



REGIONAL ECONOMIC TRANSITION ASSISTANCE HAWAII II



Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii

Document Type: Request for Application (RFA) Notice

Funding Opportunity Number: 2006-39537-17674

Posted Date: February 5, 2007 – **OPEN POSTING**

Due Date for Initial Round of Applications: February 28, 2007 – 5:00 HST

Funding Instrument: Cost Reimbursable Grant

Expected Number of Awards: TBD

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$2,000,000

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement: No

Eligible Applicants: Consortia of Private Sector-For Profit Companies or Economic Development Groups

PROGRAM TITLE: REGIONAL ECONOMIC TRANSITION ASSISTANCE HAWAII II

PROGRAM GOAL: Infrastructure and/or technology demonstrations related to infrastructure initiatives to support sustainable development of agricultural products and services in Hawaii. The program seeks to invest in infrastructure improvements or enhancements and/or technology demonstrations related to infrastructure needed to facilitate the current and future economic viability of the agricultural community. The emphasis is on investment in resource systems, services and facilities that are necessary for economic activity rather than on support for specific activities of individual agricultural business enterprises. Sustainable development, in this program, is defined as continued operation and maintenance of the infrastructure improvement or technology demonstration, supported after federal investment from this program ceases, providing incremental revenues, job creation and long-term employment in the community.

PROGRAM FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION: Funds for this program are from the Department of Defense. The program is jointly administered at the federal level by the U.S. Department of Defense (U.S. Army RDECOM) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service). The Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii (EDAH) administers the program at the local level. Contracting and other fiscal and administrative matters are handled directly by EDAH personnel.

GENERAL SELECTION CRITERIA: The application submitted in response to a RFA – following the format and outline suggested in the application package available from EDAH – is the mechanism used to select projects for contracting. Selected projects must be consistent with the goal of this program, sustainable, relevant, unique, technically sound, and compatible with community and environmental values. Applicants must demonstrate a capacity to comply with federal guidelines and possess the financial ability to achieve goals specified in the application. EDAH is responsible for contracting and monitoring post award performance.

APPLICATION PARAMETERS

Deadline: Applications, **ADDRESSED** to RETAH II, must be **RECEIVED** by the deadline noted above via electronic mail (alluvio@aloha.net).

Successful project management: Applicants must articulate an ability to effectively execute the technical/operational activities being proposed as well as an ability to manage and be accountable for use of federal funds. Fiscal capacity shall be demonstrated through submission of financial statements and other business documents. Partnerships, under private sector leadership, are strongly encouraged.

Desired projects: The RETAH II Program supports private sector ventures (a consortia of firms or economic development groups) to provide for infrastructure and/or technology demonstrations related to infrastructure initiatives culminating in sustainable development of agricultural products and services in Hawaii. Examples of such projects could include, but are not limited to, water delivery systems; food safety initiatives; community value-added processing facilities; or community marketing initiatives for import substitution. Each application will be evaluated on relevance of the infrastructure being addressed.

Project venue and duration: Applications and subsequent successful projects should be directed to Hawaii, with funding for up to 12 months. Maximum funding limits per project are limited to \$500,000. Federal regulations preclude consideration of applications for prohibited or regulated substances and areas prohibited by directives of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Funds cannot be used to build permanent structures. All funds are subject, to the extent applicable, by the provisions of OMB-A-102; OMB-A-110; OMB-A-122; OMB-A-133; 7CFR3015; 7CFR3017; 7CFR3018. All applications are subject to rigorous technical, management, and administrative review and approval is not final until completion of the contracting process. Projects emerging from approved applications are subject to post-award reviews and funds may be withheld or withdrawn if projects are judged fiscally irresponsible or not progressing according to stated plans.

Proprietary Information: Although proprietary business plans and budgets will be protected during the application process, program details are public domain under the Freedom of Information Act.

REVIEW CRITERIA FOR APPLICATIONS – WEIGHTED PERCENTAGES:

Sustainability: Is the project self-sustainable after the initial Federal funding? If so provide quantifiable job creation, incremental revenues and specific factors that will contribute to sustainability? Is the project economically viable? Are costs and returns realistic? Does the project contain sufficient investment of non-Federal resources to suggest commitment as well as continuation after the project is completed? If so, provide quantifiable documentation. **25%**

Relevance, Uniqueness & Creativity: How important is the proposed work to Hawaii and the military? In what ways is this project different from what currently exists? Are there any features of this project which distinguish it from other applications or similar ventures that currently exist? **15%**

Fiscal Capacity: Does the entity proposing the work have the ability and capacity to comply with the fiscal accountability and regulations associated with the acceptance and use of funds? **15%**

Technical Feasibility: Can the product or service be accomplished with the technology contained in the proposal? **15%**

RETAH II Goals: Does the project clearly contribute to the attainment of the goals of the RETAH II program? If so, which goals are impacted and how? - **10%**

Environmental & Community Impact: Does the project impact the natural environment? If so, in what ways and in what magnitudes? Does the project impact the community? If so, which community and which community goals are impacted and in what ways? **20%**

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