

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM**  
**PACIFIC ISLANDS INDIGENOUS SCIENCE COMPETITION**

**OVERVIEW**

Proposals are requested for the 2023 University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) Pacific Islands Indigenous Science Competition. Hawai'i Sea Grant supports a multidisciplinary, integrated program of applied research, outreach, and education focused on increasing sustainability of our coastal and ocean resources and building capacity for resilient communities around marine and coastal issues of public concern. This funding opportunity was developed through the [Hawai'i Sea Grant Ulana 'Ike Center of Excellence](#) (Ulana 'Ike). Ulana 'Ike works to ensure that customary practitioners from multiple knowledge systems have decision-making power and direct co-management of coastal and marine resources.

**INDIGENOUS SCIENCE**

Many funding opportunities exist to support research initiatives that integrate Indigenous knowledge and Western science. A majority of these efforts are led by academic institutions that engage Indigenous communities in varying degrees of participation ranging from consultation to equitable co-production (David-Chavez 2018, Bohensky and Maru 2011). Knowledge production in these contexts attempts to integrate Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into existing Western research frameworks (Daniel 2019, Nadasdy 1999). While recognizing the value of partnership across Western and Indigenous sciences, **this funding opportunity seeks to shift the focus and center Indigenous methodologies, protocols, and values in research.**

**With this intention in mind, Hawai'i Sea Grant will support between 2 and 4 projects, each in the \$10,000 to \$25,000 range, for a funding term of one year.** This is a pilot funding opportunity with the intention of eventually building Pacific Islands Indigenous Science funding into a regular bi-annual opportunity.

*Defining Indigenous Science in the Context of this Opportunity*

Indigenous science seeks to investigate the natural world and ensure that the knowledge generated promotes the flourishing of community health, livelihood, vibrancy, and self-determination (Cajete 2000, Whyte et al. 2016, Wolfgramm 2018). Indigenous science typically employs a kinship view (Whyte et al. 2016) that relies on multigenerational knowledge and genealogical connection to place. The practice of Indigenous science requires continuous and multiple engagements with communities and is often co-created with the people and places with whom research takes place (TallBear 2014).

**GOALS and FOCUS AREAS**

To promote Indigenous science in Hawai'i and across the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands, this funding opportunity seeks projects that support three primary goals: (1) Resource Stewardship, (2) Community Empowerment, and (3) Strengthening Cultural Practices. Projects should

incorporate Indigenous methodologies and the intersectionality of both cultural and ecological concerns.

Projects should also address one or more of the following Hawai'i Sea Grant Focus Areas. Each of the focus areas include example questions of interest. These examples are not intended to be prescriptive but suggestive of elements appropriate to [Hawai'i Sea Grant's mission](#).

#### *Healthy Coastal Ecosystems*

Projects that restore or perpetuate **Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander stewardship practices**.

Example questions of interest:

- How are freshwater resources required for place-based restoration impacted by climate change?
- How does restoration that spans an [ahupua'a](#) and includes both [mauka](#) and [makai](#) ecosystems improve overall outcomes observed in each ecosystem?
- How do manifestations of [Kanaloa](#), Taaroa, and other oceanic deities serve as descriptions of changing natural cycles?
- What are successful strategies for co-management of coastal fisheries?

#### *Resilient Communities and Economies*

Projects that **promote abundance through sustainable relationships** between [kanaka](#) and ['āina](#) under changing natural cycles.

Example questions of interest:

- Which [akua](#) are appropriate to connect to natural phenomena related to contemporary climate change?
- How does the restoration of cultural practice promote community economic resilience in the face of climate change impacts?
- How can we better understand and measure the contributions of coastal subsistence lifeways to local economic and ecological systems?
- What frameworks allow for fully community-led coastal adaptation planning?
- Which methods of cultivating [kalo](#) effectively account for increased temperatures and changing water availability?
- What [mele](#) or [hula](#) could be developed to record changing natural cycles and conditions?

#### *Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development*

Projects that foster **intergenerational transfer of knowledge** and skills.

Example questions of interest:

- How do Hawaiian language newspaper translations related to specific places and [akua](#) inform our understanding of relationships between kanaka and 'āina?
- How can [mo'olelo](#) be recorded to document information about the process and impact of contemporary restoration activities?

- How does implementing place-based education affect student learning of STEM concepts?

### *Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture*

Projects that support **food sovereignty** with a particular focus on marine resources.

Example questions of interest:

- What are the impacts of higher storm frequencies on fish recruitment and maturation within [loko i'a](#)?
- How do changing coastlines and coastal erosion impact [limu](#) harvesting practices and outcomes?
- What are production models for loko i'a that support economic autonomy and are consistent with Hawaiian stewardship values?
- What are the impacts of biocultural restoration—both within loko i'a and the broader ahupua'a—on i'a abundance?

### **ELIGIBILITY**

- Project leads must be from a nonprofit organization in Hawai'i or the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands.
- Projects may be carried out independently or in collaboration with academic researchers from partner institutions.
- The project team should include at least one land steward or cultural practitioner who can advance Indigenous science and practice.

**If you have any questions about eligibility, please don't hesitate to contact:**

[uhsg.ulanaike@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhsg.ulanaike@hawaii.edu)

### **EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

Hawai'i Sea Grant personnel do not choose which proposals to fund. Proposals are peer-reviewed by three subject matter experts and then refereed by an expert Indigenous Science Panel. Results from the Indigenous Science Panel and the availability of funding then determine which and how many proposals are recommended for funding. Reviewers are chosen for their areas of expertise and use the criteria listed below for inclusive evaluation of proposals. Reviewers will be free from conflict of interest and will be provided with bias management training opportunities. Each criterion is given equal weight during review.

#### 1. Scientific merit

Does the project represent core aspects of Pacific Islands Indigenous science, including an approach to the natural world that centers stewardship and caretaking? To what degree will the project apply Indigenous science methods and protocols?

#### 2. Relevance to Hawai'i Sea Grant's mission and RFP priorities

Does the proposed work support one or more focus areas? Does the proposed work support one or more of the three listed goals (i.e., 1. Resource Stewardship; 2. Community Empowerment, and 3. Strengthening Cultural Practices)?

### 3. Data Management

Does the proposal include a clear plan for managing and sharing data? Are there sufficient protections for Indigenous knowledge and sensitive information?

### 4. Qualifications of the Project Team

Is the project team well qualified to implement the project? Does the project team include at least one land steward or cultural practitioner?

### 5. Benefit to Hawai'i or the Pacific Islands

What is the importance of this work for Hawai'i and/or the Pacific region? To what degree does the project contribute to long-term efforts to perpetuate the health, sustainability, and resilience of 'āina and community?

### 6. Overall value of the proposal

What is the overall merit of the proposed work? Are there any concerns about funding the proposed project? Are there suggestions for improvements?

## **KNOWLEDGE SOVEREIGNTY**

Hawai'i Sea Grant prioritizes supporting Indigenous scholars, practitioners, and communities in retaining agency and governance over products deriving from their work, in keeping with established best practices such as the [CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance](#). We will work with project leads to promote appropriate protection of Indigenous knowledge and cultural protocols while also supporting project leads in efforts to disseminate outputs appropriately and meet federal reporting requirements.

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

### Statement of Interest

Interested groups should submit a 1-2 page Statement of Interest by **September 1, 2023 (5:00 PM HST)** either via email to [uhsg.ulanaike@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhsg.ulanaike@hawaii.edu) or via [Google Forms](#). Project details do not need to be finalized at this point. The statement of interests helps Hawai'i Sea Grant gain a broad understanding of the number and types of proposals planned for submission. Between the Statement of Interest and Full Proposal stages all Project Leads will have the opportunity to participate in informational webinars and proposal development workshops. All applicants, regardless of whether or not they have submitted a Statement of Interest, are eligible to submit to the Full Proposal process.

### Full proposal submission

A Full Proposal is due via email to [uhsg.ulanaike@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhsg.ulanaike@hawaii.edu) by **October 20, 2023 (5:00 PM HST)**. Applicants must submit a proposal narrative (5 pages or less), budget, and budget justification to be considered for review (see appendices for required materials and template documents). When your proposal is ready for submission please email all completed proposal components to [uhsg.ulanaike@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhsg.ulanaike@hawaii.edu). You will receive an email confirming receipt of your proposal within 48 hours of your submission.

## PROPOSAL SUBMISSION TIMELINE

RFP milestone	Date
Application period begins	July 14 2023
Informational webinars on RFP opportunity	August 8 and 24, 2023
Proposal development workshops	September 18 and October 4, 2023
Statement of Interest due	September 1, 2023 5:00 PM HST
Full proposal due	October 20, 2023 5:00 PM HST
Projects recommended for funding	Late January 2024

### Support for proposal submission

To support applicants through the proposal submission process, Hawai'i Sea Grant will provide a number of services including:

- **Informational Webinars** on the RFP will be held via Zoom. Registration for each webinar is linked below, and can also be found at [PacifcIslandsIndigenousScience.com](https://PacifcIslandsIndigenousScience.com).
  - [August 8, 2023 at 3:00 PM \(HST\)](#)
  - [August 24, 2023 at 3:00 PM \(HST\)](#)
- **Workshops** will offer support with proposal development in a group setting via Zoom. Topics may include designing a budget, identifying match, and drafting project objectives/outputs. Registration linked below.
  - [September 18, 2023 at 3:00 PM \(HST\)](#)
  - [October 4, 2023 at 11:00 AM \(HST\)](#)
- **Office Hours** will be available to answer questions and provide additional support to applicants in-person or virtually. During office hours, staff from Hawai'i Sea Grant will work one-on-one with applicants. To schedule one-on-one office hours email [uhsg.ulanaike@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhsg.ulanaike@hawaii.edu).

Attendance is not a requirement of the application process. Informational Webinars will be recorded and posted at [PacifcIslandsIndigenousScience.com](https://PacifcIslandsIndigenousScience.com).

### Required non-federal match

A 1:2 non-federal match is required for all funds requested from Hawai'i Sea Grant. For example, a project requesting \$10,000 in funding from Hawai'i Sea Grant would need to provide \$5,000 in non-federal match. Match can be in-kind (such as in the form of staff time or volunteer hours).

### Other Federal/University of Hawai'i requirements

To receive funding, successful applicants will need to meet the University of Hawai'i subaward recipient requirements. This includes obtaining approval(s) from the following as applicable: 1)

Use of Human Subjects (outreach projects, surveys, etc.); 2) Use of Vertebrate Animals (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee [IACUC]); 3) Health and Safety (compressed gas diving, radioactive material, importation of microorganisms; use of recombinant DNA); and 4) Relevant state and federal permits for all field activities. Depending on the nature of the activity proposed, other approvals and certifications may also be applicable. Non-UH entities will be responsible for applicable federal assurances.

#### Projects recommended for funding

Applicants who are recommended for funding will be contacted in late January 2024.

#### Anticipated start of projects and funding

Pending approval from the National Sea Grant Office and the FY23 congressional budget, funding for projects recommended for funding will be available no earlier than March 1, 2024.

## REFERENCES

- Bohensky, Erin, and Maru Yiheyis. "Indigenous Knowledge, Science, and Resilience: What Have We Learned from a Decade of International Literature on 'Integration'?" *Ecology and Society*, vol. 16, no. 4, Dec. 2011, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26268978>.
- Cajete, G. *Native Science: Natural Laws of Interdependence*. Clear Light Publishers
- Daniel, R. "Understanding Our Environment Requires an Indigenous Worldview." *Eos*, 5 Dec. 2019, <https://eos.org/opinions/understanding-our-environment-requires-an-indigenous-worldview>.
- David-Chavez, Dominique. "A Global Assessment of Indigenous Community Engagement in Climate Research." *Environmental Research Letters*, vol. 13, no. 12, Dec. 2018.
- Nadasdy, Paul. "The Politics of TEK: Power and the 'Integration' of Knowledge." *Arctic Anthropology*, vol. 36, 1999.
- TallBear, K. (2014). Standing with and speaking as faith: A feminist-indigenous approach to inquiry. *Journal of Research Practice*, 10(2), N17–N17.
- Whyte, Kyle Powys, Brewer, Joseph P. II, and Johnson, Jay T. "Weaving Indigenous science, protocols, and sustainability science." *Sustainability Science*, vol. 11, 2016.
- Wolfgramm-Rolfe, R., Spiller, M., Houkamau, C., & Henare, M. (2018). Home: Resistance, Resilience, and Innovation in Māori Economies of Well-Being. *Traditional Ecological Knowledge: Learning from Indigenous Practices for Environmental Sustainability*.
- Wilson, Shawn. *Research is Ceremony: Indigenous Research Methods*. Fernwood Publishing, 2008.

## APPENDICES

**Appendix A: Statement of Interest Form**

**Appendix B: Full Proposal Narrative Template**

**Appendix C: Budget Guidelines**

**Appendix D: Example Budget**

**Appendix E: Example Budget Justification**

**APPENDIX A: STATEMENT OF INTEREST FORM**

Submission deadline September 1, 2023 5:00 PM HST

May be emailed to [uhsg.ulanaike@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhsg.ulanaike@hawaii.edu) in word or PDF format

OR submitted via [Google Forms](#)

**Project Point of Contact**

Name:

Email:

Phone:

**Organization(s) Submitting**

What is the lead organization submitting the proposal? (The project lead must be a nonprofit organization operating in Hawai'i or the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands.)

Are there any partner organizations identified at this time? If yes, please list them here.

**Project Description**

Please provide a brief 1-2 paragraph description of the project. Project details do not need to be firm at this stage; preliminary plans are fine.

**Proposal Development**

What forms of information and support would be most useful to you in proposal development? (select all that apply)

- How to develop a budget
- How to identify match funding
- Drafting project objectives
- Drafting project outcomes
- We do not need any additional support in developing this proposal
- Other:

## APPENDIX B: FULL PROPOSAL NARRATIVE TEMPLATE

Submission deadline October 20, 2023 5:00 PM HST

Submit via email to [uhsg.ulanaike@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhsg.ulanaike@hawaii.edu)

SHADED AREAS ARE EXPLANATORY NOTES ONLY—PLEASE DELETE SHADED AREAS

The proposal narrative should be 5 pages or less including tables, figures, and images.

**TITLE:** Enter the title of your project here.

**PROJECT LEAD:** Who will be primarily responsible for project management and outputs? Please include the name, title, and organization of the project lead. The project lead must be from a nonprofit organization in Hawai'i or the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands.

**PROJECT TEAM:** Who will be working with the project lead to carry out the proposed activities?

**PROJECT CONTEXT:** Provide the background on why this project is needed. What problem or opportunity will this project help to address? What is the place-based element of the project? What 'āina will the project focus on or take place in? What is the relationship between the project team and this 'āina? Which of the Sea Grant Focus Areas does this project relate to (i.e., Healthy Coastal Ecosystems, Resilient Communities and Economies, Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development)?

**GOALS & OBJECTIVES:** Describe the overall goal and objectives of your project. How do your project goals and objectives relate to the broader goals of (1) Resource Stewardship; (2) Community Empowerment, and (3) Strengthening Cultural Practice?

**METHODS:** Describe the methods, practices, and activities you will use to achieve the project goals and objectives.

**OUTCOMES:** What are the outcomes or outputs of your project? How will you measure and track project outcomes? How will your project contribute to the long-term health of your community and 'āina? How will your project support 'āina-based stewards and/or cultural practitioners? How will your project advance Indigenous science and practice?

### DATA MANAGEMENT

What data will be collected through this project? How will it be stored? Who will it be shared with and how will it be shared? How will you implement appropriate protections for Indigenous knowledge and any sensitive information collected?

### PROJECT TEAM QUALIFICATIONS (not included in the 5 page limit)

Describe the skills, experience, and relationships that each member of the project team will bring to this effort. In particular, please provide detail on any experience or expertise related to Indigenous practice, protocols, and methodology that team members bring (for example kilo, mo'olelo, growing and harvesting Indigenous foods). You may include resumes here but it is not required.

## APPENDIX C: BUDGET GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are to be used in completing your budget and budget justification. The budget justification should explain each line item for both the direct and matching budgets. A 1:2 non-federal match is required for all funds requested. For example, a project requesting \$10,000 in funding from Hawai'i Sea Grant would need to provide \$5,000 in non-federal matching funds. Match can be in-kind, for example in the form of staff time or volunteer hours.

1. Salaries and Wages
  - a. List all staff positions by title. Provide monthly salary, number of months the individual will work on the project (including partial months, such as 0.5), and total cost for the grant period.
2. Fringe benefits
  - a. Identify the percentage used by each personnel's employer to determine fringe benefits.
3. Travel
  - a. Any travel support requested should represent travel costs associated with conducting the proposed activities.
  - b. Include the breakdown of costs (airfare, per diem, transportation, estimated number of trips, number of travelers, etc.) in the budget justification for each type of travel (air, ground, marine, etc.).
4. Permanent Equipment
  - a. Permanent equipment is considered more permanent and longer lasting than supplies, which are used up quickly. Permanent equipment is tangible, non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one year, and costing \$5,000 or more per item. Items of less than \$5,000 should be listed under "Expendable Supplies and Equipment."
  - b. Describe the costs and types of equipment needed. Please include a brief justification within the Budget Justification for any permanent equipment requested.
5. Expendable Materials & Supplies
  - a. This category includes items less than \$5,000 and expendable supplies.
  - b. Briefly describe and justify the expendable supplies and materials requested in the Budget Justification. If requesting computer items, be sure to include additional information explaining the need for and dedicated use of the item for this project.
6. Other Costs
  - a. Any other expenses should be listed here, including payments for expert consultants, honorarium, participant support costs, and venue fees. If you are including volunteer time to meet the non federal match requirement, list it here.
7. Indirect Costs
  - a. Include detail as to the indirect cost rate. Indicate which costs are applicable and not applicable to indirect costs.

**APPENDIX D: EXAMPLE BUDGET**

<b>SALARIES &amp; WAGES</b>				
<b>Personnel Name</b>	<b>Monthly salary</b>	<b>Time (months)</b>	<b>Requested Funds</b>	<b>Matching Funds</b>
Kaleo Santos	\$5,500	1.00		\$5,500
Mahealani Kekoa	\$3,500	1.00	\$3,500	
<b>Total Salaries and Wages</b>			\$ 3,500	\$ 5,500
<b>FRINGE</b>				
<b>Personnel Name (same as above)</b>	<b>Fringe rate (%)</b>		<b>Requested Funds</b>	<b>Matching Funds</b>
Kaleo Santos	25%			\$1,375
Mahealani Kekoa	25%		\$875	
<b>Total Fringe</b>			\$875	\$ 1,375
<b>TRAVEL</b>				
<b>Expense</b>			<b>Requested Funds</b>	<b>Matching Funds</b>
Airfare for inter-island travel			\$ 1,200	
Rental cars			\$200	
<b>Total Travel</b>			\$ 1,400	\$0
<b>PERMANENT EQUIPMENT</b>				
<b>Expense</b>			<b>Requested Funds</b>	<b>Matching Funds</b>
<b>Total Permanent Equipment</b>			\$0	\$0
<b>EXPENDABLE MATERIALS &amp; SUPPLIES</b>				
<b>Expense</b>			<b>Requested Funds</b>	<b>Matching Funds</b>
Workshop materials (markers, flip charts, post-its,etc)			\$200	
Stream flow sensor			\$3,000	
<b>Total Expendable Supplies &amp; Equipment</b>			\$3,200	\$ 0
<b>OTHER COSTS (including consultants, venue fees, participant supports, etc)</b>				
<b>Expense</b>			<b>Requested Funds</b>	<b>Matching Funds</b>
Stipends for workshop participants			\$2,000	
Workshop Venue			\$500	
Consultant: GIS Expert			\$1,000	
Volunteer Hours (2023 Federal Estimated Rate \$31.80/hour)				\$795
Printing			\$500	
<b>Total Other Costs</b>			\$ 4,000	\$795
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS</b>				
Total Direct Costs Subject to Indirect Cost Charges			\$ 12,975	\$7,670
Total Indirect Costs ( <i>Indirect Cost Rate: 15%</i> )			\$ 1,946	
<b>Grand Total Requested Funds and Total Match Funds</b>			<b>\$14,921</b>	<b>\$ 7,670</b>

## APPENDIX E: EXAMPLE BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

### SALARIES & WAGES

We request funds for an 'Ōlelo Hawai'i expert, employed for 1 month at a salary of \$3,500/month. The 'Ōlelo Hawai'i expert will conduct research and translation work on mo'olelo of the area related to streams, springs, and freshwater flows.

### FRINGE BENEFITS

We request \$875 for fringe benefits for the 'Ōlelo Hawai'i expert at a rate of 25%.

### TRAVEL

#### *Domestic*

'Āina restoration specialists will travel to O'ahu for a half-day workshop focused on connecting historic freshwater flows to restoration work and climate adaptation planning. We request \$1,200 for air-fare estimating \$200 per flight for 6 'āina restoration specialists coming from Maui, Moloka'i, and Kaua'i. We are requesting \$200 for two rental cars (\$100/day x 1 day x 2 cars).

### PERMANENT EQUIPMENT

None requested.

### EXPENDABLE MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

We request \$200 for workshop supplies including flip charts, post-its, and markers. We request \$3,000 for sensors to monitor stream flow.

### OTHER COSTS

We request \$2,000 for stipends for workshop participants (\$100 per participant x 20 participants). We request \$500 for workshop venue fees. We request \$1,000 for a GIS expert consultant to support community based mapping of springs and fresh water flows. We request \$500 for printing costs to print large scale maps and posters for outreach and engagement as well as workshop activities.

### MATCHING FUNDS

Effort equivalent to \$5,500 in salary and \$1,375 in fringe will be provided by the Project Team Lead, Kaleo Santos, from non-federal funds from the non-profit Mālama Wahi (Salary: \$5,500/month x 1 month = \$5,500, fringe (25%): \$1,375. 25 volunteer hours for stream restoration and monitoring effort will be contributed to the project for non-federal match (25 hours x \$31.80/hour = \$795). A monetary value for match volunteer hours is estimated using the rate from the [2023 Report on the Value of Volunteer Time](#).

### TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

Total Direct Costs: \$12,975

Total Indirect Costs: \$1,946 calculated using the rate of 15%.

Total Funds Requested (Indirect + Direct Costs): \$14,921

Total Matching Funds: \$7,670