

Hawaiian Mission House Summary

Mission: To share and interpret stories of native Hawaiians and missionaries in early 19th century.

Category: Arts & History

Contact: Ralph Kam, Executive Director, Elisabeth Case, Director of Development & Marketing.

Address: 553 South King Street, Honolulu, HI 96813-3002

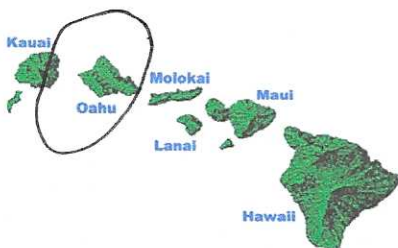
Grant History: N/A

2024 Request:	\$15,000 for general operating support and \$10,000 for Kapa storage
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Notes:

- Preserves the 1821 Mission House and others on a 1-acre campus which includes a historic cemetery, performance arena, and other structures.
- Meets schools needs to satisfy national educational standards in history via field trips, tours, historical theater performances – some in cemetery near grave site of featured historic figure.
- 3000 objects in archives.
- Needs to improve storage methods of Kapa cloths to preserve them properly – by either laying flat or in specially-designed tubes.
- Global research site for historians – live or digitally.
- Tour sites for visitors and tourists.
- 46 schools – 2700 students.
- 11,500 visitors annually.

Financial
Info
Requested





January 31, 2024

Tamra Davis Cownie, JD, MACL
Foundation Administrator
The Laurence H Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation
81 East Seventh Street, Suite 125
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 440-5068

2023-2024

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Honolulu, Hawai'i
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WWW.MISSIONHOUSES.ORG

Via email: tammy@dorcyfdn.org

Re: Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives Application for Grant

Amount Requested: \$15,000 general operating and \$10,000 Capital for Kapa Storage

Need Being Addressed:

Beyond the basic physiological needs and safety and security is the human need for a sense of connection, esteem and self-actualization. Hawaiians need to discover their history and their contributions, which include strong collaboration, creation of the written Hawaiian language and therefore preservation of the history and culture through written publications (newspapers).

How Organization is Meeting Need:

HMH is uniquely poised to share and interpret the early to mid-19th Century period in Hawai'i, to share the stories of the missionaries, native Hawaiians, and other guests, whose lives intersected on this and associated sites throughout the state of Hawai'i, allowing for an understanding of life on the islands two hundred years ago.

There was great collaboration between the missionaries and Hawaiian ali'i (chiefs) to first develop the written language and then the publication of newspapers, which helped preserve a Hawaiian perspective of current events as well as recording pre-contact cultural practices and history.

How Grant Money Would Make a Difference to Organization and Clientele:

Grant funding on the state level has become more competitive, and many funds are currently diverting to Maui's devastating fire in August, 2023, which affected our annual Gala fundraiser participation in September, 2023. Nonetheless, we are committed to staying vibrant and moving forward and seek to further our mission as well as the mission for our partners on Maui and across the state. We greatly appreciate this opportunity.

Aloha and Mahalo,

Ralph Kam
Executive Director

Elisabeth Case
Director of Development & Marketing

Organization Description

Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives (HMH), situated on a one-acre site in the Historic Capital district of downtown Honolulu, is an active site for Hawai'i's history since 1820, a National Historic Landmark (listed in 1965) and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (last re-accredited in 2010), one of only five museums in the state of Hawai'i that is fully accredited. The other four institutions include the Honolulu Museum of Art, Lyman Museum, Bishop Museum, and Iolani Palace.

HMH preserves Hawai'i's oldest Western-style house, **the 1821 Mission House, as well as the 1831 Chamberlain House, and the 1841 Bedroom Annex (now Ka Hale Pa'i, The Printing House)** historic buildings. A coral-and-grass performance arena was added in 2011, hosting theater and mele (music) performances throughout the year. In 2024 we will open our reconstructed **1823 hale pili o nā mikanele (grass house in the missionary style)**, built using cultural practitioner leadership and designed with sources from journals in the HMH archives.

The HMH library and historical archive holds over 80,000 digital pieces and is home to one of the largest collections of Hawaiian language printed material in the world and welcomes researchers on site as well as from around the globe through the digital collection. The archives include books, manuscripts, original letters, diaries, journals, daguerreotypes, illustrations, meeting records and church records, illuminating 19th Century life in Hawai'i.

Hawaiian Mission Houses has over 3,000 objects in the permanent object collection. They include furniture & domestic artifacts, textiles, personal artifacts, tools & equipment, communication & recreation artifacts, and art objects, many of which survived the five-month journey around Cape Horn taken by the First Company of American Protestant Missionaries in 1819, providing valuable information about the domestic lives of 19th century Americans. Other pieces were acquired after the missionaries' arrival, including objects crafted locally or received as gifts from ali'i or from visiting sea captains. Many objects combine New England design with Hawaiian materials, such as native woods and fibers, speak to the collaboration between the missionaries and Native Hawaiians. Objects are displayed in the historic homes, which are accessible via self-guided or docent-led tours, K-12 students are instructed using 'object-based learning' techniques, and online exhibitions via PastPerfect allow universal access to curated selections of objects at no cost. The objects provide a tactile, tangible record of what life was like in 19th century Hawai'i and opportunities for learning and engagement for all ages.

The grounds also hold an historical cemetery, a collections storage vault, a gift shop, and multi-purpose space used for events. Programming is inspired by primary source documents in HMH's vast archives as well as objects from the permanent collection. Cultural practitioners, scholars, and community leaders are engaged on a regular basis to provide insight, guidance, and to collaborate with staff. HMH offers school field trips, tours, historical theater performances, and

has been awarded over 15 Po'okela Awards for Excellence in theatrical performance, writing, and direction.

How Organization is Meeting Need:

Hawaiian Mission Houses interprets and disseminates the collaboration between Protestant missionaries (American, Tahitian and Hawaiian) and Hawaiians during the the 43 year period the mission was active (1820-1863). Our unique site, archives and collections act as a springboard to share about the missionaries sent by American Board of Commissioner for Foreign Missions and Tahitian and Hawaiian missionaries and their impact on Hawaiian history.

HMH has renewed our focus on disseminating the findings of our "**Ali'i Letters Project**," consisting of over 200 letters transcribed, translated, and annotated, written by 33 Ali'i (Hawaiian chiefs), selected from three different institutions; the ABCFM Collection held by Harvard's Houghton Library, the Hawaiian Evangelical Association Archives of the Hawaii Conference-United Church of Christ, and the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society. The institution is currently focused on digitizing **Maui**-related materials and also the letters and journals of "**Visionary Women**", missionary and Hawaiian (1820-1863) and in the Hawaiian Kingdom (1795-1898) community, who embraced education, science, technology and diplomacy, and their efforts led to the creation of hospitals, schools, and universal healthcare, which was uncommon in the 1800s.

Increasingly, national standards for curriculum are set and rolled out at the State level which do not include State-specific resources. Through field trips and primary resources, HMH offers these supplementary resources for teaching from K-college. Almost **50 schools** and over **3,400 students** learn about Hawai'i's history from our resources. We offer Title 1 schools **scholarships and bus transportation**. In 2024, we will open and to expand our interpretive materials and programs around our reconstruction of the **1823 hale pili o nā mikanele (grass house in the missionary style)**, built using cultural practitioner leadership and designed with sources from journals in the HMH archives.

HMH makes history come alive. Our historical theatre performances have traveled to neighbor islands and the continental U.S. since 2018. Our annual "**Cemetery Pupū Theatre**" at O'ahu Cemetery is held in June with six performances on Friday and Saturday evenings. Dressed in period costume, actors tell the very personal life events of select individuals, at their respective grave sites if possible. It is one of HMH's signature events, and over **600 guests** attend every year.

The History Theatre program intends to offer, via its 5 characters, a balance of gender, ethnicity, and diverse viewpoints on the same issue or in the same time period. The focus of each portrayal is their personal life, career, and their impact on the history of Hawaii. For example, Emma Naku'ina (2023) is considered the first female curatrix in the world.

As funding allows, we are professionally video-taping to offer in curriculum packages around our History Theatre portrayals to share state-wide and globally, including our June 2023 **"Rediscovering History"** themed libraries, archives and collections and our 2024 (originally 2015) **"Footprints on the Land" History Theatre** program focused on the scientists, observers and those who impacted the landscape in 19th- and early 20th-century Hawai'i. In curriculum development, we seek to be responsive to the different needs of the different communities/areas in the State, and identify opportunities to engage. For examples, in "Footprints on the Land" early Territorial forester Charles Sheldon Judd (1881 – 1939) pioneered conservation techniques with tree planting and preserved watersheds all over the islands: Are these still issues today?

HMH seeks to be a place where everyone feels welcome to share their thoughts and spend their time. By partnering with other organizations, we are able to expand the breadth of our narratives, allowing for more diversity of perspectives and greater contextual framework. We host theater and mele (music) performances throughout the year: The 2024 special **"Mele Series"** will be comprised of two separate concerts – one in the Spring, one in the Fall, and will combine oli, mele, and hula, as well as history theatre portrayals to tell the following stories:

- The **Circumnavigation of the Island of Hawai'i** by Rev. Ellis and other ABCFM Missionaries in the summer of 1823 (May 18, 2024), and
- The **Circumnavigation of O'ahu** by Queen Emma in 1875, organized by John Adams Kuakini Cummins (October 19, 2024).

The quarterly HMH **"Archives & Inquiry" Virtual Speaker Series** is a FREE hour long presentation beginning with the guest speakers and end with Q& A from the audience, that highlights the discoveries and work of diverse history and humanities scholars that work with Hawaiian Mission Houses' extensive archives, and whose work informs our contemporary world. Our quarterly **"Archives Uncorked"**, in partnership with Hawaiian Historical Society, is an exclusive cocktail hour opportunity for a special-access experiences and behind-the-scenes gaze into the vaults and collections of two historically renowned organizations in one location.

Demographic of Clientele/ Number Served/Geographic Region Covered:

The annual visitation for 2023 was 11,566 people including 1624 for daily tour programming. These are mostly visitors and tourists from outside of Hawai'i: College-age students, organized on-shore excursions from cruise ships, local community groups and quasi-governmental agencies, and staff from formal and informal education institutions. HMH also hosts Native Hawaiian craft groups, Hawaiian Language classes, and other community groups that rent our facilities.

On-site visitation for local students in 2023 was 46 schools who brought a total of 2703 students with age ranges from Kindergarten to High School on O'ahu. We conducted 2 virtual

field trips in 2023, which include 1 school from Kaua'i and 1 school from Hawai'i Island, a total of 168 students.

The total visitation for events in 2023 was 4,947. These are bigger public events such as Free Admission Family Days, O'ahu Cemetery Pupu Theatre, Hawaii Shakespeare Festival, The Annual Meeting of the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, A Gala fundraiser, an annual craft fair, a family evening for the lighting of Honolulu's Holiday tree, and special holiday tours, mostly attended by Hawai'i residents.

The History Theatre program at HMH has been travelling to neighbor islands and the continental US since 2018. Our major partners in these travelling theatre programs have been Lahaina Restoration Foundation and Makawao Cemetery Association on Maui, Lyman Museum and Mission House and Kona Historical Society on Hawai'i Island, and the Kaua'i Museum on Kaua'i. In 2019, the program did a one month tour of the Continental US throughout New England the Mid-Atlantic regions. In 2023, our major travelling history theatre programs were on Maui with our partners there with a total attendance of 260.

We also hosted a number of virtual programs including our Archives and Inquiry Virtual Speaker Series, which is held bimonthly with a total attendance in 2023 of 155.

Capital Need

HMH requests support for tangible assets, in this case storage solutions for our permanent object-based collection depreciated to the point of no longer being usable. The proposed work is based on a report generated in 2016 via a grant from National Endowment for the Humanities in which recommendations were made for how to better house the objects. What was discovered was the inconsistent way in which our kapa has been stored, from laying loose on shelf, to folded in boxes, which is incorrect because it causes stress on the fabric. Kapa pieces will be stored in flat file drawers (with base), and kapa moe (bigger kapa) will be stored via heavy-duty storage tubes with buffered acid-free tissue. The objects have already been inventoried in PastPerfect (2023). We plan to work with cultural practitioners and experts at our sister institutions to ensure that we are handling culturally appropriately and respectfully and preserving for future generations.

This proposed project is part of a larger, ongoing effort to update the interior of Chamberlain House. HMH recently overhauled the first floor exhibition space thanks to a \$150,000 grant from the Atherton Family Foundation. That grant, which spanned three years, culminated in the current exhibition on view and created the framework for future exhibitions.

Internal Revenue Service

Department of the Treasury

**P. O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201**

Date: September 19, 2000

Person to Contact:

**Ms. Smith #31-07262
Customer Service Representative**

Toll Free Telephone Number:

**8:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. EST
877-829-5500**

Fax Number:

513-263-3756

Federal Identification Number:

99-0073491

**Hawaiian Mission Childrens Society
553 S King St
Honolulu, HI 96813-3002**

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is in response to your request for a copy of your organization's determination letter. This letter will take the place of the copy you requested.

Our records indicate that a determination letter issued in July 1934 granted your organization exemption from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. That letter is still in effect.

Based on information subsequently submitted, we classified your organization as one that is not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because it is an organization described in section 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

This classification was based on the assumption that your organization's operations would continue as stated in the application. If your organization's sources of support, or its character, method of operations, or purposes have changed, please let us know so we can consider the effect of the change on the exempt status and foundation status of your organization.

Your organization is required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, only if its gross receipts each year are normally more than \$25,000. If a return is required, it must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the organization's annual accounting period. The law imposes a penalty of \$20 a day, up to a maximum of \$10,000, when a return is filed late, unless there is reasonable cause for the delay.

All exempt organizations (unless specifically excluded) are liable for taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (social security taxes) on remuneration of \$100 or more paid to each employee during a calendar year. Your organization is not liable for the tax imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Organizations that are not private foundations are not subject to the excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Code. However, these organizations are not automatically exempt from other federal excise taxes.

Donors may deduct contributions to your organization as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to your organization or for its use are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.