



May 28, 2025

9:00 AM

# Public Meeting of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

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**In-Person Location:** DLNR Board Room 132, 1151 Punchbowl St, Honolulu, HI, 96813

**Remote Options:**

**Zoom:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86381927269?pwd=Kg380wnNzBDcKyJrOFFb1HflyqbD6U.1>

Meeting ID: 863 8192 7269

Passcode: 162895

**YouTube:** <https://youtube.com/live/JevWGSunb98?feature=share>



# MEETING AGENDA

- Call to order
- Introductions of Hawai'i Invasive Species Council Members
- Approval of minutes from March 20, 2025, Hawai'i Invasive Species Council meeting
- Update to HISC members on House Bill No. 427, Relating to Biosecurity from HISC Program Support. Link to the Hawai'i State Legislature: [HB 427, CD1 – Relating to Biosecurity](#).
- Hawai'i Invasive Species Council Review and Recommendations relating to Fiscal Year 2026 Funding Process
  - a. Presentation by HISC Program Manager, Chelsea Arnott: Overview of the HISC Funding Process & Recommendations from the HISC Resources Working Group for the Fiscal Year 2026 Funding Process
  - b. Discussion and Recommendations by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council members on changes, improvements, and/or issues to address for the Fiscal Year 2026 HISC Funding Process. HISC members may vote on the matter and direct the HISC Resources Working Group to incorporate any approved items.
- Presentation of 2025 Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Month (HISAM) Award Recipients. More information on each recipient can be found at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/news/hisam-2025-awardees/>.
- - a. **Trenton Yasui**, Greatest Hit
  - b. **Aloha Termite and Pest Control**, Outstanding Business Leader
  - c. **Haleakalā Ranch**, Community Hero
  - d. **Thomas Griego**, O'ahu MVP
  - e. **Michael Opgenorth**, Maui Nui MVP
  - f. **Kiane Prietto**, Hawai'i Island MVP
  - g. **Work It Out Kaua'i**, Kaua'i MVP
- Public Comments
- Adjournment



# Update to HISC members on House Bill No. 427, Relating to Biosecurity from HISC Program Support.

Link to the Hawai'i State Legislature:  
[HB 427, CD1 – Relating to Biosecurity.](#)

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## HB 427, CD1 – Relating to Biosecurity

- Status: Pending Governor's approval
- Major Highlights:
  - Changes name to Hawai'i Department of Agriculture & Biosecurity
  - Establishes a Deputy Chairperson of Biosecurity by January 1, 2027
  - Requires the development of a Pest Dashboard by July 1, 2025
  - Appropriations for...
    - Hawai'i Ant Lab - \$500,000 for FY26 and FY27
    - CRB Response Team - \$500,000 for FY26 and FY27
    - HISC - \$4.25M for FY26 (DLNR) and FY27 (HDOA)
  - Transfer administration of HISC from DLNR to HDOA by January 1, 2030



# Overview of the HISC Funding Process & Recommendations from the HISC Resources Working Group for the Fiscal Year 2026 Funding Process

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# Purpose of HISC Funding

Since fiscal year 2005 HISC has received an annual appropriation from the State Legislature that supports interagency invasive species projects and programs that:

1. Expand agencies capacity to work on priority issues.
2. Fill gaps between agency mandates or existing agency programs.
3. Advance our collective knowledge through research and development of new tools and technology.

If the increase of \$4.25M is approved by the Governor, this will mark the first increase to HISC in 5 years and the largest increase to date.

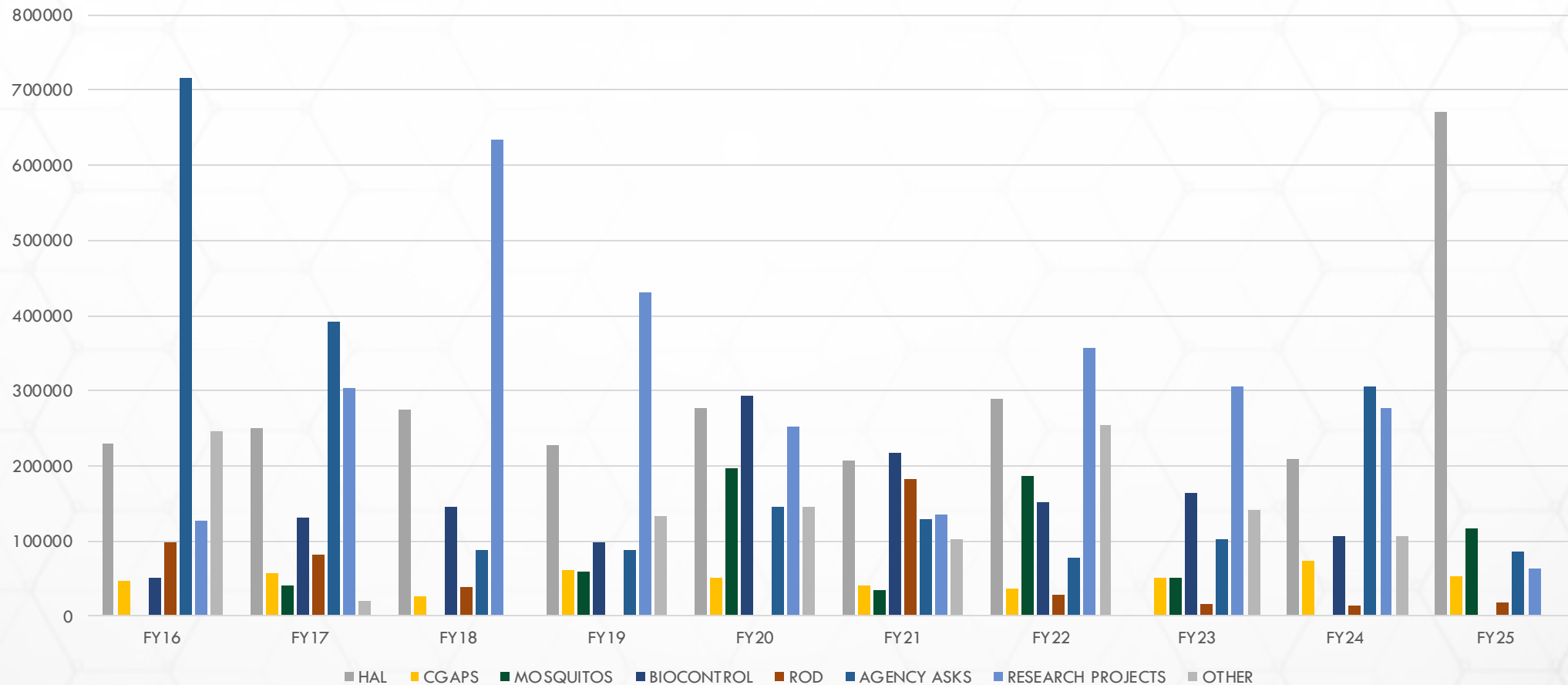




# History of HISC Funding

HISC Funding Categories  
Minus the ISCs  
FY16-FY25

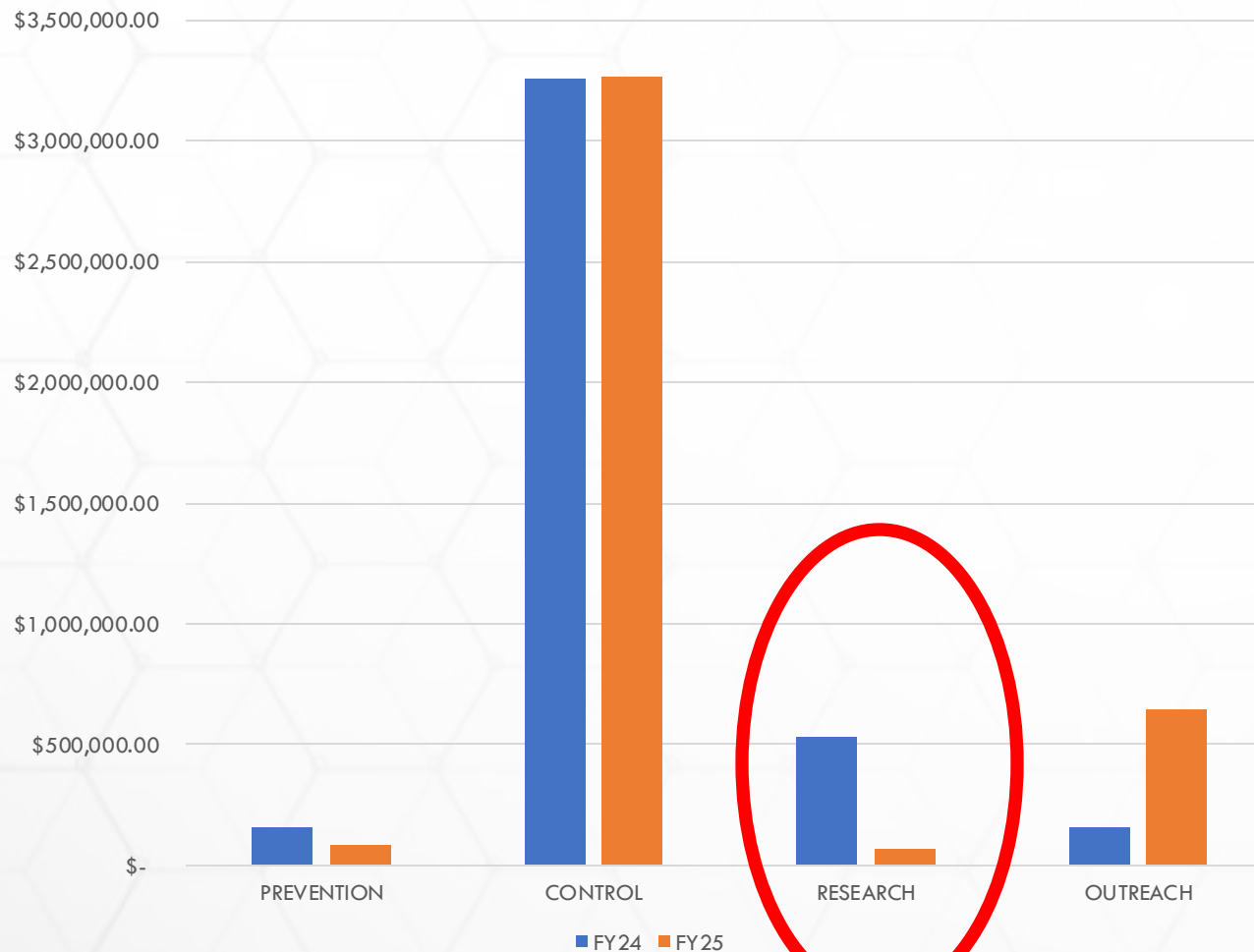
Majority of HISC funding supports the 5 Island Invasive Species Committees that are critical for Early Detection/Rapid Response and control/eradication of existing pests.



# HISC Funding History



HISC Funding by Subject Area  
FY24-FY25



## Prevention

- Primarily a function under DOA PQ Branch and AQ Branch; regulatory authority to inspect, quarantine. Restricted/Prohibited lists.
- DAR is lead for marine biosecurity. HISC funds the Ballast Water Hull fouling planner \$85k.

## Control

- HDOA focuses managing pests that primarily impact agriculture. Do play a role with CRB, LFA, and coqui.
- HISC funds around \$3M annually to support the ISCs that work to eradicate target plants, insects and diseases. Their efforts expand existing capacity or work where no one else is working.

## Research

- HISC funds vary year to year for research FY25 was one of the lowest amounts awarded to research. There is a need both from HISC and HDOA to invest more into new tools and tech development.

## Outreach

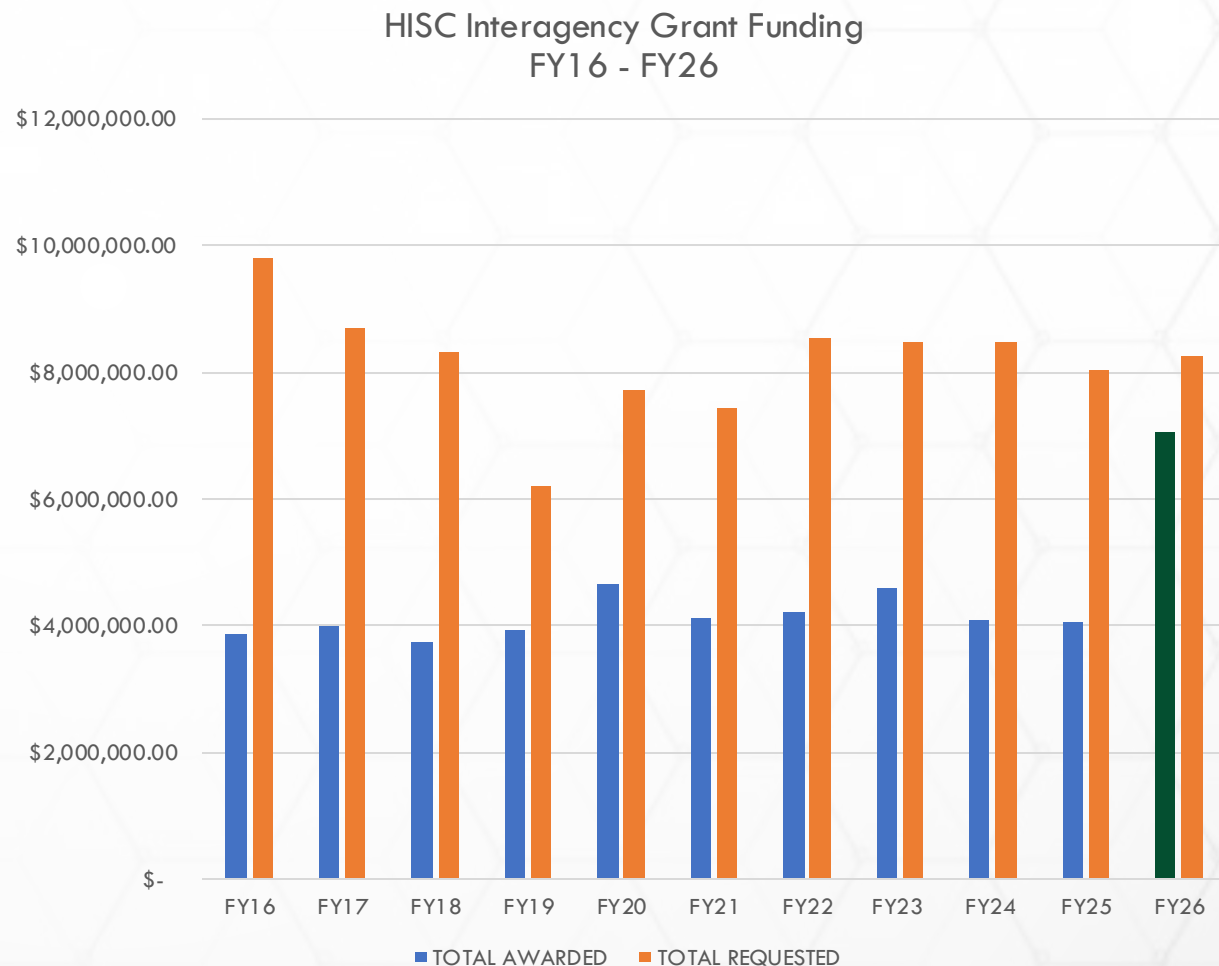
- HDOA issues press releases, provides information, pest alerts and oversees 643-PEST hotline
- HISC funds the ISC outreach program and other Outreach efforts that are community based to raise awareness and provide “calls to action” HISC funds and oversees the 643PEST.org website.





# HISC's Request: \$4.25M (LNR402)

- **\$1.725M** 5 Island Invasive Species Committees
- **\$865,500** for research projects that enhance tools and technology.
- **\$300k** for Biocontrol
- **\$300k** for HISC capacity (grant management, compliance, and operations)
- **\$525k** interagency monitoring for high impact pests at critical control points (CRB, invasive ants, Africanized bees, Japanese Beetle, and mosquitos)





# HISC Funding Process

## Request for Proposals

- RFP Posted
- Only gov't agencies eligible
- Applicants must demonstrate advancement of HISC funding Priorities
- Past funded projects must provide update on deliverables

## Evaluations

- RWG members evaluate proposals
- Scoring based on advancing HISC funding Priorities
- Initial recommended awards are generated based on proposal score, requested amount, and amount of HISC funding available
- RWG meets to finalize a recommended budget. Applicants are invited to attend.

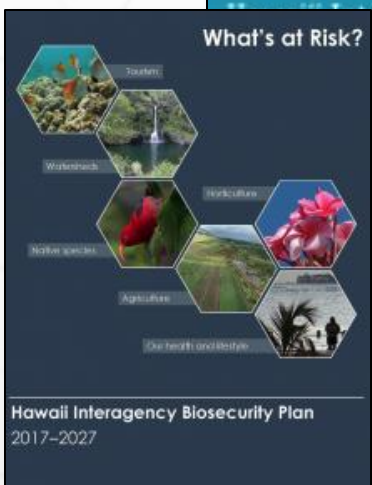
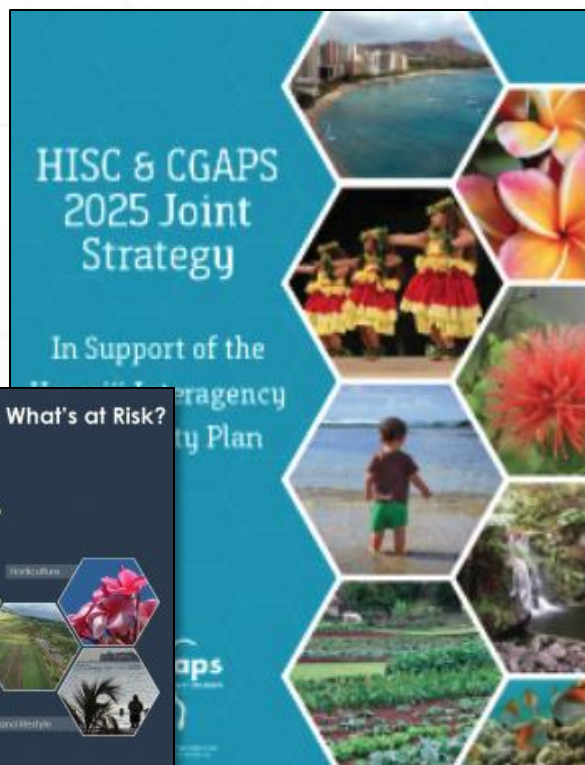
## Council Approval

- HISC Coordinator and Chair of RWG present HISC recommended budget
- Council has ultimate approval over the final budget and allocation of HISC funds

## Reporting

- Requires biannual spatial data
- Final report
- Site visits
- Reports are posted to HISC website and included in annual leg reports.

# FY20 – FY25 HISC Funding Priorities



Prevention & Early Detection/Rapid Response for New Terrestrial & Aquatic Invasions

Management of the Inter/Intra-Island Movement of Invasive Species (*both aquatic & terrestrial*)

Implementation Large-Scale Control of Widespread, High-Impact Invasive Species (*does not include biocontrol*)

Increase Pacific Regional Biocontrol Research & Capacity (*classical biocontrol only*)

Maintain an Engaged & Supportive Community

# FY26 HISC Resources Working Group

## HDOA

- Dr. Richard Kim
- Jonathan Ho

## HDOT

- Tomo Murata

## DLNR

- Rob Hauff
- Lizzy Monaghan

## UH

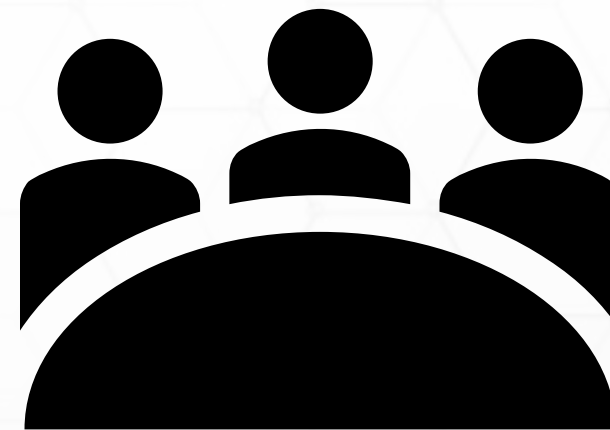
- Dr. Mike Melzer
- Christy Martin

## DBEDT

- Rachel Beasley

## HDOA

- Matt Kurano





# Recommendations from the HISC RWG

If \$4.25M is approved,

- Adhere to allocation that was communicated during legislative session
- Separate RFP for research proposals

Other Considerations,

- Spreading RFP to a wider audiences
- Working with agencies on priorities and needs
- Changes to reporting guidelines



## Questions from the Council

Discussion and Recommendations by the Council on changes, improvements, and/or issues to address for the Fiscal Year 2026 HISC Funding Process.

*HISC members may vote on the matter and direct the HISC Resources Working Group to incorporate any approved items.*



# Priority 1: Prevention & Early Detection/Rapid Response to New Invasions

- *Focuses on keeping terrestrial and aquatic invasive species threats from arriving and establishing in the State, by*
  - *identifying and addressing high-risk pathways and major modes of introduction*
  - *improving/continuing early detection/rapid response activities.*
- *“New” is defined as a species not known to occur in the State and EDRR would focus on actions to prevent “new” species introductions and establishment*



HDOA Inspector taking sample of potential pest for ID. PC: HDOA



DLNR DAR managing ballast water and biofouling. PC: DLNR



# Priority 1: Prevention & Early Detection/Rapid Response to New Invasions

- Conducts quantitative risk analyses and risk assessments to guide management decisions in early detection, rapid response efforts and develop rapid response strategies to address high-risk species and pathways.
- Develops Best Management Practices (BMPs) and strategies for reducing introduction and movement of invasive species at critical points such as airports, harbors, highways and procurement contracts.
- Identifies and implement tools, technologies and methods that improve detection and/or management of priority terrestrial and aquatic invasive species and pathways.
- Maintains or strengthens early detection and rapid response capacity on each island for monitoring and responding to new invasions.
- Conducts legal review of the policies related to prevention and suggests amendments to improve policies and/or additions to restricted/prohibited lists or other legal prevention mechanisms.
- Maintains or strengthens communications amongst federal and state agencies to share information and tools to prevent invasive species.

## Priority 2 : Management of the Inter/Intra-Island Movement of Invasive Species

- *Focuses on keeping aquatic and terrestrial invasive species threats from spreading within Hawai'i (inter and intra-island) by*
  - *identifying and addressing high-risk sources, pathways and major modes of introduction and spread*
  - *continuing/improving early detection/rapid response for new populations and existing incipient populations of invasive species in Hawai'i.*



'Ōhi'a logs infected with ROD. PC: JB Friday





## **Priority 2 : Management of the Inter/Intra-Island Movement of Invasive Species**

- Develops and conducts quantitative risk analyses and risk assessments to identify and prioritize pest pathways and high-risk gaps for movement of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species within Hawai'i.
- Identifies and implements cost-effective tools, technologies, and methods that improve management.
- Conducts early detection surveys and provides rapid response where necessary for invasive species already present in Hawai'i.
- Creates and adopts Best Management Practices to control invasive species that state government agencies, counties, industry and private individuals can follow or require for actions in their jurisdictions.
- Conducts legal review of the policies related to inter/intra island and suggest amendments to improve policies.
- Develops voluntary initiatives that mitigate the risks of invasive species movement.
- Promotes the use of the State Pest Reporting System.

## Priority 3 : Implementation of Large-scale control of Widespread, High Impact Invasive Species

- *Focuses on identifying/developing and implementing new large-scale control or eradication projects for invasive species population with highly significant ecological, economic, and/or health impacts in Hawai'i*
- *Build momentum for action on other widespread, high-impact species (e.g. mosquitoes, rats, marine algae)*
- *Widespread indicates that typical mechanical or chemical controls or applications are not effective at reducing current populations and encourages new, innovative tools and techniques for control in Hawai'i.*
  - *This does not include classical biological control.*



Large-scale control of invasive algae to protect coral reef ecosystems. PC: DLNR



Large-scale control of mosquitos would protect remaining native forest bird populations. PC: DLNR

## **Priority 3 : Implementation of Large-scale control of Widespread, High Impact Invasive Species**

- Research and identifies tools, technologies, and methods that are proven effective (or have high potential) for large-scale control or eradication of high-impact, widespread invasive species.
- Develops and implements community engagement plans or other communication strategies to build support for large-scale control projects.
- Plans and implements large-scale control project(s).
- Ensures large-scale control impact is sustained through follow-up and monitoring.
- Research traps and/or toxicants to control high-impact, widespread invasive species



# Priority 4 : Increase Pacific Regional Biocontrol Research & Capacity

- *Focuses on increasing classical biocontrol research and capacity in Hawai'i as well as the Pacific Region*
  - *Classical biocontrol is the introduction of specialist natural enemies from the homeland of a pest of foreign origin*
- *Continuing to make progress on existing biocontrol projects; that includes all aspects from exploration to release/monitoring.*



Investing in biocontrol saved the wiliwili from being disseminated by an invasive wasp. PC: Forest and Kim Starr

## Priority 4 : Increase Pacific Regional Biocontrol Research & Capacity

- Advances development of biocontrol agents currently being evaluated for release in Hawai'i.
- Advances development of new biocontrol agents for control of invasive species in Hawai'i.
- Conducts host range testing for biocontrol agents that have been proven effective elsewhere to evaluate potential use in Hawai'i.
- Builds and maintains **public support** for 21<sup>st</sup> century biocontrol practices.
- Raises support for Pacific Regional biocontrol capacity.

# Priority 5 : Maintain an Engaged and Supportive Community

- This priority focuses on maintaining strong community support and mobilizing action on the strategies outlined in the HISC & CGAPS 2025 Joint Strategy.



Right – CGAPS PIO and Club Sullivan received Emmys for the documentary “Saving ‘Ōhi‘a: Hawaii’s Sacred Tree” PC: CGAPS/ Left DLNR DAR meeting with private shipping industries to discuss management of biofouling and the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act. PC: CGAPS



## **Priority 5 : Maintain an Engaged and Supportive Community**

- Develops and disseminates educational products (e.g. videos, brochures, posters, etc...) to communities, decision-makers, and allies.
- Coordinates statewide and regional strategies and messages across lead agencies and partners.
- Increases knowledge of the use social science and raises capacity for the effective use of social science and social marketing.
- Engages educational partners and the medical community to increase public awareness about human health risks associated with invasive species and available mitigating actions.
- Increases adoption of specific biosecurity behaviors at ports of entry.
- Provides support to community volunteer groups working to control invasive species.
- Increases awareness for key stakeholders of their role and opportunities to help address invasive species introductions and spread.
- Increases political will to support invasive species work and issues.



# Application

- **Deadline:** FY24 proposals are due **June 2, 2023 at 5:00 pm (HST)**. Late submissions may or may not be accepted, at the discretion of HISC staff.
- **Eligibility:** Eligible entities include state and county agencies, including the UH system, and federal agencies partnering with state agencies on issues relevant to Hawai'i. Public universities in other US states are also eligible if working on issues of concern to Hawai'i.
- **Relationship to regular departmental funding:** Proposed projects should be for novel research or interagency collaborations, not for regular departmental functions.

# Application

- **Multiple proposals:** A single entity may submit multiple funding proposals. Applicants working in multiple project areas are encouraged to submit separate applications where possible.
- **Applicant Type (“Projects” vs “Programs”):** In the past it has been difficult to weigh the value of small, one-time projects against large, multi-faceted programs that apply for funding each year. To address this, evaluators will consider these two types of applications separately during the scoring process, comparing small projects with other small projects and large programs with other large programs.



# Applications

- Another New Platform:

- We are now using Google Forms. Formatting and questions are similar to last year's application.
- **Google Forms automatically saves your progress for 30 days when you're signed into your Google account so you can work across devices or take a break without losing a step**
- Applicants will receive an email with their completed application once submitted.

# Applications

- Online Application is hosted by Google Forms:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQg1ai4Jk2CPf2iS0I\\_xg7TUslA\\_RjrPn42-0cG6Po1NR0KvA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQg1ai4Jk2CPf2iS0I_xg7TUslA_RjrPn42-0cG6Po1NR0KvA/viewform?usp=sf_link)
- Online Application Components:
  - Project Information
  - Project Narrative
  - Applicability to HISC FY24 Funding Priorities
  - Project Reporting & Outcomes
  - Project Budget
  - Leveraged Funds
  - Review your application & submit



# Evaluations

- Proposals are evaluated by members of the HISC Resources Working Group – members were designated by the Council
- Evaluators' scores are based on a proposals ability to address each of the 5 funding priorities
- Additional points are available for leveraged funding and relevancy to sectors
- A quantitative total score for each proposal provides a ranking to determine recommended award amounts that are discussed at the Resources Working Group meeting

# Evaluations

- Changes to Scoring:

- There will be no additional points for the inclusion of a management plan or strategy. There is still the ability to upload any relevant documents that may be useful during the evaluation process though they are not required.
- HISC Support Staff will determine each proposal's relevancy to sectors (*natural resources, agriculture, economy, transportation, human health, research & technology*) and assign points accordingly for consistency and to assist with assigning proposals to evaluators. Six points total are possible.
- Proposals that score low based on the quantitative evaluations will not be recommended FY24 HISC funding and not be part of the Resources Working Group discussion. The threshold for low scoring proposals can only be determined once all proposals are scored. This is a reminder that award amounts are based primarily on submitted proposals and not the discussion at the Resources Working Group meeting. The Resources Working Group meeting is a forum for evaluators to ask applicants for clarification on their application and come to a consensus on a recommended budget.



# Council Meeting – mid to late August

- Public meeting to approve the FY24 HISC Budget
  - HISC Staff and the Resources Working Group Chair will present the recommended budget to the Council
  - Council members will vote to approve the FY24 HISC budget
  - Ability to attend in-person or virtually



# Awarded Projects

- Best and Final Offers (BAFOs) (between PI and HISC staff)
- Final Proposals (from your agency to DOFAW)
- DLNR obligates funds onto a purchase order, final PO goes to your agency, your agency sets up its own spending account
- You start your project. Dates are flexible but cannot extend beyond two fiscal years (e.g., FY24 funds can start as early as Fall 2023 and can be extended up to 3/31/25).
- Your agency pays you and bills us for reimbursement





# Webinar Topics

- ✓ Background
- ✓ Funding Priorities
- ✓ Overview of FY23 Funding Process
  - Timeline
  - Call for Proposals/Applications
  - Evaluations
  - Resources Working Group meeting
  - Council Meeting
  - Awarded Projects
- Q&A