



Meeting of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

September 29, 2025; 1:00 pm

Will Begin Shortly



Aloha,

- We are holding this meeting as a hybrid meeting; Some of us are in-person in the Kalanimoku Bldg., board room in Honolulu and we are also holding this meeting remotely via zoom, and can be watched live on the HISC YouTube channel;
- This is a public meeting and members of the public have the opportunity to submit written testimony or oral testimony on the agenda items. You can use the **raised hand** function to provide oral testimony when the agenda item comes up or if you are on YouTube, please state in the comments that you want to provide oral testimony and HISC support staff will provide you the Zoom link;
- When you enter, please be sure to keep your camera off and microphone muted until the Council calls on you for public testimony;
- We ask that members of the public testifying on agenda items limit your testimony to three minutes so that we can get to everyone.
- For **ALL** meeting participants, I would like to stress the importance of **speaking slowly, clearly, and directly into your microphone**. Before speaking, please state your name and identify yourself for the record;
- *The Council may go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 92-5(a) (4), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, in order to consult with its attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the Council's powers, duties, privileges, immunities and liabilities.*



Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Introductions of Hawai'i Invasive Species Council Members
3. Approval of minutes from May 28, 2025, Hawai'i Invasive Species Council meeting
4. Submittal 1: Requesting Council approval for the Department of Land & Natural Resources, as the administrative host for the HISC, to proceed with a new organizational structure for the HISC Program Support. Submittal presented by Chelsea Arnott, HISC Program Manager.
5. Presentation on the Fiscal Year 2026 HISC Funding Process and Recommended Budget by the HISC Resources Working Group Members.
 - a. Funding Process & Considerations from the HISC Resources Working Group for the drafting the Fiscal Year 2026 HISC Budget presented by Chelsea Arnott, HISC Program Manager (See *submittal 2, background and discussion sections*)
 - b. HISC FY26 Recommended Awards presented by Matt Kurano, Administrator for HDOH Environmental Health Services (See *Submittal 2 Attachment 1*) & Chelsea Arnott, HISC Program Manager.
6. Submittal 2: Requesting approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 Hawai'i Invasive Species Council budget
7. Public Comments
8. Adjournment



Members of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

Voting Members:

Dawn Chang, Co-Chair (DLNR)

Richard Kim (Designee, DAB)

Mary Alice Evans (DBEDT)

Kathleen Ho(DOH)

Dexter Kishida(DOT)

Phyllis Shimabukuro Geiser
(Designee, UH)

Non-Voting Members:

Sen Kouchi (Kaua'i)

Rep Evslin (Kaua'i)

Sen Gabbard (O'ahu)

Rep Martin (O'ahu)

Sen DeCoite (Maui Nui)

Rep Cochran (Maui Nui)

Sen Inouye (Hawai'i Island)

Rep Kahaloa (Hawai'i Island)



Submittal 1: Requesting Council approval for the Department of Land & Natural Resources, as the administrative host for the HISC, to proceed with a new organizational structure for the HISC Program Support. Submittal presented by Chelsea Arnott, HISC Program Manager.

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council



Who we are...

Voting Council Members



DAWN CHANG
DLNR



SHARON HURD
HDOA



KEATHLEEN HO
DOH



PARWINDER GREWAL
UH CTAHR



MARY ALICE EVANS
DBEDT



DEXTER KISHIDA
DOT

Legislative Members



SEN. RON KOUCHI
KAUAI



SEN. MIKE GABBARD
OAHU



REP. LISA MARTEN
OAHU



SEN. LORRAINE INOUE
HAWAII IS.



REP. LUKE EVSLIN
KAUAI



SENATOR LYNN DECOITE
MAUI NUI



REP. ELLE COCHRAN
MAUI NUI



REP. KIRSTIN KAHALOA
HAWAII IS.

HISC Support Staff



CHELSEA ARNOTT
IS COORDINATOR



JACK REEF
PLANNER



MASON RUSSO
RESEARCH &
PROJECTS
COORDINATOR



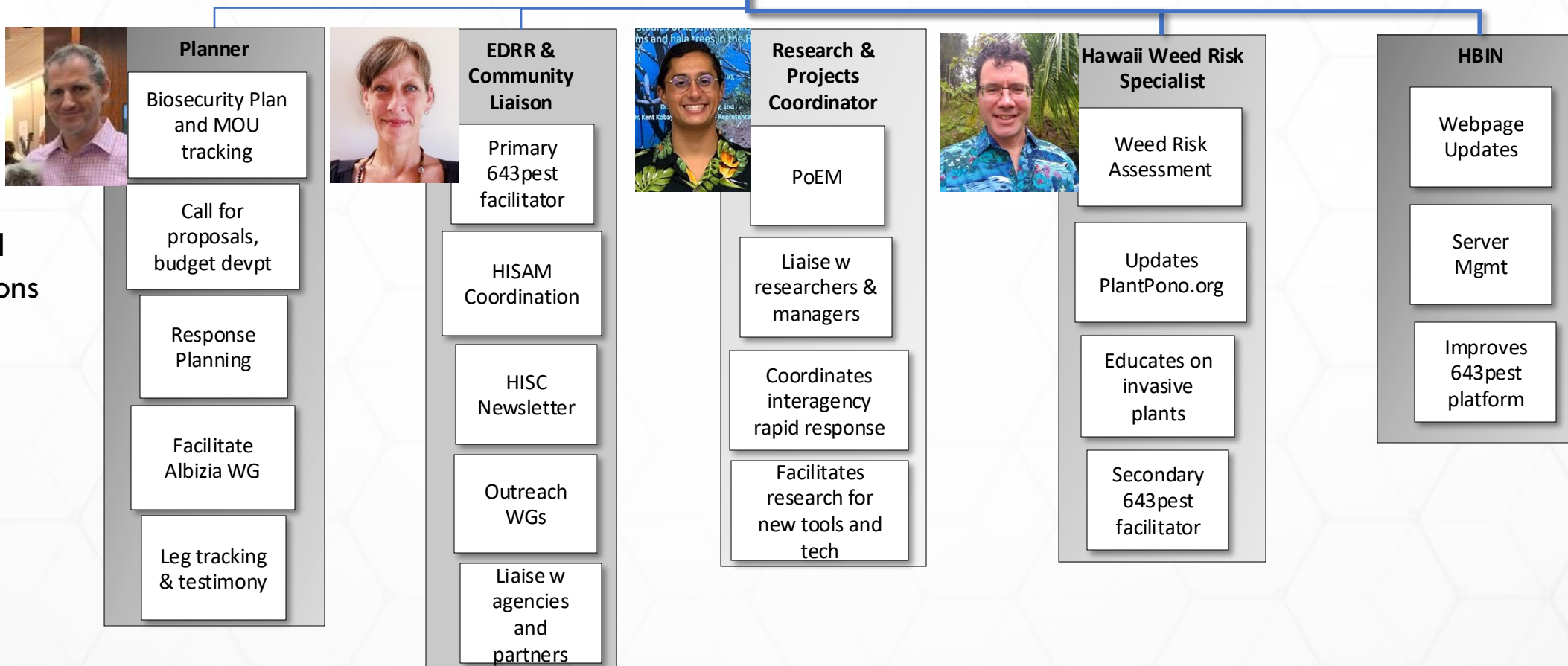
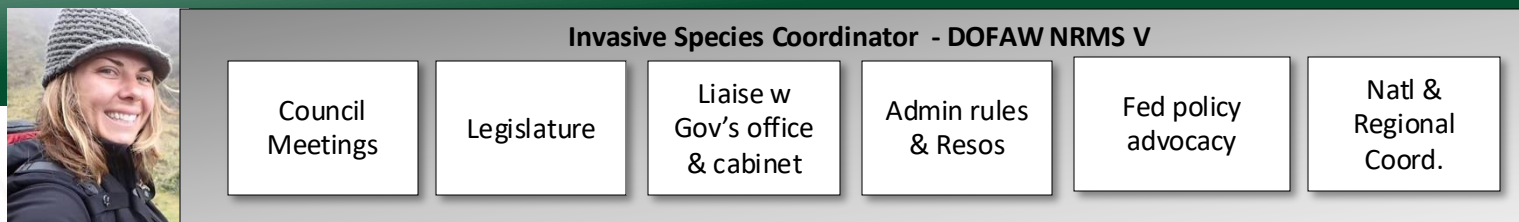
CHUCK CHIMERA
HP-WRA



ELIZABETH SPEITH
643PEST.ORG

HISC Program Support Structure

Current Structure

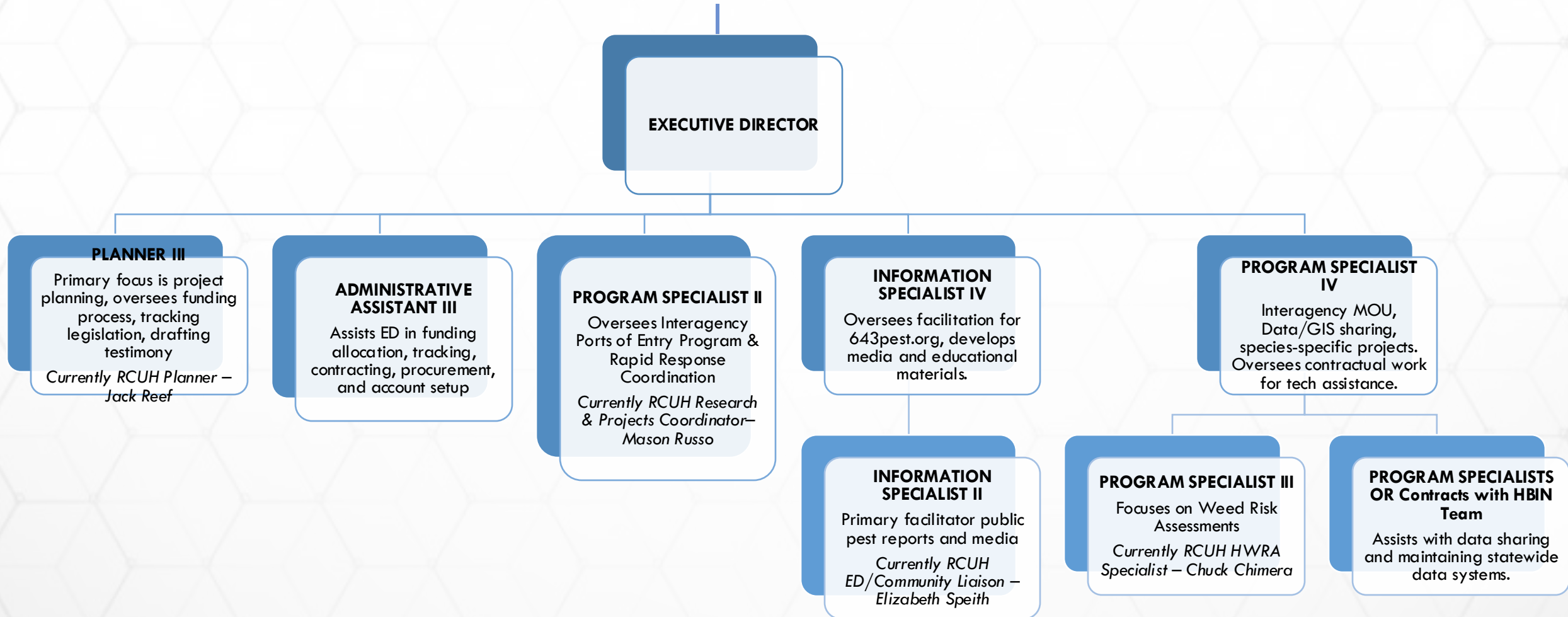


Currently all
RCUH Positions

Proposed Organizational Chart



Hawai'i Invasive Species Council Members
Administered through DLNR per HRS 194



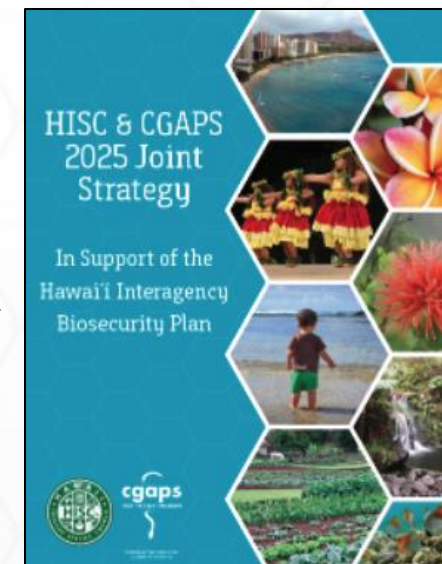
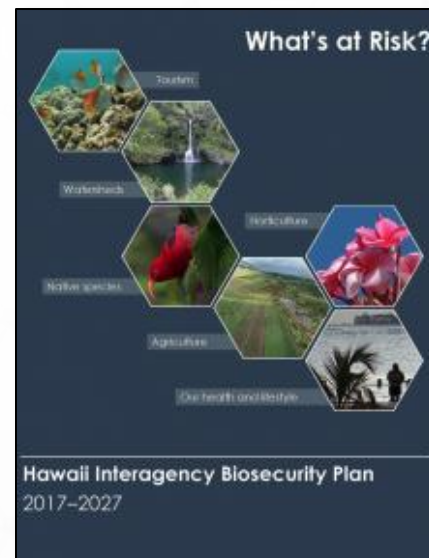


Presentation on the Fiscal Year 2026 HISC Funding Process and Recommended Budget by the HISC Resources Working Group Members.

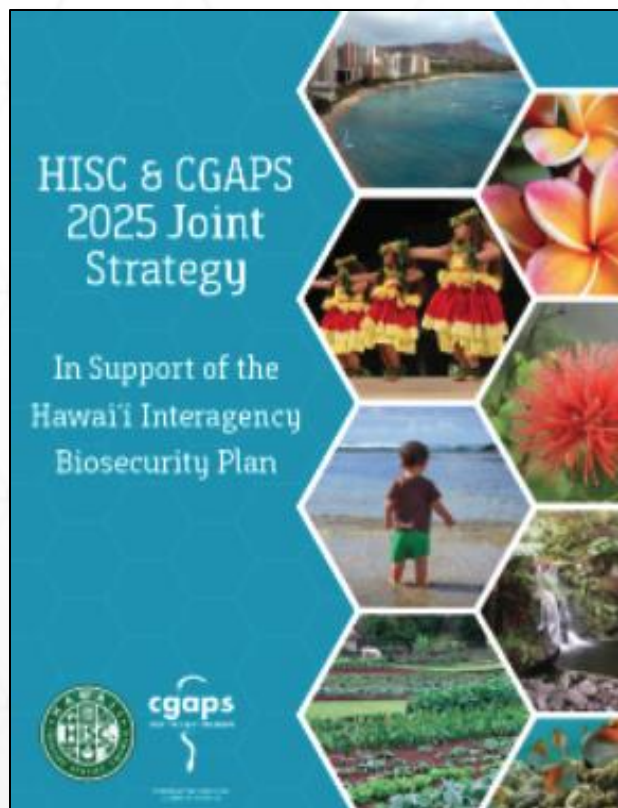
- a. Funding Process & Considerations from the HISC Resources Working Group for the drafting the Fiscal Year 2026 HISC Budget presented by Chelsea Arnott, HISC Program Manager (*See submittal 2, background and discussion sections*)
- b. HISC FY26 Recommended Awards presented by Matt Kurano, Administrator for HDOH Environmental Health Services (*See Submittal 2 Attachment 1*) & Chelsea Arnott, HISC Program Manager.

Background

- The [Hawai'i Invasive Species Council \(HISC\)](#) provides interagency coordination and direction on invasive species issues in Hawai'i. Each year, the State Legislature provides funding through the HISC to support projects and programs that:
 - *Enhance agency capacity to work on priority issues,*
 - *fill gaps between agency mandates and existing programs, and/or*
 - *advance our collective knowledge and tools through research and innovation.*



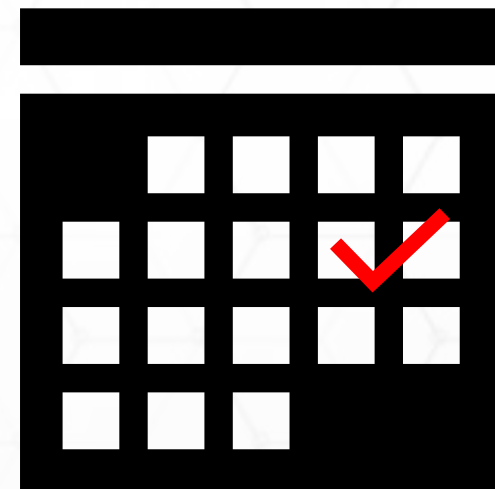
FY26 Funding Priorities



- 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 Funding Timeline

- APPLICATIONS
 - Call for Proposals – June 9th
 - Deadline for applications – 5:00 pm (HST), July 19th; July 30th
- EVALUATIONS
 - Evaluations begin – August 11th
 - Deadline for evaluations – September 4th
- RESOURCES WORKING GROUP – September 18th 12:30 pm
- COUNCIL MEETING – September 29th 1:00 pm





Members of the Resources Working Group

Rob Hauff, Chair (DLNR-DOFAW)

Rachel Beasley (DBEDT)

Matt Kurano (DOH)

Tomo Murata (DOT)

Richard Kim (DAB)

Jonathan Ho (DAB)

• Mike Melzer (UH)

• Christy Martin (UH-PCSU-CGAPS)

• Lizzy Monaghan (DLNR-DAR)

• Mason Russo (HISC)

• Chelsea Arnott (HISC)

Application

- **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 and a land grant university.
- **Relationship to regular departmental funding:** Proposed projects should be for novel research or interagency collaborations, not for regular departmental functions.



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 (**45 points total**)
- Additional points are available for leveraged funding (**6 points**) and relevancy to sectors (**6 points**)
- A total of 57 points are possible. A quantitative total score for each proposal provides a ranking to determine recommended award amounts that are discussed at the Resources Working Group meeting
- An initial recommended award amount is generated based on request amount, application score, and total available of HISC funding

Evaluations

- Proposals that score low based on the quantitative evaluations will not be recommended FY25 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.

FY26 Available HISC Funding vs. FY25

	FY26	FY25
Total Requests	\$12,303,067	\$8,083,419.17
HISC Base	\$4,780,378.25	\$4,779,230.00
Act 236	\$1,275,000	NA
HISC Program Support	\$363,419.63	\$465,797.09
PoEM	\$525,000	\$240,056.11
Remaining	\$5,661,958.62	4,059,457



FY26 HISC Base & Supplemental

HISC base	\$ 5,750,000.00
20% Reduction	\$ (1,503,845.75)
5% Overhead	\$ (185,920.00)
10% Restriction	\$ (527,746.00)
Total	\$ 3,532,488.25

Supplemental Funds	\$ 1,500,000.00
5% Overhead	\$ (65,678.00)
10% Restriction	\$ (186,432.00)
Total	\$ 1,247,890.00



Act 236 Allocation

Research	\$	865,500.00
Biocontrol	\$	300,000.00
ISCs	\$	1,725,000.00
HISC Capacity	\$	300,000.00
PoEM	\$	525,000.00
Misc Funding	\$	109,500.00
10% Restriction	\$	425,000.00
Total	\$	4,250,000.00



Act 236 Available Funding

HISC Act 236	\$ 4,250,000.00
10% Restriction	\$ (425,000.00)
Research	\$ 865,500.00
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Remaining	\$5,661,958.62	4,059,457

Evaluation Categories

- Programmatic Requests:
 - A collection of **related projects** managed in a coordinated way to obtain **benefits and control** not available from managing them individually. Typically higher operating costs.
- Project Requests:
 - A *temporary* endeavor undertaken to create a **unique product, service, or result**.
- Biocontrol Requests:
 - Projects that are specifically addressing the use of biocontrol, does not have to be classical.
- Additional Considerations for Coqui Request
 - Projects were specifically solicited to address coqui frogs in Hawaii. Applications were subject to a secondary evaluation process from land managers that are addressing ongoing infestations.



FY26 Summary

Pre-Evaluations

- 53 Applications (*1 applicant requested to be removed*)
- Total requested \$12.27M
- 14 Programmatic requests; \$7.5M
- 39 Project (Research) requests; \$4.75M

For Meeting

- 50 Applications for consideration (3 removed based on low-ranking review)
- 14 Programmatic Requests; \$7.5M
- 32 Project Requests; \$3.4M
- 4 Biocontrol Request; \$465k

RWG Pre-Meeting Decisions



- 2 proposals were removed from consideration based on their low score and scalability
- Programs, Projects, and Biocontrol will be discussed separately
- Coqui proposals were solicited separately and went through an additional evaluation process with land managers from the HDAB and DLNR. One proposal was removed from consideration based on that evaluation.
- ISCs will be funded no less than their collective award from FY25
- Several Projects submitted requests above the max (\$200k) which were lowered to the max allowed

Considerations for decision-making by RWG



- Preference to fully fund smaller project asks versus partially funding larger requests. This will ensure the product/deliverables are met rather than being severely scaled down to the point where the funding is no longer impactful.
- Members needed a clear demonstration on how project findings would be applicable to on-the-ground efforts. If that was not made clear or the impact was not determined to be significant, the application was either greatly reduced or zeroed out.
- ISCs were prioritized as critical programs to ensure adequate funding for.
- An excess of \$106,500 remained at the end of the process. Members decided that this funding would be best saved for rapid response/emergency needs that could come up during the fiscal. Members suggested that this would be a best practice to continue in future funding years.
- Members factored in other available funding sources into the consideration for the recommended awards.

Attachment 1



Table 2: Recommended Budget for Programmatic Requests

Number of considered Programmatic Applications: 14

Total Requested: \$7.5M

Total Available: \$3,825,212

Program Recommended Awards



Application Number and Title	Organization	Submitted Request	Overall Application Score	Recommended Award
<u>12 - Engaging the Public to Protect Maui County from Invasive Species - Maui/Molokai Invasive Species Committee</u>	UH PCSU	\$289,013.00	19	\$110,197
<u>01 - Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death Outreach and Extension – Univeristy of Hawai'i</u>	UH CTAHR	\$58,779.15	21	\$22,749
<u>07 - Invasive Species Control + Outreach in the Ko'olaus – Ko'olau Mtns Watershed Partnership</u>	UH PCSU	\$205,448.00	22	\$83,298
<u>16 – Early Detection & Rapid Response and Control – Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee</u>	UH PCSU	\$1,085,516.00	23	\$560,125
<u>04- Priority Weed Control – O'ahu Invasive Species Committee</u>	UH PCSU	\$1,195,230.67	25	\$566,686
<u>05- Outreach & Education – O'ahu Invasive Species Committee</u>	UH PCSU	\$367,612.56	26	\$126,147
<u>17 - Public Outreach and Education on Kauai – Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee</u>	UH PCSU	\$213,942.00	27	\$239,839
<u>02 - Widespread Invasive Species Mitigation Program – Big Island Invasive Species Committee</u>	UH PCSU	\$536,184.00	28	\$266,684
<u>06 – Early Detection & Rapid Response on O'ahu – O'ahu Invasive Species Committee</u>	UH PCSU	\$383,053.64	28	\$135,665
<u>10 - Community Engagement and Pest Early Detection & Rapid Response – Big Island Invasive Species Committee</u>	UH PCSU	\$502,492.00	28	\$274,255
<u>09 - Invasive Plant Prevention, Early Detection & Control on Hawai'i Island – Big Island Invasive Species Committee</u>	UH PCSU	\$679,141.00	29	\$336,969
<u>11 - Detection and Control of Invasive Species in Maui County – Maui/Molokai Invasive Species Committee</u>	UH PCSU	\$1,451,288.00	31	\$739,803
<u>13 - Hawai'i Ant Lab Core Funding</u>	UH PCSU	\$450,000.00	34	\$281,970
<u>08- Coordination & Outreach for the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species</u>	UH PCSU	\$98,000.00	37	\$80,825

Table 3: Collective Totals and Summary for Island Invasive Species Committees

Program	Total Submitted Requests	Total Recommended Award	% Filled	FY25 Funding	Diff (FY26-25)
BIISC	1,717,817	\$ 877,908.50	51%	\$850,166.000	\$27,742.502
MISC/MoMISC	1,740,301	\$ 850,000.00	49%	\$725,074.00	\$124,926.005
OISC	1,945,897	\$ 828,497.59	43%	\$762,500.00	\$65,997.588
KISC	1,299,458	\$ 799,964.00	62%	\$714,369	\$85,595.001
ISCs Total	6,703,473	\$ 3,356,370.10	50%	\$3,052,109	\$304,261.096

Attachment 1



Table 4: Recommended Budget for Project Requests

Number of considered Project Applications: 32

Total Requested: \$3.4M

Total Available: \$2,124,032

Project Recommended Awards



Application Number and Title	Organization	Submitted Request	Overall Application Score	Recommended Award
26 - UH - Compatibility of an introduced coffee berry borer parasitoid and entomopathogenic fungi treatments	UH CTAHR	\$115,883.00	9	\$39,398
24 - UH - Targeted RNAi-Based Herbicides for Landscape-Scale Control of Widespread Invasive Plants	UH Molecular Biosciences & Bioengineering	\$144,983.00	10	\$54,769
35 - UH - Management of Turmeric Red Staining in Hawai'i - Research Proposal	UH CTHAR	\$54,799.91	10	\$45,000
03- UH - Managing Queensland Long-Horned Beetle	UH Hilo	\$108,845.00	11	\$55,000
43 - UH Hilo - Passive Acoustic Monitoring of Invasive Coqui Populations on O'ahu	UH Hilo	\$13,750.00	11	\$13,750
33 - UH - Behavioral Ecology of Invasive Mammals- Leveraging Game Camera Data to Guide Management	UH NREM	\$38,711.40	12	\$0
45 -UH Lyon Arboretum - AI mobile application for rapid ID of invasive plant seeds	UH Lyon	\$62,903.76	12	\$0
51 - USDA APHIS - Scaling up rat lungworm surveillance in Hawai'i a model for integrated early detection	USDA APHIS	\$134,779.00	12	\$70,000

Project Recommended Awards



<u>53 - UH - Develop image-based phenotyping tool for early plant disease detection and host resistance screening</u>	UH CTAHR	\$50,000.00	12	\$22,666
<u>39 - CTAHR- Integrated Weed Management of Invasive Rubus Species - Hawaii Island</u>	UH CTAHR	\$200,000.00	13	\$98,218
<u>19 - UH -Ecological restoration of Myoporum. sandwicensis by mitigating the impact of K. myopori on Myoporum</u>	UH CTAHR	\$200,000.00	15	\$113,328
<u>28 - Utah St Univ - Exploring acoustic deterrents for controlling and disrupting coqui frogs</u>	Utah State	\$146,388.50	15	\$122,000
<u>52 - USDA - Red Imported Fire Ant - Early Detection and Rapid Response Tools for Hawaii</u>	USDA ARS	\$100,000	15	\$65,000
<u>21 - UH Hilo - eDNA Strategy for CRB Detection on Hawai'i Island</u>	UH Hilo	\$56,647.80	16	\$34,239
<u>22 - CTHAR - Survey of Guava Root-knot Nematode on Vegetable Crops in Hawaii</u>	UH CTAHR	\$111,728.00	16	\$67,530
<u>29 - UH Elec Eng - Drone-Mounted mmWave Harmonic Radar System for Invasive Pest Insect Monitoring in Hawai'i</u>	UH Electrical & Computer Engineering	\$200,000.00	16	\$60,000
<u>37 - UH - Design and test new devices and practices for trapping Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles</u>	UH CRB Response	\$27,500.00	17	\$27,500
<u>14 - US Fish & Wildlife Service - HACCP Training - Preventing Intro + Spread of Invasives</u>	USFWS	\$31,250.00	18	\$21,249

Project Recommended Awards



<u>18 - Univ Puerto Rico - Integrated Strategies to Control Invasive Coqui Frogs</u>	U of Puerto Rico	\$291,189.59	19	\$85,000
<u>23 - UH - Building a DNA barcode reference library to improve early detection of invasive arthropod species</u>	UH CTAHR	\$58,529.00	19	\$42,009
<u>30 - Colorado St Univ - Mobile large-scale CRB traps - a tool for control rapid response and community assistance</u>	Colorado State	\$152,585.00	19	\$66,000
<u>25 - UH - Evaluating Novel Pulse Electric Field Technology in Controlling Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle</u>	UH CTAHR	\$51,168.00	20	\$51,168
<u>38 - USDA Institute Pacific Islands Forestry - Scaling Canine Detection with VOC Sampling for CRB Biosecurity</u>	USDA Forest Service	\$170,000	20	\$128,439
<u>54- CTAHR - Optimizing Food Preferences Bait Attractiveness and Organic Pesticide Efficacy for Little Fire Ant</u>	UH CTAHR	\$120,039.00	20	\$100,000
<u>36 - UH Mites Viruses and Bees The challenges and opportunities of apicultural biosecurity in Hawaii</u>	UH CTAHR	\$75,208.00	22	\$62,503
<u>32 - UH - Distributed Autonomous Sensing Systems for Early Detection of Invasive Species in Hawaii</u>	UH CTAHR	\$140,316.00	23	\$121,914
<u>27 - CTAHR - Understanding + controlling the spread of invasive coqui frog on O'ahu</u>	UH CTAHR	\$51,456.00	24	\$46,651
<u>42 - CTAHR - RNA interference for Little Fire Ant</u>	UH CTAHR	\$36,395.00	25	\$36,395
<u>41 - UH - Ramie Moth Impacts.pdf Submission #2 (11)</u>	UH CTAHR	\$87,890.00	26	\$87,890

Project Recommended Awards



<u>15 - DAR- Ballast Water Database</u>	DLNR DAR	\$25,000.00	26	\$25,000
<u>50 - HAL - Assessing efficacy of LFA treatment options - Research</u>	UH PCSU	\$200,000.00	26	\$196,436
<u>47 - DOH - Mosquito Surveillance Capacity in Hawai'i</u>	DOH Vector Control Branch	\$164,980.00	29	\$164,980



Biocontrol Recommended Awards

Table 5: Recommended Budget for Biocontrol Requests

Number of considered Biocontrol Applications: 4

Total Requested: \$465,000

Total Available: \$300,000

Application Number and Title	Organization	Submitted Request	Overall Application Score	Recommended Award
46 - USDA - Biocontrol of invasive Rubus species (Yellow Himalayan Raspberry)	USDA Forest Service	\$129,800.00	15	\$74,880
49 - CTAHR - Assessing releases of biocontrol agents for wiliwili gall wasp and macadamia felted coccid	UH CTAHR	\$93,940.00	16	\$57,806
44 - UH - Classical biological control of hala scale, lobate lac scale, two lined spittlebug, and coffee berry borer	UH CTAHR	\$143,792.00	18	\$99,542
48 - USDA - Biocontrol of invasive plants in Hawaiian forests and rangelands	USDA Forest Service	\$97,900.00	18	\$67,773



Submittal 2: Requesting approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 Hawai'i Invasive Species Council budget

Recommendations:

- That the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council approve the FY26 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
- That, should the Department of Budget and Finance make any changes to the restriction on expenditures, the HISC delegate authority to the HISC Program Support Staff to identify best way to apply additional restrictions to project funds, or to identify best uses of any released funds, and
- 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 Program Support staff to make adjustments to project funds or reassign project funds from any project that does not proceed in a timely manner.