



PACIFIC ISLANDS  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
COOPERATIVE

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September 12, 2017

## **SOLICITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

### **RESILIENT HAWAIIAN COMMUNITIES: INCREASING CAPACITY TO PLAN FOR CHANGING ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS**

#### **Call for Expressions of Interest**

Expressions of interest (EOI) are being solicited from local communities for the Resilient Hawaiian Communities initiative, a two-year effort that will assist two communities in Hawai'i in the development of resilience plans in partnership with Native Hawaiian, State, and Federal organizations.

**NOTE:** This EOI solicitation is **NOT** a request for proposals for grant funding or scientific research. EOI submissions will **NOT** be evaluated for, nor directly result in funding.

The deadline for submitting EOIs to the Resilient Hawaiian Communities initiative is **Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 4:30pm HST** through the methods included herein. Questions about this solicitation may be directed to: Rebecca Soon at [team@resilienthawaiiancommunities.com](mailto:team@resilienthawaiiancommunities.com) or 808-564-3198.

#### **Introduction to the RHC Initiative**

While community emergency preparedness plans are becoming more common in Hawai'i, few communities have engaged in forward-looking resilience planning that encompasses projections of environmental change and variability (specifically changes in precipitation and temperature) and the accompanying impacts to ecosystems and their services. The Resilient Hawaiian Communities (RHC) initiative is designed to support community resilience planning through a collaborative process informed by an expert group of organizations and individuals who are leaders in natural and cultural resource management, climate change science, and planning in Hawai'i. This two-year initiative will involve a facilitated dialogue with two Native Hawaiian communities in Hawai'i to understand specific local challenges and needs pertaining to environmental change and resiliency. Technical, financial, and planning support will be offered to these two communities to increase understanding, build capacity, and, ultimately, strengthen local collective resiliency.

## **RHC Partners**

The RHC initiative was developed at the request of, and funded by, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) under the Service First Authority with the purpose to assist two communities in Hawai'i to develop resilience plans in partnership with Native Hawaiian, State, and Federal organizations. The initiative is co-led by staff from the Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative (PICCC), Department of the Interior's Office of Native Hawaiian Relations (ONHR), National Park Service Pacific Islands Office (NPS), and Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa. The initiative receives guidance from the Resilient Hawaiian Communities Working Group (RHCWG), composed of 15 members with expertise in environmental science, climate variability, community engagement, land management, cultural resource stewardship, and Native Hawaiian culture and lifeways. The RHC initiative has funding to provide two local Native Hawaiian communities with the support of a local project coordinator, a law fellow from the UH Law School, and the shared experience and expertise of our partners and the RHCWG.

## **RHC Goals and Objectives**

The RHC initiative will involve engaging in a facilitated dialogue to understand local challenges and needs pertaining to environmental change and resiliency. Technical, financial, and planning support will be offered to two Native Hawaiian communities to increase understanding, build capacity, and, ultimately, strengthen local collective resilience.

Goal: By working with two communities in a robust co-development process, this project will provide a model for resiliency planning in Native Hawaiian communities across the Hawaiian Islands.

### Specific Objectives

Objective 1 - Build Capacity for Native Hawaiian Communities and Organizations to Engage in Resiliency Planning

Objective 2 - Develop Two Community Resilience Plans to Serve as Models for other Hawaiian Communities

Objective 3 - Develop Greater Efficiency between Federal, State, Native Hawaiian, and Local Partners in Understanding and Responding to Changing Environmental Conditions

## **Support provided through the RHC Initiative**

Funds granted through the DOI under the Service First Authority are being utilized to (a) work directly with two communities and interface with a working group of experts drawn from DOI and USDA bureaus and offices, Native Hawaiian organizations, and the University of Hawai'i; and (b) provide monetary resources to the two selected communities to conduct resiliency planning activities.

A local project manager has been contracted to co-develop community engagement activities (e.g., workshops) and coordinate among partners. A legal fellowship has been designed in partnership with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, William S. Richardson School of Law, Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law. Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law is an academic center that promotes education, scholarship, community

outreach and collaboration on issues of law, culture, and justice for Native Hawaiians and other Pacific and Indigenous peoples. This postgraduate fellowship will also contribute to capacity building by developing the expertise of a young professional who can continue to work with agencies, organizations, and communities in Hawai'i on resiliency planning beyond the life of the project.

A lead organization will be funded in each community to support activities necessary for a successful planning process, such as organizing and hosting workshops, arranging for participation of subject matter experts in specific community engagement activities (including invitational travel and per diem), and providing honoraria to Native Hawaiian practitioners and researchers to enable their participation in planning activities.

In-kind contributions have been committed by the PICCC, NPS, and ONHR including staff time and technical resources. Members of the working group also will be contributing substantial in-kind time and expertise to this project.

### **Community Application and Selection Process**

This solicitation process consists of a 2-3 page Expression of Interest (EOI), followed by an interview process for the top-scoring applicants. Criteria used to evaluate EOIs are described on the following pages. This initial EOI solicitation is intended to allow the RHC selection committee to evaluate and select candidate communities to further engage in discussions that will potentially lead towards the execution of a palapala 'aelike (written agreement). A graphic of this community selection process and role of this EOI solicitation is shown on the following page. Two informational sessions will be hosted by phone on the following dates and times for interested applicants to ask questions about the RHC initiative and the application process: September 27, 2017 at 10 – 11am and November 3, 2017 at 2 – 3pm. Participant information is included later in this solicitation. Participation is recommended but not required to apply.

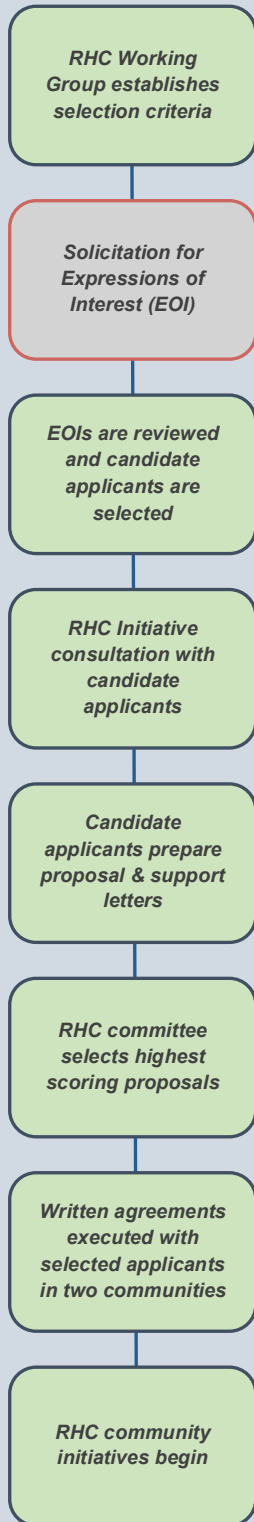
Upon receipt of EOIs by November 14, 2017, the RHC selection committee will evaluate them per the criteria outlined in this solicitation and select the highest ranked submittals as “candidate applicants” for further consultation and consideration. Further information will be requested from these candidate applicants and selection of the highest scoring and most feasible proposals will be made by a selection committee composed of RHC working group members and co-leads later this calendar year. After which, a palapala 'aelike (written agreement) will be drafted with each successful candidate. Upon signing, activities under the RHC initiative will commence and the relevant products and services will be procured.

### **Applicant Prerequisites**

Eligible applicants may include: qualified government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and/or partnerships of stakeholders applying as community representatives (hereafter referred to as “Applicants”). Applicants must meet the following prerequisites to be eligible for the RHC initiative:

- I. The community is significant to Native Hawaiians. (Note: Communities are not limited to Hawaiian Homesteads. There is potential for partnering with DHHL, OHA, and/or Ali'i Trusts.)

## RHC Application Process



II. The community exists within a fairly well defined geographical area (e.g., moku, ahupua'a, 'ili, etc.), or within a place-based, 'āina-based practice.

III. The community is situated in an area with available climate change projections and/or place-based local ecological knowledge and/or other relevant information needed to inform climate resiliency planning, or is interested in engaging in such efforts.

IV. The community has or is able to identify a liaison that can represent the community and serve as an interface with the project manager and implement the resiliency planning effort.

V. The community can identify a local, Hawai'i-based organization with deep roots and meaningful connections to it, that understands its needs and interests, and is able to provide local coordination, with the fiscal and management capacity for the activities, funds (\$46,000 inclusive of administrative costs), and logistics involved in the project.

For those Applicants selected to proceed to the second round, letters demonstrating community support and representation will be requested.

### Expression of Interest Submission

Each EOI must contain responses to the following and be contained within no more than three (3) pages (with a standard font at 10 point or larger and one-inch margins):

1. Title and description of the community resilience management interest or need
2. Description of locale and geographic scale of "community"
3. Proposing agency or organization and anticipated partners
4. Primary point-of-contact (name, address, phone, email, and if available fax)
5. Description of the applicant's interests, the community's needs, and the desired outputs or outcomes. Please address the following questions in your description:
  - a) What is your definition of "community resilience" in the context of social and environmental change, and in the face of future climate change?
  - b) What are the issues or challenges your community is trying to address?
  - c) What does your agency, organization, or hui need and/or want to do to address this issue/challenge?
  - d) What are the desired outputs and/or outcomes as a result of completing this work?
  - e) What are the steps involved (as best as can be defined) to achieve the desired outputs or outcomes?

- f) What is the time frame (as best as can be defined) to complete your overall work (understanding that the RHC initiative portion would be ending in early 2019)?
  - g) What ecosystems, ecosystem functions, or cultural resources are affected by this work?
  - h) What geographic area will be covered or affected by the results of this work?
  - i) What services or products can the RHC initiative provide to help to complete this work and achieve the desired outputs or outcomes?
6. Describe the community's past experience, if any, in conducting climate change adaptation planning or actions as well as a description of the outputs or outcomes that resulted from this work. (Note: Past work in climate change adaptation planning is not a prerequisite or a scoring criteria for this application.)
  7. Describe any related activities being conducted by your community that could support the implementation of this EOI. For example, are there planning, resource management or research activities currently underway that could influence or support this EOI?
  8. Describe any difficulties that you have already encountered or that you anticipate that may affect the issue or challenge identified in this EOI. For example, are there human resources, technical capacity, funding, or socio-political barriers to successful adaptation planning and/or implementation?
  9. Describe any additional support that would be needed for the success of this EOI, and how the RHC initiative could help fill these needs.

EOIs must be prepared as a Microsoft Word file (.doc or .docx) or Portable Document Format (.pdf) and transmitted via email to: [team@resilienthawaiiancommunities.com](mailto:team@resilienthawaiiancommunities.com).

**EOIs must be received no later than:  
Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 4:30 pm Hawai'i Standard Time**

For respondents that do not have the capability to transmit their EOI electronically, a copy may be faxed to: +1 (808) 660-9161 by the above deadline. An email confirmation of receipt will be sent to the designated point-of-contact upon receipt of the EOI. EOI submittals received after the deadline will not be reviewed.

**EOI Evaluation Criteria**

EOIs will be scored based on the following criteria: community resiliency goals that align with the goals of the RHC initiative (30%), community cohesiveness (20%), community-environment relationship (20%), and potential net resiliency gain (30%). Each of these criteria are described in greater detail below.

Criteria 1: Aligning Goals (30%)

*To what extent do the three objectives of the Resilient Hawaiian Communities Initiative align with the stated goals of the community in their proposal?*

- 1A. Objective 1 – Build Capacity for Native Hawaiian Communities and Organizations to Engage in Resiliency Planning
- 1B. Objective 2 – Develop Community Resilience Plans to Serve as Models for other Hawaiian Communities
- 1C. Objective 3 – Develop Greater Efficiency between Federal, State, Native Hawaiian, and Local Partners in Understanding and Responding to Changing Environmental Conditions

Criteria 2: Community Cohesiveness (20%)

*To what extent does the community have a strong “social fabric” in which members know each other, interact, have multi-generational networks, and have the potential for knowledge transmission over time?*

Criteria 3: Community-Environment Relationship (20%)

*In what ways is the community seeking to strengthen and/or re-establish their relationship with local bio-cultural resources and the environment for the long-term?*

Criteria 4: Potential Net Resilience Gain (30%)

*Comparing the different communities applying to the RHC initiative, which communities might have the largest ‘net resilience gain’ through their involvement in this project? (Considerations include: What is the susceptibility or vulnerability of the community’s well-being or lifeways to extreme variability events? How much will the community benefit from resiliency planning?)*

**Round Two of Applicant Review**

For those Applicants selected to proceed to the second round, letters demonstrating community support and representation will be requested. Short-listed applicants will also be invited to participate in an interview/presentation with the RHC partners to better define community needs, development timeframe, and capacity for implementation. The presentation may take any form the applicant feels best demonstrates the project vision. Example format may include (but are not limited to): in-person visual presentation, multimedia video, and remote or in-person kūkākūkā (talk story).

**Disclaimer**

This EOI solicitation is not a request for proposals for grant funding or scientific research. EOI submissions will not be evaluated for, nor directly result in funding. Issuance of this EOI solicitation does not constitute an award commitment on the part of PICCC or other partners in the RHC initiative, nor does it commit the PICCC or partners to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an EOI. Further, the PICCC and its partners reserve the right to reject any or all EOIs received.

**Informational Session**

Two informational sessions will be held on the dates and times listed below. To participate, please visit [www.resilienthawaiiancommunities.com](http://www.resilienthawaiiancommunities.com) for call login instructions or contact Rebecca Soon at the contact information in the next section. This one-hour session will provide

an overview of the Resilient Hawaiian Communities initiative, and will include at least 30 minutes for Q&A. Participation in these sessions is not required and will not be a factor in evaluation, although they are encouraged to support applicants.

Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at 10 – 11am  
Friday, November 3, 2017 at 2 – 3pm

### **Contact Information**

Additional information may be found on the Resilient Hawaiian Communities website at: [www.resilienthawaiiancommunities.com](http://www.resilienthawaiiancommunities.com). For more information, please contact: Rebecca Soon, at: +1 (808) 564-3198 or by email at: [team@resilienthawaiiancommunities.com](mailto:team@resilienthawaiiancommunities.com).