

BFED Committee

From: Shane M. Sinenci
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 8:39 AM
To: Lesley J. Milner; BFED Committee
Cc: Kelly King; Mike J. Molina
Subject: FW: MISC County FY23 Funding Request
Attachments: MISC County FY23 Funding Request.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Aloha Lesley, please share MISC's additional budget request, my budget proposal #47.
Mahalo, Shane

From: Adam Radford <aradford@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 6:31 AM
To: Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>
Cc: Lori Buchanan <molokailori@gmail.com>; Teya Penniman <penniman@hawaii.edu>; Gina M. Young <Gina.Flammer@mauicounty.us>; Dawn Lono <Dawn.Lono@mauicounty.us>
Subject: MISC County FY23 Funding Request

Aloha Member Sinenci,
Thank you again for putting a request for additional funding on the floor!! Attached is a justification for that request.
Please let me know if you have questions. Lori and I will testify this morning. See you soon.

All the best,

Adam

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MISC is a project of the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit (PCSU) - University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Maui Invasive Species Committee – FY23 Maui County Budget Request

SUMMARY

The Mayor's FY23 budget proposes flat funding (\$2.46m) for invasive species work by the Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC), as compared to FY22. The proposed amount includes \$2.2m under the Office of Climate Change, Resiliency and Sustainability, and \$260,000 from Department of Water Supply. MISC greatly appreciates Maui County's commitment to protect our environment, agriculture, and quality of life from the scourge of invasive species. We humbly request an additional \$800,000 to create additional positions for East Maui and Molokai, relaunch critical aerial control operations, provide essential equipment and supplies, and support pay increases that would help recruit and retain exceptional staff.

JUSTIFICATION

Molokai: Molokai has not seen an increase in staffing levels for a long time. The addition of two positions would allow MoMISC to expand its early detection and rapid response capacity.

Hāna – miconia and little fire ants: Efforts to control miconia in East Maui have been limited due to the crew's small size and the need to assist with Maui's largest little fire ant infestation in Nāhiku. Ideally, there would be two five-person crews in East Maui. The addition of two new positions would help.

Coqui frogs: To date, MISC has eradicated 22 coqui frog populations. Our community control program provides training for residents and gives them the tools, supplies, and equipment to control coqui frogs in their own neighborhoods. Our long-term goal is to have every residential community in the Māliko Gulch area actively assisting with control. More funding would help with that goal.

Aerial Operations: MISC recently received HDOA approval to once again use "HBT" – the paintball tool that allows us to reach outlier miconia and potentially pampas grass plants. The absence of this highly effective tool over the last several years means we now need to play "catch up." Funding limitations also have prevented aerial operations on West Maui for pampas grass. Additional funding would allow MISC to resume flights on West Maui and focus on remote infestations of miconia.

Equipment & Supplies: Increased operations requires additional equipment, vehicles, and supplies for staff.

Staff retention and pay increases: Like many companies and organizations on Maui, MISC has experienced challenges with filling positions. We are working closely with the University of Hawai'i to raise starting salaries, especially for all field positions. Not only is this needed to attract applicants and retain staff, it's also the right thing to do. We want to help keep those who are born and raised in the Islands find jobs that pay enough to live here, while gaining job skills to progress in their chosen careers.

RECENT SUCCESSES & UPDATES

Little Fire Ant (LFA): MISC believes it has eradicated little fire ants from 11 of the 18 locations on Maui where they have been detected since 2009. By the end of 2021, little fire ant populations at the remaining seven sites showed significant decreases, which will allow MISC to

switch from treatment to monitoring at four locations in the next few months. Systematic surveys have shown that the treatment area at Maui's most challenging infestation, in Nāhiku, has shrunk to half of what it was when first detected. Our novel approach has been featured in national and international media and is the focus of a grant proposal to share our strategy throughout the Pacific. Maui County should be very proud of these pioneering efforts.

Coqui frogs: Last year, for the first time, one of our five different community control groups canceled a scheduled spray operation because they had no calling frogs. We have deployed acoustic monitoring devices at more than 20 locations to monitor our success and we are working with DLNR funding to establish coqui barrier fences at strategic locations.

Other Invasive Species: MISC and MoMISC continue to work on at least twenty-two plant species, four vertebrates, four invertebrate species, and several plant diseases. To date, more than 20 species have been eradicated from Maui and Molokai.

Outreach and Education: MISC's and MoMISC's public education and outreach programs remain critical elements of our project, reaching communities on the two islands through outreach events, online media, and classrooms. We very much look forward to being able to engage with the community in person.

BUDGET PROCESS

MISC greatly appreciates being added as a line item and having the flexibility to focus resources on the most critical needs, as proposed by the current budget. We humbly request that any addition to the budget retain that flexibility. We would be happy to schedule times to report back to the Council on our progress throughout the year.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT NEEDS

We have not included requests for capital improvement funds as part of this presentation. As you know, MISC relocated to the Old Maui High School campus in September 2020 under a Right of Entry with Maui County Department of Parks and Recreation. We are working to obtain a long-term lease from the County and hope to have that complete in the next several months. Even in the interim, CIP funds would help make the campus much more functional. We are not focusing on those needs as part of this discussion, but we would be happy to provide more detail if desired.

DRAFT BUDGET

Budget

Additional Staff	6 @ .25 benefits	\$	270,000
Pay increases		\$	95,000
Equipment	3 trucks	\$	195,000
Aerial Operations	100 hours	\$	125,000
Supplies	3,333 per ee	\$	20,000
Overhead	@.1385	\$	97,338
		\$	802,338

CIP if asked: at least \$575,000