Call for Proposals:
Jessie D. Kay Memorial Research Grants in Hawai‘ian Natural History, Zoology and Marine Malacology

The Jessie D. Kay Memorial Fund, established in 2000, will provide two research grants this year, each in the amount of $10,000. The trust document stipulates that awards are “...to support the study of natural history with an emphasis on zoology and marine malacology, the study of marine mollusks.” The trust document additionally stipulates, “... the Fund may support graduate students in zoology, with the preference to those attending the University of Hawai‘i, particularly with the interest in the natural history of the Hawai‘ian Islands.”

Applications must include the following:

1. A brief resumé that includes the applicant’s name, e-mail, contact address, and permanent address if different from the local address.

2. A statement of the applicant’s status at the University of Hawai‘i, including the department of study, the number of years in a graduate program at U.H., and the name of the applicant’s faculty advisor.

3. A concise statement of the applicant’s research subject, hypotheses being tested, methods, expected results and significance.

4. A time table for meeting landmark goals in the research and completion of the advanced degree.

5. A one-year budget for expenditure of the research-grant funds. It is acceptable to use the funds for personal support for one semester or longer, as long as the recipient does not concurrently accept a full-time teaching or graduate-research assistantship. A Jessie D. Kay Fellowship may, however, be combined with a partial teaching or research assistantship. Additional uses for the fellowship funds may include: supplies; essential equipment; travel for research (not to professional meetings!); or other research-related costs.

6. A record of academic progress and achievements, including: transcripts at U.H. those from colleges/universities attended previously; official progress stage at U.H. (e.g., committee formed; dissertation proposal approved; doctoral orals taken); other scholarships/fellowships received, their time span and amounts.

7. A letter of support from the applicant’s faculty advisor.

Submission deadline: November 13, 2015. Notification of awards will be made by January 2015.

Application procedure:

Please submit applications electronically as a single PDF file to the chair of the selection committee: Dr. H. G. de Couet (couet@hawaii.edu), Biology Department, The University of Hawaii at Manoa. Please advise authors of supporting letters to also submit these electronically, indicating the name of the applicant in the document name.
The selection committee, including three faculty members from the Department of Biology who do not have a student from their laboratories among this year’s applicants will evaluate the applications and select the two awardees. Criteria for selection will include the following:

- Relevance to the objectives of the trust
- Overall quality of the proposal and level of grantsmanship:
  - Significance and originality of the project
  - Scientific hypotheses formulated and experimentally addressed?
  - Feasibility of the project: preliminary data and existing tools; how likely is the success of this project?
  - Experimental approach: sufficiently detailed and established?
- Academic record and excellence of applicant
- Intellectual independence of applicant
- Budget: adequate and appropriate?

The selection committee reserves the right to defer making awards in the absence of competitive and professionally prepared proposals. Applicants are strongly advised to seek support and grant writing advice from peers and mentors.