REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM

Ala Wai Watershed Green Stormwater Infrastructure

DEADLINE EXTENDED

Proposals Due online by 5:00 pm HST on Monday, September 16, 2024

Project Period: November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2025

OVERVIEW

Proposals are requested for the 2024-2025 University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) *Ala Wai Watershed Green Stormwater Infrastructure* opportunity. This initiative is part of the Ola Waikīkī initiative being led by Hawai'i Sea Grant. The Ala Wai Watershed Green Stormwater Infrastructure opportunity is meant to facilitate improved water management and water quality in the watershed, including the Ala Wai canal, through the support of small-scale demonstration projects in the Ala Wai watershed. These projects are envisioned to serve as pilots for larger scale efforts.

Green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) is a collection of design strategies that mimic nature to manage and treat stormwater. Traditional 'gray' infrastructure uses vast networks of street drains, pipes, ditches, and canals to convey stormwater away from urban areas rapidly. Green stormwater infrastructure encourages water to infiltrate into the ground, minimizing and slowing the flow of runoff and removing contaminants. Honolulu has a traditional 'gray' stormwater network, but there is an increasing recognition of the potential ecologic, economic, social, and cultural value of green alternatives.

OPPORTUNITY SUMMARY

Project Goals:

- Invest in small-scale pilot and demonstration green stormwater infrastructure projects, programs, and monitoring efforts.
- Identify sources that contribute to pollution in the Ala Wai watershed.
- Collect robust community feedback on awareness and support of green stormwater infrastructure.
- Provide evaluation and monitoring for existing GSI projects in the watershed.
- Develop and foster community practices for improved watershed resilience

Project Timeframe:

- ***November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2025 (12 months).***
- There will be an opportunity to request a no-cost extension to extend the project period. No-cost extension requests must be submitted in writing three (3) months prior to the project end date (October, 2025). Please contact Dolan Eversole at eversole@hawaii.edu or Melanie Lander at mlander@hawaii.edu for details.
- Proposals awards are expected to be announced by November, 2024.

Project Categories: (~10-15 projects total are anticipated for award)

There are four tracks that applicants can submit a proposal to. Projects will be evaluated/selected objectively based on merit of the project scope, impact, effectiveness, and team background and experience. On-the-ground GSI implementation demonstration projects are the top priority for funding:

- **Implementation:** (~3-5 projects)
  Pilot projects with a focus on implementation for demonstration
- **Maintenance:** (~3-4 projects)
  Maintenance and restoration activities for existing GSI areas
- **Monitoring:** (~2-3 projects)
  Environmental monitoring for GSI in the watershed
- **Planning:** (~2-3 projects)
  Plans, designs, permits for new or restored GSI

Funding Levels: (Pending availability of federal funds)

- Funding begins November 1, 2024 and ends October 31, 2025.
- Funding requests may not exceed $50,000 inclusive of indirect costs.
- No cost match is required, but it is encouraged.

Eligibility:

Unrestricted: Local government, education and religious institutions, private individuals, companies, and non-profit groups.

Geographic Area

Projects must be located within the Ala Wai Watershed. The watershed encompasses the Pālolo, Mānoa and Makiki valleys, as well as the lower watershed that includes the Ala Wai canal. Projects should demonstrate connectivity or relationship of the site's stormwater to Ala Wai Canal and nearshore. Projects are encouraged that are located on both public and private properties. Sites should be highly visible and publicly accessible.

Deliverables

Annual (October, 2025) and final status report (April, 2026) attend and present at a project symposium in May, 2026.

Submission Requirements: (Submit online through eSeaGrant)

- Set up project title and contact information
- Narrative (template: 3 page max). Include landowner authorization letter for the project.
    - RATIONALE:
    - GOALS & OBJECTIVES:
    - METHODOLOGY:
    - EXPECTED OUTCOMES:
    - VALUE TO COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER EDUCATION
- Budget (online form)
- Budget Justification (online form)

Proposal package should be submitted through eSeaGrant no later than 5:00 pm (Hawai‘i Standard Time), Friday, August 30, 2024. Create an account through eSeaGrant in order to submit a proposal.

Background

The Ala Wai watershed faces challenges with both water quality (pollution) and excessive water quantity (flooding). This project focuses on addressing water quality issues in the Ala Wai watershed and Canal, a man-made waterway in the lower portion of the watershed. Water quality is degraded when pollutants like sediment, chemicals, or harmful microorganisms contaminate a body of water.

There are many synonyms for green solutions. This project broadly defines green stormwater infrastructure to include the following.

- Green infrastructure: systems designed by humans to mimic natural functions and infiltrate water into the ground as close to where it falls as possible (i.e., rain gardens, bioswales, water catchment systems)
- Nature-based solutions: the protection, management, or restoration of natural or impacted ecosystems (i.e., planting native trees; wetland and streambank restoration)
- Biocultural restoration: the restoration of ecosystems with deep connections to culture and place (i.e., native food, lei, and medicinal gathering forests; expansion of lo‘i kalo and loko i‘a (fishpond) restoration)

Hawai‘i Sea Grant expects to award funding to approximately 10-15 proposals in 2024-2026. Successful projects will:

1. be implementation-driven, with public benefit and visibility;
2. demonstrate effective GSI benefits in the project timeframe;
3. address community priorities and values including critical needs and issues related to water quality in the Ala Wai watershed;
4. identify and include targeted outreach strategies to engage and inform specific user groups throughout the project, and
5. successfully demonstrate cost-effectiveness by leveraging additional funds and partner efforts.

How many proposals can I submit?

An individual or organization may submit more than one proposal to Hawai‘i Sea Grant. A single proposal may contain multiple locations for the same type of project. It is recommended you contact us if you intend to submit more than one proposal.

For the 2024-2026 Ala Wai Watershed GSI projects, we encourage incorporating a cross-cutting theme of "Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation" as a component of any proposed work. Climate-related environmental changes have made coastal communities vulnerable in ways never before imagined, and identifying GSI projects that also address climate challenges are encouraged. Successful adaptation to climate change based on the best available science is essential to maintaining the health of the environment, the economy, and human safety and welfare

In addition to supporting projects that are scientifically sound and societally relevant, Hawai‘i Sea Grant is committed to projects that are informed by community needs and involve community partners in the development of the project scope.

EVALUATION and SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals are peer-reviewed by subject matter experts. Results from the reviews, and funding availability, then determine which and how many proposals are recommended for funding. Reviewers and the review panel are chosen for their areas of expertise and use several criteria for inclusive evaluation of research proposals:

1. Provides a demonstrated benefit to water quality in the watershed

   What is the merit of the proposed project? To what degree will the project advance the understanding or methods for Green Stormwater Infrastructure in the Ala Wai watershed?

2. Technical merit and capacity

   Is the proposed work technically sound and viable? Do the skills, experience, and capacity of the project team match the scope and scale of the proposed project?

3. Community relevance

   Does the proposed work acknowledge community priorities, values, and needs? Are end-users engaged in the project and potential outcomes of the proposed work?

4. Benefit to the Ala Wai watershed and demonstration effectiveness

   What is the benefit (impact) of this work for Hawai‘i and the Ala Wai watershed, and is it relevant to the priorities listed in the RFP? Did the applicant(s) identify potential end-users of project results?

5. Overall value of the proposal

   What is the overall merit of the proposed work? Is it cost-effective and will it result in positive impacts to the community and the facilitation of GSI as a whole? Are there any concerns about funding the proposed project or suggestions for improvement?

Appendices

- Appendix A: Proposal Narrative Template
- Appendix B: Example Budget Justification
- Appendix C: Preliminary Proposal Instructions

Appendix A: Proposal Narrative Template

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAIʻI SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM
Proposal Narrative: 2024-2025 Ala Wai Watershed Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Provide up to 3 pages for the proposal narrative using the template below. This will be uploaded into eSeaGrant. Text in *Times* or *Times New Roman*, 11-point font, single line spacing.

PROJECT TITLE:

RATIONALE:

(Provide a well-developed rationale that stresses why this is an important problem for the Ala Wai watershed.)

GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

(Provide clear goals and objectives.)

METHODOLOGY:

(Provide a brief but clear description of your project methods. Describe any land use permit requirements, if any are expected.)

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

(Describe specific stakeholders who will benefit from the results of this project and how they will benefit.)

VALUE TO COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER EDUCATION:

(Briefly describe how community members and/or stakeholders will be involved in the proposed work. Briefly describe how community priorities, values, needs, and end-users were engaged in the development of the proposed work.)

SUPPORTING MATERIAL:

Literature cited, Curriculum Vitae for each member of the project team, landowner authorization letter, and letters of support are not included in the 3-page limit.

Appendix B: EXAMPLE BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

The budget justification section is a form-fillable box that is on the far right of each budget item in the eSseaGrant budget section. Use the "Add" button for each line item, and add the budget justification in the box to the right. Example descriptions below are provided as a guide.

A. SALARIES AND WAGES

We request funds for X (position (title), employed at X hours per week at $X/hour ($X/month) for X months. The staff (title) will assist in ……)

B. FRINGE BENEFITS

We request X funds for fringe benefits of X % for (position (title)).

C. PERMANENT EQUIPMENT

None requested

D. EXPENDABLE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

We request $X for water quality monitoring supplies. Describe the quantity and type.

E. TRAVEL

The staff (title) will conduct (activity) for a total of X trips for X people at approximately $X per trip. (Might include reimbursable miles at $.67/mile or other travel costs.)

F. PUBLICATION AND DOCUMENTATION COSTS

We request $X for layout services and printing.

G. OTHER COSTS

We request $X for analytical services. This is for X water samples at $X/sample, for a total of $X. Indirect Cost Rate - If an applicant does not have a current indirect cost rate with a federal agency, they may choose to use the default indirect cost rate of 10% of Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC).

H. MATCHING FUNDS (Not required-but encouraged)

Effort equivalent to $X in salary and $X in fringe will be provided by X from non-federal funds from X (Salary: $X/hours x hours = $X, fringe (50%): $X).

Appendix C: Proposal Submission Instructions

First, create an account in eSeaGrant with a login, and start to populate the contact information by following the online prompts. Be sure to include the following:

1. **Proposal Cover Page:**
   Project title, Project leader and co-leader contact information

2. **Proposal Narrative Template:** (Upload as a pdf to eSeaGrant)
   Download the Proposal Narrative Template to ensure that you provide all required information. The Proposal Narrative should address the following points:

   RATIONALE: The problem or opportunity that is to be addressed

   GOALS & OBJECTIVES: A broad overview of the project goals

   METHODOLOGY: A brief description of the project approaches and methods

   EXPECTED OUTCOMES: Expected outcomes and impacts of the project

   VALUE TO COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER EDUCATION: Who will be affected by the project and how will they benefit from it?

   SUPPORTING MATERIAL: Supporting documents, letters of support, landowner authorization letter, CVs, etc. Not included in 3-page proposal count

3. **Budget Forms (Online form)**
   Complete the online budget worksheet. Many of the worksheet components will be automatically calculated. Provide all costs in each category on the budget worksheet for each year. Click the green "Save" button after each submission. Then input the budget justification to the right. (See Appendix B above.) Please click "Save" after each section.

   Salaries & Wages
   Include personnel salaries and wages in the budget worksheet. Technicians and other personnel are added to "Other Staff & Students." Enter the number of man-months/FTE they will work on the project for the budget year. Only include matching funds in the appropriate column (see notation on budget form).

Other Budget Issues

Travel and equipment purchases are scrutinized carefully; ensure the need is clearly explained if requesting such items.

Permit requirements: Be informed of the need for land use permit triggers that may apply to these types of projects.

Indirect Cost Rate: If an applicant does not have a current indirect cost rate with a federal agency they may choose to use the default indirect cost rate of 10% of Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) (as allowable under 2 C.F.R. 200.414).

4. **Submitting the Proposal**

Proposal should be submitted through eSeaGrant no later than 5:00 pm (Hawai'i Standard Time) Friday, August 30, 2024.

Use the submission preview on the left tab to check the submission package for accuracy.

BE SURE TO CLICK THE (GREEN) SAVE BUTTON AFTER EACH STEP AND THE SUBMIT BUTTON AFTER YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE FORMS.