2) live, oral testimony online or at the physical meeting location during the remote meeting.

Persons wishing to provide written testimony on items listed on the agenda should submit testimony via email to botmeetings@oha.org or via postal mail to Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Attn: Board of Trustees Meeting Testimony, 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96817. Testimony is requested to be received at least twenty-four hours prior to the scheduled meeting to allow board members with sufficient time to review the testimony before the meeting.

Please note that all written testimony will be posted on OHA's meeting website. Please omit or redact any personal information (e.g., name, email address, phone number, home address, or materials) that you do not want to be disclosed publicly online

Persons wishing to provide *oral testimony online* during the remote meeting, please use the link below:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81557789307
*(*if you are unable to link directly, copy and paste in search)*

To provide oral testimony online, you will need: a computer or mobile device to connect to the virtual meeting; internet access; and a microphone to provide oral testimony.

Those wishing to provide *oral testimony at the physical meeting location* can sign up the day-of the meeting at the physical meeting location.

Once your oral testimony is completed, you may be asked to disconnect from the meeting. If you willfully disrupt the meeting or do not disconnect on your own, support staff will remove you from the Zoom meeting. You can continue to view the remainder of the meeting on the livestream or by telephone, as provided at the beginning of this agenda.

Oral testimony online or at a physical meeting location will be limited to five (5) minutes. Oral testimony by telephone/landline will not be accepted at this time.

09/11/2025

Trustee Luana Alapa, Chair
Committee on Budget and Finance (BF)

Date

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE (BF)

DATE: Wednesday September 17, 2025
TIME: 11:00 a.m
PLACE: Remote Meeting by Interactive Internet Zoom Meetings Conference Technology and in-person at OHA Mauli Ola Boardroom

II. New Business

A. Action Item BF #25-73 - Approve the reallocation of funds from Strategy and Implementation Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Contracts budget for Ahupuaʻa Moʻolelo program to Strategy and Implementation Grants budget for Aloha ʻĀina Leadership Awards (AALA) in the amount of **$15,000.00** (FY26 and FY27) and Ola Ka ʻĪ event in the amount of **$20,000.00** (FY26) and **$10,000.00** (FY27).*

OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Action Item

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

BF #25-73

Action Item Issue: Approve the reallocation of funds from Strategy and Implementation Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Contracts budget for Ahupua'a Mo'olelo program to Strategy and Implementation Grants budget for Aloha 'Āina Leadership Awards (AALA) in the amount of $15,000 (FY26 and FY27) and Ola Ka 'Ī event in the amount of $20,000 (FY26) and $10,000 (FY27).

Prepared by: 09/11/2025
Kuuleianuhea Awo-Chun — Date
Director of Education and Culture-Based Learning

Reviewed by: 09/11/2025
Elena Farden — Date
Senior Director of Strategy & Implementation

Reviewed by: 09/11/2025
Ryan H. Lee — Date
Interim Chief Financial Officer

Reviewed by: 09/11/2025
Stacy K. Ferreira — Date
Chief Executive Officer

Reviewed by: 09/11/2025
Luana Alapa — Date
Chairperson, Committee on Budget and Finance

Action Item Issue: Approve the reallocation of funds from Strategy and Implementation Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Contracts budget for Ahupuaʻa Moʻolelo program to Strategy and Implementation Grants budget for Aloha ʻĀina Leadership Awards (AALA) in the amount of $15,000 (FY26 and FY27) and Ola Ka ʻĪ event in the amount of $20,000 (FY26) and $10,000 (FY27)

I. PROPOSED ACTION

Approve the reallocation of funds from Strategy and Implementation Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Contracts budget for Ahupuaʻa Moʻolelo program to Strategy and Implementation Grants budget for Aloha ʻĀina Leadership Awards (AALA) in the amount of $15,000 (FY26 and FY27) and Ola Ka ʻĪ event in the amount of $20,000 (FY26) and $10,000 (FY27).

II. ISSUE

Whether the Board of Trustees should approve the reallocation of funds from Strategy and Implementation Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Contracts budget for Ahupuaʻa Moʻolelo program to Strategy and Implementation Grants budget for Aloha ʻĀina Leadership Awards (AALA) in the amount of $15,000 (FY26 and FY27) and Ola Ka ʻĪ event in the amount of $20,000 (FY26) and $10,000 (FY27).

III. BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION

The FY25-26 Biennium budget allocated $35,000 for professional services on a fee and project deliverables basis to contract a community educator and videographer for an Ahupuaʻa Moʻolelo project to: 1) coordinate logistics for kupuna oral history interviews, 2) conduct culturally appropriate oral history interviews, 3) complete edited video recordings to be shared online of all interviews. This was a portion of a larger proposed project that aims to publish children's books in ʻōlelo Hawaiʻi and English rooted in the moʻolelo of our ʻāina and kaiāulu. The oral history videos were intended to accompany those texts as a larger initiative to generate educational resources in alignment with Mana I Mauli Ola Outcomes 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, and 4.1.

While the oral history videos would be a valuable resource for any community, the original intent was for them to be created in tandem with other educational resources that were not approved in the budget. Our team asks that we hold off on implementation of this project until we can propose it in a new biennium with funding for all the components. Rather than create the oral history videos in isolation, the Education team within Strategy and Implementation requests approval to reallocate those funds for two other significant programs that align with OHA's mission, strategic outcomes, and foundations – The Aloha ʻĀina Leadership Awards and Ola Ka ʻĪ.

The Education team would manage these funds, though they would utilize the Grants budget code. The programs below are our recommended reallocation proposals.

Aloha ʻĀina Leadership Awards (AALA)

- The AALA awards are a unique distinction for graduating seniors from Hawaiian-focused charter schools, DOE kula kaiapuni, and Kamehameha Schools' three campuses (Kealaiwikuamoo, n.d.). These awards recognize students who have demonstrated strong commitments to the principles of aloha ʻāina and are celebrated for their efforts in promoting and embodying stewardship of the land, a deep respect for Hawaiian culture, and a commitment to strengthening communities.
- Kanaeokana (a network of Hawaiian language, culture, and ʻāina-based schools and organizations) presents the awards, which underscore the significance of empowering

young people to take on leadership roles that help safeguard the land, culture, and traditions for future generations.

- Kanaeokana serves as the hosts and coordinators for the logistics, media, and awards banquet, while Kanu o ka ʻĀina Learning ʻOhana distributes the financial awards to students. As such, any funding received for the students goes through KALO.
- In OHA Biennium Budget for the Fiscal Biennium Periods 2023-2024 (FY 24) and 2024-2025 (FY 25), funds from OHA were allocated as a line item on June 28, 2023 as a part of Action Item RM #23-17. Strategy and Implementation's Education Pathways was asked to complete the process of distributing the funds. The funds were encumbered on April 4, 2024 through PR #24461. A PO was created on November 6, 2024 for Kanu o ka ʻĀina Learning ʻOhana, who manages the funding for this award. It was eventually moved to become a Hōʻakoakoa Event Sponsorship, which was approved via Action Item RM #24-45 in the amount of $10,000. This partially covered makana for awardees, with any balance being covered by Kanaeokana.
- The following benefits were presented and remain pertinent to AALA:
    - Supporting Schools with High Native Hawaiian Enrollment
        - Award recipients are from Hawaiian-focused charter schools (HFCS), Hawaiian Language Medium schools (HLMS), and Kamehameha Schools which all service high percentages of Native Hawaiian students.
    - Empowering Student Leaders
        - The awards will be made available to one student per school in Kanaeokana's network, which includes HFCS, HLMS, and Kamehameha Schools. This initiative provides financial acknowledgment for students excelling as cultural and community leaders.
    - Honoring Leaders Who Embody Aloha ʻĀina
        - Award recipients, selected by their schools, are recognized for embodying the values of aloha ʻāina and their dedication to preserving and advancing Hawaiian traditions, language, and environmental sustainability. This recognition not only supports their personal growth and leadership journey but also inspires their peers and strengthens the cultural foundation of Native Hawaiian communities.
- Funding this in our S&I budget is desired for the following reasons:
    - The AALA awards are unique and distinct in scope, uplifting aloha ʻāina as a desired leadership disposition and honoring young adults in our HFCS, Immersion, and high-percentage Native Hawaiian schools. In a time when funding and resources for Hawaiian education is in question, stable consistent funding for AALA is important. This has long-term impacts on MiMO 1.2, and the support of college, career, and community readiness grounded in Kanaka ʻŌiwi values.
    - AALA recognizes culturally-sustaining pedagogies as evidenced in student leadership skills and dispositions moving into their adulthood. This has long-term implications for MiMO 2.3 and the creation of systems rooted in Kanaka ʻŌiwi worldviews and praxis.
    - For the same amount of funds invested, OHA would reach a greater number of beneficiaries by supporting AALA and Ola Ka ʻĪ than with the oral history videos alone.

Action Item Issue: Approve the reallocation of funds from Strategy and Implementation Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Contracts budget for Ahupuaʻa Moʻolelo program to Strategy and Implementation Grants budget for Aloha ʻĀina Leadership Awards (AALA) in the amount of $15,000 (FY26 and FY27) and Ola Ka ʻĪ event in the amount of $20,000 (FY26) and $10,000 (FY27)

Past Award Recipient Counts (Kanaeokana, n.d.)

Year	Number of Students Awarded
2018	20
2019	16
2020	19
2021	20
2022	20
2023	18
2024	18

  - It allows for inclusion in the planning and design phase, with increased opportunities for Trustee and administrative engagement throughout implementation.

- If approved, we propose the following breakdown of the $15,000:
  - $10,500.00 - $500 makana for 21 students
  - $3750.00 – Cover partial cost to host awards ceremony in collaboration with Kanaeokana
  - $750.00 - 5% admin fee to KALO (this is determined by Kanaeokana to be their preferred way to administer these awards)

Ola Ka ʻĪ

- OLA KA ʻĪ is a community-focused event series designed to promote Hawaiian language (ʻōlelo Hawaiʻi) and cultural heritage. This series of events provides a space for community engagement, featuring live entertainment, games, Hawaiian language speech competitions (hoʻokūkū haʻi ʻōlelo), and family-friendly activities. These events serve as platforms for engagement, fostering relationships between OHA and the communities we serve.
- OHA previously participated in Ola Ka ʻĪ as a community education table at events in Kāneʻohe, Hilo, Honolulu, Kahului, Kapolei, and Līhue. The following impact data showcases our reach with one small table amongst hundreds of other community partners
  - 934 Coloring Books distributed
  - 785 other resources distributed (swag, issues of Ka Wai Ola)
  - 1096 attendees engaged
- OHA was not a sponsor of the event, so our reach was mainly in face-to-face interactions with beneficiaries.

Action Item Issue: Approve the reallocation of funds from Strategy and Implementation Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Contracts budget for Ahupuaʻa Moʻolelo program to Strategy and Implementation Grants budget for Aloha ʻĀina Leadership Awards (AALA) in the amount of $15,000 (FY26 and FY27) and Ola Ka ʻĪ event in the amount of $20,000 (FY26) and $10,000 (FY27)

- Funding this in our S&I budget is important for the following reasons:
    - Ola Ka ʻĪ is one of the largest and most widely attended events that incorporates ʻŌlelo Hawaiʻi in the community at-large. The presence of ʻŌlelo Hawaiʻi in our everyday living spaces normalizes and holds space for use of Hawaiian language in all aspects of our lives. This has long-term implications for MiMO 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.3, and 4.1.
    - For the same amount of funds invested, OHA would reach a greater number of beneficiaries by supporting AALA and Ola Ka ʻĪ than with the oral history videos alone.
    - It allows for inclusion in the planning and design phase, with increased opportunities for Trustee and administrative engagement throughout implementation.
- We propose the following breakdown of the proposed $20,000 allocation:
    - $4,000 per event (Koʻolau, Hilo, ʻEwa, Kauaʻi-Niʻihau, Maui Nui) OR an equal split across the total amount of events hosted (to account for additional communities that may add on events)

IV. TIMEFRAME

- September 2025: Budget and Finance Determination
- October 2025: BOT Determination

If approved:

- November 2025: Finalization of funding distribution in collaboration with Grants and community
- December 2025: Distribution of funds
- February 2026: Ola Ka ʻĪ events commence
- March 2025: AALA awards

Action Item Issue: Approve the reallocation of funds from Strategy and Implementation Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Contracts budget for Ahupua‘a Mo‘olelo program to Strategy and Implementation Grants budget for Aloha ‘Āina Leadership Awards (AALA) in the amount of $15,000 (FY26 and FY27) and Ola Ka ‘Ī event in the amount of $20,000 (FY26) and $10,000 (FY27)

V. BUDGET AUTHORIZATION

CURRENT BUDGET FY26					
PROG	**EXPENSE CATEGORY**	**GL ACCOUNT DESC**	**SERVICE PROGRAM CODE**	**FY2026**	
7110	CONTRACTS	57110-SERVICES ON A FEE BASIS	7110	35,000	Includes professional services on a fee and project deliverables basis to contract a community educator and videographer for an Ahupua‘a Mo‘olelo project to: 1) coordinate logistics for kupuna oral history interviews, 2) conduct culturally appropriate oral history interviews, 3) complete edited video recordings to be shared online of all interviews. In service of MiMO outcomes 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, and 4.1
PROPOSED BUDGET					
7110	GRANTS	56530-GRANTS IN AID - COMMUNITY GRANTS	7110	15,000	$10,500.00 to provide $500 awards makana for 21 students $3750.00 to support the cost of awards ceremony in collaboration with Kanaeokana $750.00 to cover 5% admin fee to KALO In service of MiMO outcomes 1.2, 2.1, 2.3 and 4.1
7110	GRANTS	56530-GRANTS IN AID - COMMUNITY GRANTS	7110	20,000	To support the cost of implementation of the OLA KA ‘Ī SERIES of community events pae ‘āina wide (Split evenly across total events held) in collaboration with Kanaeokana In service of MiMO outcomes 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, and 4.1

CURRENT BUDGET FY27					
PROG	**EXPENSE CATEGORY**	**GL ACCOUNT DESC**	**SERVICE PROGRAM CODE**	**FY2026**	

Action Item Issue: Approve the reallocation of funds from Strategy and Implementation Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Contracts budget for Ahupuaʻa Moʻolelo program to Strategy and Implementation Grants budget for Aloha ʻĀina Leadership Awards (AALA) in the amount of $15,000 (FY26 and FY27) and Ola Ka ʻĪ event in the amount of $20,000 (FY26) and $10,000 (FY27)

7110	CONTRACTS	57110-SERVICES ON A FEE BASIS	7110	25,000	Includes professional services on a fee and project deliverables basis to contract a community educator and videographer for an Ahupuaʻa Moʻolelo project to: 1) coordinate logistics for kupuna oral history interviews, 2) conduct culturally appropriate oral history interviews, 3) complete edited video recordings to be shared online of all interviews. In service of MiMO outcomes 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, and 4.1
PROPOSED BUDGET					
7110	GRANTS	56530-GRANTS IN AID - COMMUNITY GRANTS	7110	15,000	$10,500.00 to provide $500 awards makana for 21 students $3750.00 to support the cost of awards ceremony in collaboration with Kanaeokana $750.00 to cover 5% admin fee to KALO In service of MiMO outcomes 1.2, 2.1, 2.3 and 4.1
7110	GRANTS	56530-GRANTS IN AID - COMMUNITY GRANTS	7110	10,000	To support the cost of implementation of the OLA KA ʻĪ SERIES of community events pae ʻāina wide (Split evenly across total events held) in collaboration with Kanaeokana In service of MiMO outcomes 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, and 4.1

VI. BUDGET CERTIFICATION

The following is the certification by the Chief Financial Officer that the funds are available:

_____

Ryan H. Lee

Interim Chief Financial Officer

Date: _____

VII. RECOMMENDATION

the reallocation of funds from Strategy and Implementation Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Contracts budget for Ahupuaʻa Moʻolelo program to Strategy and Implementation Grants budget for Aloha ʻĀina Leadership Awards (AALA) in the amount of $15,000 (FY26 and FY27) and Ola Ka ʻĪ event in the amount of $20,000 (FY26) and $10,000 (FY27).

VIII. ALTERNATIVES

A. Utilize the Ahupuaʻa Moʻolelo budget of $35,000 for Communications needs

B. Utilize the Ahupuaʻa Moʻolelo budget of $35,000 for Economic Resilience, ʻĀina

Momona, or Housing needs.

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE (BF)

DATE: Wednesday September 17, 2025
TIME: 11:00 a.m
PLACE: Remote Meeting by Interactive Internet Zoom Meetings Conference Technology and in-person at OHA Mauli Ola Boardroom

II. New Business

B. **Action Item BF #25-74 –** Approval for Administration to execute the Puʻuhonua: Restorative Justice program from Strategy and Implementation – Health Outcomes Fiscal Year 2026 Contracts budget. *

OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Action Item

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & FINANCE

September 17, 2025

BF #25-74

Action Item Issue: **Approval for Administration to execute the Pu'uhonua: Restorative Justice program from Strategy and Implementation – Health Outcomes Fiscal Year 2026 Contracts budget.**

Co-prepared by:		Sep 11, 2025
	Kū'ikeokalani Kamakea-'Ōhelo Director of 'Ōiwi Wellbeing and 'Āina Momona	Date
Co-prepared by:		Sep 11, 2025
	Elena Farden Senior Director of Strategy & Implementation	Date
Reviewed by:		Sep 11, 2025
	Ryan Lee Interim Chief Financial Officer	Date
Reviewed by:		Sep 11, 2025
	K.Sean Kekina Chief Operating Officer	Date
Reviewed by:		Sep 11, 2025
	Stacy K. Ferreira Chief Executive Officer	Date
Reviewed by:		Sep 11, 2025
	Luana Alapa Chairperson, B&F Committee	Date

Action Item BF #25-74: Approval for Administration to execute the Pu‘uhonua: Restorative Justice program from Strategy and Implementation – Health Outcomes Fiscal Year 2026 Contracts budget.

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Action Item BF #25-74: Approval for Administration to execute the Pu‘uhonua: Restorative Justice program from Strategy and Implementation – Health Outcomes Fiscal Year 2026 Contracts budget.

I. PROPOSED ACTION

Approval for Administration to:

1) Execute the Pu‘uhonua: Restorative Justice program from Strategy and Implementation – Health Outcomes Fiscal Year 2026 Contracts budget.;

2) Execute and/or procure all necessary agreements, instruments, applications, and other appropriate documents necessary for due diligence to engage and administer the Pu‘uhonua Restorative Justice Program;

3) Appropriate funds up to $200,000 [Contingent on approval of the FY26 Biennium Budget allotment request under program - 7130.] to cover necessary costs incurred for, or associated with the administration of the Pu‘uhonua Restorative Justice Program; and

4) Take all other reasonable actions necessary and appropriate to implement the foregoing.

II. ISSUE

Should the Board of Trustees authorize the CEO to delegate to OHA administration the authority to allot, encumber, and expend any and all funds allocated in the OHA Fiscal Year 2026 Core Operating Budget under Program 7130 (Health Outcomes) to engage and administer the Pu‘uhonua Restorative Justice Program for the following purposes and in accordance with the below directional and strategic outcomes from the Mana i Mauli Ola: OHA’s 15-Year Strategic Plan for 2020-2035[1]:

- Strengthened ‘Ōiwi (cultural identity), Ea (self-governance), ‘Āina Momona (healthy lands and people), Pilina (relationships), Waiwai (shared wealth), Ke Akua Mana (spirituality)[2];

- Advance policies, programs, and practices that strengthen Hawaiian wellbeing, including physical, spiritual, mental and emotional health[3]; and

- Advance policies, programs and practices that strengthen the health of the ‘āina and mo‘omeheu[4].

[1] See https://www.oha.org/wp-content/uploads/MiMO_StrategicPlan-1.pdf.
[2] Ibid.
[3] Ibid.
[4] Ibid.

Action Item BF #25-74: Approval for Administration to execute the Pu‘uhonua: Restorative Justice program from Strategy and Implementation – Health Outcomes Fiscal Year 2026 Contracts budget.

III. BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION

A. Program Purpose & Alignment to OHA's Strategic Plan

Program Purpose

The Pu‘uhonua Restorative Justice Program establishes a foundation for transformational systems change from punitive to restorative justice. This shift centers on culturally grounded approaches that prioritize healing, accountability, and reconnection to ‘ohana, ‘āina, and ‘ike kupuna. Through traditional healing practices, mālama ‘āina activities, and the integration of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i and cultural values, the program aims to restore individuals as valued members of their communities. Over time, this systemic change will reduce recidivism, strengthen community bonds, and revitalize Native Hawaiian identity, contributing to OHA's Vision to "Ho‘oulu Lāhui Aloha".[5]

Provisional language was attached to this appropriations requesting that prior to execution, the program shall be presented for final approval via Action Item to the Board of Trustees. Administration will prepare an Action Item that presents the Pu‘uhonua Restorative Justice program and describes due diligence performed, including identifying potential 3rd party collaborators, subject to conflict of interest checks.

Alignment to OHA's Strategic Plan

- **3.2** Establishment of a fully functional, high quality, culturally adapted, primary Native Hawaiian Health System which coordinates effective wellness activities/ programs; (E Ola Mau a Mau)
- **3.3** Decrease the number /percent of Native Hawaiians in jails and prison
- **4.1** Preservation and perpetuation of Hawaiian language, culture, traditions, identity and sense of lāhui

B. Community Need & Justification

Native Hawaiians remain disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system, consistently representing a higher percentage of the incarcerated population than their share of the general population in Hawai‘i. Studies have shown that Native Hawaiians are more likely to receive longer sentences, less likely to be granted parole, and face systemic barriers that contribute to higher rates of recidivism. These inequities are

[5] See https://www.oha.org/about/.

compounded by challenges in reentry, including limited access to affordable housing, sustainable employment, culturally relevant education and training, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and community-based support systems.

Without targeted intervention, these disparities perpetuate intergenerational cycles of incarceration, trauma, and socioeconomic instability that undermine the overall well-being of Native Hawaiians and their ‘ohana. Current correctional and reentry systems, while providing some rehabilitative services, often fail to address the unique cultural, historical, and social needs of Native Hawaiians. As a result, recidivism rates remain unacceptably high, and the broader community continues to bear the social and economic costs. Addressing this problem requires a comprehensive and culturally grounded approach that not only supports successful reentry but also restores balance, dignity, and opportunity for Native Hawaiian individuals and communities.

Identified Pu‘uhonua Site(s):

- Nation of Hawai‘i (Waimānalo, O‘ahu)
- Ahupua‘a ‘O Kahana State Park (Kahana, O‘ahu)
- Pu‘uhonua ‘O Wai‘anae (Wai‘anae, O‘ahu)
- Kawailoa Youth & Family Wellness Center (Kailua, O‘ahu)

C. Program Description & Scope

Project Manager(s)/Lead(s): Kū‘ike Kamakea-Ohelo, Designated Strategic Consultant

The Pu‘uhonua Restorative Justice Program is designed to provide culturally grounded, community-based restorative justice services for Native Hawaiians. The program draws on traditional healing practices and Mālama ‘Āina values to create alternatives to incarceration, reduce recidivism, and restore community balance.

The program’s implementation will address the following core functions:

Action Item BF #25-74: Approval for Administration to execute the Pu‘uhonua: Restorative Justice program from Strategy and Implementation – Health Outcomes Fiscal Year 2026 Contracts budget.

1. **Operationalize Pu‘uhonua site(s)** for restorative justice activities.

On-Site Program Coordinator	OHA Strategy & Implementation (S&I) Staff
Contract: $100/hour, up to 1,000 hours annually x 2 years (up to $200,000 total).	**OHA Staff Role:** Director or Strategy Consultant designated as project manager (no additional compensation).
Primary Role: Lead on-the-ground management of daily program operations at Pu‘uhonua site(s).	**Primary Role:** Provide high-level strategic oversight, fiscal accountability, site visit monitoring, and Board reporting.
Oversee day-to-day site operationalization and logistics.	Ensure alignment with *Mana i Mauli Ola* outcomes (MiMO 3.2, 3.3, 4.1).
Support practitioner activities and ensure fulfillment of contract deliverables.	Manage OHA’s contractual obligations, fiscal oversight, and compliance with policies.
Monitor and coordinate service delivery to participants and ‘ohana.	Review quarterly reports submitted by Program Coordinator; track progress toward outcomes.
Collect program data and oversee site-level reporting and monitoring.	Conduct site visits to Pu‘uhonua sites for direct program observation and accountability; coordination with R&E evaluation support and expertise.
Maintain stakeholder partnerships and facilitate community co-management.	Present consolidated program updates, progress, and impact to ELT and Board of Trustees.
Submit quarterly reports and presentations to S&I designated project manager.	Support development of high-level strategic partnerships (justice agencies, funders, statewide networks).
	Recommend program adjustments, evaluation enhancements, and resource alignment as needed.

Action Item BF #25-74: Approval for Administration to execute the Pu‘uhonua: Restorative Justice program from Strategy and Implementation – Health Outcomes Fiscal Year 2026 Contracts budget.

2. **Finalize practitioner contracts and deliverables** to ensure cultural integrity and service quality.

Deliverables	Metrics
Provide program oversight, reporting & evaluation	Coordinate daily operations at Pu‘uhonua site(s); monitor practitioner activities for alignment with MiMO outcomes; consolidate practitioner reports and submit quarterly activity, fiscal, and evaluation reports to OHA with 100% on-time submission.
Finalize practitioner contracts and ensure compliance	Execute practitioner contracts on time; ensure contract deliverables are fulfilled with cultural integrity; track expenditures and report fiscal compliance quarterly.
Data collection & monitoring of program deliverables	Gather, track, and monitor program data for alignment with MIMO outcomes and consolidate into quarterly reports for OHA S&I on time; ensure contract deliverables are fulfilled with cultural integrity; track expenditures and report fiscal compliance quarterly.
Coordinate and participate in site visits	Coordinate and participate in quarterly site visits with OHA Staff (e.g. S&I, R&E, OHA leadership) with each visit results in an action log identifying strengths, challenges, and follow up steps, with 80% of identified action items addressed by the next reporting cycle.
Facilitate stakeholder & community engagement	Convene quarterly partnership meetings with 100% attendance from partners; co-lead at least 1 community presentation or workshop annually with practitioners; engage at least 25% or more of participants’ ‘ohana in presentations/workshops with their full and informed consent.
Hours & cost efficiency	Quarterly time and cost reports submitted to OHA S&I within 10 business days of quarter end; with at least 90% of quarterly work completed within the anticipated 250 – 500 annual hour range, unless otherwise approved by OHA S&I due to program needs.

3. **Coordinate contracted partnership service delivery** to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and their ‘ohana.

Planned Services	Service Detail
Cultural Healing & Identity Programs	Incorporate Native Hawaiian cultural practices, language, genealogy, and spiritual healing to foster a sense of identity, belonging, and purpose. Facilitate workshops with kūpuna and cultural practitioners.
Restorative Justice Circles	Implement culturally grounded ho‘oponopono processes and peacemaking circles to address harm, rebuild trust, and support reintegration with families and communities.
Substance Abuse Treatment & Mental Health Services	Offer trauma-informed counseling, substance abuse recovery programs, and culturally rooted healing modalities that address underlying causes of incarceration.
Transitional & Reentry Support	Develop individualized reentry plans including housing navigation, employment placement, family reunification support, and mentorship from formerly incarcerated Native Hawaiians.
Legal Aid & Advocacy	Provide legal support for expungement, parole hearings, and navigating systemic barriers; advocate for policy changes that address disparities affecting Native Hawaiians.

4. **Develop and submit progress reports** and implement program monitoring.

Reporting Timeline (FY26)	Deliverables for Reporting
Q1 (July – September 2025) Pre-Implementation	• Release of Funds request to BOT via Action Item • Initial goals/planned participant numbers
Q2 (October – December 2025) Program Launch	• Establishment of partnerships with sites, service providers, and cultural practitioners • Early baseline data collection
Q3 (January – March 2026) Service Delivery	• Progress report on service delivery (cultural, educational, and reentry support) • Preliminary participant outcome data (education, housing stability, employment – early indicators only) • Documentation of cultural and restorative justice activities • Financial expenditure report for Q2-Q3
Q4 (April – June 2026) EOY Evaluation	• Updated participant outcomes (education, housing stability, employment) with available data • Comparative analysis of recidivism rates (program participants vs. baseline) • Beneficiary and stakeholder feedback summary • Recommendations for scaling or adjusting services • Final fiscal year budget reconciliation report

5. **Facilitate partnership and stakeholder co-management** with justice, community, and cultural partners.

Stakeholders	Partnership Agreements to Establish
Judiciary of Hawai‘i (Courts, Probation, Specialty Courts)	Agreement to integrate restorative justice and culturally based diversion/reentry programs into sentencing and probation alternatives.
Native Hawaiian Nonprofit Organizations	Partnership contracts for delivery of cultural healing, mentoring, transitional housing, job placement, and substance abuse treatment.
Health Providers (DOH, Community Health Centers, Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems)	MOUs for trauma-informed counseling, substance abuse recovery, mental health care, and culturally rooted health services.
Legal Aid & Advocacy Groups (NHLC)	Partnership to deliver legal services for expungement, parole hearings, and policy advocacy for systemic reform.
Kupuna Councils & Cultural Practitioners	Agreements to conduct ho‘oponopono, cultural identity programs, and mentoring grounded in Native Hawaiian traditions.
State & County law Enforcement Divisions / Hawai‘i Correctional System	Formal MOU to provide access to Native Hawaiian inmates, allow cultural programming within facilities, and share data on recidivism outcomes.

Action Item BF #25-74: Approval for Administration to execute the Pu'uhonua: Restorative Justice program from Strategy and Implementation – Health Outcomes Fiscal Year 2026 Contracts budget.

6. **Provide quarterly reports and presentations** to OHA's Board of Trustees.

Reporting Timeline (FY26)	Reports & Presentations to Board of Trustees
Q1 (July – September 2025)	• Status of partnership agreements and service provider onboarding
Q2 (October – December 2025)	• Progress report on program implementation and service delivery • Presentation on cultural healing and restorative justice activities underway • Preliminary participant outcome data (education, housing, employment) • Data gathering and outline for program case study • Financial update on expenditures to date
Q3 (January – March 2026)	• Mid-year evaluation of program effectiveness • Data dashboard presentation with updated program data tracking • Case study preliminary draft review • Report on challenges, lessons learned, and mid-course adjustments
Q4 (April – June 2026)	• Case study report presentation • Comprehensive year-end program evaluation report • Comparative analysis of recidivism rates against baseline • Beneficiary and community feedback presentation • Fiscal year budget reconciliation and funding recommendations for FY 2027

D. Expected Outcomes & Impact

Goals and Outcomes:

The Pu‘uhonua Restorative Justice Program will:

- Reduce Native Hawaiian incarceration rates within regions served (*MiMO 3.3*).
- Revitalize traditional healing and Mālama ‘Āina practices to promote community well-being.
- Establish partnerships with at least three cultural practitioner organizations.
- Pilot programs at one to two designated Pu‘uhonua sites as demonstration models.

Impact

- Short-term Outputs:
    - **SITE ACTIVATION:** Successful operationalization for at least one community site for restorative justice practices.
    - **SITE COORDINATION:** Contract executed to secure site program coordinator, on-time and within budget.
    - **PRACTITIONER NETWORK:** Contracts executed with at least two cultural practitioner organizations.
    - **SERVICE DELIVERY:** Program beneficiaries engaged in traditional healing, ‘āina-based practices, and restorative justice pathways
    - **TRUST ACCOUNTABILITY:** Quarterly reports and presentations ensure oversight and transparency.

- Short-term Metrics:
    - Immediate access to culturally grounded diversion and reentry services (*MiMO 3.2*).
    - Strengthened partnerships between OHA, cultural practitioners, and justice/community stakeholders.
    - Increased participant sense of belonging, sense of place, and cultural identity (*MiMO 4.1*).

- Long-term Outcomes:
    - SYSTEMS CHANGE: Normalization of restorative justice in Hawai‘i’s justice system, reducing disproportionate Native Hawaiian incarceration statewide.
    - CULTURAL REVITALIZATION: Widespread integration of ‘ike kupuna, ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, and mālama ‘āina practices into community healing.

- THRIVING LĀHUI: Native Hawaiians experience greater well-being, equity, and sovereignty in justice, health, and 'ohana systems.

- Long-term Transformational Metrics:
  - Sustained reduction of incarceration disparities (*MiMO 3.3*).
  - Stronger identity, pride, and cultural practice across generations (*MiMO 4.1*).
  - Restorative justice embedded as a systemic norm rather than a pilot initiative.

E. Financial Considerations

Program Funding (FY26): $200,000

a. Program Coordinator ($100/hour; Max: 1,000 hours/year)
   i. FY26 = $100,000
b. Cultural Practitioner Contracts, Program Operations, Program Evaluation
   i. FY26 = $100,000

F. Preparedness & Response

Administration Commitment:

Administration has conducted due diligence in preparing this Action Item, including:

- Meaningful and robust engagement with beneficiaries, justice communities, potential partner organizations, and cultural practitioners (e.g. NHLC Feasibility Study, Kūpuna Council)
- Identifying potential third-party collaborators, subject to OHA's conflict-of-interest policies.
- Ensuring alignment with OHA's strategic outcomes under *Mana i Mauli Ola*.
- Preparing program oversight structures to ensure accountability and transparency.

G. Community & Stakeholder Support

Hawaiian Legislative Stakeholders

- **Hawai‘i State Legislators**: Support legislative actions and policy reforms necessary to enable effective change, including advocating for laws that prioritize Native Hawaiian land rights and address systemic inequities in the criminal justice system.

- **State Hawaiian Affairs Committees**: Work to pass legislation and policies that support reduction in Native Hawaiian representation in jails and while promoting the integration of restorative justice practices on Native Hawaiian lands.

Hawaiian Civic Clubs and Native Hawaiian Advocacy Groups

- **Hawaiian Civic Clubs & Neighborhood Boards**: Advocate for participation and community empowerment, ensuring the land is used for projects that reflect the values and needs of Native Hawaiian communities.

- **Native Hawaiian organizations** (e.g., **Papa Ola Lokahi, Na Pu‘uwai, Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation):** Play a key role in voicing the needs and desires of the community and ensuring that land-use decisions align with cultural practices and the restoration of traditional Hawaiian governance systems.

Federal and State Agencies

- **Hawai‘i State Judiciary**: Provides legal and systematic guidance to help ensure that the program is having an effect on Native Hawaiian recidivism rates

Native Hawaiian Cultural Practitioners and Scholars

- **Kūpuna Council**: Provide guidance on cultural practices related to land stewardship, management, and the creation of spaces for healing, restorative justice, and community rebuilding.

- **Cultural Consultants and Practitioners**: Work with OHA to ensure the land and its uses are aligned with traditional Hawaiian practices and values, particularly in relation to healing, reconciliation, and justice.

IV. TIMEFRAME

By Q4 FY27, the Pu‘uhonua Restorative Justice program will reduce Native Hawaiian incarceration rates by 3.2% or more within region(s) served (*MiMO 3.3*), while revitalizing traditional healing and Mālama ‘Āina practices to promote community well-being. This will be achieved by establishing partnerships with one to three cultural practitioner organizations during FY26 and piloting programs at

one to two designated Pu‘uhonua sites. Long-term impact will be documented through follow-up surveys showing sustained mental, emotional, and physical health improvements, and increased community engagement metrics demonstrating systemic healing and socio-economic stability for Native Hawaiians.

V. BUDGET AUTHORIZATION

Funding for the Pu‘uhonua Restorative Justice Program is contingent on approval of the FY26 Biennium Budget allotment request under program - 7130.

VI. BUDGET CERTIFICATION

The following is the certification by the Chief Financial Officer that the funds are available:

_____

Ryan H. Lee

Interim Chief Financial Officer

Date: _____

VII. RECOMMENDATION

Approval for Administration to:

1) Execute the Pu‘uhonua: Restorative Justice program from Strategy and Implementation – Health Outcomes Fiscal Year 2026 Contracts budget.;

2) Execute and/or procure all necessary agreements, instruments, applications, and other appropriate documents necessary for due diligence to engage and administer the Pu‘uhonua Restorative Justice Program;

3) Appropriate funds up to $200,000 [Contingent on approval of the FY26 Biennium Budget allotment request under program - 7130.] to cover necessary costs incurred for, or associated with the administration of the Pu‘uhonua Restorative Justice Program; and

4) Take all other reasonable actions necessary and appropriate to implement the foregoing.

Action Item BF #25-74: Approval for Administration to execute the Pu‘uhonua: Restorative Justice program from Strategy and Implementation – Health Outcomes Fiscal Year 2026 Contracts budget.

VIII. ALTERNATIVES

A. Take no action. Cease all further efforts.

B. Further information is needed. Do not Approve and authorize the CEO to delegate to OHA administration the authority to allot, encumber, and expend any and all funds allocated in the OHA Fiscal Year 2026 Core Operating Budget under Program 7130 (Health Outcomes) to engage and administer the Pu‘uhonua Restorative Justice Program;

IX. REFERENCES

1. https://www.oha.org/wp-content/uploads/MiMO_StrategicPlan-1.pdf.

2. https://www.oha.org/about/

Mana i Mauli Ola

FY2026 Pu‘uhonua Restorative Justice Program Implementation Plan

PU’UHONUA
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

PRESENTED BY

Strategy & Implementation

Health Outcomes

OHA
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Overview

Project Name	**Puʻuhonua Restorative Justice Program**
Owner(s)/Lead(s)	**Kūʻikeokalani Kamakea-ʻŌhelo & Strategy Consultant**
Description	Shifting from punitive to restorative justice through culturally grounded healing, accountability, and reconnection to ʻohana, ʻāina, and ʻike kupuna. This program restores individuals as vital members of their communities by embracing traditional healing, mālama ʻāina, ʻōlelo Hawaiʻi, and cultural values.

Goals & Outcomes

The Puʻuhonua Restorative Justice Program will:

- Reduce Native Hawaiian incarceration rates within regions served (MiMO 3.3).
- Revitalize traditional healing and Mālama ʻĀina practices to promote community well-being.
- Establish partnerships with at least three cultural practitioner organizations.
- Pilot programs at one to two designated Puʻuhonua sites as demonstration models.

Alignment & Impact

- 3.2 Establishment of a fully functional, high quality, culturally adapted, primary Native Hawaiian Health System which coordinates effective wellness activities/programs; (E Ola Mau a Mau)
- 3.3 Decrease the number /percent of Native Hawaiians in jails and prison
- 4.1 Preservation and perpetuation of Hawaiian language, culture, traditions, identity and sense of lāhui

Program Description

On-Site Program Coordinator

Contract: $100/hour, up to 1,000 hrs annually x 2 years (max $200,000)
Primary Role: Manage daily operations at Pu‘uhonua site(s)

- Oversee site logistics and operationalization
- Support practitioners and ensure contract deliverables
- Monitor and coordinate services for participants and ‘ohana
- Collect data and manage site-level reporting
- Maintain stakeholder partnerships; facilitate community co-management
- Submit quarterly reports and presentations to S&I project manager

OHA Strategy & Implementation (S&I) Staff

OHA Staff Role: Director or Strategy Consultant designated as Project Manager (no additional compensation)
Primary Role: Provide strategic oversight, fiscal accountability, site visit monitoring, and Board reporting

- Ensure alignment with Mana I Mauli Ola outcomes (MiMO 3.2. 3.3, 4.1)
- Manage contractual obligations, fiscal oversight, and compliance with OHA polices
- Review Program Coordinator’s quarterly reports; track progress towards outcomes
- Conduct Pu‘uhonua site visits for program observation and accountability; coordinate with R&E for evaluation support
- Present Program updates, progress and impact to ELT and Board of Trustees
- Support development of strategic partnerships (justice agencies, funders, statewide networks)
- Recommend program adjustments, evaluation enhancements, and resource alignment as needed

Community Engagement & Stakeholders

Internal Stakeholders

- Strategy & Implementation Health Outcomes Staff – Director & Strategy Consultant
- Community Engagement
- Advocacy
- Research & Evaluation
- Communications

Community Engagement

- Practitioners will co-lead community presentations and workshops with the Program Coordinator to strengthen awareness and support for the Pu‘uhonua Restorative Justice Program. At least one presentation/workshop will be held each year, with 25% or more of participants’ ‘ohana engaged through their full and informed consent

External Stakeholders

- On-site Program Coordinator
- Identified Pu‘uhonua Site(s):
  - Nation of Hawai‘i (Waimānalo, O‘ahu);
  - Ahupua‘a ‘O Kahana State Park (Kahana, O‘ahu);
  - Pu‘uhonua ‘O Wai‘anae (Wai‘anae, O‘ahu)
- Native Hawaiian Cultural Practitioners and Scholars
- Hawaiian Legislative Stakeholders
- Hawaiian Civic Clubs & Neighborhood Boards
- Native Hawaiian Advocacy Groups
- Federal & State Agencies
- Legal & Property Stakeholders

Pu‘uhonua Restorative Justice Program

Scope & Implementation Approach

Budget Forecast

Budget: $200,000.00

- Program Funding (FY26): $200,000.00
  - Program Coordinator ($100.00/hour x up to 1,000 hours annually) FY26 = $100,000.00
  - Cultural Practitioner Contracts, Program Operations, Program Evaluation FY26 = $100,000.00

Deliverables

- Traditional healing and restorative practices
- Design & deliver ‘āina-based engagement & cultural revitalization
- Offer coaching & capacity building
- Participate in the R&E of the program
- Collaborate & build healthy, sustainable working partnerships
- Engage w/ community stakeholders

Timeline

Timeline & Key Activities

A.I. DUE:	B&F Sept. 10, 2025
MATERIALS DUE:	Sept. 11, 2025
CMTE. MTG. DATE:	Sept. 17, 2025
BOT MTG. DATE:	Sept. 18, 2025

Partnership Agreements Finalized ***September 2025***

Participant Enrollment ***October 2025***

Services Launched at Sites ***November 2025***

1st Case Management Reviews Complete *BOT Update ***December 2025***

Re-entry Plans Developed ***January 2026***

Mid-Year Evaluation of Program *Stakeholder Roundtable ***February 2026***

Trustee Briefing (Mid-Year Outcomes & Adjustments) ***March 2026***

Expanded Re-entry Supports ***April 2026***

Program Participant Feedback Collected ***May 2026***

Year-end Program Evaluation ***June 2026***

Recidivism Rate Analysis *Final Trustee Briefing ***July 2026***

Request for Funding Release ***FY27***

Critical Information & Next Steps

Determine Approval of Action Item

- Authorize the CEO to delegate to OHA administration the authority to allot, encumber, and expend funds allocated in the OHA Fiscal Year 2026 Core Operating Budget to engage and administer the Pu‘uhonua Restorative Justice Program.

Strategic & Cultural Guidance

- Share mana‘o on program alignment with OHA priorities, key objectives, and cultural values to emphasize in shaping future leaders.

Partnership & Pilina Support

- Recommend or help connect with partners, organizations, and leaders who can strengthen the program’s reach and impact.

MAHALO NUI!
NĪNAU?

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE (BF)

DATE: Wednesday September 17, 2025
TIME: 11:00 a.m
PLACE: Remote Meeting by Interactive Internet Zoom Meetings Conference Technology and in-person at OHA Mauli Ola Boardroom

II. New Business

C. **Action Item BF #25-75 -** Approval of funding for Āina Aupuni Hawaiʻi documentary on the legacy of the ʻāina through Hawaiʻi's complex social and political history and proposal for a living trust in the amount of **$135,100.00.***

OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Action Item

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

BF #25-75

Action Item Issue: Approval of funding for Āina Aupuni Hawai‘i documentary on the legacy of the ‘āina through Hawai‘i’s complex social and political history and proposal for a living trust in the amount of **$135,100.00.**

Prepared by: Sep 11, 2025

Stacy Kealohalani Ferreira — Date
Pouhana/CEO

Reviewed by: Sep 11, 2025

Summer Sylva — Date
Board of Trustees Chief of Staff

Reviewed by: Sep 11, 2025

Grace Chen — Date
Budget Chief

Reviewed by: Sep 11, 2025

Everett Ohta — Date
General Counsel

Reviewed by: Sep 11, 2025

Luana Alapa — Date
Chairperson, Committee on Budget and Finance

Action Item Approval of funding for Āina Aupuni Hawai‘i documentary on the legacy of the ‘āina through Hawai‘i’s complex social and political history and proposal for a living trust in the amount of **$135,100.00.**

I. PROPOSED ACTION

Approve the reallocation up to $135,100 of Fiscal Year 2026 from Personnel and Fringe for ‘Āina Aupuni Hawai‘i Documentary in the amount up to $135,100.

II. ISSUE

Whether the Board of Trustees should approve the reallocation up to $135,100 of Fiscal Year 2026 from Personnel and Fringe for ‘Āina Aupuni Hawai‘i Documentary in the amount up to $135,100.

III. BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION

On Thursday, September 4th, 2025, Dr. Jon Osorio and members of his project team provided a project overview and a request for funding support for the production of ‘Āina Aupuni Hawai‘i—Hawai‘i’s Kingdom Lands Documentary to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees.

I. Project Overview

‘Āina Aupuni Hawai‘i—Hawai‘i’s Kingdom Lands is a one-hour documentary that explores the history of Hawai‘i’s Crown and Government lands, the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, and the longstanding issue of the underpayment of OHA’s 20% pro rata share of Public Land Trust revenues.

Led by respected scholars and filmmakers, the project combines archival research, expert interviews, and community voices to deliver a compelling and culturally grounded narrative. The film aims to educate, inspire, and empower viewers while advancing OHA’s mission to protect Native Hawaiian rights.

II. Project Team

- Dr. Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwo‘ole Osorio**,** Dean, Hawai‘inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge
- Joy Chong-Stannard, Award-winning filmmaker and archival researcher
- Craig Howes, Director, Center for Biographical Research
- Victoria Nalani Kneubuhl, Playwright and author contributing to narrative development

III. Historical & Policy Context

- Hawaiian stewardship of ‘āina sustained thriving populations through the ahupua‘a system.
- The 1893 U.S.-backed overthrow of Queen Lili‘uokalani dismantled Native governance.
- The 1895 Land Act merged Crown and Government lands, enabling widespread leasing.
- The 1900 Organic Act mandated trust revenues benefit Hawai‘i’s people, but control remained with corporations and the U.S. military.
- The 1959 Admissions Act reaffirmed the Public Land Trust and allocated 20% of revenues to Native Hawaiian betterment via OHA.
- Despite this mandate, incomplete land inventories and accounting issues have led to chronic underpayment to OHA.

Action Item Approval of funding for Āina Aupuni Hawai‘i documentary on the legacy of the ‘āina through Hawai‘i’s complex social and political history and proposal for a living trust in the amount of **$135,100.00.**

IV. Budget Summary

Category	Cash Need	In-Kind	Total Cost
A. Personnel	$39,000	$40,000	**$79,000**
B. Production	$37,000	$0	**$37,000**
C. Travel	$16,800	$0	**$16,800**
D. Post-Production	$39,300	$0	**$39,300**
E. Misc./Supplies & Incidentals	$3,000	$0	**$3,000**
Total	**$135,100**	**$40,000**	**$175,100**

Kanaeokana – Kamehameha Schools is funding $40,000 of the production budget.

V. Strategic Significance for OHA

- Educates the public on the illegal seizure of the Hawaiian Kingdom Crown and Government lands
- Raises awareness about the State of Hawai’i’s failure in paying the Office of Hawaiian Affairs its fair share - 20% Public Land Trust.
- Equips OHA with a compelling advocacy tool for legislative and policy engagement
- Preserves and uplifts Native Hawaiian voices and narratives for future generations

V. TIMEFRAME

Immediate action is recommended as the production is set to commence on October 3, 2025. The production is expected to be completed within a year of the October 3, 2025 start date.

VI. BUDGET AUTHORIZATION

On July 25, 2025, a new fringe benefit rate was announced. According to Finance Memorandum No. 25-11, the new interim rate for Fiscal Year 2026 is 59.54%. This is a 4.71% decrease from the previous rate of 64.25%, which was used as a placeholder in the OHA's current FY26 budget. This change results in a $592,488 reduction in projected personnel costs for the Core Operating Budget, with $436,143 of that amount expected to be a budget surplus. Table 1 and Table 2 provide further details.

Action Item Approval of funding for Āina Aupuni Hawai‘i documentary on the legacy of the ‘āina through Hawai‘i’s complex social and political history and proposal for a living trust in the amount of **$135,100.00.**

Table 1. Core Operating Budget

Line #		FY26	FY27
1	Spending Limit	$ 51,686,652	$ 53,848,221
2	Operating Expenses	$ 51,684,081	$ 50,801,539
3	Excess/Deficit as of 6/30/25	$ 2,571	$ 3,046,682

Table 2. Fringe Rate Change: Impact on Personnel Costs

Line #		FY26	FY27
4	Fringe Adjustment Savings (based on 15% vacancy rate)	$ 592,488	TBD
5	Less Proposed Uses:		
6	Salary Adjustment & Recruiting Signing Bonus (BF #25-69, approved 9/4/2025)	$ (158,916)	$ (8,916)
7	**Total Funds Available (Undesignated)**	**$ 436,143**	**$ (8,916)**

The Budget Chief certifies that **$135,100** is available.

Grace Chen

Budget Chief

Date: Sep 11, 2025

VII. BUDGET CERTIFICATION

The following is the certification by the Chief Financial Officer that the funds are available:

Ryan H. Lee

Interim Chief Financial Officer

Date: Sep 11, 2025

VIII. RECOMMENDATION

Approve the reallocation up to $135,100 of Fiscal Year 2026 from Personnel and Fringe for ‘Āina Aupuni Hawai‘i Documentary in the amount up to $135,100.

IX. ALTERNATIVES

A. Take no action.

B. Provide funding for the balance of the project not funded by other parties.

C. Provide funding for specific budget categories.

Action Item Approval of funding for Āina Aupuni Hawai‘i documentary on the legacy of the ‘āina through Hawai‘i’s complex social and political history and proposal for a living trust in the amount of **$135,100.00.**

X. ATTACHMENTS

‘Āina Aupuni Hawai‘i Documentary Treatment
‘Āina Aupuni Hawai‘i Documentary Budget
‘Āina Aupuni Hawai‘i Documentary Project Team Biographies

Joy Chong-Stannard is a Hawai‘i based independent filmmaker with extensive experience in archival research of historic photographs, moving images, and historic documents that lend a visual dynamic to her portrayals of island history. The director and editor of *A Nation Within*, the story of America’s annexation of Hawai‘i, she has also been responsible for *Betrayal*, the award-winning nationally broadcast docudrama about the overthrow of Hawai‘i’s last reigning monarch; *1946: The Great Hawai‘i Sugar Strike*; *The Great Hawai‘i Dock Strike*; and *Getting Somewheres*, an oral history-based drama about Hawai‘i’s working-class women. She has directed many documentaries for PBS Hawai‘i, including most recently the nationally released production *Canefield Songs: Holehole Bushi,* and most recently, *The Struggle Never Ends!,* about Hawai‘i labor organizer and community activist Ah Quon McElrath. She also directed, edited and with Victoria Nalani Kneubuhl and Craig Howes co-produced six programs in the *Biography Hawai‘i* series: *Maiki Aiu Lake* (Emmy nominated), *Harriet Bouslog, Ruth Ke‘elikōlani*, *Koji Ariyoshi*, and *Joseph Nāwahī*, and *Ka Hana Kapa,* a nationally released documentary about the revival of the ancient art of Hawaiian bark cloth.

Craig Howes has been the Director of the Center for Biographical Research since 1997, the Co-Editor of *Biography: An International Quarterly* since 1994, and a Professor of English at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa since 1980. The co-editor of *The Value of Hawai‘i* (2010) and *The Value of Hawai‘i 3—Hulihia, the Turning* (2020) with Jonathan Kaye Kamakawiwo‘ole Osorio, he co-produced and served as executive scholar for the six programs in the *Biography Hawai‘i* television documentary series, was a board member for Kumu Kahua Theatre for ten years, and remains active in Living History projects through the Hawai‘i Pono’ī Foundation. A co-producer for the Hawai‘i Public Radio weekly radio show *Aloha Shorts*, featuring Hawai‘i’s writers, actors, and musicians, he has served as the principal and consulting humanities scholar, the project director, and an institutional co-sponsor for many Hawai‘i Council for the Humanities projects, and has for many years been a judge and consulting scholar for Hawai‘i History Day, with a special emphasis on documentary entries.

Victoria Nalani Kneubuhl is a Hawai‘i playwright and author. She holds a master’s degree in drama and theatre from the University of Hawai‘i. Her many plays have been performed in Hawai`i and the continental United States, and have toured to Britain, Asia, and the Pacific. Two anthologies of her plays, *Hawai‘i Nei: Island Plays,* and *Navigating Islands* are available through the University of Hawai`i Press. Her mystery novels *Murder Casts a Shadow, Murder Leaves Its Mark,* and *Murder Frames the Scene* were also published by UH Press, and her latest novel, *Realms of Islands,* a Pacific fantasy is forthcoming. She has written numerous living history performance programs for historic sites and community organizations, the most notable being *January 1893*, performed over a three-day period in 1993 at the ceremonies observing the 100th anniversary of the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy. Hawai‘i Pono‘ī Coalition has continued to produce her living history series *Mai Poina* which includes *The Overthrow, The Trial of a Queen, The Annexation Debate* and *Ke Kauā o Ka Lāhui, The Life of Prince Jonah Kūhiō.* She is the writer and co-producer for the television series *Biography Hawaii,* six documentaries that have aired on PBS Hawai‘i. She has written and co-produced three documentaries for the Center for Labor Education in Hawai‘i, and sixteen short documentaries for the Department of Education. She also wrote the libretto for the upcoming Hawai‘i Opera Theatre production of *Kamalehua: The Sheltering Tree*, on the life of Hawaiian hero, Timoteo Ha‘alilio. She also worked for many years as an Education Director at several historic sites in

Hawai‘i. In 1994, she was the recipient of the prestigious Hawai‘i Award for Literature and in 2006 she received the Eliot Cades Award for Literature.

Dr. Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwo‘ole Osorio is the Dean of Hawai‘inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge. Dr. Osorio received his PhD in History from the University of Hawai‘i in 1996 and was on the faculty of the Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, serving as director of the Center from 2003 to 2008. As a professor, he has collaborated with numerous other faculty and students in many departments to bring recognition for Indigenous knowledge, championing Hawaiian language, performing arts, and the study of Hawaiian and Pacific Islands history and contemporary issues through conferences, forums and publications. He has published widely, with two of his books, *Dismembering Lāhui* (2002) and *The Value of Hawai‘i* (2010), co-edited with Craig Howes, winning Palapala awards from the Hawai‘i Publishers Association. Dean Osorio serves on several boards and committees in support of Hawaiian sovereignty and protection of sacred places in Hawai‘i. He is a composer, singer and Hawaiian music recording artist since 1975.

ʻĀINA AUPUNI HAWAIʻI Documentary Project
DRAFT BUDGET (v7-30-25)

	A	B	C	D
1		**CASH NEED**	**In-Kind**	**TOTAL COST**
2	**BUDGET TOTAL:**	**$135,100**	**$40,000**	**$175,100**
3				
4	**ITEM**			
5				
6	**A. PRODUCTION PERSONNEL**			
7	Producer (Osorio)	0	20,000	20,000
8	Producer (Howes)	0	20,000	20,000
9	Producer/Director/Editor (Chong-Stannard) (Flat fee)	19,000	0	19,000
10	Producer/Writer (Kneubuhl) (Flat fee)	18,000	0	18,000
13	Narrator	2,000	0	2,000
14	***A. Subtotal (Personnel)***	***39,000***	***40,000***	***$79,000***
15				
16	**B. PRODUCTION**			
17	Video Prod. Pkg (20 days x $1400)	28,000	0	28,000
18	Cranes, jib arm rentals	3000	0	3000
19	Portable Hard Drives	6000	0	6000
20	***B. Subtotal (Production)***	***37,000***	***0***	***$37,000***
21				
22	**C. TRAVEL**			
23	Airfare (RT-Neighbor Islands $200 x 5 people x 6 trips)	6000	0	6000
24	Ground Transportation ($150/day x 6 trips x 2 days)	1800	0	1800
25	Lodging ($250 x 3 x 6 trips)	4500	0	4500
26	Per Diem ($75/day x 5 people x 2 days x 6)	4500	0	4500
27	***C. Subtotal (Travel)***	***16,800***	***0***	***$16,800***

‘ĀINA AUPUNI HAWAI‘I Documentary Project
DRAFT BUDGET (v7-30-25)

	A	B	C	D
28				
29	**D. POST-PRODUCTION**			
30	Online Editor (Flat fee)	6,000	0	6,000
31	Video Graphic Design ($50/hr. x 100)	6,000	0	6,000
32	Original Music Score (composer, musicians) (Flat fee)	10,000	0	10,000
34	Closed Captioning ($800/hr.)	800	0	800
35	Audio Post/Design (Flat fee)	6,000	0	6000
36	Transcriber Services ($50/hr. x 30)	1500	0	1500
37	Editing Supplies	500	0	500
38	Archival rights, duplication, fees	5000	0	5000
39	Errors & Ommissions Insurance for Broadcast	3,500	0	3,500
40	***D. Subtotal (Post-Production)***	***39,300***	***0***	***$39,300***
41				
42	**E. MISC./SUPPLIES & INCIDENTALS**	3,000	***0***	$3,000
43	***E. Subtotal (Misc./Supplies & Incidentals***	***3,000***	***0***	***$3,000***

ʻĀina Aupuni Hawaiʻi—Hawaiʻi's Kingdom Lands

Introduction

This treatment is inspired by the Manu o Kū scenario of a future in which Hawaiian values are increasingly embraced and embodied by leaders in business, politics, and civil society—a future in which access to power, influence, and opportunity is driven by those inside Hawaiʻi. This vision includes a widespread adoption of fundamental Hawaiian values, tranforming how people and institutions engage with one another to create a more communal and connected collective. *ʻĀina Aupuni Hawaiʻi—Hawaiʻi's Kingdom Lands* is one stepping stone towards realizing this future. One hour long, our documentary follows the trail of the ʻāina through the complex social and political history of our islands. This compelling story will be told through interviews with scholars and community voices and through archival photographs and moving images that have recorded Hawaiʻi's history and people.

Treatment

ʻĀina is the living soul of Hawaiʻi, in all its beauty, its striking landscapes, and incredible bio-diversity. We begin by celebrating the reverance, respect, and reciprocity that informed Hawaiians' relationship with this environment. Knowing the natural world was the source of life and sustenance, they achieved an ecological balance through sustainable land management founded on a regenerative approach. They also knew this relationship was rooted in an eternal partnership with the ancestors, and that the well-being of their community and future generations depended on the well-being of the ʻāina. Through the ahupuaʻa system, managed by district chiefs, konohiki, and makaʻāinana, land and water were cared for from the uplands to the sea, supporting as many as 800,000 to 1,000,000 people. Recognizing this as a circular economy, Hawaiian and international environmentalists advocate for a return to regenerative rather than

wholly extractive agricultural and business practices. We will also document how ʻāina was venerated through Hawaiian religion, artistic practice (ʻoli, mele, hula, and moʻolelo), and especially through cultural values that emphasized concern for the collective community.

Western contact brought profound change to the ʻāina and the Hawaiian people, as invasive species began to transform the landscape. By the 1790s, ungulates—cattle, goats, and sheep—were devouring native plants and destroying ground cover. New plants intruded on native species, and mosquitoes transmited avian disease to native forest birds. Foreign diseases caused a horrific decline in the Hawaiian human population to fewer than 150,000 by 1823, leaving large portions of the ʻāina uninhabited. Rampant individualism, the drive for personal wealth, a foreign money-based system, and a view of ʻāina as a commodity to be extracted without regenerative practices radically disrupted the Hawaiian collective value system.

We tell the story of the establishment of the Kingdom, focusing on the remarkable reign of Kauikeaouli, Kamehameha III. Attempting through modernization to protect his kingdom, he established a Hawaiian Constitution, a Legislature, and international recognition through foreign treaties. Private property rights were granted through the Māhele, and most importantly, Kauikeaouli set aside Crown, Government, and Kuleana Lands. *ʻĀina Aupuni Hawaiʻi* shows how ʻāina was dispersed during this transformative period, drawing special attention to the 1865 Hawaiʻi Supreme Court decision that declared the Crown lands were the special trust of the reigning monarch. It was also at this time that Kingdom lands began to be leased to plantations to generate revenue, and vast amounts of the ʻāina were added to the plantations in addition to those lands already owned by sugar planters.

We then document the events leading to the overthrow of the kingdom. Despite their profound losses, leaving fewere than 50,000 by 1875, though Hawaiians still made up the

majority of the population, even as people from elsewhere began swearing allegiance to the Aupuni—or not—and became voting citizens. By the 1870s, the American military was also taking a stronger interest in Hawai‘i as a strategic location. In 1887, the Bayonet Constitution forced on King David Kalākaua by business interests placed control of the legislature in the hands of the business community. One of its first acts was to lease Pu‘uloa, Pearl Harbor, to the United States for use as a naval dry-dock. Queen Lili‘uokalani responded to her people's outrage by proposing a new constitution, provoking an opportunistic, American-supported overthrow of the kingdom. A main objective of the resulting Provisional Government and Republic of Hawai‘i was annexation to the United States, but Hawaiian popular movements prevented a successful vote in Congress. At the same time, the Republic of Hawai‘i passed the 1895 Land Act, erasing the distinction between the Government and the Crown lands, no longer considered a special trust, and declaring the right to lease or sell them.

We show how the sugar and emerging pineapple industries and new forms of land use continued to increase the wealth of a select few. Both industries required large water diversions that devastated delicate ecosystems and native taro farming, further disrupting Hawaiians' close relationship to ‘āina and collective values, often by forcing them into Honolulu tenements. Crown and Government lands now sustained a semi-feudal state built on extractive and harmful uses of the ‘āina, adding thousands more foreign laborers, primarily from Puerto Rico, Korea, and the Philippines, to the large numbers from China, Japan, and Portugal already present. Because of the Spanish-American war in 1898, the US Congress claimed Hawai‘i as a naval installation through a joint resolution, without any consideration of the wishes of the people.

Despite stipulations in the Organic Act of 1900 that revenues from the "ceded" Crown and Government lands would benefit the people of Hawai‘i, leases granted during the Republic

meant that sugar, pineapple, and ranch interests controlled huge portions of these lands during the Territory's early years. Its legislature initiated a Public Homesteading program drawing on these lands, but it was aimed at recruiting American and European settlers. In response, US Congressional representative Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole and other Hawaiian leaders introduced the Hawaiian Homes Act to create homesteads for the native people. The version eventually passed imposed a 50% blood quantum requirement, on the assumption that those with more Hawaiian "blood" needed more assistance than those with less. A racist conception of who Hawaiians were now competed with their Kanaka ancestral identity linking them to the ‘āina.

As with the Territorial Homesteading Act, the compromises required for passage also meant that the 200,000 acres of Crown/Government lands set aside benefited the sugar and ranching industries by granting those industries almost unlimited access to the remaining public lands. Despite the Organic Act, then, Crown and Government lands remained largely under the control of the "Big Five" corporations and the US military, with the Republican Party majorities in the Territorial and the US House and Senate serving as their Legislative arms.

The Admissions Act conferring statehood in 1959 transferred 1.4 million acres of the "ceded" lands back to Hawai‘i as a public trust with five designated uses: 1) support of public schools and other public educational systems; 2) the betterment of conditions for Native Hawaiians; 3) development of farm and home ownership as widely as possible; 4) public improvements; and 5) provision of lands for public use. But the state government did little to meet its obligation to use the Crown and Government lands to benefit the people of Hawai‘i, and specifically, Native Hawaiians and native Hawaiian culture.

During the following decades, as the sugar and pineapple industries declined, and tourism, the military and land development become the primary sources of revenue in Hawai‘i,

attitudes were emerging within new generations, the product of a resurgence in commitment to Hawaiian rights and values, a deep concern about the environment, frustration over the rising costs of living, and a strong reinterest in the Kingdom Lands.

Profoundly influenced by these convictions, in 1978 the State constitutional convention established the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), stipulating that twenty percent of the Crown land revenues would be distributed to this new agency. But OHA has never received the full twenty percent, in part because the state has no complete inventory of these lands, and therefore the total revenue cannot be calculated. The passage of Act 176 in 2009, mandating that public lands cannot be sold or transferred without a two-thirds majority vote also created virtual moratorium regarding the former Crown and Government Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i. And it still is not clear how these lands are actually being used, or not.

‘Āina Aupuni Hawai‘i ends with a question: Where should we go from here? It is a miracle and gift that the lands set aside by Kauikeaouli remain largely intact and still recognized as for the benefit of Hawai‘i’s people. Having told their story, we propose that these lands should be devoted to reviving Hawaiian values and relationships to the land. For these lands to become a proper public trust for the people of Hawai‘i, we must recognize and honor the fact that the Kingdom lands are first and foremost a Native Hawaiian trust. They must remain inalienable, and devoted to those purposes forever.

But how can this happen? We document current revivals of the ahupua‘a system, informed by advocacy of a circular economy approach devoted to healing the previous extractive processes of the sugar and pineapple industries and the often profoundly damaging consequences of military use. We also highlight land use movements seeking to provide homes and develop new economies that will benefit as many of Hawai‘i’s people as possible while protecting and

nurturing our environment. An immediate and comprehensive inventory of the Kingdom Lands would be a first step toward these goals.

We conclude with the voices of others, young and old, sharing dreams and plans about how these lands could truly benefit the people of Hawai‘i. We close with tributes to the ‘āina, reaffirming our interconnectedness and our responsibility for its careful and thoughful care—by and for ourselves, and all future generations.

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MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE (BF)

DATE: Wednesday September 17, 2025
TIME: 11:00 a.m
PLACE: Remote Meeting by Interactive Internet Zoom Meetings Conference Technology and in-person at OHA Mauli Ola Boardroom

II. New Business

D. Action Item BF #25-76 – Approve the reallocation of funds from Fiscal Year 2026 Personnel & Fringe budget to the fund International Cultural Arts Network (ICAN) in the amount of **$5,000.00** for the September 18, 2025 *Chief of War* Season 1 Finale Screening at the Hawaiʻi Theatre.*

OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Action Item

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

BF #25-76

Action Item Issue: Approve the reallocation of funds from Fiscal Year 2026 Personnel and Fringe Budget to fund the International Cultural Arts Network (ICAN) in the amount of **$5,000.00** for the Sept 18, 2025 Chief of War Season 1 Finale Screening at the Hawai‘i Theater.

Prepared by: 09/11/2025
Kaialiʻi Kahele — Date
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Reviewed by: 09/11/2025
Summer Sylva — Date
Board of Trustees, Chief of Staff

Reviewed by: 09/11/2025
Grace Chen — Date
Budget Chief

Reviewed by: 09/11/2025
Luana Alapa — Date
Chairperson, Committee on Budget and Finance

Action Item BF #25-76: Approve the reallocation of funds from Fiscal Year 2026 Personnel and Fringe Budget to fund the International Cultural Arts Network (ICAN) in the amount of $5,000.00 for the Sept 18th, 2025 Chief of War Season 1 Finale Screening at the Hawai‘i Theater.

I. PROPOSED ACTION

Approve the reallocation of funds from Fiscal Year 2026 Personnel and Fringe Budget to fund the International Cultural Arts Network (ICAN) in the amount of $5,000.00 for the Sept 18th, 2025 Chief of War Season 1 Finale Screening at the Hawaii Theater.

II. ISSUE

Whether the Board of Trustees should approve the reallocation of funds from Fiscal Year 2026 Personnel and Fringe Budget to fund the International Cultural Arts Network (ICAN) in the amount of $5,000.00 for the Sept 18th, 2025 Chief of War Season 1 Finale Screening at the Hawaii Theater.

III. BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION

Chief of War is a gripping historical drama set in Hawai‘i, created by Thomas Pa‘a Sibbett and Jason Momoa for Apple TV+. Momoa not only stars in the series but also serves as executive producer. The show premiered on August 1, 2025, and dives into the turbulent final years of the 18th century, when the islands of Hawai‘i, Maui, O‘ahu, and Kaua‘i were locked in conflict. At the heart of the story is Ka‘iana, a warrior chief from Kaua‘i who returns home after traveling abroad and finds himself swept into a brutal campaign for unification—only to turn against it in a dramatic final stand. The series traces the events leading up to the consolidation of the Hawaiian Islands under Kamehameha I, from 1782 to 1810.

The first two episodes premiered on August 1, with new installments released weekly through September 19. Though originally pitched as a limited series, Momoa and Sibbett hinted in July that a second and third season might be on the horizon. Chief of War has earned strong praise from critics, holding a 92% rating on Rotten Tomatoes and a score of 71 on Metacritic, signaling extremely favorable reviews. Notable film critics have called it “a brutal epic” and applauded its commitment to portraying Native Hawaiian history with authenticity.

Founded on April 13, 2023, the International Cultural Arts Network (ICAN) is a Hawai‘i-based nonprofit created by industry veterans Angela Laprete, Brian Keaulana, and Robert Suka. ICAN’s mission is to uplift and empower Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) in the film and television industry—both locally and globally—through storytelling, education, and cultural exchange.

ICAN is working to build a stronger entertainment infrastructure in Hawai‘i by offering master classes in performing arts, screenwriting, and technical crafts. These programs are designed to help local talent gain hands-on experience and prepare for long-term careers in the industry. As the organization grows, it plans to expand into other creative disciplines and storytelling formats. ICAN also partners with unions to open doors for local crew and performers, and supports emerging filmmakers through mentorships, internships, and shadowing opportunities.

Despite the high volume of film and TV productions in Hawai‘i, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders remain underrepresented in the industry. While Pacific Islanders make up 1.4 million of the U.S. population, only 0.4% are Native Hawaiian. In Hawai‘i, roughly 355,000 NHPI residents live in the state, but more than half of Native Hawaiians have moved to the mainland due to limited opportunities and high living costs. ICAN is committed to reversing that trend by investing in workforce development, creating placement pipelines, and building lasting connections beyond the islands.

Action Item BF #25-76: Approve the reallocation of funds from Fiscal Year 2026 Personnel and Fringe Budget to fund the International Cultural Arts Network (ICAN) in the amount of $5,000.00 for the Sept 18th, 2025 Chief of War Season 1 Finale Screening at the Hawai‘i Theater.

The finale episode of Chief of War, titled **"The Black Desert,"** is a highly anticipated worldwide event which will take place on **Thursday, September 18, 2025,** at the historic Hawai‘i Theatre in downtown Honolulu on the island of O‘ahu. The screening is proudly presented by the International Cultural Arts Network, Hawai‘i Tourism Authority, Hawaiian Council, Honolulu Film Office, Kamehameha Schools, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and The Royal Hawaiian Hotel.

IV. TIMEFRAME

Immediate action is recommended as the Season 1 Finale Screening for Chief of War will occur on September 18, 2025.

V. BUDGET AUTHORIZATION

On July 25, 2025, a new fringe benefit rate was announced. According to Finance Memorandum No. 25-11, the new interim rate for Fiscal Year 2026 is 59.54%. This is a 4.71% decrease from the previous rate of 64.25%, which was used as a placeholder in the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA's) current FY26 budget. This change results in a **$592,488** reduction in projected personnel costs for the Core Operating Budget, with **$436,143** of that amount expected to be a budget surplus. Specific to the BOT and BOT Staff budget the projected cost savings is: **$123,914.**

Table 1 and table 2 provide further details.

Table 1. Core Operating Budget

Line #		FY26	FY27
1	Spending Limit	$ 51,686,652	$ 53,848,221
2	Operating Expenses	$ 51,684,081	$ 50,801,539
3	Excess/Deficit as of 6/30/25	$ 2,571	$ 3,046,682

Table 2. Fringe Rate Change: Impact on Personnel Costs

Line #		FY26	FY27
4	Fringe Adjustment Savings (based on 15% vacancy rate)	$ 592,488	TBD
5	Less Proposed Uses:		
6	Salary Adjustment & Recruiting Signing Bonus (BF #25-69, approved 9/4/2025)	$ (158,916)	$ (8,916)
7	**Total Funds Available (Undesignated)**	**$ 436,143**	**$ (8,916)**

OHA along with the Kamehameha Schools and the Hawaiian Council are each contributing **$5,000.00** to support the event finale.

The Budget Chief certifies that **$5,000.00** is available.

Grace Chen
Budget Chief
Date: 09/11/2025

VI. BUDGET CERTIFICATION

The following is the certification by the Chief Financial Officer that the funds are available:

Ryan H. Lee
Interim Chief Financial Officer
Date: 09/11/2025

VII. RECOMMENDATION

Approve the reallocation of funds from Fiscal Year 2026 Personnel and Fringe Budget to fund the International Cultural Arts Network (ICAN) in the amount of $5,000.00 for the Sept 18th, 2025 Chief of War Season 1 Finale Screening at the Hawai‘i Theater.

VIII. ALTERNATIVES

A. Take no action

B. Modify the Proposed Action

IX. ATTACHMENTS

A. Chief of War, Season 1 Finale Invitation

Action Item BF #25-76: Approve the reallocation of funds from Fiscal Year 2026 Personnel and Fringe Budget to fund the International Cultural Arts Network (ICAN) in the amount of $5,000.00 for the Sept 18th, 2025 Chief of War Season 1 Finale Screening at the Hawai‘i Theater.

ATTACHMENT A: Chief of War, Season 1 Finale Invitation



Aloha Kākou,

Please join us for a screening of the
Chief of War Finale "The Black Desert"
Directed by Jason Momoa

Date & Location:
Thursday, September 18, 2025
at the historical ***Hawai‘i Theatre***

Doors open at 6:00PM, Screening begins at 7:30PM, Panel to Follow

RSVP HERE Tuesday, September 16, 2025
Must have a digital or hard copy of your ticket to present at check-in.

This invite is for you and 1 guest, invite is non-transferable

Presented By:
International Cultural Arts Network
Hawai‘i Tourism Authority
Hawaiian Council
Honolulu Film Office
Kamehameha Schools
The Office of Hawaiian Affairs
The Royal Hawaiian Hotel

Age Restriction: The content is rated TV-MA and designed to be viewed by adults, not suitable for children.

Parking: https://www.hawaiitheatre.com/parking/

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE (BF)

DATE: Wednesday September 17, 2025
TIME: 11:00 a.m
PLACE: Remote Meeting by Interactive Internet Zoom Meetings Conference Technology and in-person at OHA Mauli Ola Boardroom

II. New Business

E. Presentations by Administration:

1. **Paid family leave update and implementation plan**

Mana i Mauli Ola

FY2026 Paid Family Leave Implementation Plan

PRESENTED BY

Corey Nakamoto
Human Resources
9/17/25

OHA
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Overview

Project Name: FY26 Project Paid Family Leave
Project owner / lead: Corey Nakamoto
Stakeholders: OHA Team Members
Partners / collaborators: The Hartford & Mercer, Office of Enterprise Technology Services (Hawaii Information Portal)
Project description: Implementation of OHA paid family leave benefit program.
Strategic goals and intended outcomes: Positioning OHA as an employer of choice providing a unique benefit not offered by any other state agency.

Scope & Implementation Approach

Geographic focus: Statewide, all OHA employees

Key phases: Identify vendor, procure contract, transition TDI to Hartford, integration with HIP if possible, pay code creation in HIP

Budget Appropriation: $184,100 in FY26 and $184,100 in FY27

Staffing: OHA HR Paia and Hartford (Third Party Administrator)

Action Plan Matrix & Timeline

FY26 Timeline	Key Actions	Milestones	Deliverables	KPIs
Q1 FY26	Procure contract with Hartford	Vendor selected	Finalize contract	KPI 1
Q2 FY26	Launch PFL program	Transition TDI and rollout PFL benefit	Develop implementation process and credit leave hours in HIP	KPI 2
Q3 FY26	Work with ETS to create leave code in HIP	Testing completed	Code available for use in HIP	KPI 3
Q4 FY26	Monitor and refine program	Identify necessary improvements	Implement improvements	KPI 4

Critical Information & Next Steps

Potential barriers: Inability of Hartford system to integrate with HIP
Mitigation approaches: Manual entry or file upload

Expected impact at completion: Ability for OHA team members to receive paid benefits for qualified leaves, credited vacation and sick leave hours previously used, positive impact on recruitment and retention.



MAHALO NUI!
NINAU?

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE (BF)

DATE: Wednesday September 17, 2025
TIME: 11:00 a.m
PLACE: Remote Meeting by Interactive Internet Zoom Meetings Conference Technology and in-person at OHA Mauli Ola Boardroom

II. New Business

E. Presentations by Administration:

2. Ke Ala Pono: Sex Trafficking Initiative update

Mana i Mauli Ola

FY2026 Ke Ala Pono: Sex Trafficking Initiative Update

KE ALA PONO
SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

PRESENTED BY

Strategy & Implementation

Health Outcomes

OHA
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Overview

Project Name	**Ke Ala Pono Sex Trafficking Prevention Awareness Campaign**
Owner(s)/Lead(s)	**Kūʻikeokalani Kamakea-ʻŌhelo**
Description	This initiative will create a culturally grounded, survivor-informed Sex Trafficking Prevention Awareness Campaign that produces visually compelling informational collateral (posters, flyers, digital assets) for dissemination in high-traffic spaces, (e.g. airport, tourist districts, near military bases, urgent care clinics) as well as community centers and partner facilities. While the original request was designed for a proposed budget of $115,000 for a comprehensive curriculum, the reduced $35,000 allocation by the BOT forces OHA to adjust the full curriculum plan to an awareness campaign that is culturally grounded, survivor-informed and lays the foundation for a larger curriculum.

Goals & Outcomes

The Ke Ala Pono Sex Trafficking Prevention Awareness Campaign will produce:

- Between 300-500 physical collateral pieces printed and distributed.
- Campaign presence in two (2) to three (3) high-traffic sites (e.g. airport, transit hubs, community centers).
- Digital asset library:
    1) Translate materials in at least two languages (e.g. English and ʻōlelo Hawaiʻi, or English and another identified language); and
    2) Between 500 – 1,500 page views and/or between 200 – 500 downloads within FY26

Alignment & Impact

3.1 Increased availability and access to quality, culturally based, and culturally adapted prevention and treatment interventions in ʻohana, schools, and communities; (E Ola Mau a Mau)

Program Description

Outputs

Short-Term Outcomes:	Intermediate Outcomes:	Long-Term Outcomes:
Increased community awareness of trafficking signs and resources; and Improved visibility of reporting hotlines and survivor support services.	Greater recognition of trafficking risks among visitors and residents; Increased calls to trafficking hotlines and referrals to support services.	Reduction in trafficking incidents through prevention and reporting; and Strengthened protection and safety for Native Hawaiian women and girls.

Financial Considerations

Content design & survivor-informed messaging:	Printing & distribution:	Digital asset library design & toolkit:	Evaluation & reporting:
$15,000	$12,000	$5,000	$3,000

While the OHA Health team originally requested $**115,000** to develop a full curriculum in alignment with this recommendation, the BOT reduced the allocation to $**35,000**. This funding level is insufficient for a comprehensive curriculum; however, it can provide a critical opportunity to create a create a visible, impactful awareness campaign that reaches both residents and visitors.

Timeline

By Q4 FY26, the Sex Trafficking Prevention Awareness Campaign will be launched across two to three high-traffic sites, with reports on reach, impact, and recommendations for future expansion efforts (*MiMO 31*). This will be achieved by establishing partnerships with at least two subject matter expert organizations relating to the field of sex trafficking education & victim support. Long-term impact will be documented through reports and recommendations to scale the program towards a fully comprehensive, culturally sensitive curriculum to inform and better equip our State and communities about the dangers, signs, and treatment methods relating to sex trafficking

Timeline & Key Activities

Q1 FY26: Convene partners, outline plan, begin content development

Q2 FY26: Establish and finalize partnership agreements

Q3 FY26: Launch campaign across (3) high-traffic sites

Q4 FY26: Submit BOT report with findings and recommendations for scaling to full curriculum development.

Critical Information & Next Steps

- Launch campaign by Q4 FY26 in 2–3 high-traffic locations.
- Track reach, impact, and community engagement.
- Report outcomes and recommendations for expansion toward a comprehensive curriculum.

MAHALO NUI!
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MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE (BF)

DATE: Wednesday September 17, 2025
TIME: 11:00 a.m
PLACE: Remote Meeting by Interactive Internet Zoom Meetings Conference Technology and in-person at OHA Mauli Ola Boardroom

II. New Business

E. Presentations by Administration:

3. Design of an OHA organizational seal