

HAWAII SEA GRANT

PACIFIC ISLANDS

INDIGENOUS SCIENCE COMPETITION



OVERVIEW

- **Intentions and background**
- **Requirements for funding**
- **Proposal process**
- **Key dates**
- **FAQs**
- **Open questions**



BACKGROUND

- The **Pacific Islands Indigenous Science** funding opportunity was developed through the Hawai'i Sea Grant Ulana 'Ike Center of Excellence
- **Hawai'i Sea Grant** supports a program of applied research, outreach, and education focused on:
 - Increasing sustainability of coastal and ocean resources, and
 - Building capacity for resilient communities
- As part of Hawai'i Sea Grant, the **Ulana 'Ike Center of Excellence:**
 - Supports projects that direct decision-making power and co-management to practitioners from multiple knowledge systems, including Kanaka 'Ōiwi

A FOCUS ON INDIGENOUS SCIENCE

- What is **Indigenous Science**?
 - Investigation of the natural world that employs a **kinship view** and relies on **multigenerational knowledge** and **genealogical connection to place**
 - Typically co-created with the people and places where the research occurs
- Why is this a focus for Hawai'i Sea Grant?
 - Many academic research opportunities have focused on integrating Indigenous knowledge into western frameworks
 - Our goal is to **directly fund research that center Indigenous methods and values**



PACIFIC ISLANDS INDIGENOUS SCIENCE FUNDING TRACK

- Funding available for **3–6 awards between \$25,000 to \$50,000**
 - Funding term of two years, anticipated February 2026 to January 2028.
- This is one of several different funding tracks available through Hawai'i Sea Grant.
 - Island Sustainability and Resilience
 - Aquaculture
 - Contaminants of Emerging Concern
- **The Indigenous Science track has a separate eligibility requirements, proposal format, review criteria, and application process.**

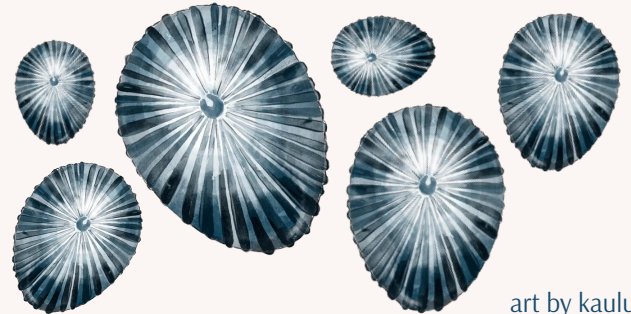
GOALS OF THE INDIGENOUS SCIENCE RFP

- To **promote Indigenous Science** in Hawai'i and the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands by promoting projects that support three major areas:
 - Resource stewardship
 - Community governance
 - Strengthening cultural practices
- Projects should address **at least one Hawai'i Sea Grant Focus Area**

1. HEALTHY COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

*Projects that restore or perpetuate **Native Hawaiian and/or Pacific Islander stewardship practices**. Example questions include:*

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



2. RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIES

Projects that **promote abundance through sustainable relationships** between kanaka and 'āina under changing natural cycles. Example questions include:

- Which akuu are appropriate to connect to natural phenomena related to climate change?
- How does the restoration of cultural practice promote community economic resilience in the face of climate change impacts?
- What frameworks allow for fully community-led coastal adaptation planning?
- Which methods of cultivating kalo account for changing temperatures and water availability?
- What mele or hula could be developed to record changing natural cycles and conditions?

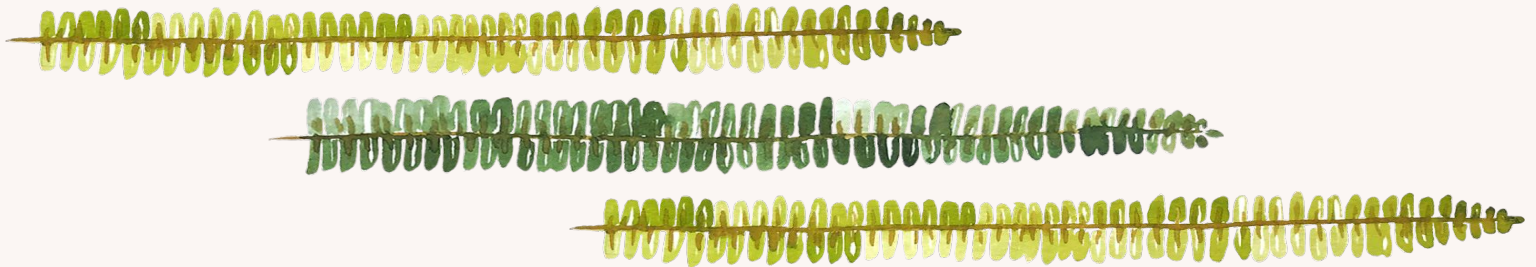


3. ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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

Example questions include:

- How do Hawaiian language newspaper translations related to specific places and akua inform our understanding of relationships between kanaka and 'āina?
- How can mo'olelo be recorded to document information about the process and impact of contemporary restoration activities?
- How does implementing place-based education affect student learning of STEM concepts?



4. SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

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

Example questions include:

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



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Project **leads must be from a nonprofit organization** in Hawai'i or the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands.
- Projects may be carried out independently or in collaboration with academic researchers.
- The project team should include **at least one land steward or cultural practitioner** who can advance Indigenous science and practice.
- **Projects need to provide a 63% non-federal match.** So a \$10,000 project will need to provide \$6,300 in non-federal match. Match can be in-kind such as volunteer hours or equipment.
 - For Example: 12 work days with 25 people volunteering 3 hours each would meet match for a \$50,000 award.

KEY DATES:



Informational Webinars	FEB 4, 10 & 20
Proposal Development Workshops	APRIL 22, MAY 13 & MAY 29
Statement of Interest Due	MARCH 7, 2025 5:00 PM HST
Full Proposal Due	JUNE 6, 2025 5:00 PM HST
Projects Recommended for Funding	AUG 2025
Earliest Anticipated Project Start	FEB 2026

STATEMENT OF INTEREST - DUE MARCH 7, 2025

- Submit a Statement of Interest by **March 7, 2025 (5:00 PM HST)** either via email to uhsg.ulanaike@hawaii.edu or via [Google Forms](#).
- Project details do not need to be finalized at this point.
- The statement of interest provide a broad understanding of the number and types of proposals planned for submission.
- **All applicants, regardless of whether or not they have submitted a Statement of Interest, are eligible to submit a Full Proposal.**

FULL PROPOSAL - DUE JUNE 6, 2025

- A Full Proposal is due via email to uhsg.ulanaike@hawaii.edu by **June 6, 2025 (5:00 PM HST)**.
- To be considered for review, applicants must submit:
 - A proposal narrative (5 pages or less),
 - A budget, and
 - A budget justification
- Required materials and template documents can be found in the appendices of the Request for Proposals.
- To submit, **email all completed proposal components to uhsg.ulanaike@hawaii.edu**

EVALUATION PROCESS

- Proposals are reviewed in two phases:
 - Initial peer review by 3 subject matter experts, then
 - Review by an expert Indigenous Science Panel
- Results from the Indigenous Science Panel and the availability of funding determine which and how many proposals are recommended for funding.
- Reviewers are chosen for their areas of expertise and use HISG criteria for inclusive evaluation of proposals.
- All criteria are given equal weight during review.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- **Scientific merit:** Does the project represent core aspects of Pacific Islands Indigenous science, including an approach to the natural world that centers stewardship and caretaking? To what degree will the project apply Indigenous science methods and protocols?
- **Relevance to Hawai'i Sea Grant's mission and RFP priorities:** Does the proposed work support one or more focus areas? Does the proposed work support one or more of the listed goals (1. Resource Stewardship; 2. Community Governance, and 3. Strengthening Cultural Practices)?
- **Data management:** Does the proposal include a clear plan for managing and sharing data? Are there sufficient protections for Indigenous knowledge and sensitive information?

SELECTION CRITERIA

- **Qualifications of the project team:** Is the project team well qualified to implement the project? Does the project team include at least one land steward or cultural practitioner?
- **Benefit to Hawai'i or the Pacific Islands:** What is the importance of this work for Hawai'i and/or the Pacific region? To what degree does the project contribute to long-term efforts to perpetuate the health, sustainability, and resilience of 'āina and community?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Can an academic institution lead a proposal?**
 - No, the lead organization on a proposal must be from a nonprofit organization in Hawai'i or the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands. However, academic researchers can partner on projects.
- **How can we demonstrate that our team includes a cultural practitioner or 'āina steward** who can advance Indigenous science and practice?
 - We recognize that these are broad terms, and that Hawai'i Sea Grant cannot – and should not – arbitrate this designation. In other words: please use your best judgement as to whether your team has the appropriate expertise, and demonstrate this in your application by including information about the person or people included in your project team and their experience in Indigenous science methodologies and cultural practices.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **What are the reporting requirements for the Pacific Islands Indigenous Science Competition?**
 - Project leads must submit a **2 page report** that includes a clear overview of the **project's goals and objectives** as stated in the funded proposal, as well as **details on how these goals have been met.**
 - Project leads will also be asked to submit **information on specific metrics connected to the project** (e.g. number of people reached through outreach, media appearances connected to the project)
- **How can we meet the non-federal match requirement?**
 - Match requirements are often met from in-kind contributions, including employee time or volunteer hours.
 - We can help you identify appropriate match sources.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

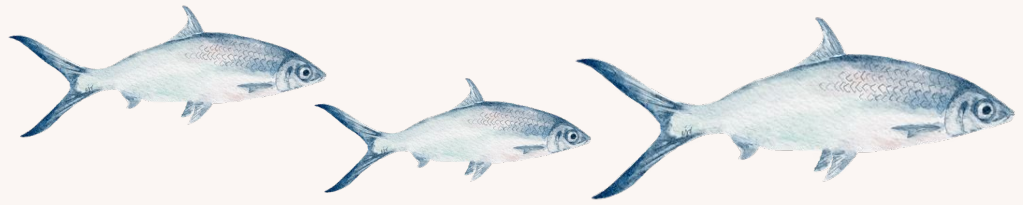
- **Are there any restrictions on what funds can be used for? Funding can not be used to for any of the following:**
 - purchase or rent any land
 - purchase, construct, or repair any building, dock, or vessel
 - summer overload for University employees
 - journal publication fees
 - travel to conferences
 - work in or with foreign countries
- **Funding can be used for short term rental of vessels and meeting/event space used for specific activities that directly support the project.**
- **What if I have other questions or need additional help?**
 - We're here to help! Please email uhsg.ulanaike@hawaii.edu if you have questions or would like to meet one-on-one.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Will there be opportunities for support in developing proposals?**
 - Yes! Proposal development workshops will be held on **April 22, May 13, and May 29**. These will occur in a group setting, over Zoom, and will provide support on topics such as designing a budget, identifying match, and developing project objectives and outputs. To **register, visit PacifiIslandsIndigenousScience.com**
- **What if I have other questions or need additional help?**
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PacifiIslandsIndigenousScience.com

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