

University of Hawai'i

BACKGROUND

The Hatch Act provides basic capacity funding for State Agricultural Experiment Stations. The act requires that states provide a 100% match from non-federal resources (many states provide a greater match). Hatch Act funding is distributed by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to eligible institutions under a statutory formula.

Congress has provided small increases in recent years, but this has barely slowed the steady, decades-long erosion of this vital program.

The land-grant system strongly supports Hatch Act funding at \$240 million in FY 2011.

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VALUE OF HATCH ACT FUNDS

In Hawai'i (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Hatch Act is leveraged by \$8.62 in state funding to the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR):

Funds Leveraged by Our Pro Rata Share of Hatch Act Appropriation

	FY 2009 ¹	FY 2010 ²	FY 2011 ³
Federal (Hatch)	1,413,011	1,445,104	1,639,093
State	12,186,302	10,276,147	10,276,147
Total	\$13,599.313	\$11,721,251	\$11,915,240

NOTES: (1) FY 2009 funds are actual amounts; (2) FY 2010 is estimated; (3) FY 2011 assumes a \$240 million appropriation (as requested by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities).

Additional Program Data

- CTAHR maintains fifteen research branch stations in all four Hawaii counties.
- CTAHR employs the full time equivalent of approximately 180 people in research activities.
- CTAHR faculty generated more than \$18 million grants and contacts in the past year.

BENEFITS OF HATCH FUNDS

As shown above, if Congress increases the FY 2011 Hatch Act appropriation to \$240 million, our pro rata share would be ≈ \$193,989. We would use such an increase to:

- Develop effective screening, detection and control tools to combat invasive species, including new virus, bacteria, fungi, insects, and weeds.
- Provide additional research support in sustainable agriculture to strengthen the "buy local, it matters" campaign.
- Support research in bioenergy feedstock development, including tropical grasses, algae, and oil seeds producing plants.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- In March of 2007, the varroa mite was discovered in Oahu and subsequently, in August of 2008, the mite was detected on the Big Island of Hawaii. A CTAHR research team has set up a website to keep beekeepers and farmers informed of the bee-varroa issues in the islands and to facilitate the transfer of information from the University to the public about mite biology, sampling and detection techniques and research updates.
- CTAHR's sustainable agriculture research has conducted intensive cover crop research, and is developing biological and cultural methods for controlling pests without chemicals, and the use of biological nitrogen fixation to significantly increase the production of high protein foods, while at the same time reducing the need for commercially produced fertilizers.
- The invasive Erythrina gall wasp has devastated both endemic and ornamental Erythrina (coral trees, wiliwili) trees throughout the islands of Hawaii. The wasp populations reach such high densities that virtually every leaf and shoot on the trees is deformed and seed production is reduced. A CTAHR research team has successfully released *Eurtoma erythrinae*, a natural enemy of gall wasp statewide. The resurgence of foliage on indigenous Erythrina trees in areas previously hard-hit by gall wasps is evident.