

## HISC FY 2014 Funding Report: Biological Control Technicians and Facility Feasibility Study

In FY 2014, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture received funding from the Hawaii Invasive Species Council for technicians to assist with ongoing biological control projects which included but were not limited to, fireweed, maile pilau, and macadamia felted coccid. Delays in the recruitment process occurred. This resulted in change due to project deadlines from recruiting full time, regular staff to full time, casual hire. Two individuals were recruited, however, difficulties were encountered in bringing them onboard. In December 2014, two technicians were funded and assigned to assist looking for pathogens on fireweed and rearing and testing of two agents (a chrysolimid leaf feeder and a moth leaf tyer). After the funding lapsed, these two RCUH technicians have been picked up as 89-day hires with HDOA.

The Facility Feasibility Study was funded to begin the process of identifying and designing new biocontrol facilities for the state of Hawaii and US Forest Service usage. The facility(ies) would be house multiple agencies and be a combination of pathology, insect and plant containment. The facility would also include resources for non-containment green houses. A rough idea of needs was developed. However, before the progress on the contract was made, HDOA staff was re-allocated to lead the coconut rhinoceros beetle response and other programs. When the project was revisited, based on procurement restrictions, any potential contractor would have needed to file a completed report in less than three months. As a result, the contracting was never done.

FY 14 Award Spent: \$12,701.34

FY 14 Award Remaining: \$91,667.66