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September 29, 2026

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

AGRICULTURAL PROJECT PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT (AgDev26)

RFI Number: RFI-26-OC1

Request for Information (RFI-26-OC1)

This Request for Information (RFI) is issued by the State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (HDAB) to collect information on specific agricultural projects and initiatives that may be advanced and positioned for state and federal funding opportunities.

The intent of this RFI is to create a library of actionable projects that can be aligned with current and future funding opportunities.

This RFI is issued solely for planning and information-gathering purposes. The information collected will be used to better understand the range of project types, levels of readiness, and conditions that may support increased agricultural production and strengthen Hawai'i's agricultural system. This RFI does not constitute a solicitation for proposals, bids, or quotations, and no contract or funding award will result from this request.

Interested parties are encouraged to submit information describing specific projects or initiatives, including those that are in early planning or more advanced stages of development. Submissions should reflect a defined project concept (e.g., identified site, operator, or existing effort), rather than general ideas or commentary.

Participation in this RFI is voluntary. Responses will not be evaluated, scored, or ranked, and submission of information will not create any obligation on the part of the State.

Information submitted may be used to inform future funding alignment, planning, or coordination efforts.

Purpose and Context

The purpose of this RFI is to support a statewide effort to identify and advance agricultural projects that can increase food production and strengthen Hawai‘i’s agricultural system. The State seeks to better understand the types of projects, conditions, and levels of readiness that may support implementation and alignment with funding opportunities.

Projects and initiatives may take many forms and may be at different stages of development. These may include, but are not limited to, infrastructure or facility development, processing or value-added capacity, supply chain and distribution systems, workforce development, technology or equipment investments, or other activities that support agricultural production. Projects should demonstrate a broader agricultural or community benefit and are not intended to support initiatives that solely benefit a single business or individual.

The State is particularly interested in projects that have progressed beyond the conceptual stage and have completed some level of preliminary planning. This may include initiatives with an identified site, operator, or existing program or operation that can be expanded or adapted.

Projects may range from early planning efforts to more advanced initiatives where feasibility, design, or other preparatory work has been completed but additional coordination, refinement, or funding is needed to move toward implementation.

The State recognizes that projects may involve multiple partners and may operate at different scales, including island-specific or multi-island efforts. Respondents are encouraged to indicate any existing or potential partnerships that may support implementation.

Information collected through this RFI will be used to:

- identify projects that may be aligned with current or future funding opportunities
- understand common constraints and gaps affecting project advancement
- support coordination and prioritization of efforts that contribute to increased agricultural production

Submission of information in response to this RFI does not imply any commitment by the State to pursue or fund specific projects. Projects identified through this process may be

supported by HDAB through coordination, facilitation, or funding alignment, but may also be led by external entities.

Submission Instructions

Interested parties are invited to submit responses to this RFI through a standardized online form. Responses must be submitted electronically using this form. Submissions provided through other formats (e.g., email attachments, PDFs, or narrative documents) will not be reviewed. The form is expected to take approximately **10-15 minutes** to complete.

The form is designed to collect information in a consistent format to support review and alignment with potential funding opportunities. Respondents are encouraged to provide concise, high-level information describing a specific project or initiative. Submissions should reflect a defined project concept rather than general ideas. Detailed project plans, cost estimates, or feasibility analyses are not required at this stage.

Responses must be received no later than 5p HST on October 30, 2026. Late submissions may not be considered.

Questions regarding this RFI may be directed to Lesley Harvey, HDAB Grant Writing Specialist at Lesley.g.harvey@hawaii.gov. Responses to this RFI are voluntary, and submission of information does not obligate the State to pursue or fund any initiative. Form url: https://dab.hawaii.gov/agdev26/