





Invasive Species Committees of Hawai'i



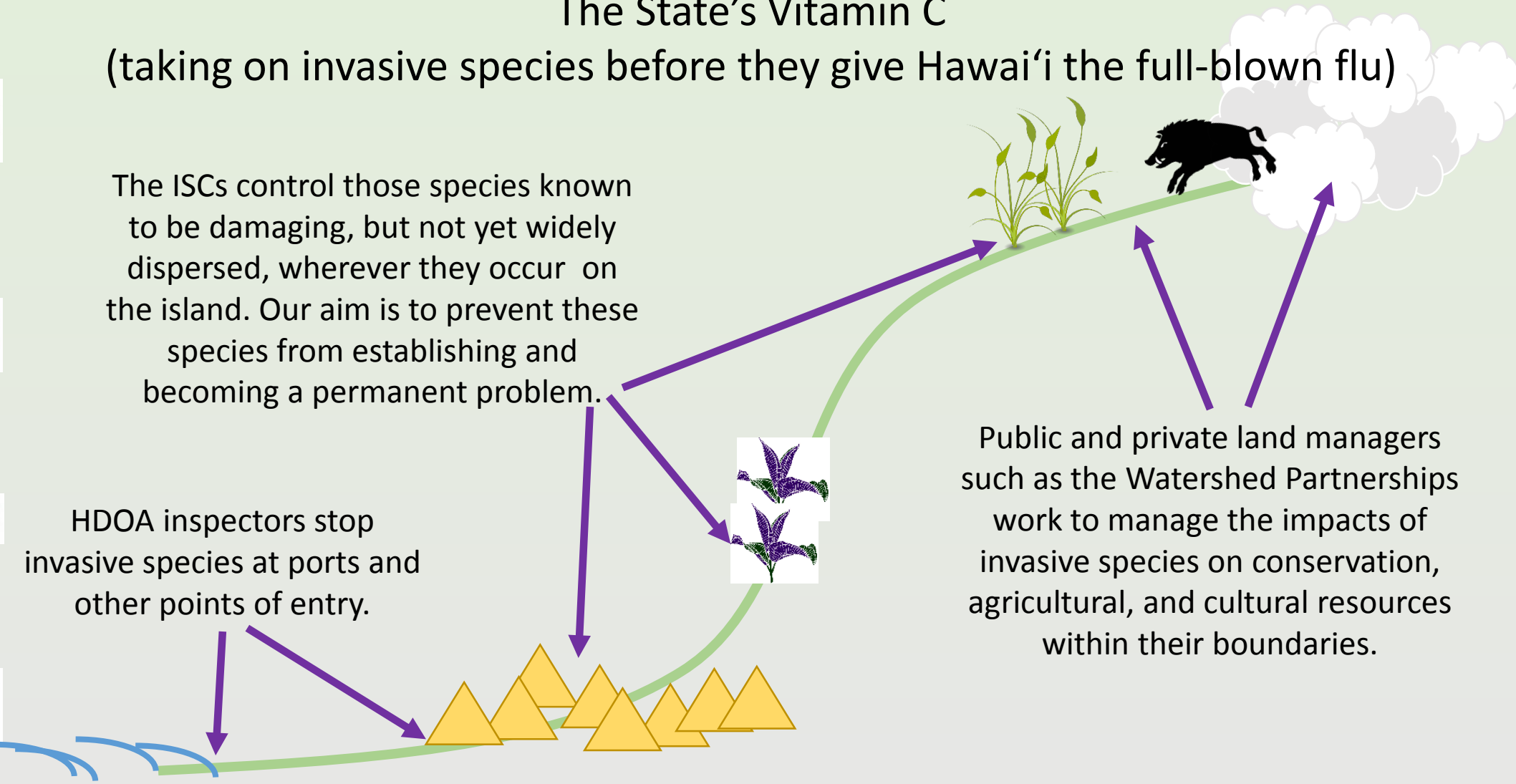
The State's Vitamin C
(taking on invasive species before they give Hawai'i the full-blown flu)



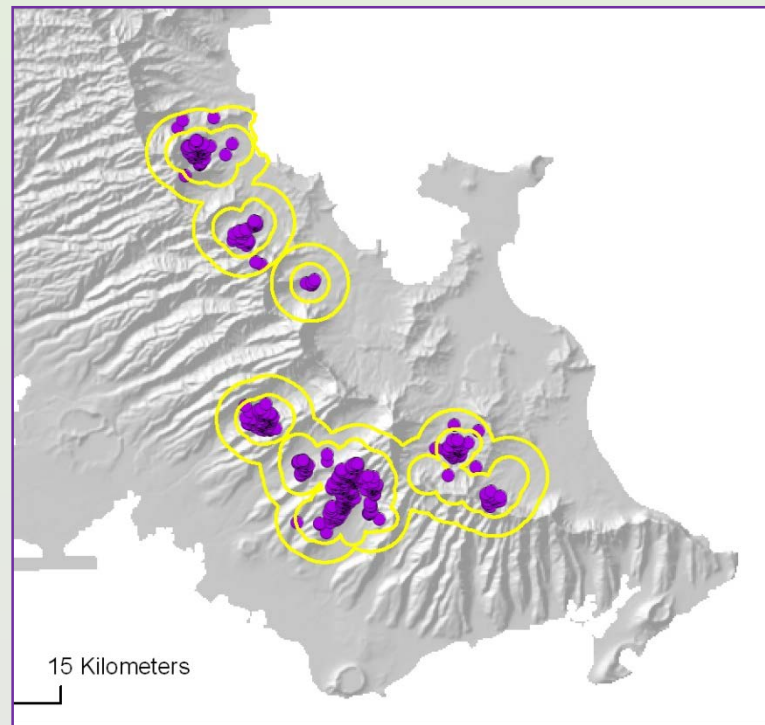
The ISCs control those species known to be damaging, but not yet widely dispersed, wherever they occur on the island. Our aim is to prevent these species from establishing and becoming a permanent problem.



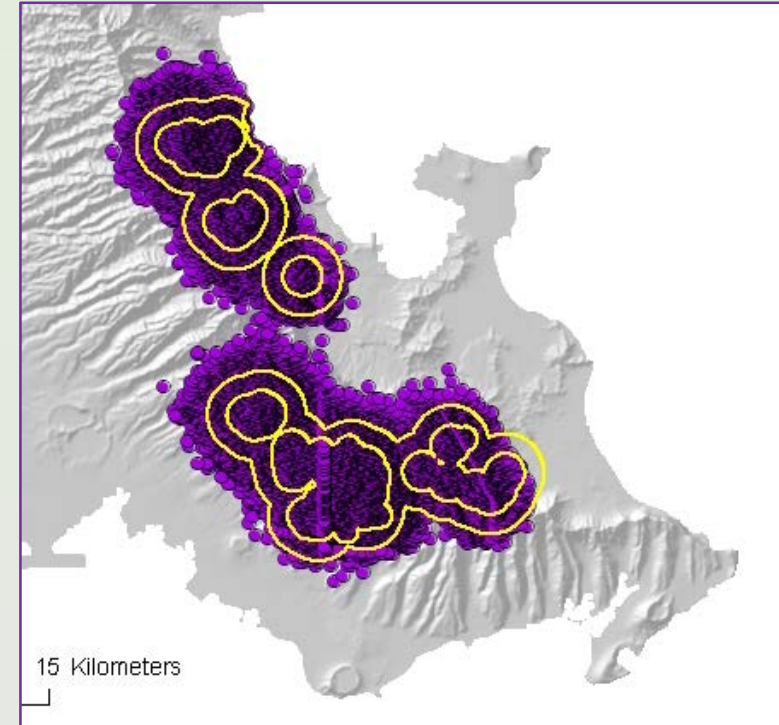
HDOA inspectors stop invasive species at ports and other points of entry.



Preventing damaging watershed species from moving into native forests or becoming established pests which will require perpetual control.



Current miconia infestation



Infestation without control

Engaging citizens in protecting the state through public education and outreach



Playing the “wheel of invasive misfortune” game which teaches keiki about invasive plants.



Volunteers in Puna learning to manage albizia in their community.

Bringing innovative partnerships together for prevention and control.



BIISC brought together HELCO, Hawai'i County, USDA Forest Service, HDOT, DOFAW and local residents to begin systematic control of albizia in residential areas.

Mobilizing field crews quickly for early detection and rapid response



MoMISC and MISC field crews being trained for Little Fire Ant surveys by the Hawai'i Ant Lab

Preventing Future Economic Costs

Left uncontrolled, the Little Fire Ant is estimated to cost the State \$12.9 billion over 30 years.



MISC crewmember surveying for Little Fire Ant.



2015 Highlights



- Hosted international mongoose meeting and co-authored new SOPs for mongoose response, in final phase of eradicating little fire ant from Kaua'i, approaching eradication for miconia, ongoing captures of newly introduced coqui frogs, Identified two new major island pests to bring eradication targets up to twenty species.



- Worked with multiple public and private landowners to stop the spread of devil weed, a serious agricultural and conservation pest in countries from Nigeria to Guam. Worked with HDOA and the Hawaii Ant Lab to treat and monitor Oahu's only 2 Little Fire Ant infestations. Treated coqui frog infestations and supported CRB response.



- Worked on complex wildland infestations of little fire ants and coqui frogs on Maui's north shore, controlled outlier populations of miconia with UH-CTAHR, produced updated little fire ant video for statewide broadcast, and hosted Maui Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death workshop.



- Conducted early detection surveys with zero detections for Hawaii's most high-profile invasive species including miconia, little fire ant and coconut rhinoceros beetle.



- Activated over 300 community members, HELCO, and agency partners to treat 53,000 albizia along public infrastructure corridors. Established a systematic game camera grid to continuously monitor for axis deer. Surveyed 33 nurseries for little fire ants, awarded Plant Pono endorsements to 11 exemplary nurseries who have stopped selling invasive plants.

How does the Vitamin C get made?

1 part naturally occurring enthusiastic field crews and.....



The OISC Crew in Kahuku

How does the Vitamin C get made?

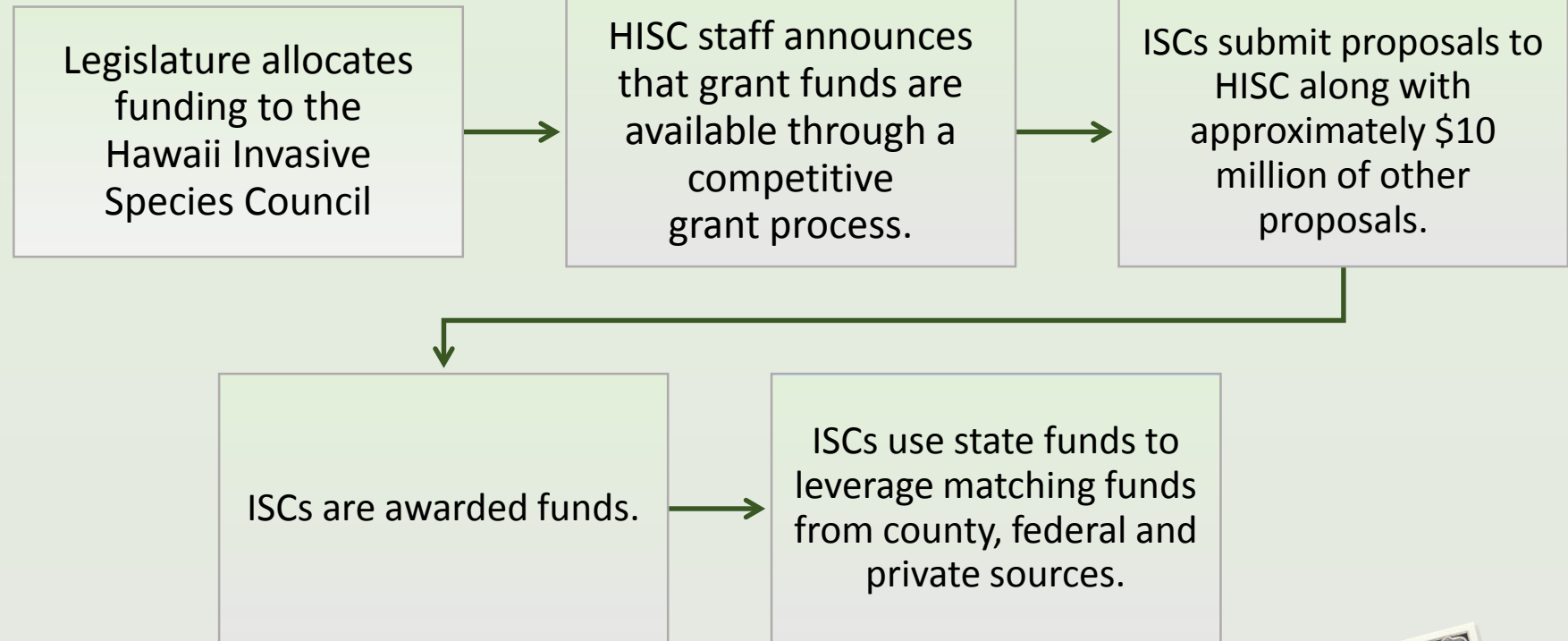
1 part support from locally based steering committees plus.....



A dash of accounting and HR support from the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, an applied-research unit of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and.....



1 part financial support from the Legislature (Mahalo!) and matching funders.



What do we need to keep Hawai‘i’s immune system strong?



- Consistent funding for ongoing projects. Even though species may be detected early, long-lived seedbanks, multiple property owners and persistent source populations make projects like miconia, little fire ants and others long-term.
- \$5.5 million annually from the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to fund current operations.
- Additional funding to respond to newly identified needs such as Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death, recently introduced invasive plants and to ramp up control on albizia and coqui frogs on select islands.
- Support for partners on either side of us: biosecurity support for HDOA for inspectors to keep pests out and enforcement and continuing support for DLNR/DOFAW and the Watershed Partnerships to deal with the entrenched species which have been causing problems since before the ISCs were formed.



Mahalo!



BIISC Crew