

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

ISLAND SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE, AQUACULTURE, AND CONTAMINANTS OF EMERGING CONCERN TRACKS



University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program 2026-2028 Biennial Competitive Research Cycle

For this competitive research cycle there are four research tracks for which Investigators can submit a proposal. Please note that the Indigenous science track has *different eligibility, evaluation, and selection criteria* from the other research tracks and has been provided in a separate document. For more information, please see the details listed next to the research track name.

- **Island Sustainability and Resilience** (page 3; pre-proposals due Feb. 21, 2025)
- **Aquaculture** (page 3; pre-proposals due Feb. 21, 2025)
- **Contaminants of Emerging Concern** (page 3; pre-proposals due Feb. 21, 2025)
- **Indigenous Science** (available at PacifiClIslandsIndigenousScience.com; statements of interest due Mar. 7, 2025)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

RESEARCH TRACKS FOR 2026-2028 PROGRAM.....	2
<i>Details for Island Sustainability and Resilience, Aquaculture, Contaminants of Emerging Concern Research Tracks</i>	
ABOUT HAWAI'I SEA GRANT.....	3
AWARD AND ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION.....	3
RESEARCH PRIORITIES OF THE 2026-2028 BIENNIUM.....	4
STATEMENT OF RESEARCH KULEANA.....	5
HAWAI'I SEA GRANT FOCUS AREAS.....	6
CROSS-CUTTING THEMES.....	8
CONTAMINANTS OF EMERGING CONCERN RESEARCH TRACK.....	10
FORMAL EXTENSION/OUTREACH COMPONENT.....	11
EVALUATION and SELECTION CRITERIA.....	12
APPLICATION PROCEDURE.....	13
APPENDICES.....	16

RESEARCH TRACKS FOR 2026-2028 PROGRAM

Island Sustainability and Resilience

We are soliciting proposals for research focused broadly on island sustainability and resilience that address the current Sea Grant focus areas: Healthy Coastal Ecosystems, Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, Resilient Communities and Economies, and Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development. We encourage investigators to think broadly and creatively about proposed research falling under the “Island Sustainability and Resilience” track. In Hawai‘i, no point on land is more than 29 miles from the shore, and therefore all parts of Hawai‘i are part of the coastal zone. Except for the direct extraction of resources (e.g., fish from the ocean), most of the issues that we face seaward of the shoreline result from the impacts of human behavior on land and associated policies. “Island Sustainability and Resilience” proposals can be submitted under the similarly labeled track in [eSeaGrant](#).

Aquaculture

Hawai‘i Sea Grant seeks proposals focused on sustainable aquaculture to address the increasing demands for locally-sourced foods. Aquaculture is the cultivation of fresh and saltwater organisms for food, biofuels, restoration, and recreation. Aquaculture research can help coastal communities maintain a safe and sustainable local seafood supply. Encouraging local, place-based aquaculture that incorporates diverse forms of knowledge (including Indigenous knowledge) is consistent with long-term goals of enhancing food security, encouraging sustainable industries that are adaptive to a changing climate, diversifying the economy, and supporting rural sustenance and development. “Aquaculture” proposals can be submitted under the similarly labeled track in [eSeaGrant](#).

Contaminants of Emerging Concern

Contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) encompass a range of toxicants present in industrial products, personal care products, pharmaceuticals, endocrine disrupting chemicals, and other routinely used and widely distributed products. In Hawai‘i and other U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI), intense urban, residential, industrial, and military development along a narrow strip of coastal land results in a suite of CECs being released and transported into groundwater and nearshore reef ecosystems, but these impacts remain understudied. Contamination of terrestrial, aquatic, freshwater, and coastal ecosystems can present both acute and chronic issues with known consequences to fisheries, as well as environmental and human health. “Contaminants of Emerging Concern” proposals can be submitted under the similarly labeled track in [eSeaGrant](#).

Indigenous Science

Hawai‘i Sea Grant seeks proposals that center Indigenous methodologies, protocols, and values in research. To promote Indigenous science in Hawai‘i and across the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands, this track seeks projects that support three primary goals: 1) Resource Stewardship, 2) Community Governance, and 3) Strengthening Cultural Practices. Projects should incorporate Indigenous methodologies and the intersectionality of both cultural and ecological concerns.

Please note that the Indigenous Science track has different eligibility requirements, evaluation and selection criteria, and proposal requirements than the other tracks. Details for this track can be found at PacificIslandsIndigenousScience.com

Details and Application Process

for

Island Sustainability and Resilience Research Track

Aquaculture Research Track

Contaminants of Emerging Concern Research Track

Pre-proposals DUE via [eSeaGrant](#) on Friday, February 21, 2025 at 5:00 pm HST

For details on the application process for the Indigenous Science Track see

PacifiClandsIndigenousScience.com

ABOUT HAWAI'I SEA GRANT

Preliminary proposals are requested for the 2026-2028 University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) funding cycle. Hawai'i Sea Grant is one of 34 Sea Grant Programs dedicated to improved understanding and stewardship of the nation's marine and coastal resources. Created by Congress in 1966, the National Sea Grant College Program comprises a network of more than 300 participating institutions, drawing on the talents of over 3,000 scientists, engineers, educators, students, and outreach specialists nationwide.

Hawai'i Sea Grant supports a multidisciplinary, integrated program of applied research, outreach, and education addressing marine and coastal issues of public concern. Information generated by Hawai'i Sea Grant-funded research reaches interested parties through Hawai'i Sea Grant extension, education, and communications activities in Hawai'i and the Pacific region and via the national network.

AWARD AND ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Faculty from universities and colleges, state, local, and regional governments and organizations, and individuals in Hawai'i and USAPI are encouraged to apply. Funding, pending availability, begins February 1, 2026 and ends January 31, 2028. Pending anticipated federal funding, Hawai'i Sea Grant expects to award funding to approximately 8-10 proposals across the Island Sustainability and Resilience, Aquaculture, and Contaminants of Emerging Concern research tracks in 2026-2028.

Research requests

Funding requests may not exceed \$100,000 for two years (\$50,000/year), inclusive of indirect costs. For proposals with a University of Hawai'i (UH) based principal investigator (PI), the UH-established indirect cost rate for FY 2024 on-campus research (i.e., 45.5%) will be applied to all grants (see [HERE](#)). For all other proposals, the established indirect cost rate for the PI's corresponding institution should be applied, in addition to the UH-established rate of 26% for off-campus research on the first \$25,000 of the two-year award.

Required non-federal match

A 1:2 (non-federal match dollars: Hawai'i Sea Grant dollars requested) non-federal match is required for all funds requested from Hawai'i Sea Grant. For example, principal investigators (PIs) requesting \$50,000/year in research funds would demonstrate a 50% non-federal funding match of \$25,000/year. This requirement is mandated by the U.S. Federal Government and as

such, no waivers for match can be considered. PIs will be required to provide actual match, legal documentation of promised or pledged match, and/or audit defensible documentation of in-kind match prior to the awarding of first-year funds. For questions on match, please contact Elyse Larsen (808-956-3010, elysehan@hawaii.edu).

Graduate fellow requests

Graduate Fellows are funded separately from the research award and bring additional value to selected projects. PIs can request support for a graduate student, following their institutional or departmental recommendations for graduate student support levels, but not to exceed \$38,613/year in salary plus fringe or stipend support. (For UH PIs this is equivalent to a maximum allowed request of a GA Step 19 salary and fringe benefits rate of 13.24%.) All proposals should involve graduate student training and mentorship. If you request a graduate fellow and submit a full proposal, you will be required to demonstrate and provide a 50% non-federal funding match for all graduate fellow funds awarded, inclusive of associated IDC.

For example, the match requirement for graduate student support at UH would be \$26,354, which is based on a total value of \$52,707 for the salary of the graduate fellow at GA Step 19 (\$34,098), fringe benefits rate of 13.24% (\$4,515), and indirect costs at 36.5% (\$14,094). PIs outside of UH requesting graduate student support can request up to \$38,613/year in support of their students wages or stipends and the associated indirect costs.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES OF THE 2026-2028 BIENNIUM

For the 2026-2028 research cycle the cross-cutting theme of “Climate Impacts and Adaptation” must be a component of your proposed work. Climate-related environmental changes have made coastal communities vulnerable in ways never before imagined, and finding solutions for mitigating and adapting to environmental hazards and other climate related impacts are of utmost importance. Successful adaptation to these issues based on the best available science is essential to maintain the health of the environment, the economy, and human safety and welfare.

In addition to supporting research projects that are scientifically excellent 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 research question. The results of this research are developed and shared with interested parties through various pathways, often via Sea Grant's integrated outreach program, which brings together the collective expertise of on-the-ground extension agents, educators, and communications specialists. The goal is to ensure that vital research results are informed by, and shared with, those who need it most, and in ways that are timely, relevant, and meaningful.

Interdisciplinary proposals that engage the physical, natural, and social sciences are highly encouraged. Innovative, collaborative, and interdisciplinary approaches are needed to address issues that are relevant to living sustainably on islands. This is not suggesting that an interdisciplinary approach is sufficient in and of itself. Rather, to solve the challenges we face, we must conduct research that engages many disciplines (multidisciplinary), integrates the physical, natural, and social sciences (trans-disciplinary), and analyzes, synthesizes, and harmonizes links between disciplines into a coordinated and coherent whole (interdisciplinary).

All successful projects will: 1) be hypothesis driven; 2) demonstrate strong evidence of scholarly merit that leads to papers in peer-refereed journals; 3) focus on the mentoring of graduate and undergraduate students; 4) identify and include targeted outreach strategies to engage and inform specific user groups throughout the research process, and 5) address critical needs and issues as defined in Hawai'i Sea Grant's focus areas and cross-cutting themes (described in detail below).

The four Hawai'i Sea Grant areas of focus are:

- Healthy Coastal Ecosystems
- Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Resilient Communities and Economies
- Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development

Cross-cutting themes that are also of interest:

- Addressing Climate Impacts and Adaptation
- Increasing Moku-Scale Resilience
- Engaging Multiple Knowledge Systems

Reminder: All proposals for the 2026-2028 research cycle will need to address the cross-cutting theme of Climate Impacts and Adaptation.

Hawai'i Sea Grant's focus areas and cross-cutting themes are a direct result of several underlying concepts: the understanding that the majority of the issues we face in the ocean and on our coasts are due to the behavior and activities of people on land; that the solutions to these issues necessitate engagement in multi-, trans-, and interdisciplinary research; that implementation of these solutions necessitate engagement in extension, education, and outreach at all levels of our communities; and that everywhere in Hawai'i is coastal.

STATEMENT of RESEARCH KULEANA

As an organization, we have a [kuleana](#) (responsibility and privilege) to ensure that the programs and projects we support engage in collaborative, mutually-beneficial partnerships with communities. It was with this [kuleana](#) in mind that Hawai'i Sea Grant collaborated with Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo and Paepae o He'ēia to develop the [Kūlana Noi'i](#). The meanings of kūlana include "position, posture, reputation, attitude, stance" and when paired with noi'i, which means "to seek knowledge or investigate, to research," the Kūlana Noi'i provide a set of standards for engaging in long-term relationships between community and researchers. We ask PIs to consider the [Kūlana Noi'i](#) standards as they develop their proposals. All funded PIs and graduate students will attend a [Kūlana Noi'i](#) professional development workshop with Hawai'i Sea Grant.

Hawai'i Sea Grant is committed as an organization to the standards outlined in the [Kūlana Noi'i](#):

- **Respect:** The history, people, and place are respected through understanding, acknowledging, and honoring local culture, traditions, knowledge, and wisdom.

- **Reciprocity:** The relationship between researchers and community is reciprocal rather than extractive.
- **Self-Awareness and Capacity:** Be aware of and address your place, intentions, power, and value to the place, both as an individual and a representative of a group or institution (such as a community organization, university, or government agency).
- **Communication:** Pursue inclusive, transparent, and open communication throughout the research process.
- **Maintain a Long-Term Focus:** All research projects contribute positively to the effort to [mālama](#) (care for) this [wahi](#) (place).
- **Community Engagement and Co-Review:** Promote co-learning and co-development of methods, strategies, goals/objectives, and outputs/outcomes to be adaptable to local place, people, climate, resources, and needs.
- **Knowledge Stewardship:** As part of their [kuleana](#) to place, ancestors, and descendants, communities have access to and ability to utilize data. Communities have decision-making power in determining how information and data are shared.
- **Accountability:** When a project fails to meet these kūlana, the community and researchers work together to identify problems and adjust the project accordingly.

HAWAI'I SEA GRANT FOCUS AREAS

To achieve the Program's mission and goals, and to align our research portfolio with the goals and objectives of NOAA and the National Sea Grant College Program, proposals are solicited in support of the focus areas and cross-cutting themes noted above and described below. The following are rationale for each of the Hawai'i Sea Grant focus areas, followed by example questions and/or topics of interest. ***These examples are not intended to be prescriptive but suggestive of elements appropriate to Sea Grant's mission.***

Healthy Coastal Ecosystems

Rationale: Intensified development along the coast and related human activities are leading to the degradation of water quality and quantity, loss of wetlands, invasive species, and a host of other challenges that must be understood and addressed in order to restore and maintain healthy ecosystems. Ecosystem-based management, reduction and mitigation of anthropogenic impacts, increased access, and regional habitat restoration are some of the avenues we have identified to address these challenges. We seek research proposals that aim to protect, enhance, and/or restore habitats, ecosystems, and the services they provide, as well as proposals that aim to apply the best available science, tools, and services to manage land, water, and living resources.

Examples of questions/topics:

- How can we best apply Indigenous and Western sciences, as well as customary practices and knowledge, to inform sustainable resource management practices and restore social and ecological systems?
- How can sustainable energy, water, and waste management policies and equitable practices contribute to achieving healthy coastal communities that function within the carrying capacity of their ecosystems?
- What strategies can enhance resilient ecosystems and watersheds in the context of changing conditions?
- What ecosystem benefits do living shoreline installations provide?

Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

Rationale: Overfishing, habitat degradation, and increasing competition among coastal users have put our fishing industry in great jeopardy. Food security and seafood safety is a growing concern as fish diseases and contamination become bigger problems. Aquaculture presents new opportunities to meet the growing seafood demand, but raises environmental and other concerns that need to be addressed for its full potential to be realized. Additionally, Indigenous aquaculture in the Hawaiian Islands is being revitalized and restored, and loko i'a (Hawaiian fishponds) across the state are at various stages of restoration towards the realization of fish production. Sea Grant plays a key role in advancing our understanding of the nature of these challenges and in using its research, education, and outreach capabilities to support informed decision-making that will lead to a sustainable supply of safe seafood into the future.

Examples of questions/topics:

- How can recreational fisheries be more sustainably managed?
- What can we learn from Indigenous methods in ecosystem management, agroforestry, capture fisheries, and fishponds to transform practices in fisheries, aquaculture, aquaponics, and hydroponics?
- How can emerging systems or technologies be developed that will advance the production and sustainability of aquaculture in Hawai'i and the Pacific region?
- How can local fisheries and aquaculture be resilient to issues such as harmful algal blooms, severe weather events, pollution, ocean warming, invasive species, and acidifying coasts and oceans?

Resilient Communities and Economies

Rationale: Sea-level rise, increased numbers and intensity of coastal storms, and other human-induced climate-related changes are placing more people and property at risk along the nation's coasts than ever before. These circumstances have major implications for ecosystem stability, human safety, public health, and the economic vitality of coastal communities in the coming decades. We seek research proposals that aim to equitably prepare coastal communities to use their knowledge of changing conditions and risks to become resilient to extreme events, economic disruptions, and other threats to community well-being. Also of interest are proposals that address how to sustain and protect water resources to meet existing and emerging needs of the communities, economies, and ecosystems that depend on them.

Examples of questions/topics:

- How can land-use policies be optimized to decrease the vulnerability of human populations to coastal natural hazards and climate change impacts (e.g., sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and increased sea surface temperatures)?
- What are the socio-economic costs and benefits of implementing different adaptation and resilience actions, including managed retreat?
- How can we enhance real-time storm surge models and products to predict impacts from storms at local or regional scales better?
- How does the built environment (e.g., buildings, infrastructure, and transportation networks) impact ecosystem, public, and economic health?

Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development

Rationale: With more than half of the U.S. population living along or near the coast, it is increasingly important that communities and their local, state, and federal decision-makers understand the issues and trade-offs related to managing our coasts. Fundamentally, we must integrate social and natural capital to address the multidisciplinary challenges and opportunities that we face. Sea Grant plays a role in, and facilitates access to, a wide range of educational activities: the design and implementation of K-12 and adult education curricula and programming; teacher training; creation and application of usable knowledge for decision-makers; and recruitment of advanced education programs to build the future generation of diverse marine science professionals.

Examples of questions/topics:

- How can we increase coastal and ocean literacy of the general public and K-12 students with respect to climate change and adaptive management?
- How can Hawai'i grow a skilled and diverse workforce that is able to address critical local, regional, and national needs related to our oceans and coasts?
- What are the best ways to grow, recruit, and retain workers from diverse populations for career paths that support the needs of coastal communities?
- How can community science be used in collaboration with ocean and coastal research?

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

The following cross-cutting themes are expected to play a significant role in the selection of goals and objectives in each of the focus areas. Research projects which address one or more of the cross-cutting themes, as they relate to the focus areas, are particularly encouraged.

Addressing Climate Impacts and Adaptation

This cross-cutting theme continues to be of importance to Hawai'i Sea Grant, and the co-administration of the Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center (PI-CASC) University Consortium, creating increased prospects for synergistic pathways between these organizations. Changes in climate are accompanied by increases in the rate of sea-level rise, more powerful storms, sea surface temperatures, ocean acidification, invasive species, and changes in rainfall patterns contributing to flooding and drought, all with implications for coastal residents and property and the long-range futures of ecosystems. All coastal-related planning and decision-making must now address climate change and alternative energy development for the long-term sustainability of coastal communities.

Examples of questions/topics:

- How can communities and economies adapt to climate impacts including ocean acidification and other hazards on nearshore fisheries distribution and productivity?
- What are the options for increasing carbon sequestration and what are the best metrics for measuring carbon sequestration on land and in the ocean?
- How can climate sciences inform coastal adaptation and planning?
- What are the impacts and how can communities engaged in Indigenous aquaculture systems, cultural practices, and important cultural sites adapt?

Increasing Moku-Scale Resilience

As climate impacts accelerate, community-led stewardship, predicated on Native Hawaiian kinship to place, is uniquely positioned to achieve transformational resilience in the region. The moku system is a key example of a resilient management regime refined over millennia, the success of which was driven in part by a careful balance between place-based knowledge and stewardship practices along with broader-scale decision-making. The moku system is a framework for traditional land tenure and contemporary biocultural stewardship where islands are divided into socio-ecological regions, or moku, that span from mountain ridges to fringing reefs; each moku is further divided into ahupua'a, smaller land and ocean divisions. Moku often encompass a variety of habitats, and are a microcosm of Hawai'i's rich and varied ecological and cultural landscapes.

Examples of questions/topics:

- **Conserving and Restoring Forests and Watersheds:**
 - How much can wildfire risk be reduced through the establishment of greenbreaks with native vegetation? What benefits do the restoration of lo'i kalo provide for wildfire risk reduction?
 - Are there opportunities to recycle wastewater to establish wildfire green breaks?
 - What resources and capacity are needed to restore forests and watersheds at the moku-scale?
- **Enhancing Regional Community-Based Coastal Stewardship:**
 - What methods are most effective to restore wetlands at the moku-scale?
 - What types of shoreline restoration provide the most adaptive advantage against impacts from sea-level rise?
 - What are best practices for proactive planning for sea-level rise impacts to at-risk cultural sites and Iwi Kūpuna (ancestral remains) in coastal areas?
- **Restoring Marine Abundance:**
 - What successful strategies exist for restoring loko i'a (Hawaiian fishponds), limu (seaweed) habitats, coral reefs, and marine fisheries?
 - What will existing fishponds look like in the long-term, 50 or 100 years into the future? Where might there be opportunities to establish new fishponds as sea levels rise and shorelines change in the future?
- **Sharing Knowledge and Strengthening Networks Across Communities:**
 - What are the best practices for facilitating direct collaboration, information exchange, and resource-sharing between communities engaged in resilience work at the moku-scale?
 - What kinds of skills-based exchanges and capacity building efforts are needed to strengthen networks of resilience practitioners?
- **Reducing Risk and Improving Disaster Resilience:**
 - What types of moku-scale restoration most effectively reduce risks from flooding and landslides during extreme storm events?
 - What moku-scale activities are needed to reduce wildfire risk during droughts?
 - What resources and capacity are needed to expand and maintain a network of resilience hubs?
 - How can Indigenous practices associated with flood control be adapted to increase water recharge and decrease runoff to our nearshore environment?

- Advancing Community Governance:
 - How can organizations overcome common barriers to establishing co-management agreements?
 - What types of capacity building are most needed for community organizations and local governments to engage in effective co-management through community-based monitoring programs?

Engaging Multiple Knowledge Systems

Solving the most complex sustainability challenges of our times requires us to draw from multiple, diverse knowledge systems. Local and Indigenous knowledges in particular can offer methodologies for observation, analysis, and stewardship developed intergenerationally, spanning many years of connection to place. In Hawai'i, where Indigenous resource management systems supported large populations sustainably for centuries, centering Native Hawaiian stewardship practices can improve resource management.

Examples of questions/topics:

- How can translation of Hawaiian language newspapers and other primary source literature inform current practices and conventional research of climate change, water resources, ecosystem health, community resilience, and sustainability?
- How can the ahupua'a system of management inform natural resource uses today?
- What methods would be effective for developing place-based approaches that elevate Indigenous-knowledge within existing resource management institutions?

CONTAMINANTS OF EMERGING CONCERN RESEARCH TRACK

This research track is new to the Hawai'i Sea Grant research program, and investigators are encouraged to propose work that fills critical science and management gaps for contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) in Hawai'i and the USAPI. CECs encompass a range of toxicants present in industrial products, personal care products, pharmaceuticals, endocrine disrupting chemicals, and other routinely used and widely distributed products. In Hawai'i and the USAPI, intense urban, residential, industrial, and military development along a narrow strip of coastal land results in a suite of CECs being released and transported into groundwater and nearshore reef ecosystems, but the impacts remain understudied. Contamination of terrestrial, aquatic, freshwater, and coastal ecosystems can present both acute and chronic risks to human and ecosystem health with known consequences to fisheries, as well as environmental and human health.

Examples of questions/topics:

- How do onsite waste disposal systems (e.g., cesspools) contribute to the transport, prevalence, and impacts of CECs in coastal ecosystems?
- What is the distribution of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other CECs in coastal ecosystems and organisms?
- How are CECs transported into ecosystems, through food webs, and eventually into humans?
- What are the policy and educational tools that could be employed to better understand and limit exposure to CECs in vulnerable communities?

FORMAL EXTENSION/OUTREACH COMPONENT

Outreach and community engagement

Researchers are strongly encouraged to identify and interact with their target audiences as they develop their proposals (please see Statement of Research Kuleana above). Researchers are asked to explain how the research will be extended to, and used by, those audiences who can utilize the information for making informed management and policy decisions.

Pre-proposal outreach requirement

For pre-proposals, investigators should address a general outline of their outreach plan in their narrative. At the pre-proposal stage letters of support are not required but PIs should describe interested parties and end-users and their role in the proposed work.

Full proposal outreach requirement

For all full proposals: to be considered for funding, **PIs must specifically identify the end-user and you must include a letter of support with the proposal from that end-user or research partner (one or more)** where they explain how they have been involved in the development of the project and how they will ultimately benefit from the results. We understand that it sometimes takes many years for research projects to have impacts; however, the end user can identify that the project is taking an appropriate step towards a defined outcome.

During full proposal development, Hawai'i Sea Grant will offer assistance to potential researchers in developing effective outreach and community engagement plans for their projects. Hawai'i Sea Grant will offer a series of office hours to address the question: "How is the proposed research engaging interested parties and how are research results usable and accessible by these partners?" During these short office hour sessions, PIs will meet with members of Hawai'i Sea Grant and discuss best practices for designing an effective outreach plan. Anticipated outcomes from these meetings include a framework for developing, implementing, and assessing the outreach plan, along with guidelines for working with potential partners. **These meetings are by appointment only and will be held during the spring of 2025.** To schedule a session during the full proposal phase (after April 14, 2025), send an email to: waltonm@hawaii.edu with "Extension Session Request" in the subject line. Meeting with Hawai'i Sea Grant outreach, education, and communications personnel is suggested but not required and does not guarantee project support. The PI is responsible for all components of the proposal and funded project.

Hawai'i Sea Grant is committed to ongoing enhancement of technology and information transfer of Sea Grant funded research results to interested parties and relevant users. Toward this goal, **a well-developed plan for extension and outreach activities is to be included in all full proposals.** PIs are encouraged to seek guidance from Hawai'i Sea Grant extension faculty on outreach activities associated with proposed research projects. PIs who are unfamiliar with our extension faculty areas of expertise are encouraged to contact the Hawai'i Sea Grant Associate Director/Extension Leader, Dr. Darren Okimoto, at 808-956-7031 or okimotod@hawaii.edu, and/or Assistant Director for Research and Fellowships, Maya Walton, at 808-956-6992 or waltonm@hawaii.edu, who can assist with identifying an appropriate [extension, education, and communications faculty member](#) to assist PIs with developing their outreach plans, as well as interested parties and relevant end users who would benefit from the research findings.

EVALUATION and SELECTION CRITERIA

Hawai'i Sea Grant personnel do not choose which proposals to fund.

Preliminary proposals are reviewed by the Hawai'i Sea Grant Advisory Council, Hawai'i Sea Grant Extension Faculty, and a preliminary proposal science panel. The criteria used for evaluating preliminary proposals are:

1. Scientific merit
What is the scientific merit of the proposed project? To what degree will the project advance the state-of-the-science or methods of a particular discipline?
2. Relevance to Hawai'i Sea Grant's mission and RFP priorities
Is the proposed work relevant to the priorities listed in the RFP? Does the proposed work address the cross-cutting themes of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation which must be a component of proposed work for the 2026-2028 research cycle? Is the proposed work interdisciplinary in nature?
3. Qualifications of the PI and Co-I(s)
Are the investigators well-qualified to do the project?
4. Value to graduate and/or undergraduate education
Does the proposal adequately describe how graduate and/or undergraduate students will be involved in the proposed work? Is there sufficient detail describing the mentorship and training plan for the students?
5. Benefit to Hawai'i or the Pacific Region
What is the importance of this work for Hawai'i and/or the Pacific region, and is it relevant to the priorities listed in the RFP? Did investigators identify potential end-users of project results? Are end-users engaged in the research process and potential outcomes of the proposed work?

Criteria 1-5 are weighted equally to produce a score for the overall value of the proposal. Reviewers will provide written comments for criteria 1-5. In addition, reviewers will also provide comments on the overall value of the proposal which will include: *What is the overall merit of the proposed work? Are there any concerns about funding the proposed project or suggestions for improvements?*

During the preliminary proposal review process, we will ask the Hawai'i Sea Grant Advisory Council and Hawai'i Sea Grant Extension Faculty to pay attention to and provide comments on program fit and need by interested parties in Hawai'i and the Pacific region. This input on local context and need will be taken into consideration during the preliminary proposal science panel review. Full proposals will be encouraged from the preliminary proposal science panel review. PIs who submit a preliminary proposal are eligible to submit a full proposal.

Full proposals are peer-reviewed by three subject matter experts outside of Hawai'i and the Pacific region and then reviewed by an expert Science Panel. Results from the external Science Panel and funding availability then determine which and how many proposals are recommended for funding. Reviewers and Science Panelists will be chosen for their areas of expertise and will use the same five criteria used for evaluating preliminary proposals for evaluation of full proposals. Criteria 1-5 are weighted equally to produce a score for the overall

value of the proposal. Reviewers will provide written comments for criteria 1-5. In addition reviewers and panelists will also provide comments on the overall value of the proposal which will include: *What is the overall merit of the proposed work? Are there any concerns about funding the proposed project or suggestions for improvements?*

The criteria used to evaluate full proposals are:

1. Scientific merit
What is the scientific merit of the proposed project? To what degree will the project advance the state-of-the-science or methods of a particular discipline?
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Is the proposed work relevant to the priorities listed in the RFP? Does the proposed work address the cross-cutting themes of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation which must be a component of proposed work for the 2026-2028 research cycle? Is the proposed work interdisciplinary in nature?
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Are the investigators well-qualified to do the project?
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What is the importance of this work for Hawai'i and/or the Pacific region, and is it relevant to the priorities listed in the RFP? Did investigators identify potential end-users of project results? Are end-users engaged in the research process and potential outcomes of the proposed work?

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Preliminary proposal submission

Interested groups should submit preliminary proposals to [eSeaGrant](#) by **February 21, 2025 (5:00 PM HST)**. Applicants must submit a preliminary proposal narrative (3 pages or less), budget estimate and summary, CVs for the PI and Co-Investigators (Co-Is), current and pending support for the PI and Co-Is, information on the focus areas and cross-cutting themes that will be addressed, and a list of suggested reviewers (at least 4). Templates, instructions, and a checklist for the pre-proposal stage are provided in the appendices beginning on page 16. In eSeaGrant, PIs will be asked if they would like to complete voluntary demographics questions approved by the NOAA Office of Management and Budget.

PIs can also find detailed submission instructions, format guidelines, and templates for submission of pre-proposals on [eSeaGrant](#). PIs are encouraged to submit electronically via eSeaGrant well prior to the deadline to avoid delays associated with heavy internet traffic during the day on which proposals are due. Hard-copy, faxed, or emailed proposals, ancillary information, or appendices will not be accepted nor evaluated. For questions on eSeaGrant submission, please contact Dr. Hal Richman (808-956-8191; hrichtman@hawaii.edu). For questions concerning preliminary proposal content, please contact Maya Walton (808-956-6992;

waltonm@hawaii.edu) or Dr. Darren Lerner (808-956-7031; lerner@hawaii.edu). For questions on fiscal matters, please contact Elyse Larsen (808-956-3010; elysehan@hawaii.edu).

We will not consider preliminary proposals from PIs or Co-Is who have previously failed to meet Hawai'i Sea Grant fiscal and administrative reporting requirements.

Full proposal submission

Between the preliminary proposal and full proposal stages all PIs will receive a letter indicating whether they are encouraged or discouraged from submitting a full proposal. All applicants, however, regardless of whether or not they have been encouraged are eligible to submit to the full-proposal process. Preliminary proposals that are not encouraged to submit a full proposal are unlikely to be successful at the full proposal stage. All PIs who intend to submit a full proposal are strongly encouraged to consider addressing reviewer concerns.

Full proposals are due via [eSeaGrant](#) by **June 6, 2025 (5:00 PM HST)**. Applicants must submit certification forms requiring signatures, a proposal narrative (12 pages or less), letter(s) of support, CVs for the PI and Co-Is, current and pending support for the PI and Co-Is, budget worksheets, and a budget justification to be considered for review (see appendices for required materials and template documents).

How many preliminary proposals can I submit?

An individual may participate as a PI or Co-I on **up to two preliminary proposals** submitted to Hawai'i Sea Grant. Preliminary proposals in excess of the two preliminary proposal limit for any PI or Co-I will be returned without review.

Can I submit the same preliminary proposal to Hawai'i Sea Grant's other research tracks?

Investigators are not allowed to submit the same proposal to Hawai'i Sea Grant's 2026-2028 parallel research tracks (i.e., Island Sustainability and Resilience; Aquaculture; and Contaminants of Emerging Concern). The research tracks are running concurrently and duplicative proposals will not be reviewed.

Data management plan

A data management plan is required at the full proposal stage. A typical plan may include the types of environmental data and information to be created during the course of the project; the tentative date by which data will be shared; the standards to be used for data/metadata format and content; policies addressing data stewardship and preservation; and procedures for providing access, data, and security. Projects will need to comply with [NOAA's Data Sharing Directive](#).

Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire

Proposals that are selected and recommended for funding are required to have a completed Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire and copies of associated permits, if applicable.

Other Federal/University of Hawai'i requirements

Proposals that are selected and recommended for funding will need to submit permits and approvals 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); 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. Funding cannot be issued to successful applicants until the PI has obtained approval(s).

APPENDICES
for
Island Sustainability and Resilience,
Aquaculture,
and Contaminants of Emerging Concern Research Tracks

- [Appendix A: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Appendix B: Preliminary Proposal Narrative Template](#)
- [Appendix C: Preliminary Proposal Budget Estimate and Summary Template](#)
- [Appendix D: Example of Completed Pre-Proposal Budget Estimate and Summary](#)
- [Appendix E: Preliminary Proposal Instructions \(eSeaGrant\)](#)
- [Appendix F: Hawai'i Sea Grant Preliminary Proposal Checklist](#)
- [Appendix G: Full Proposal Instructions](#)
- [Appendix H: Full Proposal Narrative Template](#)
- [Appendix I: University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program Graduate Fellow Program](#)

Appendix A: Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is there a limit to the number of Co-Investigators (Co-Is) that can be included on a single proposal?

There is no limit to the number of Co-Is that can be included on a single proposal, but each Co-I needs to demonstrate a clear role. Qualifications of all listed investigators are evaluated.

2. Can UH graduate students or postdoctoral researchers serve as Co-Is?

University of Hawai'i graduate students can serve as Co-Is on proposals as they are Board of Regents (BOR) appointees. Postdoctoral researchers may not serve as Co-Is if they are not presently in a UH appointment (and therefore not BOR approved). For example, RCUH-hired postdoctoral researchers are not eligible. However, should a postdoctoral researcher have a non-compensated affiliate faculty appointment at UH, there may be an avenue to include them as a Co-I on a proposal. For questions on this matter please contact Hawai'i Sea Grant Fiscal Administrator (FA), Elyse Larsen (808-956-3010; elysehan@hawaii.edu). For non-UH applicants please check with your institution about whether or not graduate students and postdoctoral researchers can serve as Co-Is.

3. How do PIs normally meet the non-federal match requirement?

PIs, if paid from a non-federal account, often meet the non-federal match requirement through in-kind contributions of their time as tenure-track or tenured faculty at universities (i.e., salary and fringe). PIs are allowed to use in-kind match towards their non-federal match requirement. The in-kind match must be documented, and there must be FTE (Full Time Equivalent) allocation available. This in-kind match will be signed off by the FA of the PI's home unit at the full proposal stage. For more information on cost-sharing at UH specifically, please see the [Office of Research Services FAQs](#), question #3.

4. I see that the indirect cost rate for UH is set to 45.5%. Why is that?

The proposed research, if selected, would be part of our larger OMNIBUS proposal to NOAA. As such, for UH-based PIs we are required to use the on-campus research rate that is associated with our OMNIBUS award for all of the research projects that are administered by our program and supported by NOAA dollars.

5. Do you recommend that I request an appointment to discuss a possible project idea? Or should I submit the pre-proposal and hold any such discussions until after preliminary proposal review?

We are happy to discuss possible project ideas and ask that PIs be in touch with us early in the proposal development process if they require additional discussion.

8. Can PIs and Co-Is request summer overload?

No, Hawai'i Sea Grant **will not** fund faculty overload salary including summer overload.

9. Can I request funds to support a postdoctoral researcher?

Yes, proposers may request funds under the "other personnel" section as a technician wherein fringe and overhead (IDC) will be paid.

10. How does Hawai‘i Sea Grant define the word “end-user”?

An end-user is an individual outside of the research team who can apply the research results towards new decisions and activities to address marine and coastal issues of public concern. Examples of end-users in Hawai‘i Sea Grant-funded research include resource management agencies (e.g., Hawai‘i Division of Aquatic Resources), non-profit groups (e.g., Mālama Pu‘uloa), community-based partners (e.g., fishers), and industry partners (e.g., companies who grow aquaculture products).

11. What is the anticipated timeline for pre-proposals getting notice that they have been encouraged to the full proposal stage?

Our anticipated timeline is listed below. Please note that the dates below are provided to help investigative teams with their planning and preparation during the proposal process but that **dates may be adjusted**, depending on availability of science panel members.

- RFP released: January 13, 2025
- Preliminary Proposal deadline: February 21, 2025
- PIs encouraged to full proposal stage: April 14, 2025
- Full Proposal deadline: June 6, 2025
- Projects recommended for funding: Late August 2025

12. Will there be informational webinars where investigators can learn more about the proposal process?

We plan to hold two informational webinars, one during the preliminary proposal stage and one during the full proposal stage, to share information about the RFP and answer questions. The webinar will be recorded for those that can not participate in real time.

- [Preliminary Proposal Webinar](#): January 17, 2025 at 12:00 pm HST
- [Full Proposal Webinar](#): April 25, 2025 at 12:00 pm HST

Appendix B: Preliminary Proposal Narrative Template
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM
Preliminary Proposal Narrative: 2026-2028 Biennial Institutional Program

Provide up to 3 pages of a preliminary proposal narrative using the template below. Text must be formatted in *Times* or *Times New Roman*, 11-point font. Sections F. (Literature Cited) is not included in the 3-page limit and may be as long as necessary to accommodate all citations used in the narrative. Also, Section G. (Supporting Documents) is optional at the pre-proposal stage and does not count towards the 3-page limit. Text in blue is explanatory detail only. Please delete all blue text before uploading your Preliminary Proposal Narrative to eSeaGrant.

PROJECT TITLE:

(Provide a title.)

A. RATIONALE:

(Provide a well-developed rationale that stresses why this is an important problem for Hawai'i with regional, national, and/or global implications. What Sea Grant focus area(s) will this project address? What Sea Grant cross-cutting theme(s) will this project address?)

B. GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

(Provide explicit, testable hypotheses, goals, and objectives.)

C. METHODOLOGY:

(Provide a brief but clear description of your research protocol.)

D. EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

(Describe how specific partner groups or end-users will benefit from the results of this study. Those with continuing projects should also include progress in this section.)

E. VALUE TO GRADUATE AND/OR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:

(Briefly describe how graduate and or undergraduate students will be involved in the proposed work.)

F. LITERATURE CITED:

(Literature Cited, is not included in the 3-page limit and may be as long as necessary to accommodate all citations used in the narrative.)

G. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

(Supporting documents are not included in the 3-page limit. This is an optional section that can be used to supply any letters of support connected to the proposed work. Please note that documents with electronic signatures may be difficult to add to an existing PDF and that applicants may have difficulty uploading PDFs with electronic signatures to eSeaGrant. If you face difficulties with your documents with electronic signatures we recommend printing and scanning your letters before re-uploading them.)

******* NOTE: Items in blue are instructional and should not be included in your final document**

Appendix C: Pre-Proposal Budget Estimate and Summary Template

Preliminary Proposal Budget Estimate and Summary

Provide up to 1 page for the preliminary proposal budget estimate and summary using the template below. Text must be formatted in *Times* or *Times New Roman*, 11-point font. Text in blue is explanatory detail only. Please delete all blue text before uploading your pre-proposal budget estimate and summary to eSeaGrant as a PDF.

Research Request

Describe the overall two-year budget including initial estimates for salary, fringe, permanent equipment, expendable supplies, travel, publication and documentation costs, other costs, and indirect costs. Please note that requests for funding for publications and conference registration and travel are not permitted.

Budget Categories	Description	Estimated Cost
Salary		\$00.00
Fringe		\$00.00
Permanent Equipment		\$00.00
Expendable Supplies		\$00.00
Travel		\$00.00
Publication Costs		\$00.00
Other Costs		\$00.00
Indirect		\$00.00
TOTAL		\$00.00

Graduate Student Support Request

Please indicate whether or not you are requesting support for a graduate student.

Budget Categories	Description	Estimated Cost
Salary		\$00.00
Fringe		\$00.00
Other Costs (Stipend)		\$00.00
Indirect		\$00.00
TOTAL		\$00.00

Non-federal Match

Indicate possible sources and amounts of cost share/non-federal match to contribute approximately 50% of requested research and graduate student support costs.

Appendix D: Example of Completed Preliminary Proposal Budget Estimate and Summary

Preliminary Proposal Budget Estimate and Summary

Research Request

Budget approximations listed below include 2 years of support for a lab technician who will be employed at 12 hours per week at \$20/hour. The lab technician will assist in ecological monitoring. We also request \$15,842 for fringe benefits for the lab technician at a rate of 63.47%. We request \$10,000 for water quality monitoring supplies which include bottles, tubing, filters, filter holders, sampler bags, and pipettes. The PI and the lab technician will conduct monitoring on Kaua'i, Hawai'i Island, and Moloka'i. We request funds to support 3 trips for 2 people at approximately \$1,216 per trip. Estimated trip costs include flights (RT airfare (\$200/roundtrip x 2 people = \$400), rental car (\$50/day x 2 days = \$100), lodging (\$100/night x 2 nights x 2 ppl = \$400) and per diem (\$79/day x 2 days x 2 people = \$316). We request \$10,000 for analytical services. This is for water sample analysis of 100 samples at \$100 per sample.

Budget Categories	Description	Estimated Cost
Salary	Lab Technician	\$24,960.00
Fringe	Staff Fringe at 63.47%	\$15,842.00
Permanent Equipment	None	\$00.00
Expendable Supplies	Water quality monitoring supplies	\$10,000.00
Travel	3 neighbor island trips for 2 people	\$7,296.00
Publication Costs	None	\$00.00
Other Costs	Analytical Services for 100 water samples	\$10,000.00
Indirect	45.5% IDC	\$30,985.00
TOTAL		\$99,083.00

Graduate Student Support Request

We request support for a graduate student.

Budget Categories	Description	Estimated Cost
Salary	GA Step 19 Salary	\$34,098.00
Fringe	GRA fringe at 13.24%	\$4,515.00
Other Costs (Stipend)		\$0.00
Indirect	36.5% IDC	\$14,094.00
TOTAL		\$52,707.00

Non-federal Match

The PI will supply an effort equivalent to \$32,000 in salary and \$20,310 in fringe at a rate of 63.47% from non-federal funds from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (Salary: \$10,000/month x 3.20 months = \$32,000, fringe (63.47%): \$20,310). Unrecovered indirect costs of \$23,801 are included as part of the match (45.5% of \$52,310= \$23,801). The total non-federal match that will be supplied is \$76,111.

Appendix E: Preliminary Proposal Instructions (eSeaGrant)

You may edit and make changes to your proposal components until you click on the "Submit Proposal" button in eSeaGrant, which must occur prior to the deadline. No changes will be permitted after the deadline. Should you fail to formally submit your proposal by failing to click on the "Submit Proposal" button prior to the deadline, your proposal will not be accepted. If you have any questions about the process, please don't hesitate to contact us at (808) 956-7031 or by email at hrichman@hawaii.edu. Budget questions should be directed to Elyse Larsen (808-956-3010; elysehan@hawaii.edu).

1. Principal Investigator

Upload a PDF of your current curriculum vitae (CV). Your CV should include selected publications for the last 10 years as well as undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral researchers supervised during the last 10 years. **The CV should be 3 pages or less in length.**

2. Co-Investigators

This section allows you to add Co-Investigators (Co-Is) and add CVs for each Co-I. **The CV for each Co-I should be 3 pages or less in length and must be a PDF.**

3. Focus Areas, Cross-cutting themes, & PI Demographics

Enter a proposal Sea Grant focus area(s) and cross-cutting theme(s) that best describe your proposed field of study. The National Sea Grant Office requires the demographics question in eSeaGrant to be asked, but your response is voluntary. Please answer this question as the PI of the proposal.

4. Preliminary Proposal Narrative Template

Download the Preliminary Proposal Template to ensure that you provide all required information. The Preliminary Proposal Narrative should address the following points:

- **Title:** Provide the title for your proposed work.
- **Rationale:** Provide a well-developed rationale that stresses why this is an important problem that has regional implications. What Sea Grant focus area(s) will this project address? What Sea Grant cross-cutting theme(s) will this project address?
- **Goals and Objectives:** Provide explicit, testable hypotheses with goals and objectives.
- **Methodology:** Provide a brief but clear description of your research protocol.
- **Expected Outcomes:** Describe how specific partner groups or end-users will benefit from the results of this study. Those with continuing projects should also include progress in this section.
- **Value to graduate and/or undergraduate education:** Briefly describe how graduate and/or undergraduate students will be involved in the proposed work.
- **Literature Cited:** Literature Cited is not included in the 3-page limit and may be as long as necessary to accommodate all citations used in the narrative.
- **Supporting Documents:** Supporting documents are not included in the 3-page limit. This is an optional section that can be used to supply any letters of support connected to the proposed work.

The Preliminary Proposal Narrative must be formatted to meet these standards:

1. The entire pre-proposal narrative must not exceed three pages (8½" x 11").
2. Must be single spaced, 11-point, Times or Times New Roman font.
3. Must have a 1" margin on all sides.
4. The Literature Cited section is not restricted in length and does not count towards the 3-page limit noted above; it should immediately follow the narrative (usually page 4).

5. The Supporting Documents section is optional at the pre-proposal stage. This section should follow the Literature Cited section and does not count towards the 3-page limit. The Supporting Documents section can be used to supply any letters of support connected to the proposed work.

5. Preliminary Proposal Budget Estimate and Summary

Provide up to 1 page for the pre-proposal budget estimate and summary using the template provided. Describe the overall two-year research budget including initial estimates for salary, fringe, permanent equipment, expendable supplies, travel, publication and documentation costs, other costs, and indirect costs. Provide your best estimate of all costs in each category on the budget worksheet for each year. Your submitted budget is expected to be a reasonable approximation of what a final, full proposal budget will contain (if encouraged). Please note that requests for funding for publications, conference registration, and conference travel are not permitted. Please indicate whether or not you are requesting support for a graduate student.

6. Suggested Reviewers

Please suggest a minimum of four out-of-state peers qualified to judge the merits of your proposal. Note: peer-reviewers cannot be anyone with a conflict of interest (COI) as described in the reviewer's COI statement available on eSeaGrant. Should there be any potential referees who you would prefer not be invited to review your proposal, please list these as well.

Note: The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) is strongly committed to a just and equitable review process. Preliminary proposals failing to adhere to the format guidelines described above will not be considered.

7. Submitting the Proposal

Once you have completed all of the above components and do not wish to make further changes, click on the "Submit Proposal" button. After submission, no changes will be permitted.

Helpful Hint: Please note that Hawai'i Sea Grant employs a web-based proposal submission process. This process is subject to delays with heavy use, such as immediately prior to the submission deadline. Hawai'i Sea Grant will not be held responsible for failure to submit as a result of these delays. We recommend you submit in a timely manner to ensure consideration.

Appendix F: Hawai‘i Sea Grant Preliminary Proposal Checklist

- Vitae Metrics for PI
 - CV (PDF uploaded to eSeaGrant; 3 pages maximum)
 - Vitae Metrics
 - Current and Pending Support
- Vitae Metrics for Co-Is and other Senior Personnel
 - CV (PDF uploaded to eSeaGrant; 3 pages maximum)
 - Vitae Metrics
 - Current and Pending Support
- Focus Areas, Cross-cutting themes, & PI Demographics
- Preliminary Proposal Narrative
(PDF uploaded to eSeaGrant - please use template; 3 pages maximum)
- Pre-proposal Budget Estimate and Summary
(PDF uploaded to eSeaGrant - please use template; 1 page maximum)
- Suggested Reviewers

Appendix G: FULL PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

** Please note that only a subset of pre-proposals will be encouraged for full proposal submission

** We offer these full proposal instructions to help investigative teams with their planning and preparation of proposal materials

Appendix G
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I
SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM
2026-2028
FULL PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES

SUMMARY INFORMATION:

Proposals must be submitted through the eSeaGrant on-line system (<https://eseagrants.oest.hawaii.edu/index.php>). Applicants for funding to the University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai‘i Sea Grant) must prepare their full proposal in accordance with the following guidelines.

PLEASE SUBMIT on eSeaGrant by June 6, 2025.
DO NOT submit to ORS myGrant

Funding:

Notification that Hawai‘i Sea Grant encourages submission of a full proposal for consideration does not guarantee funding. All proposals undergo review by external (out-of-state) peers and an external full proposal panel. Only projects that pass external peer and external full proposal panel reviews are eligible for funding. Preliminary notification of approval for funding may be expected no later than November 2025 and formal notification of award by January 2026. For multi-year awards, funding is subject to completion of the required fiscal and research progress reports and availability of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) funds to Hawai‘i Sea Grant.

Review Procedure:

All proposals are confidentially reviewed by external peer reviewers and an external panel of scientists. Results from the external panel and funding availability then determine which and how many proposals are recommended for funding. Evaluation criteria include 1. Scientific merit, 2. Relevance to Hawai‘i Sea Grant’s mission and RFP priorities, 3. Qualifications of the PI and Co-I(s), 4. Value to graduate and/or undergraduate education, and 5. Benefit to Hawai‘i or the Pacific Region

Instructions for Preparing a FULL Proposal

The PI must have PI status in their department or institution (for UH-based PIs the investigator must be a UH BOR appointee). Investigators must secure the appropriate administrative approval through their respective units before submitting a proposal to Hawai‘i Sea Grant. UH Graduate students can be named as Co-Is.

Project Forms Requiring Signature

The following forms are in Microsoft Word and must be downloaded from eSeaGrant:

- Cover Sheet

- Certification for Sea Grant Funding
- Cost-Sharing Commitment

The Cover Sheet and Certification for Sea Grant Funding must be completed and signed. If you are unable to secure cost-sharing commitments prior to submitting the proposal, you must also complete and sign the “Cost-Sharing Commitment” form. Convert all completed forms to a PDF format and upload to the “Forms to download, complete, and sign” section in eSeaGrant.

All sections of the proposal should be created using 11-point Times or Times New Roman font, with single-spaced lines. Page margins must be 1 inch (top, bottom, left, and right sides of each page).

Full Proposal Narrative

Please download the “Full Proposal Narrative Template” from eSeaGrant. It contains an outline of the major headings to be used in completing the proposal narrative. The completed narrative must be converted to a PDF format, and submitted by uploading the entire file through eSeaGrant. **The full proposal narrative must not exceed 12 pages including tables, figures, and images, but not references.** If you have questions or would like assistance with eSeaGrant, please contact Dr. Hal Richman at 808-956-8191 or hrichman@hawaii.edu.

THE NARRATIVE TEMPLATE MUST NOT BE ALTERED OTHER THAN TO ADD THE REQUESTED INFORMATION--DO NOT MODIFY OR DELETE ANY HEADINGS.

Curriculum Vitae (3-page limit)

Your curriculum vitae (CV) that was completed in the preliminary proposal stage is available through eSeaGrant, if needed. Your CV must address all publications for the last 10 years as well as all undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral researchers supervised. **Please ensure you also submit CVs for all Co-Investigator(s).**

Current and Pending Awards

Please input all current and pending awards to include project title, funding source, funding amount, and dates covered by award in the PDF that is uploaded to the designated section in eSeaGrant.

Budget Forms

The budget completed in the preliminary proposal stage may be amended **if changes are requested by Hawai‘i Sea Grant**; otherwise, no major changes can be made to the budget total submitted in the preliminary proposal. **These pages should be completed early in the proposal preparation process. They must be printed and approved/signed by your fiscal administrator.**

A budget justification briefly describing the type, quantity, and need for requested budget items is required and should be entered through the budget page in eSeaGrant. Please refer to the [budget guidance provided by the US Department of Commerce](#).

Budget Guidelines

The following guidelines are to be used in completing your budget worksheets in eSeaGrant.

1. Salaries and Wages
 - a. Where possible, use position titles recognized by the university, i.e., Research

- Associate, Electronics Technician, Graduate Assistant, etc.
- b. It is strongly suggested that you use the corresponding pay scales provided in the collective bargaining agreements and/or pay scales approved by the university.
 - c. For fringe benefits you may use the information provided at the ORS website (<https://research.hawaii.edu/ors/resources/rates/>)
 - d. **Sea Grant will not fund faculty overload salary including summer overload.**
2. Permanent Equipment
 - a. The definition of equipment is tangible, non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one year, and an acquisition cost of \$10,000 or more per unit. Items of less than \$10,000 should be listed under “Expendable Supplies and Equipment.” Please include a brief justification within the “Budget Justification” section of eSeaGrant for any equipment requested, and document why current university-owned equipment cannot meet the needs of your proposed project. Please also provide a lease vs. purchase analysis if requesting equipment funding.
 3. Expendable Supplies and Equipment
 - a. This category includes expendable equipment (less than \$10,000) and expendable supplies. Briefly describe and justify the expendable supplies and equipment requested in the “Budget Justification” section of eSeaGrant. If requesting computer items, be sure to include additional information explaining the need for and dedicated use of the item for this project, as well as basic specifications on type, processor speed, RAM, and HD capacity in the budget justification.
 4. Travel
 - a. Any travel support requested should represent travel costs associated with conducting the proposed activities. Breakdown of costs (airfare, per diem, transportation, etc.) should be included in the budget justification. **Do not include travel requests for meeting/conference attendance (see below).**
 - b. Funds permitting, Hawai‘i Sea Grant endeavors to support attendance at one professional meeting each year per project for one person, preferably the Graduate Fellow. These requests are considered on a case-by-case basis via a memo from the project principal investigator to the Hawai‘i Sea Grant Director with copy to the Assistant Director for Research and Fellowships and Fiscal Administrator. Justification for such support should include the following: 1) purpose of trip and/or conference title or meeting, 2) importance of trip to the Hawai‘i Sea Grant research, 3) notification of acceptance of abstract and copy of presented abstract, 4) breakdown of costs (airfare, per diem, conference fee, transportation, etc.). Note that any foreign travel requests will require additional specific information on itinerary, timeframe, and purpose.
 5. Publication and Documentation Costs
 - a. **Do not include requests for support for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.** Funds permitting, Hawai‘i Sea Grant endeavors to support publication of research resulting from Hawai‘i Sea Grant-funded projects in refereed journals. These requests are considered on a case-by-case basis via a memo from the project PI to the Hawai‘i Sea Grant Director with copy to the Research Coordinator and Fiscal Administrator. Justification for such support should include the following: 1) full citation of accepted paper including Hawai‘i Sea Grant publication number, 2) Hawai‘i Sea Grant research project that resulted in publication results, and 3) breakdown of costs (page charges, color plates/images, reprints, etc.). Except in

extraordinary circumstances, Hawai'i Sea Grant policy is to not consider excess page charges or color image charges.

6. Other Costs
 - a. Provide a brief justification of requested funds. If you are requesting postdoctoral stipends, use the current rate scale in effect for postdoctoral appointments.

COST-SHARING

Hawai'i Sea Grant's funding agency, NOAA, mandates a 50% cost-sharing requirement. One-half of the total cost of a project must be matched with non-federal funds. The budget form(s) must document the amount and source of matching funds. In addition, if your project includes a request for a Hawai'i Sea Grant Graduate Fellow, one-half of the Hawai'i Sea Grant Graduate Fellow's salary, fringe, and IDC must be included in the project's matching funds.

For cost-sharing (matching) sources, the following are required:

1. Sources within the University of Hawai'i
When cost-sharing of salary you may use the information provided at the ORS website (<http://www.ors.hawaii.edu/index.php/rates/102-quick-links/rates/98-fringe-benefit-rates>) for related fringe benefits.
2. Sources outside the University of Hawai'i
In addition to the conditions outlined above, additional documentation is required:
 - a. If the funding source is a current non-federal contract/grant awarded to the University of Hawai'i, provide documentation that cost-sharing has been approved by the sponsor. For example, a letter from the sponsoring agency, authorizing cost sharing with your proposed Sea Grant project, or a copy of your approved contract/grant that indicates the use of the funds for this purpose. Please note: if your contract/grant award has been confirmed but not received by the university, a letter confirming the award is also required.
 - b. If the funding source is an outside (non-federal) agency or private entity, a letter indicating its support of the project and cost-share approval is required. For in-kind contributions, a letter from the sponsor that documents the match amount with a breakdown of the contributions is acceptable.
 - c. Because the budget worksheet is limited to one column of data for cost-sharing information, if you are using multiple sources that are not self-evident in the worksheet, please be sure to include adequate explanation of sources and breakdown by budget category in your budget narrative.

AS A REMINDER, FEDERAL FUNDS CANNOT BE USED AS PART OF YOUR COST-SHARING MATCH FOR SEA GRANT FUNDING.

If you are unable to secure cost-sharing commitments at the time of proposal submission, you must submit the "Cost-Sharing Commitment" form signed by you and your respective dean or director recognizing that the principal investigator and his/her respective college/program will be responsible for meeting all cost-sharing requirements as stated in the proposal. This form will be available on eSeaGrant for download during the full proposal phase.

APPENDIX H

FULL PROPOSAL NARRATIVE TEMPLATE--SHADED AREAS ARE EXPLANATORY NOTES ONLY—PLEASE DELETE SHADED AREAS

The proposal narrative must not exceed 12 pages including tables, figures and images, but not references.

TITLE:

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

CO- INVESTIGATOR(S):

DURATION: February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2028

RATIONALE: Summarize the opportunity or problem addressed and its relation to Sea Grant’s interest in supporting the improved understanding, management and use of marine and coastal resources of the State of Hawai‘i, the Pacific region, and the nation. Include an adequate, but brief literature review. Proposed research must be hypothesis driven. If the project is centered on a monitoring activity, it is essential to demonstrate how the project will lead to testable hypotheses or models. Explain how the data collected will be applicable to the problem or opportunity, and identify potential users of the results of your research. What Sea Grant focus area(s) will this project address? What Sea Grant cross-cutting theme(s) will this project address?

GOALS & OBJECTIVES: Describe the overall goal of your project. State your hypotheses. Identify specific objectives that proceed from hypotheses. Objectives should lead to measurable outcomes at project completion. Narrative goals must match project summary goals. Do not include explanatory information here. Include such information in either the Rationale or Research Methods/Approach section, as appropriate.

RESEARCH METHODS/APPROACH: Describe your experimental design(s) and/or research protocol fully and clearly, including special equipment, procedures or assays, etc. that may be used to accomplish your goals/objectives. Be concise, but specific enough to satisfy reviewers that your methods have been validated and will enable you to achieve your goals. Identify pitfalls and limitations in your approach and methodology and how you will address them. Where appropriate, speak to the statistical power relative to your proposed sample size.

OUTREACH: Describe how your outreach plan connects your research results to the needs of your targeted interested parties and relevant users. The plan should contain sufficient detail to evaluate the effectiveness of your proposed extension and outreach activities.

Hawai‘i Sea Grant will offer a series of office hours to address the question: how is the proposed research engaging interested parties and relevant users and how are your research results usable and accessible by these partner groups? These meetings are by appointment only and will be held during the spring of 2025. Meeting with Sea Grant outreach personnel is suggested but not required and does not guarantee project support. The lead PI is responsible for all components of the proposal and funded project. To schedule a session, send an email to: waltonm@hawaii.edu with “Extension Session Request” in the subject line.

A strong proposal will likely include a specific outreach plan that includes pieces such as:

- Identification of a target audience or audiences that will be affected by the results of the research.
- Specific methods to reach that audience.
- Goals for how the audience will be affected or changed by the information.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

Describe who will benefit from the results of this study and how. Describe specific stakeholders who will benefit from the results of this study and how they will benefit.

PROGRESS (for continuing projects only):

Clearly describe accomplishments and products developed to date. Include all research-related publications resulting from your previous award; papers, book chapters, patents, etc. List all undergraduate and graduate students supported by the award and placement of former students supported by the award.

HAWAI'I SEA GRANT GRADUATE FELLOW (ASSISTANT):

Principal investigators requesting a Graduate Fellow must include a short statement as part of their research proposal outlining the role of the student in the project and preliminary plans for integrating the student's research, education, and professional development into the project. Proposals that include graduate education consisting of technical training, professional development, and a priority for student first-authored publications will be given weight in funding decisions. If the principal investigator has identified a particular student for the award, a short description of their academic credentials is required.

DATA SHARING (not included in the 12 page limit)

Data sharing plan not to exceed two (2) pages. A typical plan may include the types of environmental data and information to be created during the course of the project; the tentative date by which data will be shared; the standards to be used for data/metadata format and content; policies addressing data stewardship and preservation; and procedures for providing access, data, and security. If your research will not generate any environmental data, an acceptable data sharing plan is the sentence, "This project will not generate any environmental data."

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS (not included in the 12 page limit)

List institutional or private sector support for the project; cite source(s) of cost-sharing, e.g., industry, state or county agencies, and in-kind matching funds. Append letters of collaboration and documentation of support using the upload file attachment option.

REFERENCES (not included in the 12 page limit)

Provide complete bibliographic information for all references cited in the text.

APPENDIX I: University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program Graduate Fellow Program

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) provides support to a limited number of graduate students whose research is directly linked to projects funded through our award from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This support is directly aimed at nurturing the professional development of graduate students. As such, *Hawai'i Sea Grant Graduate Fellows* are required to meet certain obligations for funding. These requirements reflect our commitment to developing stronger linkages among the research, education, and outreach activities that form the foundation of Hawai'i Sea Grant.

Hawai'i Sea Grant Graduate Fellows will continue to be administered as graduate research assistants and follow all relevant guidelines set by their home university or academic institution. Salary, benefits, and tuition waivers are determined based upon status within the student's graduate program and paid at the home institution scale. Nonetheless, Hawai'i Sea Grant's principal investigator (PI) of record for all graduate student support associated with our funding will be the Hawai'i Sea Grant Director. Because of the nature of our funding from NOAA, Fellows are awarded one year at a time. However, Hawai'i Sea Grant makes every effort to provide continuity for students and principal investigators throughout the multi-year grant period. Support renewal is based upon adequate progress (see below) and the availability of funds from federal funding in a given fiscal year. This format stresses the importance of a full year's commitment by a student and principal investigator. While we acknowledge that changes may become necessary, our policy is to fund a single student per principal investigator for the entire year.

PIs requesting a Graduate Fellow will be asked to submit a short statement as part of their research proposal outlining the role of the student in the project and preliminary plans for integrating the student's research, education, and professional development into the project.

The inclusion of graduate education, consisting of technical training, professional development, and a priority for student first-authored publications, in a research proposal will be given weight in funding decisions. If the principal investigator has a particular student designated for the assistantship, a short description of his/her academic credentials is required.

Toward the end of each funded year of the award, the program will request a **progress report** from the student and principal investigator. Based upon satisfactory progress and participation in programmatic activities, a Graduate Fellow will be renewed for each year of the project. The program may decline to renew a Fellow if research and fiscal reporting requirements are not met, participation in programmatic activities is inadequate, or there is clear evidence that the goals of the program are not being achieved. In the event that there is turnover due to graduation or other circumstances, PIs will be asked to reapply. If additional Fellow funding becomes available, PIs who did not receive a graduate student in the original competition will also be invited to reapply.

The central goal of this program is to provide support to facilitate a strong academic interaction between a principal investigator and graduate student within the context of the degree-granting program of the University or academic institution and the Sea Grant-funded research project. Hawai'i Sea Grant is committed to maintaining the primacy of this relationship. Hence, supported students will not be required to teach or perform other functions for their departments or laboratories. However, it is essential that students are exposed to concepts and activities that foster an appreciation of the research-to-outreach process that is essential to a Sea Grant project and to the Hawai'i Sea Grant mission. Toward that end, Hawai'i Sea Grant will require the students to participate in some activities each year. We do not believe that these are particularly burdensome, nor are they intended to deflect students from their research.

Rather, we see them as a way that we can capitalize upon the strengths and capabilities of Hawai‘i Sea Grant to enhance the formal academic education students receive and to catalyze new ways of thinking. The activities are:

Welcome Meeting for Fellows at Hawai‘i Sea Grant (Half Day Orientation)

This meeting will provide an opportunity for fellows to learn about Sea Grant and their respective projects. The meeting will also introduce the concept of outreach associated with an academic research effort. Hawai‘i Sea Grant will also provide written materials, as well as other resources, to the students at this time.

Professional Development Workshops

Graduate Fellows will participate in at least four professional development workshops during their tenure as Hawai‘i Sea Grant Graduate Fellows. Potential workshops include an Informal Education training workshop led by faculty from Hawai‘i Sea Grant’s Center of Excellence for Marine Science Education and a Best Practices for Community Partnership workshop (Kūlana Noi‘i) which will focus on processes that researchers can use to build and maintain long-term collaborative relationships with interested parties and relevant users through research.

Research Symposium

Sea Grant-supported PIs and their graduate students will share their research progress to date through short talks. Talks from all Hawai‘i Sea Grant PIs and Sea Grant Graduate Fellows will be followed by a facilitated discussion with Sea Grant extension faculty and other invited guests to explore avenues for future research partnerships and how ongoing projects can be further applied and utilized by local decision makers. Goals of the Research Symposium include: 1) sharing research that is currently being conducted and exploring where opportunities exist for integrating extension and application of research results; 2) connecting Sea Grant-supported PIs and Sea Grant Graduate Fellows with Sea Grant Extension faculty and communications staff; and 3) identifying potential steps for extension and application of research results.

Science Communication for Researchers

This professional development workshop will give Hawai‘i Sea Grant Graduate Fellows skills that will prepare them for their public outreach talks in November. Improvisational theater, or improv, is the spontaneous performance art of storytelling without a script. The tools improvisers practice are grounded in principles of trust, support, effective communication, and active present listening skills. In this workshop, participants will engage in fun exercises to strengthen their public speaking skills as well as their inner confidence.

Public Outreach Talks

This will be an opportunity for Hawai‘i Sea Grant Graduate Fellows to discuss their research progress with the general public. Students will present their research results to the general public during the Science & Stories seminar series during the months of November and December in each year of the two-year project. Each student will give a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation on their research project with a few minutes for questions and answers.

Hawai‘i Sea Grant Blog Post

Each graduate student will be required to prepare a short blog post describing his/her research and its relevance to issues involving Hawai‘i’s coasts and ocean. These posts will be considered for publication in Hawai‘i Sea Grant’s Blog. Hawai‘i Sea Grant will offer guidance, as well as

professional editing, for the students. This activity should provide a good vehicle for exploring how to translate the student's research for a general audience and assist fellows to think in terms of "broader" issues.

Outreach

Each student will be required to conduct an outreach activity associated with his/her field of expertise. The outreach activity should involve at minimum 50 hours of work (e.g., 25 hours/semester) annually that includes preparation time and implementation of the outreach activity. Students will write a one-page proposal on their outreach activity and submit a final report that describes the outcomes of the outreach and any new skills or knowledge gained through outreach participation.

Funding permitting, the Hawai'i Sea Grant will continue to provide support for specialized training, attendance at meetings, and other relevant activities that will enhance the students' experience. Hawai'i Sea Grant will work with students and advisors to facilitate further interactions with members of the scientific and management communities.