

Executive Summary

HISC & CGAPS 2025 Joint Strategy in Support of the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan

Invasive species are the single greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people and visitors (LRB 2015). This 2025 Joint Strategy for the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) reflects the highly productive collaboration of these two statewide networks to achieve our shared vision:

Hawaii's natural environment, agriculture, economy, and the health, lifestyle, and culture of its people are protected from the impacts of invasive species.

The HISC and CGAPS networks have complementary missions, tools and approaches. CGAPS is a voluntary partnership of state, federal, county, non-profit and private sector experts and managers, who coordinate and catalyze action on statewide invasive species priorities and communicate key issues to the public.

HISC is a formal state council established by statute to coordinate the state's position across agencies on invasive species policy, funding, and projects. HISC's members are cabinet-level decisionmakers representing six state departments. Together, HISC and CGAPS engage and mobilize all the critical partners to address Hawaii's invasive species challenges.

This HISC & CGAPS 2025 Joint Strategy (HISC/CGAPS 2025) builds on more than 25 years of effective action, successful network-building, gap analyses and lessons learned – starting with the creation of CGAPS in 1995 and the establishment of HISC by state statute in 2003. In the last five years, major collaborative invasive species achievements include:

- Successful emergency response and statewide planning to understand, address, and reduce the spread of **Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD)**.
- Multi-agency collaboration working on **marine biosecurity threats**, especially ballast water and vessel biofouling.
- Ongoing early detection and rapid response to **limit the spread of priority pests**, including little fire ant (LFA), coqui frog, coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) and ROD.
- **Stronger quarantine and inspection tools** developed, including the landmark Myrtle restriction package for federal protection and the re-establishment and expansion of the detector dog program.
- **First Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan (HIBP)** launched in 2017 with strong support from the Governor and all HISC agencies.

Importantly, the HIBP provides an in-depth, ten-year analysis of invasive species capacity and policy needs. Progress on all 147 HIBP actions is reported semi-annually. Gaps in action or progress on HIBP actions guided the priorities in this five-year plan (Figure 1).

HISC/CGAPS 2025 was developed using a broad participatory process with input from more than 100 partners across both networks (Appendix A). Together, they agreed on ten statewide strategies to address critical invasive species threats, pathways and opportunities requiring broad collaboration. These include three essential organizational development priorities for HISC (Strategy 8) and CGAPS (Strategies 9 & 10) to strengthen their networks' ability to achieve tangible results.

HISC Mission

Provide strategic policy and fiscal direction, coordination, and planning among state departments and other stakeholders to address invasive species issues in a science-based, culturally and socially conscious way.

CGAPS Mission

To coordinate and catalyze action among government and non-government partners to prevent and manage invasive species in Hawai'i, as well as communicate key issues to the public.

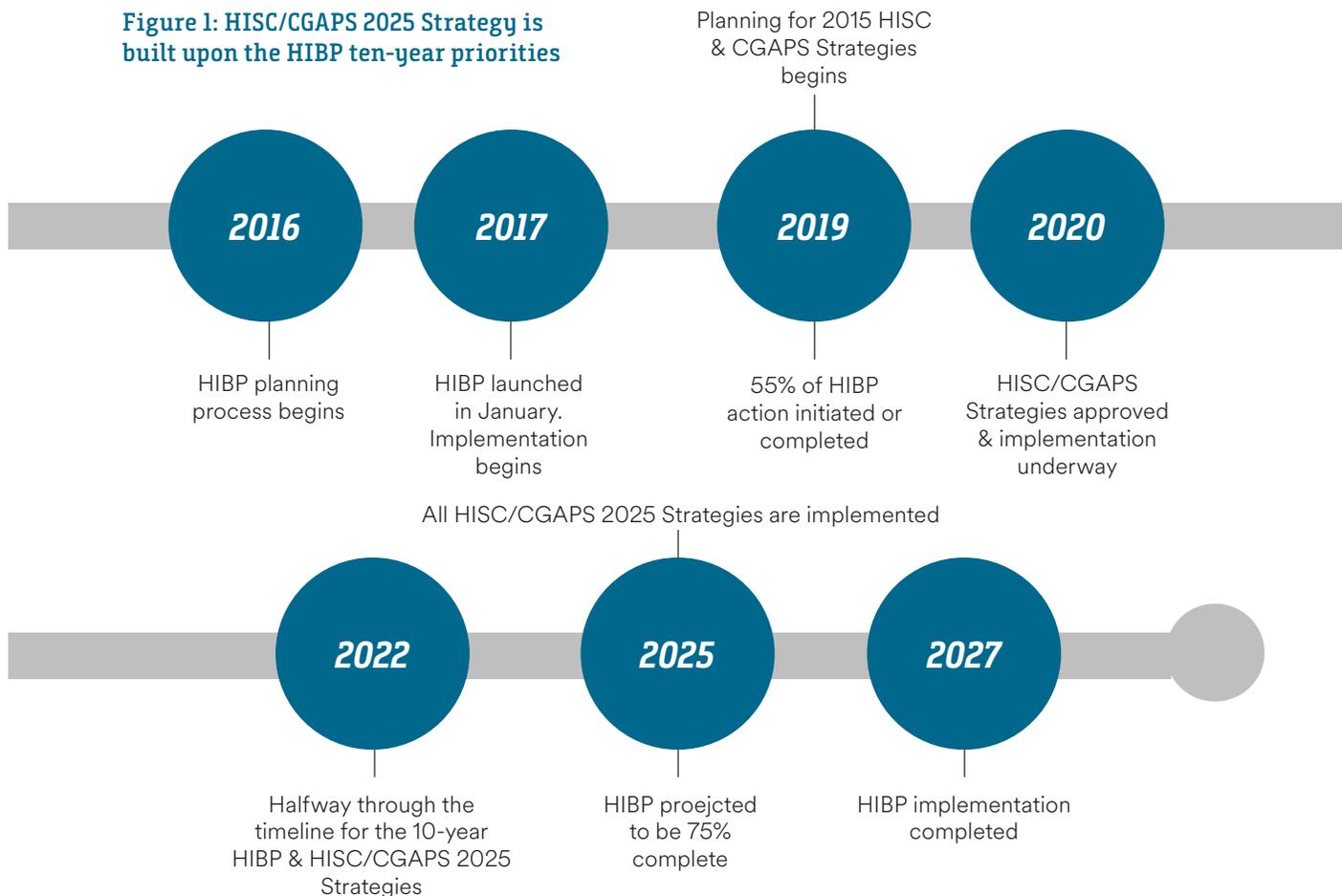
Overview:

Together, the HISC and CGAPS networks will implement ten priority strategies

This HISC/CGAPS 2025 Strategy will guide leadership and action by both networks over the next five years, including growing Hawaii's invasive species networks to engage new partners critical to success. The HISC/CGAPS 2025 Strategy is already being implemented by many committed partners with a track record for leading effective invasive species initiatives across the archipelago. This is a "living plan", and it will be adapted over time based on results, lessons learned, innovations and new partners.

- 1. Prevention & Early Detection/Rapid Response for New Terrestrial Invasions** – to keep top terrestrial threats from arriving and establishing in the state.
- 2. Inter/Intra-Island Movement of Terrestrial Invasive Species** – to reduce the spread of invasive species between and across islands.
- 3. Aquatic Biosecurity** – to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species.
- 4. Large-Scale Control of High-Impact Invasive Species** – to expand management of widespread, high-impact species (e.g. mosquitoes, rats, marine algae).
- 5. Pacific Regional Biocontrol Center** – to increase biocontrol work and critical infrastructure in Hawai'i.
- 6. Increased & Diversified Funding for Invasive Species Priorities** – to secure at least \$100M annually by 2025 from federal, state, county and private sources.
- 7. Engaged & Supportive Community** – to maintain strong community support (70%+ in polls) and mobilize action on these 2025 Joint Strategies.
- 8. HISC Engagement Across Sectors** – to improve engagement and support of all key agencies.
- 9. Strong CGAPS Network** - to engage all partners needed to implement these 2025 Joint Strategies.
- 10. Stable CGAPS Funding & Staffing** - to provide core support for CGAPS operations.

Figure 1: HISC/CGAPS 2025 Strategy is built upon the HIBP ten-year priorities



■ HISC & CGAPS Joint 2025 Strategies

These ten joint strategies reflect broad agreement by the HISC and CGAPS Planning Teams and thoughtful input across this diverse partnership. They also build on 25 years of effective action, collaboration and lessons learned. Each joint strategy will guide leadership and action by both networks over the next five years, including growing Hawaii's invasive species networks to engage new partners critical to success. Importantly, this is a "living plan", and the strategies will be adapted over time based on results, lessons learned, innovations and new partners. Each strategy is presented in five parts:

- 1. 2025 Objective** - SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timebound) objectives describe the outcome we aim to achieve by 2025 or "what success will look like" for this key invasive species strategy.
- 2. Strategy Team & Lead Partners** – Every strategy requires collaboration by many partners; none of this work can be accomplished by a single agency or organization. Committed leadership is the key to successful collaborations. For each strategy, one or more partner organizations volunteered to lead implementation and others agreed to collaborate on key actions. The founding members of these partner-led Strategy Teams are listed for each strategy below. Additional groups are welcome to join these teams, and their composition will undoubtedly change over time.
- 3. Background** briefly describes the rationale and assumptions for each strategy.
- 4. Key Actions** are considered essential for success. Together they are sufficient to achieve the 2025 Objective, assuming all key actions are successfully implemented. Some actions are important to achieving more than one objective. These synergies are noted, but the Key Action is not repeated in the other strategy sections.
- 5. HIBP Linkages** – Each strategy addresses numerous HIBP tasks, often across multiple HIBP categories. These HIBP linkages are summarized here with a detailed list for each strategy in Appendix F.

In addition, reviewers identified many useful Tasks to guide partners implementing each Key Action. These are listed in the Working Action Plan for HISC/CGAPS 2025 in Appendix G. This workplan will change over time as each Strategy Team practices adaptive management to reach their objective.

CLIMATE-SMART DESIGN

Three climate-smart design questions were applied to each strategy to increase resilience:

1. How will climate change affect threats being managed?
2. How can management actions be adapted to remain effective given those changes?
3. What other strategies or management actions may be needed to address vulnerability gaps?

Climate change is projected to directly impact both Hawaii's natural resources and invasive species challenges. Controlling invasive species (and other major threats) is one of the most practical ways to increase resilience to climate change. Three climate-smart design questions were adapted and applied to each of the ten joint strategies during the development of this plan (Courtney 2018). Adjustments were made to each strategy to increase climate resilience. Current principles for climate-smart planning are outlined in Appendix E. We will continue to use these questions and principles to adapt our invasive species management actions to the changing climate over time to ensure that we:

- Manage for change, not just for persistence
- Reconsider goals, not just strategies
- Integrate adaptation into existing work



Stakeholders gather to provide input on the draft HISC & CGAPS 2025 Strategy (PC: Randy Bartlett)

■ Taking Action & Measuring Success

This HISC/CGAPS 2025 Joint Strategy: In Support of the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan reflects the ongoing, effective collaboration of state, federal, NGO, business and community partners to achieve the shared vision of "Hawaii's natural environment, agriculture, economy, and the health, lifestyle, and culture of its people are protected from the impacts of invasive species."

It builds on CGAPS' 25-year track record for effective action, successful network-building, and lessons learned and 17 years of state leadership and coordination through the HISC.

Already, many of the joint strategies are being implemented by committed partners across the archipelago. Leadership for this work is strong, and ten agencies and organizations stepped up to co-lead the ten Strategy Teams. Each team will implement and adapt the workplan for their strategy (Appendix G), including identifying and tracking practical measures to assess their effectiveness and progress. As much as possible, this monitoring will use data and protocols already in place to avoid new data gathering, which can be difficult and costly to maintain.

HISC and CGAPS will continue to meet, make decisions and manage their operations independently, according to their unique mandates and protocols. Each will also focus on the different organizational development needs and strategies identified through this planning process. However, the HISC/CGAPS 2025 Strategy will help both networks restructure and energize their working groups, bringing them together and recruiting new partners where appropriate.

Finally, the HISC/CGAPS 2025 Strategy provides a clear roadmap to guide invasive species priorities and partners statewide. Together, our two networks will assess progress, identify critical gaps, and adapt workplans annually. We will also actively capture and share lessons learned to continually improve our collective impact.

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Acknowledgements

Invasive species work in Hawai'i requires a complex but highly functional set of stakeholders and partners working together across different organizational and geographic boundaries.

The HIBP demonstrated the importance and value of prioritizing biosecurity needs and working together to implement those priorities. This HISC/CGAPS 2025 Strategy builds on this successful HIBP collaboration by engaging a broad and diverse coalition of stakeholders engaged in invasive species work across Hawai'i, to again prioritize our collective energy, action, and voices to implement the highest HIBP priorities.

HISC and CGAPS wish to acknowledge the many partners and stakeholders who helped develop this strategy, coming together through a variety of forums (Appendix C). We are especially grateful for the HISC Planning Team and CGAPS Steering Committee members for sharing their expertise during the statewide and special planning meetings (Table 1). HISC's six Council members also provided critical political support and guidance for this collaborative process, committing their agencies to take leadership and action on the strategies core to their mandates.

This strategic planning process was made possible by CGAPS' long-term partnership with the Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation (HMLF). In addition to their generous support, HMLF Senior Program Officer Brant Chillingworth and Executive Director Janis Reischmann shared valuable insights and history to help strengthen the plan and the statewide partnership.

For the priority strategies developed at the statewide meeting, knowledgeable partners volunteered to review early drafts and provide critical input. Our sincere thanks to:

- » Kevin Hoffman (HDOA) & Gen Devine (DAR) for Prevention & Early Detection/Rapid Response
- » Jules Kuo (DAR) & Jon Sprague (Pūlama Lāna'i) for Inter/Intra-island Movement
- » Will Weaver (KMWP) & Emma Anders (HCA) for Landscape-scale Eradication
- » Darcy Oishi (HDOA) & Rob Hauff (DOFAW) for Biocontrol
- » Mark Fox (TNC) & Brant Chillingworth (HMLF) for Diversified Funding

The Core Team for this strategic planning effort was led by Christy Martin (CGAPS) and Josh Atwood (HISC) with outstanding staff support by Chelsea Arnott (HISC) and Lara Reynolds (CGAPS). Audrey Newman, Conservation & Sustainability Advisor, led the process design, facilitation and drafting of this plan. This strategy reflects their deep expertise, seamless teamwork and clear commitment to collaboration. Sheila Sarhangi from Cause Consulting was a special Core Team member to provide early input on strategic communications. Sincere thanks also are due to HISC staff - Randy Bartlett, Leyla Kaufman, and Elizabeth Speith, and CGAPS staff - Ambyr Mokiao-Lee, Stephanie Easley, and Andrew Porter – for facilitation and logistics assistance at the statewide meeting.

We are deeply grateful for the outstanding, active engagement by so many invasive species stakeholders to develop these shared strategies for our next five years of collaborative work. Most of all, we are thankful for the partners who are leading action on these strategies and their commitment to implementing the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan.

