

## **Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee**

Department of Land and Natural Resources, Kalanimoku Room 322B

1151 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

September 2, 2011

**9:05am**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

**Members Present:** John Henshaw (Chair), Koa Kaulukukui, Laura Brezinsky, Katie Friday, Betsy Gagne, Rich von Welsheim, Dayday Hopkins, Kip Dunbar, Michael Constantinides, Greg Hendrickson, JB Friday, Alvin Kyono. **Members Absent:** Benton Pang. **Staff:** Sheri Mann, M. Irene Sprecher. **Guests:** Teresa Dawson, Leah Laramie.

**Meeting minutes** May 6, 2011. **Motion to approve. Moved by Kyono, seconded by von Welsheim. Pass unanimously.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Joint Forestry Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** was approved May 19, 2011. US Forest Service provided draft guidelines for the national version of the Joint Forestry MOU. Greg Hendrickson provided a list of Frequently Ask Questions (FAQs) that the Kona Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) put together based on the Joint Forestry MOU as guidelines for partner staff – comments on the document should be submitted to Greg or Irene.

One of the key initiatives under the MOU is training the professional staff in forest practices. The Committee may be interested in researching how to improve permitting processes required for conservation projects, including Department of Health, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, among others. Other activities under the Joint Forestry MOU include updating the Forest Stewardship management plan template so that information from the plans can be easy interpreted into Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) incentive programs for assistance funding.

**Motion to take an agenda item out of order, Natural Area System Commission joint consultation. Moved by Gagne, seconded by J. Friday. Pass unanimously.**

**Natural Area System Commission joint consultation** a representatives from both groups to discuss the allocation of funding from the Natural Area Reserve Fund and Forest Stewardship Special Fund. Nominations for the consultation include John Henshaw, Koa Kaulukukui, Rich von Welsheim, and Laura Brezinsky. **Motion to approve nominations. Moved by Dunbar, seconded by Hopkins. Pass unanimously.**

**Biomass forest management plan.** The Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) may be asking the Committee to assist in review of management plans for woody biomass and bioenergy.

**Fencing Exemption.** Department of Land and Natural Resources was recently approved for an exemption from Chapter 343, HRS, environmental compliance for fencing projects. This should

affect Forest Stewardship Program projects that involve fencing as part of their management plan.

**Sunshine Law.** It was recently (officially) determined that the Committee is considered a “board” under the Hawaii Sunshine Law, which will require that all activities related to the Committee will have to follow the law. The Committee was provided with the Hawaii Sunshine Law Handbook available on the Office of Information and Planning website. Staff will further set up training for the Committee at an upcoming meeting.

**Society of American Foresters (SAF).** The SAF Annual Conference will be held in November 2011. The Committee discussed sending a welcome letter to visiting foresters.

#### FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM:

**Ka‘awaloa Hawaiian Forest (KHF).** The Committee reviewed and scored the KHF application for the Forest Legacy Program. The conservation easement will significantly limit subdivision and development on the property, as well as place restrictions on forestry and agricultural activities to promote conservation of the forest resources. The subject parcel is adjacent to the recently closed Kealakekua Heritage Ranch Forest Legacy conservation easement and is zoned in the state agricultural district.

**Recoup the Loop.** The Committee reviewed and scored the Recoup the Loop application for the Forest Legacy Program. The application will need further revisions to clarify before it will be submitted for national ranking. The parcel is located in the state conservation district and would be a fee title acquisition in the heart of Oahu. This 635 acre parcel includes the highly used Aiea Loop Trail System and directly neighbors critical habitat for ten threatened and endangered species. The parcel could be considered for inclusion into the Natural Area Reserve System, because of the high quality of the ecosystem.

The scoring results were collated and average; scoring criteria was based on the national review criteria. The Ka‘awaloa Hawaiian Forest project scored 76 points and Recoup the Loop project scored 56 points. The highest score will rank as the number 1 project for the State of Hawai‘i.

**Motion to accept both projects as applications for the U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program. Moved by K. Friday, seconded by von Welsheim. Abstained: Hendrickson, J. Friday, Hopkins, Gagne. Motion passes.**

**Motion to recommend that Ka‘awaloa Hawaiian Forest be ranked by the State of Hawaii as number 1 and Recoup the Loop as number 2. Moved by K. Friday, seconded by von Welsheim. Abstained: Hendrickson, J. Friday, Gagne. Motion passes with 7 in favor and 2 opposed.**

**Forest Legacy project updates.** The Kealakekua Heritage Ranch conservation easement closed at the end of June 2011 and represents the 1<sup>st</sup> and largest conservation easement held by the State of Hawai‘i. The Kainalu Forest Watershed conservation easement is still in negotiation over the

conservation easement language. The Kukaiau Koa Forest conservation easement is ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation and is waiting for the final budget.

## FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

**Ahu Lani Sanctuary.** The Ahu Lani Sanctuary project is requesting a management plan revision to allow them to remove some large *E. robusta* trees on their property. They have submitted a quote for the removal of the trees to the Committee for consideration. The Committee would like to more than one quote, including a quote to just drop the trees (forestry versus an arborist quote). The Committee discussed the option of removing the fence then dropping the trees and reinstalling the fence.

**Motion to deny the Ahu Lani Sanctuary request. Moved by K. Friday, seconded by Hopkins.**

Discussion: The proposal is unclear on the funding amount requested in that the plan shows multiple phases for tree removal. If the Committee is going to consider the award then they would like to look at the whole project instead of separate requests. Additional quotes are needed. The overall cost to remove the trees are small compared to all of the work that Ahu Lani Sanctuary has done under their Hawaii Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) project, but the approval of their request would be presence setting for the Forest Stewardship Program (we have not provided funding for this type of activity before).

**Motion passes with 9 in favor and 3 opposed. Abstain: J. Friday.**

**Hui Ku Maoli Ola (HKMO).** HKMO has received an extension on their land lease from the landowner and is now requesting cost-share funding from the Forest Stewardship Program for implementation of their plan practices.

**Motion to request revision of their Forest Stewardship management plan to include any work that has been completed since the approval of their plan. Moved by von Welsheim, seconded by Brezinsky.**

Discussion: The management plan needs to include his vision for the area as well as a new 10 year period starting from this date (plan is a few years old now). The Committee had questions on the placement of the fence and the use of hunting pressure instead of fencing the entire area. Additionally, the Committee is interested to know if HKMO has completed any of the management activities have been completed to date; this information should be included in a revised management plan.

**Motion passes. Abstained: Constantinides, J. Friday.**

**Dalton.** Staff is recommending additional revisions to the Dalton management plan and has already provided comments to the landowner and consultant. The Committee provided additional comments on the management plan, including clarification of the project short term and long term goals and editorial changes.

**Motion to submit comments to the landowner for consideration of inclusion into their Forest Stewardship management plan. Moved by von Welsheim, seconded by K. Friday. Motion passes. Abstain: J. Friday.**

**Forest Stewardship Project Proposal Form.** The project proposal form was reviewed and will be included in an update of the Forest Stewardship Program Handbook. Staff will work with the previously identified Subcommittee to update the Forest Stewardship allowed cost-share rates. Subcommittee members include M. Constantinides, J. Friday, and K. Dunbar.

**Formal meeting closed at 1:40pm.**

**Field trip 1:45 to 3:30** to Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC) in Maunawili on Oahu. The Committee visited HARC's koa research trials utilizing improved genetic stock. Presentation was given by Tyler Jones.