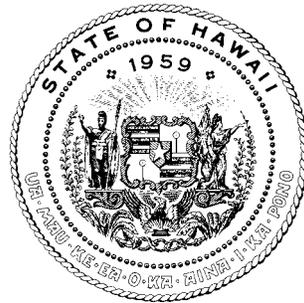


ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2004

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES



Prepared by

THE STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE

In response to Act 085, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003

Honolulu, Hawaii
February 2004

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

PURPOSE

This annual report complies with Act 085, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2003, and covers the actions of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council. Act 085, SLH 2003, established the Hawaii Invasive Species Council for the purpose of establishing the Council, providing statutory authority to the Council to continue its special purpose to foster and organize coordinated approaches among various executive departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives for the prevention and control of invasive species; and to affirm the objective of the State to rid Hawaii of invasive species.

BACKGROUND

Hawaii is in the midst of a growing invasive species crisis affecting the Islands' endangered plants and animals, overall environmental and human health, and the viability of its tourism and agriculture-based economy. Invasive pests already cost the State millions of dollars of crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction of native forests and the spread of disease.

Formal efforts to create a comprehensive invasive species program began with the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS), formed in 1995, consisting of senior staff in numerous Federal, State, County, and private entities actively involved in invasive species prevention, control, research, and public outreach programs. Yet, leadership and coordination at the highest levels of government was missing.

The 2003 State Legislature authorized the creation of the Council and stated "the silent invasion of Hawaii by alien invasive species is the single greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people and visitors." Hawaii is one of the four states in the Nation that has recognized the need for coordination among all state agencies, at a cabinet level, that have responsibility to control invasive species on the ground, as well as regulate or promote the pathways in which invasive species can gain access into the State.

The creation of the Council (whose members are the Directors of the Departments of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR,) Agriculture (DOA,) Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT,) Health (DOH,) Transportation (DOT) and University of Hawaii (UH,) and other Department Directors (Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL,) Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) and Defense (DOD)) now provide the institutional framework for leadership and coordination for a statewide invasive species prevention and control program.

ACTIONS FOR 2003

Because of the recent passage of the Act 85, SLH 2003, this annual report covers the activities of the Council for only a six-month period and during the initial phase of the formation of the Council. After this period, there has been considerable effort spent in developing a four-year strategic plan and accompanying budget initiative that has become part of Administration FY 05 supplemental budget request. Those documents are available upon request.

Under the co-leadership of DLNR Chairperson Peter Young and DOA Chairperson Sandra Kunimoto, the Council has expanded the participation to include other department directors (DHHL, DCCA, DOD), over and above those stated in the Act. There is a commitment from each state cabinet level member to actively participate in the Hawaii Invasive Species Council. In addition, commitments have been received from each County Mayor, as well as federal partners, to have active representation on the Council.

Signing ceremony

May 23, 2003

Governor Linda Lingle signed Senate Bill (S.B.) 1505 into law as Act 85, SLH 2003, as part of a mahalo reception for the Lake Wilson Salvinia cleanup partners at Washington Place.

Introductory Briefing

July 23, 2003

Invited Individuals Present:

Peter Young, Co-Chair, DLNR
Sandra Lee Kunimoto, Co-Chair, DOA
Bill Spitz, County of Kauai
Davis Yogi, Hawaii DOT
Theodore E. Liu – DBEDT
Dr. Chiyome Fukino, DOH
Jan Fretil, Department of the Attorney General
Jan Yagi Buen, County of Maui
Laurence Reifurth, DCCA
William Kenoi, County of Hawaii

Because the Governor had not yet officially appointed the members of the Council, an informal briefing was held at the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's Plant Quarantine facility. This briefing introduced the Hawaii Invasive Species Council enabling legislation Act 085, SLH 2003, and the direction that the official Council should meet twice annually.

The work CGAPS has put out over the preceding nine years to increase Hawaii's effectiveness at preventing, detecting and responding to invasive species was introduced

by CGAPS Chairperson Carol Russell, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Christy Martin, CGAPS Public Outreach Officer, defined the terms “invasive” and “native” using examples from current pests (*Salvinia molesta*, alien algae, Miconia, Coqui frogs, Red Imported Fire Ants, and Brown Tree Snakes) and species that are unique to Hawaii.

Several members of the public provided comments. Dianne Drigot of Kaneohe Marine Corps Base discussed the importance of past collaborative invasive species projects such as the Emergency Environmental Workforce in providing needed support to ongoing efforts. Rob Parsons, Environmental Coordinator, County of Maui discussed the need for multi-agency collaborations such as the Coqui Frog Working Group on the Big Island. A letter from Lloyd Loope of the U.S. Geological Survey on Maui pointed out that Federal Aviation Administration funds for Kahului Airport were not being spent on prevention as directed by the Alien Specie Action Plan and could be better used to protect Hawaii.

The next meeting was set for October 29, 2003 at DLNR, (Kalanimoku Building).

First official Council meeting

October 29, 2003

Voting Members Present:

Peter Young, Co-Chair, DLNR
Sandra Lee Kunimoto, Co-Chair, DOA
Sam Callejo for Evan Dobelle, University of Hawaii (UH)
Larry Lau for Dr. Chiyome Fukino, DOH

Participating Members Present:

Major General Robert Lee, DOD
Mark Recktenwald, DCCA
Jan Yagi Buen, County of Maui
Bill Spitz, County of Kauai

Others Present:

Mike E. Pitzler, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Wildlife Services
Mark Ono, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Wildlife Services
Jeff Burgett, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Earl Campbell, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Andi Shluker, The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii (TNC)
Mark Fox, TNC
Suzanne Case, TNC
Christy Martin, CGAPS

Carol Russell, U.S. Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection
Service – Plant Pest Quarantine, CGAPS
Lyle Wong, DOA
Larry Nakahara, DOA
Nilton Matayoshi, DOA
Penny Lewin, Hawaii Army National Guard
Teya Penniman, Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC)
Randy Bartlett, MISC
Michael Buck, Division of Forestry & Wildlife, DLNR
Mindy Wilkinson, Division of Forestry & Wildlife, DLNR
Boone Kaufmann, U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service, Institute of Pacific
Islands Forestry (IPIF)
Linda Chow, Deputy Attorney General, Department of the Attorney General

A record of the informal briefing of July 23, 2003 was circulated along with a letter of appointment by the Governor, which happens to be dated after the last gathering. Also, copies of a letter from Cathy Gogell (dated 8/15/03) and Chairperson Young's response letter (dated 9/4/03) were circulated. Chairperson Young stated that this is the "official" first meeting of the Council.

Approval of Council Working Groups

Mike Buck (Administrator of DLNR – Division of Forestry and Wildlife) and Lyle Wong (DOA – Plant Industry Division) briefed the Council on the working group structure. The five working groups are: Interagency Working Group, Resources Working Group, Working Group on Established Pests (*Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Control*), Working Group on Pests Not Present in Hawaii (*Prevention*), and the Public Outreach Working Group.

This work is already presently supported by CGAPS member agencies. Specific tasks were gleaned from existing work, plans, and legislation that already exists. Mike Buck recommended to the Council to adopt the Working Groups, along with the lead staff for the specific Working Groups. He emphasized that when each group meets, they can feel free to change, edit and re-prioritize.

Lyle Wong said that he and Mike Buck have spent a lot of time on this, and DOA feels comfortable with these Working Groups, as a reasonable way to proceed. He encouraged the Council to approve the Working Groups.

MOTION: Larry Lau made a motion to adopt the proposed working group structure, with the addition of the Counties as members in each working group, and with the addition of UH as a member of the established Working Group on Established Pests. Sam Callejo seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

The Working Groups are included in this report as Attachment 1.

Red Imported Fire Ant Briefing

Ms. Ellen Van Gelder, Invasive Species Specialist with the U.S. Geological Survey presented information on the red imported fire ant. What is needed to implement the Hawaii prevention plan is: (1) a full-time coordinator, (2) risk assessment, (3) Hawaii DOA authority to inspect non-agricultural items, and (4) develop and implement an early detection system. The cost to implement this plan would be about \$1.2 million.

Approval of a process for Council input to Federal invasive species legislation

Mike Buck explained to the Council that this was a process in which the Council could respond to federal legislation. He said we already have existing expertise with CGAPS' input, two CGAPS members belonging to the National Invasive Species Committee, and also the Hawaii Congressional delegation. Senators Akaka and Inouye and Representative Case have introduced bills in support of federal invasive species legislation, benefiting the State of Hawaii.

Mike Buck said this process would authorize the Co-Chairs to provide written testimony on behalf of the Council, regarding relevant pro-active (new) legislation and also reactive (upcoming) legislation. It will enable them to respond to legislation in a timely manner. The 6 federal legislation policies listed, are to give overall guidance and direction to the Council.

MOTION: Lawrence Lau moved to adopt this process for the Council to provide input to Federal invasive species legislation and policies. Sam Callejo seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Chairperson Young said he received clarification today from the Attorney General (Linda Chow). She stated that members (of the Council) are those listed in the legislation. Peter Young thought it was important to expand and include the State, federal, and county levels to get participation. He encouraged everyone to participate not only in federal legislation, but on other council matters.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION: Lawrence Lau moved to amend his motion to include the deletion of the word "relevant" Council members, on page 2, last par., first line, of the Legislative Review Action Item. Sam Callejo seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of an initial list of invasive species based on existing Departmental rules

Michael Buck said last year, S. B. 1505 and S. B. 552 had established provisions for government agencies to enter a private landowner's property for invasive species control, with limited liability to the landowner. To utilize these provisions, the Council needs to identify what species are invasive. They have taken the existing lists (Injurious Wildlife - DLNR) and (Prohibited Animals & Noxious Weeds – DOA) and will use them to start off with. Mike Buck said the purpose today is to adopt the three proposed existing lists, and then assign the Working Group on Established Pests to take the lead responsibility.

MOTION: Lawrence Lau made a motion that the Council adopt the staff recommendation as modified. That the Council: (1) Adopt the three proposed existing lists of invasive species (attached as Attachments A, B, & C); Attachment B to be the 5 pages beginning with the term, black wattle on the list, dated June 18th, 1992, as the initial list of invasive species recognized by the Council, for the limited purpose of the Council Departments and cooperating partners to gain access to property and reduce private property liability for invasive species prevention and control. (2) Assign the Working Group on Established Pests to take the lead responsibility in developing a mechanism for updating the list of invasive species, officially recognized by the Council in a timely manner. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan

TNC had worked on a Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that was circulated to all the members. This is the only Tropical Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan in the Country.

Public testimony

Suzanne Case, Director of TNC, thanked the Council for their efforts, and said it was a great discussion. She said the fire ant presentation is a classic example of how every agency has tremendous issues on invasive species and can work together.

Teya Penniman of the MISC told the Council that their role as agency directors is absolutely vital to the protection of Hawaii's resources, and tourism-based economy. She said the Council is not alone in this work, as CGAPS has been working on these issues for over eight years. CGAPS has already been working to identify significant gaps in invasive species legislation. Speaking on behalf of CGAPS, Teya applauded the Council, and said she is looking forward to working cooperatively with them on these issues

Hawaii Invasive Species Council Working Groups

Five Hawaii Invasive Species Council working groups have been established:

- Interagency Working Group (Lead HISC Member: DOT)
- Working Group on Pests Not Present in Hawaii (Lead HISC Member: DOA)
- Working Group on Established Pests (Lead HISC Member: DLNR)
- Resources Working Group (Lead HISC Member: DBEDT)
- Public Outreach Working Group (Lead HISC Member: DOH)

Council Interagency Working Group

(Lead HISC Member: DOT)

(Participating HISC members: DLNR, DOA, DBEDT, DOH, DHHL, DOD, UH, DCCA)

Goals: (1) Assure coordination in invasive species management and control programs of State, Federal and private sector agencies; and (2) Determine how agencies can work together to share resources and responsibilities best to address specific pest control problems.

Council Working Group on Pests Not Present in Hawaii - (Prevention)

(Lead HISC Member: DOA)

(Participating HISC members: DLNR, DOT, DOH, UH, DCCA, DOD)

Goals: (1) Review risks of pest entry into the State and to assist in the setting of priorities to prevent entry of high-risk pests; and (2) Determine how best to prevent the entry of new pests with shared resources and shared responsibilities of all agencies.

Council Working Group on Established Pests

(Early Detection, Rapid Response & Control)

(Lead HISC Member: DLNR)

(Participating HISC members: DOA, DOT, DOH, DHHL, DOD)

Goals: (1) Review control programs and help set priorities for the control of pests already present in the State; (2) Determine how best to control established pests with shared resources and shared responsibilities of all agencies.

Council Resources Working Group

(Lead HISC Member: DBEDT)

(Participating HISC members: DLNR, DOA, DOT, DOH, UH)

Goals: (1) Seek public and private sector funding for invasive species management and control programs and to assist line agencies in resources needs to support priority programs; and (2) Share knowledge and expertise to determine if all available public and private sector funding are being tapped to support pest control programs and to seek untapped funds and resources.

Council Working Group on Public Outreach

(Lead HISC Member: DOH)

(Participating HISC members: DLNR, DOT, DOA, UH, DCCA, DHHL)

Goals: (1) Develop and implement a coordinated invasive species media plan for Council member agencies and others; and (2) Determine how all agencies can best support an invasive species media plan with shared resources and responsibilities.