



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK  
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone:  
Web:

(808) 587-3807  
energy.hawaii.gov

## **REQUEST FOR INTEREST (RFI) Solicitation No. RFI-24-038-HSEO for THE ADOPTION OF THE LATEST AND ZERO BUILDING ENERGY CODES U.S. Department of Energy Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Number: DE-FOA-0003056 Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 81.117**

The Hawai'i State Energy Office's (HSEO) statutory purpose under Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) §196-71 is to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation to help achieve a resilient clean energy economy by 2045.

Through this Request for Interest (RFI), HSEO is seeking eligible entities interested in partnering with HSEO in an application to the United States Department of Energy (DOE) funding opportunity for assistance in the adoption of the latest and zero building energy codes (Program). The purpose of the Program is to adopt amended advanced International Energy Conservation Codes (IECC) and propose innovative approaches to decarbonize existing buildings through measurable and enforceable specifications.

The application shall be limited to Topic Area 3: "Adoption and Implementation of Innovative Building Energy Code Approaches" as described in the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), [DE-FOA-0003056](#). This Topic Area will provide funding for the adoption and implementation of innovative building codes, such as building performance standards (BPS) for existing buildings or stretch codes for new and renovated buildings.

HSEO will also partner with other states and jurisdictions which have adopted or are planning to adopt zero building and innovative energy codes. HSEO will conduct and distribute cost/benefit analyses that include available national and state tax incentives, financing programs and national and state rebates including but not limited to IRA section 50131.

Entities interested in partnering with HSEO on this opportunity are asked to submit a response to this RFI outlining their proposed partnership contributions, qualifications, and experience. Guidance for the submission of responses is provided herein.

**Deadline for RFI Responses: January 31, 2024, by 4:30 P.M. (Hawai'i Standard Time)**

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

The objectives of the Program are to:

- 1. Promote the adoption and implementation of the latest IECC and zero energy codes at the state and county levels.** Assist in decarbonizing homes and buildings through the adoption of the latest national model building energy codes, building performance standards, and other codes that deliver equivalent or greater energy savings, including innovative approaches to decarbonize existing buildings through certain measurable and enforceable requirements.
- 2. Provide training.** Support sustainable change at the state and county levels with respect to advancing the energy efficiency of new, renovated, and existing buildings.
- 3. Implement plans.** Develop an implementation plan that provides approaches to achieving full compliance with the adopted codes, plans for capacity building to support ongoing implementation, and provide active workforce training and enforcement programs.

The partner(s) selected through this RFI will be identified as partners in HSEO's Program application due to DOE on or before February 9, 2024. DOE is expected to issue a first-round notification of selection in August 2024. The expected period of performance is from September 1, 2024 to September 30, 2034.

## ELIGIBLE PARTNERS AND POTENTIAL PARTNER ACTIVITIES

Types of eligible entities for this partnership include:

- Institutions of higher education
- For-profit entities
- Nonprofit entities
- State, territorial, regional and local governmental entities and indigenous associations
- Code and standards developers
- Associations of builders and design and construction professionals
- Local and utility energy efficiency program implementers

Potential partner activities may include but not be limited to:

- Partner with other states, territories, regions, and jurisdictions which have adopted or are planning to adopt zero building energy or other innovative codes.
- Partner with research institutions and institutes of higher learning to potentially incorporate into codes beyond-code provisions including decarbonization.
- Prepare list of prospective hires for State Building Codes Council executive director and executive assistant to facilitate the adoption of state building codes including amendments.
- Convene state and county representatives to ensure that efficiency programs are coordinated. Provide technical assistance and compliance services to state and county code officials.

- Provide training for code administrators, building designers and trades; provide and administer a hotline.
- Propose multi-year investments in evolving building codes and workforce development.
- Partner with community leaders to benefit from market transformation through the adoption of new technologies.
- Perform energy audits in existing buildings.
- Collaborate with the Public Utilities Commission, utilities, and others to ensure seamless coordination.

## **POTENTIAL PROGRAM DELIVERABLES**

Deliverables for the Program may include but are not limited to:

- Meetings with states and jurisdictions which have researched, adopted, or are planning to adopt zero building energy and/or innovative building decarbonization codes.
- Workshops involving development and deployment of innovative codes.
- Meetings that ensure state and county code collaboration; and lists of points of contact.
- List of individuals participating in training.
- Minutes of meetings between HSEO, utilities, Public Utility Commission, contractors and consultants.
- Lists of disadvantaged groups receiving training and technical assistance.
- List of hotline requests for information.
- List of cost/benefit studies which factor in tax credits, rebates, and subsidies.
- Final drafts of zero energy codes and/or innovative building decarbonization codes.

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SELECTION PROCESS**

A selection committee designated by the Procurement Officer shall evaluate responses in accordance with the evaluation criteria below. All respondents will be evaluated based on a 100-point scale and must score a minimum of 50 points from all members of the selection committee for partnership consideration.

Respondents who meet the minimum average score requirement may be selected for partnership solely based on their submission, or they may be asked by the selection committee to clarify details of their response before the committee makes its decision. Respondents' qualifications, experience, and suitability of proposed contributions for meeting Program goals will be considered in the selection of partners. HSEO may select multiple respondents with complementary experience and expertise to form a coalition for the grant application.

- 1. Latest IECC codes and/or innovative building decarbonization codes training qualifications – 40 points**
  - a. Demonstrated ability to develop and/or provide energy code trainings – **25 points**
  - b. Demonstrated ability to develop and/or implement code and/or standards related adoption strategies and plans – **10 points**
  - c. Qualifications of key personnel identified for this project – **5 points**
- 2. Community engagement qualifications – 40 points**
  - a. Demonstrated ability to work with communities on energy-related topics – **20 points**
  - b. Demonstrated ability to communicate and promote educational events in community settings – **20 points**
- 3. Track metrics and facilitate program adoption – 10 points**
  - a. Demonstrated ability to track program deliverables – **5 points**
  - b. Demonstrated ability to quantify program adoption and if available, energy savings – **5 points**

Respondents are encouraged to provide examples of metric tracking.

- 4. Experience with underserved communities and underrepresented groups and Justice40 – 10 points**
  - a. Demonstrated ability to engage communities. – **5 points**
  - b. Demonstrated awareness of and experience with Justice40 initiatives – **5 points**

Respondents should demonstrate participation in related successful projects or initiatives.

## **SUBMISSION FORMAT**

Respondents shall submit their interest(s) in partnering in the following format:

- Coversheet containing company and partner information, including:
  - Eligible partner type(s) – see list of partner types under Eligible Partners and Potential Partner Activities section above
  - Company and contact information:
    1. Legal name of business,
    2. Address,
    3. Contact name,
    4. Telephone number,
    5. Email address, and
    6. Website address

- A maximum five (5) page description of the proposed contributions of the partner to the Program.
- Names and resumes of key executive employee(s) consistent with Evaluation Criterion 1c.
- A statement that the respondent understands that HSEO reserves the right to incorporate or not incorporate in the federal grant application any recommendations presented in response to this RFI.
- A statement that the respondent understands that neither HSEO nor the interested provider has any obligation under this RFI.

Respondents may amend or clarify submissions at any time by filing a new response prior to the submission deadline.

## **SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

To be considered for this grant opportunity, all responses must be submitted via email and received no later than **4:30 P.M. (Hawai'i Standard Time) on January 31, 2024**. Timely receipt of the response shall be evidenced by the date and time of email delivery. Any response received after this deadline will be automatically disqualified. Facsimiles and/or hard copies of any submission shall not be accepted.

Responses shall be sent via email to [dbedt.hseo.solicitations@hawaii.gov](mailto:dbedt.hseo.solicitations@hawaii.gov), with "Response for Solicitation No. RFI-24-038-HSEO" in the email subject line.

## **QUESTIONS**

All procedural questions regarding this RFI shall be submitted in writing via email to [dbedt.hseo.solicitations@hawaii.gov](mailto:dbedt.hseo.solicitations@hawaii.gov). Only questions received by 4:30 P.M. (Hawai'i Standard Time) on January 24, 2024 will be accepted.

## **CONFIDENTIAL SUBMISSIONS**

If a person believes that any portion of a proposal, offer, or correspondence contains information such as designated trade secrets or other proprietary data that should be withheld as confidential, then the head of the purchasing agency should be so advised in writing and provided with justification to support the confidentiality claim. Cost is not considered confidential and will not be withheld.

The material designated as confidential shall be readily separable from the submission in order to facilitate eventual public inspection of the non-confidential portion of the submission.

The head of the purchasing agency or designee shall consult with the Attorney General, who shall make a written determination in accordance with HRS Chapter 92F of whether the material designated as confidential is subject to disclosure. If the request

for confidentiality is denied, such information shall be disclosed as public information, unless the person appeals the denial to the Office of Information Practices in accordance with HRS §92F-15.5(a).

## **INCOMPLETE SUBMISSIONS**

Responses received by the submission deadline but missing substantive information will be scored according to the criteria above.

## **TECHNICAL IRREGULARITIES**

Technical irregularities are matters of form rather than substance evident from the submission, or insignificant mistakes that can be waived or corrected without prejudice to other respondents. The Procurement Officer may waive such irregularities or allow a respondent to correct them if doing so is in the best interest of the State.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Costs for developing responses or assisting in development of the federal grant application are solely the responsibility of the respondent. Whether or not any award results from this RFI, HSEO will not reimburse such costs.

HSEO reserves the right to cancel this RFI and to reject any and all submissions in whole or in part when it is determined to be in the best interest of the State.

HSEO reserves the right to incorporate or not incorporate in the federal grant application any recommendations presented in response to this RFI. Neither HSEO nor any interested provider shall have any obligation under this request.

All submissions become the property of the State of Hawai'i.

HSEO is committed to providing equal access consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and other state and federal laws. If you have a disability that may restrict your ability to meaningfully participate in this solicitation, we will provide you with reasonable and appropriate accommodation at no cost to you. If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other reasonable accommodation, please contact Kathy Yim by phone at 808-460-7995 or by email at [kathy.yim@hawaii.gov](mailto:kathy.yim@hawaii.gov). Requests made as early as possible will allow time for us to better serve you.

For screen reader users: HSEO recognizes the use of diacritical markings of the Hawaiian language such as the 'okina (also called a glottal stop) and the kahakō (also called a macron). Please note that screen readers may not read or pronounce the Hawaiian words correctly.

## **AWARD**

All respondents shall be notified in writing of their selection or non-selection as a grant partner. If the grant is awarded, a notice of award shall be posted on the State Procurement Office website.

Mark B. Glick  
Chief Energy Officer  
Hawai'i State Energy Office  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

(Internet Posting: January 18, 2024)