

JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

1151 PUNCHBOWL ST., #325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

VOTING MEMBERS

DAWN CHANG
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

SHARON HURD
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY

KATHLEEN HO, D.Env
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PARWINDER GREWAL, Ph.D.
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

MARY ALICE EVANS
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

DEXTER KISHIDA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

DATE: Friday, May 29th, 2026
TIME: 9:00 am
PLACE: In-person – DLNR Board Room, #132, Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl St., Honolulu, HI 96813 & Online Via
Zoom Meeting ID: 837 8095 5345

ZOOM LINK:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83780955345?pwd=P4vqlihxj1gfgBqkoivpCla5gZVPbF.1>

Meeting ID: 837 8095 5345

Passcode: 146625

This Council meeting will be held using interactive conference technology under section 92-3.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). Council members, staff, testers and the public can choose to participate in person, online via Zoom, or by telephone. The public may also view the live meeting via its live stream

at: <https://www.youtube.com/live/RlxA60pdckk?si=sauEBJPk74Si5YGf>

To Provide Written Testimony

We encourage interested persons to submit written testimony in advance of the meeting, which will be distributed to Council members prior to the meeting and allow a timely review. Please submit written testimony via email to:

jack.f.reef.researcher@hawaii.gov.

Written testimonies can also be mailed to: 1151 Punchbowl Street, Rm 325 Honolulu HI 96813. Written testimonies may be posted upon the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council Meeting website; as a precaution, please be mindful with any personal information prior to submitting unless you intend it to be shared. Late testimony will be retained as part of the record and distributed to Council members as soon as practicable, but we cannot ensure Council members will receive it in sufficient time to review prior to any decision-making.

To Provide In-Person Oral Testimony (masks are highly encouraged)

Attend in-person at: Room 132 (Kalanimoku Building) at 1151 Punchbowl St., Honolulu, HI 96813. The DLNR Boardroom which is accessible from the street level.

To Provide Testimony by Telephone

On the day of the meeting at the start of the agenda item you wish to testify on, dial: + 1 346-248-7799; input the Meeting ID: 863 8241 6596 and follow the prompts.

To Provide Video/Zoom Testimony

If you would like to provide oral testimony virtually, please use the Zoom link provided in this agenda. You can send your request to provide oral testimony virtually to jack.f.reef.researcher@hawaii.gov with your information, email address, and the agenda item you wish to testify on, but this is not a requirement. We ask that you identify yourself and any affiliation before speaking, but you can choose not to do so.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83780955345?pwd=P4vqlihxj1gfgBqkoivpCla5gZVPbF.1>

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Special Accommodations

If you need auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to disability, please contact Jack Reef, the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council Planner, at 808-587-0166 or jack.f.reef.researcher@hawaii.gov as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled. Upon request, this agenda and other materials are available in alternate/accessible forms.

For information, contact:

HISC Support staff

1151 Punchbowl St., #325, Honolulu, HI 96813; (808) 587-0166; Fax: (808) 587-0160

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Introductions of Hawai'i Invasive Species Council Members
3. Introduction of Helmuth Rogg as the new Invasive Species Council Facilitator
4. Approval of minutes from November 26, 2025 Hawai'i Invasive Species Council meeting
5. Resolution to Adopt the Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Month
Proclamation by Governor Dr. Green declaring "...that the silent invasion of Hawaii by invasive species is the single greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people and hereby proclaim May 2026 as the Hawaii Invasive Species Awareness Month in Hawaii and ask all citizens of the Aloha State join in recognizing the importance of preventing and controlling harmful invasive species, to help restore our natural resources, strengthen our economy, and preserve the Hawaiian way of life."
6. Discussion on Act 236, Session Laws Hawaii (2025)'s Impact on HISC Funding by Helmuth Rogg Invasive Species Biologist, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Department of Land and Natural Resources. *No decision-making on this item.*
7. Discussion on HISC's Annual Grant Funding Program for Fiscal Year 2027: Funding Levels, Soliciting Project Proposals through the Request for Proposals Process, Potential Funding Priorities, by Helmuth Rogg Invasive Species

Biologist, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Department of Land and Natural Resources. *No decision-making on this item.*

8. Update on the Current Approval Process for Import and Release of Biological Control Agents in Hawaii (to be used on invasive pests and plants) currently pending permit and petition approval by the United States Department of Agriculture and the State Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.
9. Presentation of 2026 Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Month (HISAM) Award Recipients. More information on each recipient can be found at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/hisam2026/>
 - a. **Wendell Vincent & the Hawai'i Island HDOT Crew - Greatest Hit**
 - b. **Alex Redeker / Biosecurity Solutions Hawai'i - Outstanding Business Leader**
 - c. **Kimeona Kane - Community Hero**
 - d. **Taylor Engle - O'ahu MVP**
 - e. **Pūlama Lāna'i - Conservation, Maui Nui MVP**
 - f. **Ron Aronson - Hawai'i Island MVP**
 - g. **Serina Marchi & Seascapes Nursery Kaua'i - Kaua'i MVP**
10. Public Comment to any other issue not listed in the agenda.
11. Adjournment

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.

For information, contact:

HISC Support staff:

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Helmuth Rogg, Invasive Species Biologist: helmuth.w.rogg@hawaii.edu

Elizabeth Speith, 643pest.org Report Facilitator: speith@hawaii.edu

Chuck Chimera, Weed Risk Assessment Specialist: chimera@hawaii.edu

Jack Reef, Planner: jack.f.reef.researcher@hawaii.gov

Mason Russo, Research & Projects Coordinator: mason.h.russo.researcher@hawaii.gov

Brian Tucker, Data Manager: brian.tucker.researcher@hawaii.gov

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EDWIN SNIFFEN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

September 29, 2025; 1:00 PM

**Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Board Room (Rm 132) 1151
Punchbowl St, Honolulu, HI, 96813**

Per Hawaii Sunshine Law guidelines, this meeting was hybrid with attendees participating virtually through a Zoom link provided by HISC Support Staff or through the HISC YouTube channel or in-person at the DLNR Board Room in the Kalanimoku Building in Honolulu, HI. Council members, legislative representatives, and HISC Resources Working Group members were provided with a Zoom link. Members of the public were able to view the meeting through the HISC YouTube Channel. A recording of the meeting can be found here:
<https://youtube.com/@hawaiiinvsivespeciescouncil/featured>

1. Call to order

- Opening comments for the hybrid committee meeting were made by Co-Chair Hurd starting at 1:03 am.

2. Introductions

List of Attendees:

- Council Voting Members:
 - o Dawn Chang, Co-Chair (Department of Land and Natural Resources [DLNR]);
 - o Sharon Hurd, Co-Chair, Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB)];
 - o Rachel Beasley, (Department of Economic Development and Tourism) for Mary Alice Evans;
 - o Dexter Kishida, (Department of Transportation);
 - o Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser (for Dean Grewal for UH); and
 - o Matt Kurano for Kathleen Ho (Department of Health)
- Legislative Non-Voting Members:
 - o Clare Ronquillo (Rep Kahaloa's office)
- Support Staff:
 - o Patrick Chee (DLNR/HISC), Elizabeth Speith (HISC); Chuck Chimera (HISC), Mason Russo (HISC), Jack Reef (HISC), Danica Swenson (Attorney General)
 - o Additional Staff: Rob Hauff (Forestry & Wildlife), Richard Kim (DAB), Elizabeth Monaghan (DAR)
 - o Other attendees: Zhiqiant cheng, Franny Brewer (BIISC), Stefanie Easley (CGAPS) and Jeanni Rossa.

3. Approval of minutes from May 28, 2025 and September 29, 2025

- *The May 28th Minutes were approved*
- *HISC approved amended minutes for September 29, 2025 as presented by HISC staff. Amendments included formatting changes and minor word choice for readability.*

4. Updates from Council members and Department representatives on 2026 legislative requests & policies related to biosecurity and invasive species. The Item is only a status update.

Chair Hurd asked the Departments for updates which are as follows:

- Rob Hauff from Forestry & Wildlife stated that their division submitted approximately 10 green fee invasive species related bills to the Governor.
 - Some of these bills are HISC priority projects impacting (mosquitos detrimental to native birds, biocontrol. Other non-Green Fee proposals including the Rapid Ohia Death 5 year strategic plan, and other new initiatives regarding predator control. Chair Hurd stated those issues are worthy of support.
- Elizabeth Monaghan (DAR) stated that they submitted biosecurity proposals for aquatic invasive species including removal of algae and soft coral. Funding for fishing tournament to remove invasive fish.
- Sharon Hurd (DAB) advised that they will be supporting the predator bill and biocontrol. DAB is working with legislators on other matters.
- UH – submitted one proposal regarding a biosecurity biocontrol facility, however it was included in the UH Board of Regents package.
- No updates from DBEDT, DOH, and DOT.

5. Update on the Implementation of the Interagency MOU for High Priority Pests. Presentation from Patrick Chee, Hawaii Invasive Species Council. The Item is only a status update.

- Patrick Chee provided a ppt presentation and started by providing background on the MOU which include the three signatory agencies of UH, DLNR, and DAB to address the high priority pests of Little Fire Ant, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, and Coqui frog.
- The presentation also addressed the following:
 - i. Goals of the MOU to prevent, eradicate incipient infestations and control existing pest levels.
 - ii. Features of MOU include matrices, response plans, data sharing, research, and communication
 - iii. Response plans for LFA are finished and CRB and Coqui are in development
 - iv. Data Sharing –unlikely to reach deadline to develop protocols
 - v. HISC hired a data manager
 - vi. DAB's Dashboard is now live by DAB Ahead of schedule. Currently on has DAB data
 - vii. Research needs will be provided in the future
 - viii. MOU Subgroups have been created to help lead implementation
- Chair Hurd thanked Patrick and stated that the Hawaii County Mayor has extended the voluntary 90 day green waste stay on movement
- Patrick Chee stated HISC is waiting for the State to provide funding

- Chair Hurd stated DAB wants to focus on Queensland Longhorn Beetle and propagate its biocontrol nematode

6. Submittal Requesting the Council to provide guidance to the legislature on the transfer of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture & Biosecurity by January 1, 2030 under ACT 236, Section 7.

- This item was presented by Rob Hauff (Forestry & Wildlife) and Patrick Chee (HISC)
- Chair Hurd stated that none of this discussion or guidance should differ than law and will not challenge mandate from legislators this year. Future years can address changes to law
- Chair Chang said the report is authored by HISC not DLNR, HISC is administratively attached to DLNR, and this item is in response to Rep. Kahaloa's request for HISC's guidance.
- Chair Chang stated that she is not intending to change legislators transferring biosecurity to DAB, but that complications exist because HISC is staying with DLNR until 2030. Chair Chang raised the issue if HISC will be transferred in tact or with changes.
- Rob Hauff advised that all of the recommendations in the Submittal have been discussed at previous HISC meetings
- Chair Chang also stated that Chelsea Arnott the previous HISC program manager has brought up many of the points – the HISC team went back in response to Rep. Kahaloa's request for guidance to the legislature, and that offering recommendations is not fundamentally changing substance or intent of ACT 236
- Patrick Chee also stated that Rep. Kahaloa asked for potential future changes
- Patrick Chee advised that HISC is a cabinet level interagency council, including when its transferred Administrative support to DAB like it is today with DLNR
- Patrick Chee stated that DLNR-Forestry & Wildlife have supplemented HISC positions and that DAB should anticipate staffing.
- Chair HURD and Chair Chang both confirmed no positions will transfer
- Patrick Chee advised his position is a DLNR position and is loaned to HISC
- Chair Chang said they want to retain Patrick's positions at DLNR, but want to make sure smooth a transition as possible. Perhaps DLNR can create a stand alone agency with an Executive Director position. Many of the RCUH would become permanent positions. When transition occurs in 2030 the entire team would move over
- Chair Hurd and Chair Change both stated their departments have not asked for positions
- Chair Hurd is in support of DLNR retaining its position
- The Council further discussed how HISC positions would be established by the State. DAB could create its own positions, and DAB is not taking DLNR's HISC positions.
- Rob Hauff stated that steps need to be determined to transfer existing HISC programs such as 643 pest / Weed Risk Assessment / and Research when HISC is transferred.
- Rob Hauff presented Item #5 that funding should be recurring annually
- Chair Hurd stated that funding will move to DAB in 2027 and that DAB's legislative mandate is to ask for funding in 2027 and after
- Chair Chang stated that Rep. Kahaloa has stated at HISC meetings that it was not her intent to transfer funding to DAB in 2027, but it may have been the full legislators intent. DLNR has provided two options for funding- 1) Amend fundings or 2) DAB Journal vouchers to DLNR in 2027 since DLNR oversees HISC

- Chair Hurd informed that by 1/1/27 DAB's new biosecurity deputy will be in place, may be involved in funding
- Rep. Kahaloa's staff Clare Ronquillos stands by her comments from the last meeting.
- In response to Member Kishida, Chair Chang said it will be difficult to absorb operating costs if there is a delay in funding.
- Rob concluded the discussion stating the Submittals was presented for consideration

Public Comment

- Stephanie Easley with CGAPS provided testimony as follows:
- She passed out the organization's chart previously approved by HISC for potential development
- Thanked HISC for 20 years of excellence and leadership and CGAPS will continue to support HISC
- CGAPS supports all recommendations in the Submittal
- CGAPS has three new recommendations:
 - i. Establish an Executive Director position
 - ii. HISC staff should report on its statutory duties and what is feasible and important moving forward; and
 - iii. Affirm that HISC should remain a cabinet level position
- Chair Chang advised that positions would be need to be established by the Legislature
- Chair Hurd said they will administer HISC in accordance with the law, and that HISC being considered "autonomous" is not in the language of the law. Stephanie Easley advised that its CGAPS' to ensure everything goes to DAB.
- Stephanie Easley advised that many of the duties of HISC in the Statute are not performed because their isn't staff capacity to execute and may not be most important tasks, such as creating a list of all invasive species in the State
- After discussion of CGAPS testimony and HISC's previous action to approve inquiry into restructuring HISC, Chair Hurd said she is ok with making recommendations as long as they do not go against Act 236 and the law.
- Patrick Chee affirmed that this Submittal is in response to Rep Kahaloa's request
- Chair Chang advised that nothing in HISC's action precludes DAB from saying no or taking its own actions

Approval

- Chair Hurd called for the motion, Chair Chang 2nd.
- The Submittal was approved unanimously but CGAPS recommendations were not included.

2. *Adjournment*

- Chair Hurd adjourned the meeting at 2:14pm



Meeting of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

May 29, 2026; 9:00 am

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.*



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10. Public Comment to any other issue not listed in the agenda.
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“...that the silent invasion of Hawaii by invasive species is the single greatest threat to Hawaii’s economy, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of Hawaii’s people and hereby proclaim May 2026 as the Hawaii Invasive Species Awareness Month in Hawaii and ask all citizens of the Aloha State join in recognizing the importance of preventing and controlling harmful invasive species, to help restore our natural resources, strengthen our economy, and preserve the Hawaiian way of life.”



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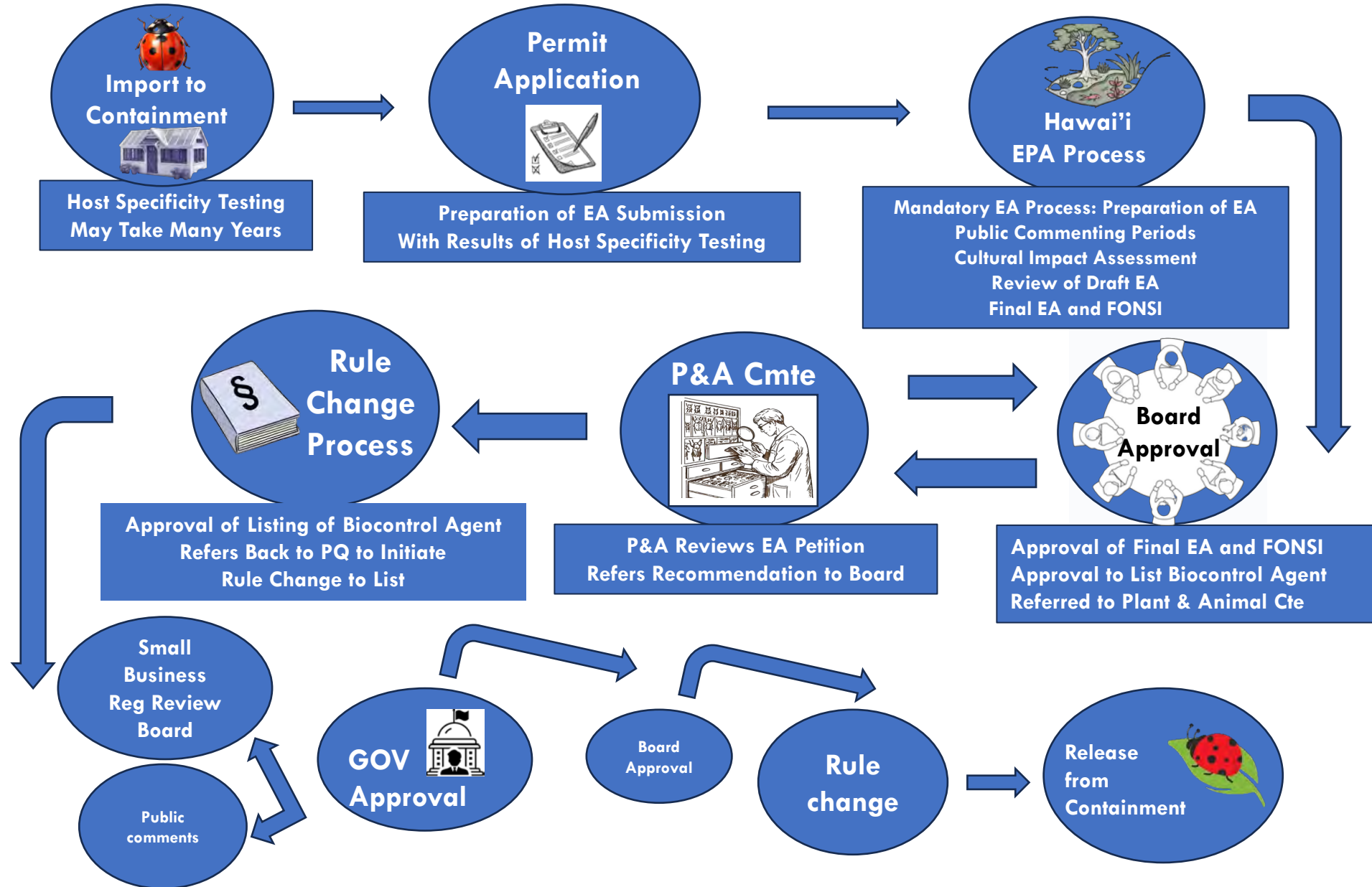


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HAWAII BIOCONTROL APPROVAL PROCESS





Biocontrol Hawaii: The following list of biocontrol agents for Hawaii is a compilation of the current status of the biocontrol agents in the state and federal approval process.

Scientific name	Target	Federal Petition and Permit Process			State Petition and Permit Process					
		Federal FONSI	Final Federal EA	APHIS release permit issued	Added to Restricted Animals (Part A)	Board Approval	P&A	State Final EA and FONSI	Draft EA to ERP	Imported
<i>Aprostocetus nitens</i> (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae)	Erythrina gall wasp, <i>Quadrastichus erythrinae</i>	FONSI not signed yet	Deadline for EA expired on April 30, 2026 (being renewed)	No	No	Dec 2023	Nov 2023	Feb 2023	Dec 2019	2005, 2006 to DOA's containment facility
<i>Metaphycus macadamiae</i> (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae)	Macadamia felted coccid, <i>Acanthococcus ironsidei</i>	FONSI signed Feb 2024??		No	No	??		Feb 2024	Dec 2023	2013
<i>Euselasia chrysippe</i> (Lepidoptera: Riodinidae)	Miconia, <i>Miconia calvescens</i>	FONSI signed in April 2023	April 2023 https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/biocontrol-miconia-hawaii.pdf	April 2026	No	Nov 2022	May 2022	Sep 2022	Apr 2020	2012
<i>Syphraea uberabensis</i> (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)	Cane tibouchina, <i>Tibouchina herbacea</i>	FONSI signed in April 2023	April 2023 https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/bc-tibouchina-biocontrol-syphraea-uberabensis-hawaii-ea.pdf	June 2025	No	Oct 2022	May 2022	Sep 2022	Jan 2020	2005
<i>Salpingogaster nigra</i> (Diptera: Syrphidae)	Two-lined spittle bug, <i>Prosapia bicincta</i>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
<i>Phymastichus co^{<ea}</i> (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae)	CoYee berry borer, <i>Hypothenemus hampei</i>	May 2023	May 2023 https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/coYeeberry-borer-ea-final.pdf	June 2023 (renewal requested 2026)	Yes, 2023	Apr 2023				



Acronyms:

EA:	Environmental Assessment
ERP:	Environmental Review Program (formerly known as Office of Environmental Quality Control (QEQC))
FONSI:	Finding of No Significant Impact
P&A:	Advisory Committee for Plant and Animals with Hawaii State Department of Agriculture
QEQC:	Office of Environmental Quality Control (now ERP or Environmental Review Program)



9. Presentation of 2026 Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Month (HISAM) Award Recipients.

HISAM 2026 Awards

Recognizing collaborative efforts to:

- Prevent invasive species
- Support rapid response
- Advance research and innovation
- Engage and educate communities



‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia

No task is too big when done together by all.



HISAM 2026 Greatest Hit

**Wendell Vincent &
The Hawai'i
Island HDOT Crew**



Hawaii Invasive Species Awareness Month

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia

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HISAM 2026 Outstanding Business Leader

**Alex Redeker /
Biosecurity
Solutions Hawai'i**



Hawaii Invasive Species Awareness Month

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia

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HISAM 2026 Community Hero

Kimeona Kane



Hawaii Invasive Species Awareness Month

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia

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HISAM 2026 Kaua'i Island MVP

Seascapes Nursery

Robert Malhorta

Jessica Warner



Hawaii Invasive Species Awareness Month

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia

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HISAM 2026 O'ahu Island MVP

Taylor Engle



Hawaii Invasive Species Awareness Month

'A'ole hana nui ke alu 'ia

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HISAM 2026 Maui Nui MVP

Pūlama Lānaʻi - Conservation



Hawaii Invasive Species Awareness Month

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia

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HISAM 2026 Hawai'i Island MVP

Ron Aronson



Hawaii Invasive Species Awareness Month

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