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## HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

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August 28, 2024

### SUBMITTAL

TO: Co-chairs and Members  
Hawaii Invasive Species Council  
State of Hawaii

FROM: Rob Hauff, Chair Resources Working Group and  
Chelsea Arnott, Invasive Species Coordinator  
Hawaii Invasive Species Council

SUBJECT: Requesting approval of the Fiscal Year 2025 Hawaii Invasive Species  
Council budget

### Background:

Since its inception in 2003, the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) has disbursed funding to support interagency invasive species projects that:

- Fill gaps between agency mandates or existing agency programs, and/or
- Advance our collective knowledge through research and development of new tools.

Funds are disbursed via an intra-governmental granting process wherein state, county, and federal offices may submit requests for funding and meet to collaboratively draft a recommended budget for HISC review.

For Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25), the legislature appropriated \$5,750,000 to the HISC. An additional \$1,500,000 was added to the HISC budget by the legislature. The HISC appropriations are subject to a 10% expenditure restriction by the Department of Budget and Finance and 7% overhead from the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (Forestry and Wildlife) at the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) as the administrative host of the HISC. The account that the HISC appropriation is allocated to, LNR402, was subject to a 20% reduction in FY23 and FY24 which carried over to FY25. A breakdown of these amounts is provided in Table 1.

The amount of funding required to support core programs under the HISC for FY24 is \$479,716.89. This includes:

- The "HISC Support" project that entails two full-time positions (HISC Planner PEST.org public pest reporting website, this position also provides interagency

support, outreach, and coordination. HISC Support Program budget also provides associated travel, supplies, and other costs associated with administration of the HISC and its supported projects. This year HISC is hosting a part-time Kupu intern.

- Intermittent support for programmers and administrators associated with online product development under the Hawai'i Biodiversity Information Network (HBIN). HBIN manages the online pest reporting system 643pest.org as well as other invasive species products; and
- Support for the Hawai'i-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment, which employs one weed risk assessor.

An additional amount of \$249,056.11 will be used to support seven months of the Ports of Entry Monitoring (PoEM) program which includes:

- The Invasive Species Projects and Research Coordinator who coordinates the program and works with scientists and practitioners to identify research needs and priorities that can advance invasive species knowledge, technology, and tools; and
- Support to the Island Invasive Species Committees and Hawai'i Ant Lab that provide staff to perform the regular monitoring and response for the program and each of the State airport ports and seaports.

The remaining balance of \$4,059,457.00 is available for interagency project grants.

**Table 1:** Breakdown of total available FY25 HISC funding to support interagency projects and programs compared to FY24.

	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY24</b>
Total Requests	\$8,034,893.17	\$8,494,425.00
HISC Base	\$4,779,230.00	\$4,686,081
HISC Program Support	\$479,716.89	\$600,000
PoEM	\$240,056.11	NA
Remaining	<b>\$4,059,457.00</b>	<b>\$4,086,081</b>

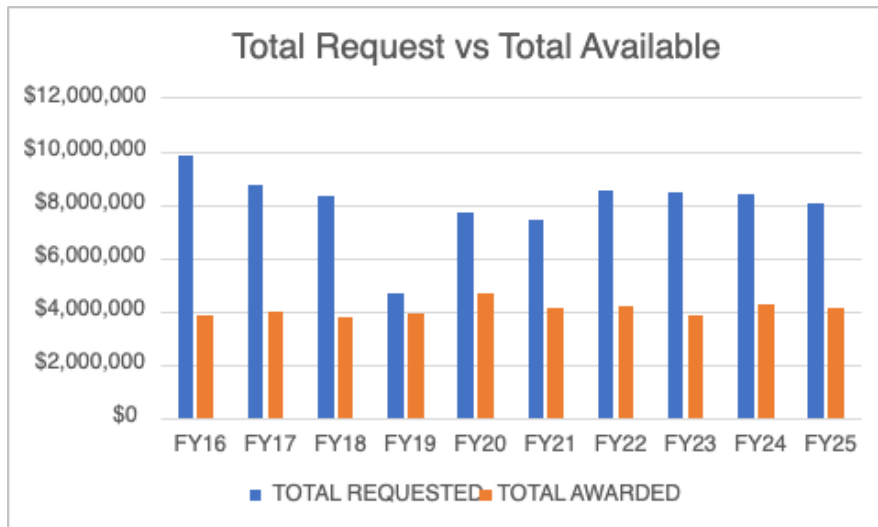
Discussion:

The preparation of the FY25 recommended budget for the HISC was accomplished through the following process:

- A call for proposals was released May 5, 2024, with applications due by 5:00 pm HST on June 6, 2024.
- As described in the proposal guidelines, applications needed to demonstrate applicability to the five funding priorities based on the strategies outlined in the "HISC & CGAPS 2025 Joint Strategy: In support of the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan".

- Members of the Resources Working Group (RWG), comprised of nine managers and staff from the Departments represented on the Council and HISC Support Staff (See Table 2 below), evaluated proposals, scoring them based on the projects ability to address the five funding priorities. Additional points were possible for sector relevancy and providing leveraged funding. The total amount of points possible is 57. A quantitative score for each proposal is calculated and provides a ranking of lowest scoring to highest scoring proposals. Scores are factored into the application's funding request and the total available HISC funds to produce a recommended award amount that serves as a starting point for the discussion at the Resources Working Group meeting. Proposals that scored low based on the quantitative evaluations and hit a low bracket relative to other proposals, are not recommended for FY25 HISC funding and not part of the Resources Working Group discussion. This year, there were no low scoring proposals that were in this bracket, therefore, all submitted proposals were discussed at the Resources Working Group meeting with the exception of the proposal that was voluntarily removed from consideration by the applicant.
- On August 15, 2024, the Resources Working Group (RWG) facilitated a virtual meeting to discuss the merits of each application and develop a balanced recommended budget for FY25 HISC funding. This is not a public meeting, however applicants are invited to attend to address questions or comments that may arise by members of the RWG during discussion. The recommended FY25 HISC Budget approved by the HISC Resources Working Group is provided in Attachment 1.

Requests received for FY25 funding totaled \$8,083,419.17 across 19 proposals. One applicant requested their proposal be removed from consideration during the evaluation process. For the 19 proposals, the Resources Working Group recommended partial funding based on the amount requested, application merit (e.g., score), and the overall amount of available funding. Applicants were asked at the time of submission to indicate whether their projects were scalable, indicating that a partial award would be useful in contributing toward the overall project budget. With only having total available \$4,059,457.00, the Resources Working Group is responsible for balancing the budget and ultimately reducing the requests by half (See Figure 1). This leaves most applicants with the responsibility of securing additional funding sources for their projects.



**Figure 1:** The total requested and the total available for HISC funding by year.

Out of the 19 proposals, all were considered to have merit and discussed at the Resources Working Group. 16 proposals received partial awards, 1 received the full award based on the project not be scalable and the funding being critical for the continuation of the Ballast Water and Hull Fouling Planner. Two proposals were recommended no HISC funding for FY25 based on alternative funding being available. Those proposals are “Detection and Management Strategies for the Control of *Prosapia bicincta* (Twolined Spittlebug) in Hawai’i” where HDOA will be providing \$200,000 from their FY25 Biosecurity appropriation to support this research and “Optimizing screening for invasive honeybees pests and diseases” is receiving funds from FY24 REPI program, which will still only provides partial funding for the overall projects.

**Table 2:** FY25 HISC Resources Working Group Members

Name	Department
Rob Hauff, Chair	DLNR, Forestry & Wildlife
Lizzy Monaghan	DLNR, Aquatic Resources
Rachel Beasley	DBEDT, Office of Planning & Sustainable Development
Darcy Oishi	HDOA, Plant Pest Control Branch
Matt Kurano	DOH, Vector Control Branch
Mike Melzer	UH, College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources
Christy Martin	UH, Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit
Tomo Murata	DOT, Planning
Chelsea Arnott	HISC Program Support

Legal Authority:

- HRS 194-2 (a): Establishes the HISC for the purpose of cabinet-level coordination and planning among state departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives; and
- HRS 194-2 (a)(4): Directs the HISC to create and implement a plan for prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, enforcement, and education.

Recommendations:

1. That the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council approve the FY25 budget for HISC support and an interagency budget for invasive species projects and programs recommended by the Resources Working Group provided in Attachment 1, and
2. That, should the Department of Budget and Finance make any changes to the restriction on expenditures, the HISC delegate authority to the HISC Support Staff to identify best way to apply additional restrictions to project funds, or to identify best uses of any released funds, and
3. That, if there are any changes in the scope or implementation of projects over the course of the year, the Council delegate authority to the HISC Support staff to make adjustments to project funds or reassign project funds from any project that does not proceed in a timely manner.

Attachment:

- FY25 HISC Budget Recommendations of the HISC Resources Working Group

Attachment 1: FY25 HISC Budget Recommendations of the HISC Resources Working Group

<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Total Request</b>	<b>FY25 Recommended Award</b>
<b>19</b>	Tracking the spread of ramie moth, <i>Arcte coerulea</i> , a Pest of Māmaki and other nettles in Hawai'i"	UH	\$71,474.00	\$20,884
<b>18</b>	Outreach and extension for management of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death on Hawai'i Island	UH	\$54,238.41	\$17,713
<b>17</b>	Development of an environmental DNA (eDNA) tool for early detection of invasives and monitoring for spread of <i>Unomia</i> in Hawai'i	UH	\$132,511.00	\$43,274
<b>16</b>	Detection and Management Strategies for the Control of <i>Prosapia bicincta</i> (Twolined Spittlebug) in Hawai'i	UH	\$568,926.00	\$0
<b>15</b>	Optimizing screening for invasive honeybee pests and diseases	UH	\$43,166.03	\$0
<b>14</b>	OISC EDRR and Priority Pest Control	UH PCSU	\$453,760.05	\$194,978
<b>13</b>	BIISC Community Engagement Program	UH PCSU	\$451,066.00	\$201,573
<b>12</b>	OISC High Priority Weed Control	UH PCSU	\$1,032,998.70	\$401,629
<b>11</b>	Engaging the Public to Protect Maui Nui from Invasive Species – MISC & MoMISC	UH PCSU	\$200,000.00	\$89,376
<b>10</b>	OISC Outreach, Education, & Community Response	UH PCSU	\$357,473.98	\$165,893
<b>9</b>	Demonstrating efficacy of large-scale mosquito control using Bti larvicide to facilitate recovery of native Hawaiian forest birds	DLNR	\$117,376.00	\$117,374

8	BIISC Forest & Widespread Invasive Response Team	UH PCSU	\$495,231.00	\$238,334
7	Detection and Control of Invasive Plant Species on Hawai'i Island	UH PCSU	\$795,642.00	\$410,259
6	Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Control	UH PCSU	\$1,118,522.00	\$595,972
5	Public Outreach and Education on Kaua'i	UH/PCSU	\$222,208.00	\$118,397
4	Ballast Water and Hull Fouling	DLNR	\$85,000.00	\$85,000
3	Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species	UH PCSU	\$85,300.00	\$52,780
2	Detection and Control of Invasive Species in Maui County: MISC & MoMISC	UH PCSU	\$750,000.00	\$635,698
1	Statewide Little Fire Ant Mitigation	UH PCSU	\$1,000,000.00	\$670,323
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$8,034,893</b>	<b>\$4,059,458</b>

#### Summaries of Invasive Species Committees' Recommended Awards

Program	Total Requested	FY25 Recommended Award	FY24 Award
BIISC	\$1,741,939	\$850,166	\$809,502.000
MISC/MoMISC	950,000	725,074	\$825,000.00
OISC	1,844,233	762,500	\$715,000.00
KISC	1,340,730	714,369	\$659,677
ISCs Total	5,876,902	\$3,052,110	\$3,009,179