



2021 Executive Summary

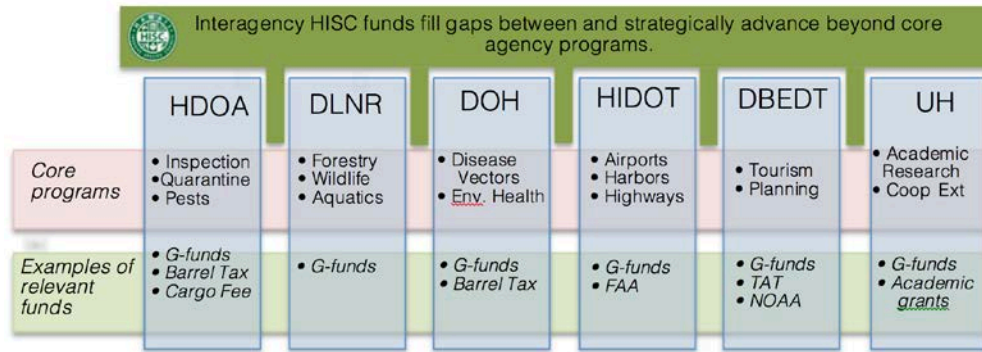
# HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

PROVIDING STATE POLICY DIRECTION, COORDINATION, AND PLANNING TO PROTECT HAWAII FROM THE IMPACTS OF INVASIVE SPECIES

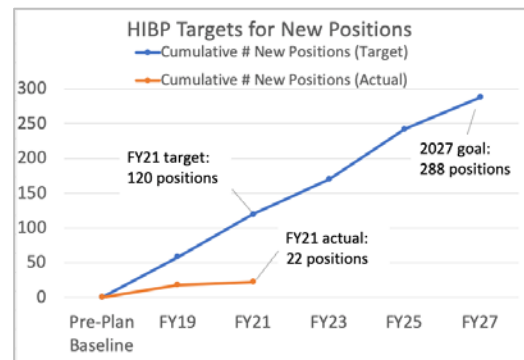


BUDGETARY ISSUES RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

- State agencies largely address invasive species through existing programs funded by departmental budgets. A 2015 report by the Legislative Reference Bureau found that in FY14, \$19.6M (0.15% of a total \$13B state budget) in state funding was provided for invasive species programs at state agencies.
- HISC funds support interagency projects and new research that help fill the gaps between permanent programs. In 2020 the legislature maintained its \$5.75M appropriation to the HISC.

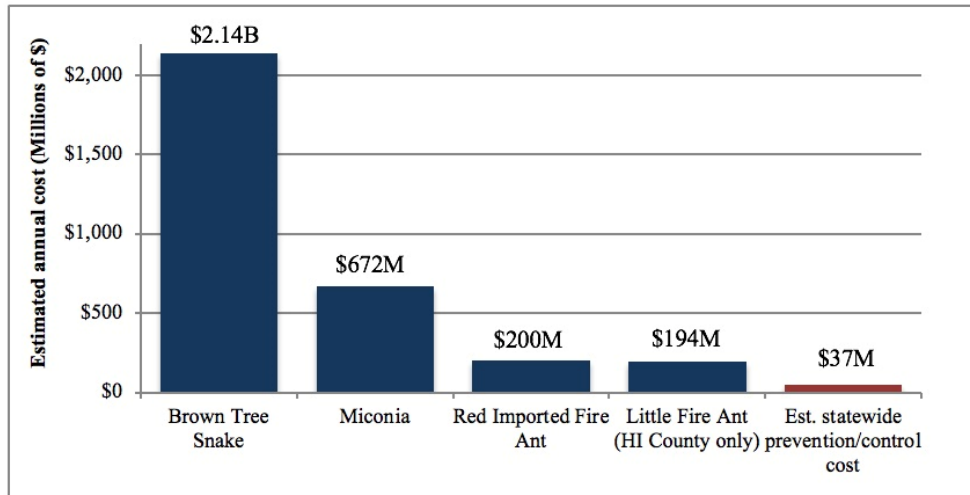


- In FY21 the HISC received 53 requests for research and interagency projects not covered by existing agency programs or funds, totaling \$9.2M
- **The primary biosecurity need moving forward is civil service capacity.** Positions are needed at HDOA for commodity inspection and response, and at DLNR DAR for hull inspection. **With the economic downturn due to COVID-19,** we have an opportunity to grow, rather than shrink, our cost-saving biosecurity positions and other resources.



THE COST OF INACTION: ECONOMIC DAMAGES FROM INVASIVE SPECIES

Economic impacts below include estimated damages from species that are already in Hawai‘i (*Miconia* and little fire ant), and potential damages from species that have so far been kept from establishing (brown tree snake and red imported fire ant).



*L to R: brown tree snake impact (\$2.14B/yr in infrastructure, health costs, tourism), Miconia impacts (\$672M/yr in lost water recharge, bird habitat); RIFA cost (\$200M/yr in lost tourism, agriculture); LFA cost, HI County only (\$194M/yr in costs to various sectors); estimated **additional** annual need for invasives programs (HIBP). References available in full 2020 legislative report at <http://hisc.hawaii.gov>.*

ADVICE REGARDING INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE 2021 LEGISLATURE

The primary recommendation of the HISC to the legislature in 2020 is to **continue to implement the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan (HIBP)**, the State's 10-year vision roadmap to enhance biosecurity and invasive species mitigation (<http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/plans/hibp/>). After the 2008 economic downturn HDOA Plant Quarantine, DOH Vector Control Branch positions, and HISC funds were cut. The result was increased invasive species establishment and increased control costs, including substantial events such as the dengue fever outbreak of 2015, the coconut rhinoceros beetle detection in 2013, and the spread of little fire ants to O‘ahu in 2013. **In the time of COVID-19, the HIBP provides a path to save Hawai‘i money in the long run and provides opportunities for job creation.**

**Biosecurity Plan Legislative Goals: Past Successes (2017-19)**

• Fully restored the Vector Control Branch at Department of Health	• Appropriated planning funds for a new HDOA Biological Control facility
• Approved HDOA to use transitional facilities for commodity inspection	• Added two positions for UH Hawaii Ant Lab to expand services in Kona
• Provided stable funds to the HISC by adding annual appropriation to base budget	• Provided funds for rapid ohia death, rat lungworm, parakeets, & coffee berry borer
• 4 specialist positions for HDOA imports	• CIP funds for dog kennels, coqui barrier, predator proof fencing
• Increased HISC funding by \$1M	• Increased CIP funds for watershed fencing for invasive animals

**Successes from the 2020 Legislative Session**

- HISC funding maintained, despite COVID-19
- BMPs required for little fire ant treatments

**Examples of Remaining Biosecurity Plan Legislative Needs**

• Add additional positions for commodity inspections at HDOA Plant Quarantine	• Add positions and fee collection for DLNR DAR vessel hull inspection program
• Add additional positions at HDOA Plant Pest Control Branch	• Add DLNR DOFAW field technicians for invasives control in natural areas
• Construction funds for biological control facility	• Move enforcement of HDOA import laws under the new Environmental Court