



Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services

Sample Application MN-251931-OMS

Papahana Kuaola

Amount awarded by IMLS:	\$99,999
Amount of cost share:	\$0

Papahana Kuaola will provide programmatic opportunities for community members to learn about the traditions of lauhala weaving and support the art as a Hawaiian lifestyle practice. Through workshops and demonstrations with cultural practitioners, participating school groups, adults, and families will engage with hala history and traditions, develop weaving skills, and create a link to their past and future generations by perpetuating Hawaiian traditions. The project will culminate with a celebratory event where cultural practitioners will showcase their lauhala manao. A project webpage including interviews with contemporary practitioners and archival footage will serve as a continuous resource of documented lauhala-related artifacts and experiences.

Attached are the following components excerpted from the original application.

- Narrative
- Schedule of Completion
- Digital Product Plan

When preparing an application for the next deadline be sure to follow the instructions in the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity for the grant program and project category (if applicable) to which you are applying.

Narrative

Justification

E Ulu Nā Mu‘o Hala (To foster the new growth of hala) addresses NANH goal 1. Empower people of all ages and backgrounds through experiential and cross-disciplinary learning and discovery. Objective 1.1: Support public programs, adult programs, family programs, and early childhood learning and discovery. Through our mission and vision, Papahana Kuaola strives to reconnect our people with ‘āina through the placed-based experiential learning of Hawaiian cultural skills, knowledge, and perspectives. This practice has provided a successful framework for learning year after year. We have witnessed tremendous gains in participants, including the understanding and application of cultural practices and content, and a deepened emotional connection to Hawaiian culture and the ancestral land that sustains us.

Many in Hawai‘i, especially those residing in rural communities do not have the opportunity to visit Hawai‘i’s museums and participate in the many fine programs that they offer. Many families do not visit museums for a variety of reasons. 1) Museums are generally located in the Honolulu area (town) and Hawaiian communities are located in rural areas of the island, so distance is a factor. Parents often work in town and fight traffic 5 or 6 days a week. During the weekend they prefer to stay in the community where they reside. 2) Family schedules are often filled with sports, hula, canoe paddling and other beach activities, and church. Family celebrations and obligations (assisting with preparations for a graduation or anniversary, etc.) are also a priority. Museum visits are not viewed as a fun, family friendly, and an economical family outing.

Keoua Nelsen, cultural practitioner and Papahana Kuaola (PK) staff has conducted public workshops for Hawaiian nonprofit organizations and museums. There is a keen interest to return to a lifestyle and practice of weaving lauhala. Opportunities to learn are in high demand with extensive wait lists to enroll in classes offered. Weaving specific opportunities are available, however few organizations have ‘āina as a resource to teach the process in its entirety, from growing and maintenance of the *pūhala* (tree) ensuring availability of resources for future generations to *ulana* (weaving) techniques. In 2013, a widespread infestation of the hala scale causing significant damage to the plant throughout the islands threatened the livelihood of the pūhala.

This project will address the need to revive lauhala practices within the home and the holistic, comprehensive understanding and knowledge of the Hawaiian traditions, lifestyle and practices of *hala* (screwpine pandanus), *mālama pūhala* (caring of the hala tree) and *ulana lauhala* (weaving skills). This will be provided through workshops and activities at Waipao, a 63-acre property, which once was abundant with pūhala. This historic site is a safe, spacious, outdoor environment with the natural resources available to engage participants in all aspects of hala.

The art of weaving *lauhala* (Screwpine Pandanus) leaves exists throughout Polynesia. Most people are familiar with the weaving of the *lau* (leaves) of the hala tree to create every day functional items for the home and fashionable adornments. The drupes of the fruit are also strung as *lei* (garlands) that hold special meanings for certain occasions and rites of passage.

According to Pohaku Kaho‘ohanohano, a renowned Master Weaver of Maui states “*All Hawaiians are descended from weavers.... we got here on canoes with sails made of lauhala*” (Maui News). Lauhala weaving was once such a highly developed skill and practiced in each household; however,

“*The arrival of western man and an increase in trade with the outside world in the 19th century, the availability of cotton cloth and containers, leather goods and man-made fibers, caused the decline of weaving...*” Article: Hawaiian Weaving A Meaningful Legacy, Betty Fullard-Leo

For many years, lauhala weaving was taught in the public schools and Department of Parks and Recreations programs as arts and crafts projects. Keoua Nelsen, a 6th generation weaver, recalls a time when lauhala was not practiced or continued in his family. When he realized that his *kūpuna* (elders) were no longer alive to pass on the traditions, except for his grandmother that motivated him to learn and perpetuate his family legacy and the art of weaving lauhala.

The target populations are the general public, individuals and families; school groups, teachers and students; and cultural practitioners, *kanaka maiiau* (expert) weavers and their *mea kokua* (assistant). PK facility and program are ADA accessible. The beneficiaries of this project are the future generations of Hawaiians. The next generations will perceive *ulana lauhala* as a lifestyle rather than a hobby.

Work plan

The project goal is to support the perpetuation, preservation, and practice of the art of lauhala weaving by providing place-based learning opportunities, conducted by cultural practitioners, that deepens and expands knowledge of this cultural practice. To achieve this project goal, address community needs, and advance the NANH goal, this project will focus on the following objectives, outcomes, and activities.

Objective 1: By the end of 12 months, develop and implement community/public education programs for 310 community members to engage in the traditions and practices of lauhala weaving.

Project activities will include 16 workshops (4 for school groups and 12 for community), 1 event, and provide services to no less than 310 participants. The E Ho‘oulu Ulana Lauhala community event will engage no less than 6 cultural practitioners and alaka‘i who will conduct introductory sessions to teach participants the lauhala weaving. Participants will be encouraged to attend workshops and events as a family. PK staff and volunteers will lead age appropriate activities for children of various ages that may include making lauhala bookmarks, lauhala ornaments, learning *mo‘olelo* (stories) and songs connected to weaving, and drawing weaving patterns and designs. All sessions will be video and photo documented. Prior to the program, cultural practitioners and participants are asked to sign a photo release/waiver form allowing PK to use their photo(s) in its nonprofit work. Photographs of workshops and events will be shared with the public on social media and the PK website.

School groups: Kuana Waipao Huaka‘i - 200 Students, teachers and chaperones will experience Waipao and the fullness of it’s beauty in this ‘ili ‘āina nestled in the valley of Ha‘ikū within the ahupua‘a of He‘eia. They will learn of the native plants of this ‘āina and their importance to our kupuna. I ka wā i hala, in the times past our kupuna gathered the resources of our ‘āina to make functional items needed for everyday life. They will learn how to ulana lauhala and weave together the stories of this ‘āina through this experiential huaka‘i. 6 huakai (3 hours each). Participants will weave a simple object e.g., bookmark, ornament, etc.

General public: Ku‘una Ulana Lauhala (Lauhala Weaving Traditions) workshop series - 30 adult participants (2 cohorts each with 15 persons max) will have access to the richness in resources at Waipao. A minimum of 6 one-day (6-8 hours) gatherings will be held where participants are able to experience and access kūpuna ‘ike (ancestral knowledge) of hala; from its inception as told in genealogy chants, propagating, and caring of the pūhala ensuring availability of future resources, to weaving of the hala leaves. 2 cohorts, 6 days each, 30 participants. A chart of workshop activities is included as an attachment.

Community event/gathering: E Ho‘oulu Ulana Lauhala (To cultivate lauhala weaving) - A two-day lauhala gathering will be held where 6 cultural practitioners will conduct classes, demonstrate weaving techniques and display finished woven items and tools, both traditional and contemporary. A special guest Pohaku Kaho‘ohanohano, our youngest master weaver from Maui, will be invited to conduct classes and share his ‘ike (knowledge) on a lauhala lifestyle and practices. The general public, families and children will have the opportunity to experience and learn various weaving techniques, patterns and designs and have access to lauhala weavers and their expertise.

This community event will provide the public an opportunity to experience hala and lauhala weaving at Waipao through classes offered by *kanaka maiiau* (expert) and skilled Hawaiian weaving practitioners. Parents will be able to participate in family weaving sessions with age appropriate projects inspiring the next generation of lauhala practitioners and weavers. Existing and past cohort workshop participants will have the opportunity to further expand their weaving knowledge and skills; and will provide a platform to showcase woven items completed and experiences of their weaving journey chronicled in their kilo journals. A talk story session/interview with a Master/expert weaver will be held, providing the public with a glimpse into a lauhala weaving lifestyle. Each day will end with a celebration and exhibition of projects woven by the participants throughout the day. 100 participants are expected. Cultural practitioners will be interviewed, and the event will be photo documented.

*Objective 2: By the end of 12 months, an **online resource** will be developed for the community to learn through online workshops the traditions and practices of lauhala weaving.*

Project webpage content will be drawn from video produced by documenting project activities. Content will include 1) Interviews, conducted by PK staff, of contemporary weavers sharing their weaving *mo‘okū‘auhau* (genealogy), personal

journey in weaving and memorable stories. Interviews conducted of notable weavers who have passed will be obtained and permissions secured for use from archives, libraries, and private collections. 2) A series of 7 presentations on the following topics:

- Mo‘olelo of hala; including genealogy stories, arrival stories, ‘Oli Lauhala, which is a genealogical chant.
- Weaving vocabulary and terminology, vocabulary from other islands, pūhala terminology and diagram.
- Insights on growing, caring, and gathering lauhala; tree maintenance
- Demonstration of a simple weaving project.
- Songs and Noe‘au connected to weaving
- Museums and their role in preserving Hawaiian culture: Photographs of historic woven items found in museums e.g., the protest mat.
- Nā Uluhala Kaulana o Hawai‘i: Famous Hala groves of Hawai‘i.

E Ulu Nā Mu‘o Hala will begin July 1, 2022 and end June 30, 2023 and proceed in the following phases.

Phase 1. Planning and Coordination - *Māhealani Merryman is responsible for overall planning and coordination.* The Project Director (PD) will meet with all staff to clarify roles, responsibilities, and timelines. A monthly meeting will be scheduled to discuss, track, and adjust programming as needed. The PD will work with the Fiscal Administrator to review financial reporting and payment drawdown process. An electronic project calendar and a shared project folder will be created. The PD and Project Manager (PM) will contact, meet with and contract cultural practitioners. The Program Assistant (PA) will schedule meetings, workshops and events to the project calendar. Support materials will be ordered and purchased for program kits for Ku‘una Ulana Lauhala and Kuana Waipao. Staff will also meet with a NRDS consultant to customize report tracking and train staff. The Web Specialist will consult with Tag Team Computing to ensure that the proper digital applications are available for the production of the Nā Mea Ulana webpage. In order to enhance the webpage’s digital content staff will research museums and private collections for images and items made of lauhala prior to 1950.

Phase 2. Development - *Keoua Nelsen is responsible for overall project development.* Project staff will develop and test an electronic registration and a participant survey using SignUpGenius and Survey Monkey. Survey questions and format for interviews with cultural practitioners will also be created. The PA will develop flyers and other promotional items to notify the public and partners of activities and develop sign-in sheets for the program engagements. The PM will train staff to prepare and assemble weaving supply kits. Staff will develop and produce support materials for distribution. Nā Mea Ulana’s staging site will be designed which will include archival interview footage of notable weavers and interviews with contemporary weavers. The PM and project staff will visit and/or work with museums to obtain or photograph images of lauhala items that are archived prior to 1950. The PM will visit and obtain or photograph images of lauhala items of notable contemporary weavers.

Phase 3. Implementation - *Noelani Lopez is responsible for school group programming. Anuenue Tulba is responsible for event programming, Keoua Nelsen is responsible for community workshops. Jessica Hauki is responsible for web page development.* Staff will conduct Kuana Waipao Huaka‘i and Ku‘una Ulana Lauhala programs. Staff will prepare the ‘āina and pūhala so that it is accessible and ready for the programming. After the engagements are done staff will clean up the area. The Kuana Waipao huaka‘i, conducted by Educators and support staff, will be divided into learning pods of 5 participants. Cohort 1 of the Ku‘una Ulana Lauhala will commence with Cohort 2 to follow. Workshops will have no more than 15 participants where the PD will lead them in a pūhala and lauhala activity.

The E Ho‘oulu Ulana Lauhala community event will require an ADA accessible porta-potty unit. Professional sound system services will be secured for the event. Staff will set up tents, tables, and chairs for cultural practitioners and attendees. Two volunteers will be designated to manage the parking area and guide guests to the check-in station. At the check-in, attendees will have their temperature checked and will be asked to sign-in. Then they will be free to visit their intended workshop and enjoy the various displays. QR codes and iPads will be available for guests to complete a survey. A separate survey will be provided to cultural practitioners to assess their experience at the event. All staff and volunteers will also clean up and breakdown event equipment at the end of the engagement.

All activities will be promoted in Papahana Kuaola’s website, social media outlets (Instagram and Facebook), and/or Mailchimp. The Na Mea Ulana website will be operational and will continually be updated with additional resources.

COVID-19 has been identified as a risk factor of concern for our organization. Programs will follow the State of Hawai‘i recommended safety measures and guidelines. The Hawaii case count is dropping at this time and we anticipate that most

restrictions will be lifted by the start of this project. At this time, restrictions are such that we are able to safely conduct the project activities since they are conducted outdoors. Temperature checks will be taken and hand sanitizers will be available for safety measures. Multiple sessions with fewer participants will be offered based on the State of Hawai‘i’s limits for gathering outdoors. Additionally, we have included an online learning component making it possible to conduct many activities remotely, should this become necessary.

Key staff who will plan, implement, and manage the project. See attachment Resumes.pdf

Project Director (.23 FTE). Mahealani Merryman will administer the grant, supervise all staff, and be responsible for developing evaluation tools, analyzing data collected, and reporting results. She will monitor project expenses, payments, drawdowns, and fiscal data to ensure project effectiveness and efficiency

Project Manager (.55 FTE). Keoua Nelsen will lead the project team in planning, coordinating, and implementing the project. He will direct activities, monitor project accomplishments, and interview cultural practitioners. He has more than 20 years of experience working with the Hawaiian community to coordinate and manage projects. He is experienced in weaving lauhala and hala resource management, and teaches lauhala weaving locally, nationally, and internationally.

Project Assistant (.30 FTE). Ānuenue Tulba will support the Project Manager and Director with duties related to the project, including coordinating the E Ho‘oulu Ulana Lauhala community gathering, video documenting the project, communication with the public, scheduling, maintaining reports and ensuring records are documented and maintained. She is experienced in operations, project management, event planning and communications and she is an accomplished weaving enthusiast with 5 years of training and experience.

Web Specialist (.15 FTE). Jessica Von Hauki will produce project materials, video tape activities, and design, develop and maintain the project website. Ms. Haiku is experienced in desktop publishing, website development.

Educators (2) each (.5 FTE). Maile Garrett and Noelani Lopez will lead school group visits and children’s activities at the E Ho‘oulu Ulana Lauhala community gathering, develop educational materials and webpage content to support children and family learning. Both educators are experienced in developing and managing museum programs for young children, students, families and teachers.

Other PK staff who will support the project are Tiare Agpaoa, Education Manager; Nohea Ayau, ‘Āina Steward Leader and ‘Āina Stewards, Keaula Cockett, Kaimi Johnson, Ayla Lum; Janine Snedcor, Fiscal Administrator; and community volunteers.

Resources necessary to support this project include: stipends for cultural practitioners, air travel for 1 cultural practitioner and NANH mandated travel, tree cleaning supplies, weaving supplies, porta potty (2 day rental), sound system (rental), office supplies and program supplies. Personnel: 6 part-time staff.

Natural Resource Data Solutions (NRDS), a multiplatform location-based software that combines project management, GIS, data collection, reporting and analysis will be used to track project progress. Project staff will work with the NRDS developer to create and design a customized report to track the specific objectives and outcomes of this project. This mobile application allows staff to enter data, information, survey results, instructor comments and observations on the spot for each engagement. The Project Director and key staff will meet weekly to review participant survey results and adjust project activities based on feedback and the achievement of milestones and benchmarks.

Results

This project will provide multi-generational learning opportunities to participants who otherwise might not have had these experiences due to location and/or lack of accessibility to programs. It will nurture understanding, interest, and appreciation for lauhala traditions and practices. The Hawaiian community will have access to a comprehensive and organic learning approach that will increase their knowledge of hala history and traditions, develop weaving skills, and create an ancestral connection through hala; linking their past to future generations in reviving and sustaining a Hawaiian lifestyle. Participants and weavers will advance our long-term goal of a lauhala weaver in every household.

Project success will be achieved if the following measures are met:

IMLS Agency-Level Goal 1: Champion Lifelong Learning performance measures

- 75% of participants will strongly agree or agree that their understanding of the art of lauhala traditions and practices has increased as a result of programming.
- 75% of participants will strongly agree or agree that their interest in the art of lauhala traditions and practices has increased as a result of programming.

Project performance measures

- 70% of participants will demonstrate an understanding of weaving techniques as evidenced by completion of a lauhala item.
- 70% of participants will increase their knowledge of pūhala and ulana lauhala as determined by participant survey.
- 70% of participants will increase their understanding of the connection/relationship of malama pūhala and weaving by participant survey.
- 70% of participants will increase their understanding of the connection between hala, weaving and Hawaiian heritage in their ‘ohana as determined by participant survey and submission of participants puke kilo hala (observation journals) chronicling their journey and ancestral connections to hala.
- 70% of participants will increase their understanding of the role of museums in preserving the traditions and practices of lauhala weaving as determined by participant survey and engagement in museum activities.
- 50% of participants will use the resources on the Nā Mea Ulana web page.

The success of this project will also be measured by the following impact indicators.

- 310 project participants -- 180 students and teachers, 130 community members.
- 6 cultural practitioner participants.
- 1 (2-day) event E Ho‘oulu Ulana Lauhala (100 participants)
- 12 public workshops.
- 6 weavers will be interviewed.
- Lauhala weaving webpage of resources developed

As a result of this project there will be an increase in the 1) understanding and knowledge of Hawaiian lauhala weaving traditions and practices; 2) appreciation of the skills and knowledge of our ancestors; 3) understanding of the role of museums, museum resources, and museum services in lifelong learning; 4) number of Hawaiian materials and objects present in Hawaiian homes and used by Hawaiian families; and 5) desire to pass on Hawaiian cultural traditions and practices to family members and the next generation of native Hawaiians, thus strengthening our *lāhui* (nation).

Tangible products are 6 recorded interviews with *kanaka maiau* (expert) weavers documenting their weaving journey; 1 booklet featuring mo‘olelo of hala, weaving vocabulary and terminology, songs and proverbs, list of famous Hawaiian weavers; student handouts and activity sheets; supply kits containing materials and instructions required for weaving projects; E Ho‘oulu Ulana Lauhala event program. Digital content resulting from this project are: activities/worksheets, photos, and learning materials will be in PDF format and posted on a website. Videos and PowerPoint presentations will be created. Social media will be utilized to promote the project, disseminate information, and engage the community.

This project is the first step towards making our vision, a weaver in every Hawaiian household, a reality. Upon completion, continued project implementation will be covered by general operating costs. A support system will be developed for committed learners to continue to expand their weaving knowledge and techniques. The Nā Mea Ulana webpage will serve as a resource to perpetuate the art of lauhala weaving as a Hawaiian lifestyle practice.

It is highly probable that the kumu interviews generated by this project will lead to another project to conduct additional kumu interviews and add them to the Ulukau - The Hawaiian Electronic Library collection of Native Hawaiian reference material for cultural and Hawaiian language studies.

Schedule of Completion

E Ulu Nā Mu‘o Hala

Performance Period: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Planning and Preparation												
Meet with staff to review project plan, timeline, roles and responsibilities	----											
Contact and confirm cultural practitioner involvement for interviews	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----		
Meet with NRDS consultant to customize report tracking and train staff.	----	----	----	----								
Prepare instructional materials and assemble supplies kits for programming	----	----										
Coordinate and plan activities for school groups and families.	----	----										
Coordinate and plan activities for the Ku‘una Ulana Lauhala	----											
Coordinate and plan activities for the E Ho‘oulu Ulana Lauhala community event			----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----		
Research museums and private collections for images and items made of lauhala prior to 1950	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	
Coordiante and plan Na Mea Ulana webpage.	----	----	----									
Project Development												
Develop registration and surveys	----	----				----	----				----	
Develop questionnaire to guide interviews for cultural practitioners	----	----	----									
Develop activities and support materials for school group and familiy programs.			----									
Develop program activities and support materials for Ku‘una Ulana Lauhala	----	----										
Develop event program, program activities, support materials, and photo shot list.			----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----		
Design and build staging site of the Na Mea Ulana webpage.				----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	
Identify and secure archival footage of past weavers			----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----		
Project Implementation												
Promote/advertise workshops		----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Conduct School Kuana Waipao Huaka‘i			----	----				----	----	----		
Conduct Adult Workshops Ku‘una Ulana Lauhala (Cohort 1)			----	----	----	----						
Conduct adult workshops Ku‘una Ulana Lauhala (Cohort 2)							----	----	----	----	----	
Host E Ho‘oulu Ulana Lauhala Event											----	
Conduct interviews of contemporary lauhala weavers.				----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	
Na Mea Ulana webpage operational.									----			

Digital Products Plan

Type

Nā Mea Ulana’s webpage content resulting from this project will be photo images, video and/or audio recordings, and activity worksheets. 24 photo images of historic woven lauhala items found in museums, archives, libraries and private collections. 15 video and/or audio recordings of interviews with notable weavers who have passed ; interviews with contemporary weavers sharing their weaving *mo‘okū‘auhau* (genealogy), personal journey in weaving and memorable stories; video demonstrations of projects and events. 10 electronic documents and activity worksheets of the genealogy, history and stories; weaving vocabulary and terminology; *noea‘u* (proverbs and mele (songs) related to lauhala; and *Nā Uluhala Kaulana o Hawai‘i* (Famous hala groves of Hawai‘i).

Digital content used will be in the following formats:

- Images: JPEG
- Videos: MP4, MOV with quality standards of 1080p/4k and 60fps.
- Worksheets & Activities: PDF

Permissions will be obtained and secured for the use of any work from including but not limited to program sessions, artists, informants, museums, archives, and libraries. Obtaining permission for organization/education use is an organization policy. Papahana Kuaola has a copyright permission form.

Availability

Webpage content and access will be openly available on-line to schools and the general public through Papahana Kuaola's website, social media and YouTube channel. A staff member who is a web technician will be assigned to monitor functionality of the website, products, access, and data collection.

The digital platforms are as follows:

- Papahana Kuaola website: <https://papahanakuaola.com/>
- Papahana Kuaola Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/papahanakuaola>
- Papahana Kuaola Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/papahanakuaola/>
- Papahana Kuaola YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOYvRM1dmKvNkGMOR_ydILw

Access

Papahana Kuaola will own all intellectual property rights and copyrights, and will allow access to the public for use. Terms and conditions will be made available to the public.

Permissions will be obtained and secured for the use of any work from including but not limited to program sessions, artists, informants, museums, archives, and libraries. Obtaining permission for organization/education use is an organization policy. Papahana Kuaola has a copyright permission form.

Sustainability

A staff member who is a web technician will be assigned to monitor functionality of the website, products, access, and data collection. Data will be monitored semi-annually to ensure that there are no security breaches in the internal storage. Digital products will be curated for the life of the web page. Digital activity worksheets and activities will be curated for the life of the webpage or until the modifications and/or revisions changes are made to replace them. Revision changes will be curated for the life of the webpage.

The hardware and software platforms for storage systems include but not limited to:

- Hard drives.
- Bitstream copying (in case of system failure).
- Cloud storage.
- Technical documentation.
- Migration: preserve integrity of digital objects, secure multiple storage locations, provide formatting for multiple platforms.
- Secure funding to maintain and update information and curriculum.