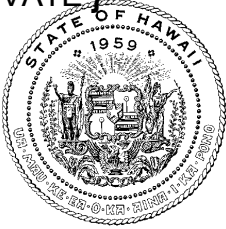


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Hawaii Invasive Species Council – Resources Working Group

First Meeting

Friday, July 16, 2004

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

State Office Tower, 235 S. Beretania St., Room 501

Honolulu, HI 96813

MEETING MINUTES

- I. Call to Order at 11:10 a.m. by Maurice Kaya, acting Resources Working Group (RWG) chair on behalf of Theodore E. Liu, DBEDT Director. He made brief opening remarks and asked Liz Corbin to handle the agenda.
- II. Introductions: Those in attendance introduced themselves at the beginning or as they arrived. A list of attendees with contact information is attached.
- III. Organization and Operation Guidelines for Resources Working Group
 - a. Working Group membership will be open to anyone interested in participating.
 - b. Operating procedures will be informal. The role of the RWG is advisory to the HISC, so issues will be discussed and recommendations determined by consensus or, if voting is necessary, by simple majority of those present.
 - c. Concern was expressed about participation by Neighbor Island members. Future meetings will include teleconference capability.
- IV. Review of Resources Working Group Tasks as proposed in the “Draft State of Hawaii Strategic Plan for Invasive Species Prevention, Control, Research and Public Outreach” (see attached)
 - a. Mindy Wilkinson provided background on the HISC. It met briefly in 2003, forming the Working Groups and adopting existing lists of invasive species. Resources for the HISC are based on the Governor’s request to the 2004 Legislature for \$5 million. \$4 million for a pilot program was appropriated and the Governor will approve \$3 million for allotment. \$2 million will come from the Natural Areas Reserve (NAR) fund at DLNR, with the remaining \$1 million from the General Fund. The NAR special fund receives a portion of the conveyance tax to support conservation projects on specific watersheds. It received more than usual last year so the diversion of funds to the HISC does not have as great an impact as it might have had; however, it isn’t expected that this

elevated revenue stream will continue.

Invasive species programs are funded from a variety of sources:

- i. Prevention activities are funded primarily by Hawaii Department of Agriculture (DOA) with some funds from the Hawaii Department of Transportation (DOT). There are some federal funds for Kahului.
- ii. Response & Control projects are funded through partnerships involving the Island Invasive Species Committees (ISCs). About one-third of the funds are from the federal government (Fish & Wildlife Service, Forest Service and USDA), one-third from State funds and one-third from non-profit organizations.
- iii. Research & Technology, primarily biocontrol, projects are funded by the US Geological Service, DOA, Forest Service and the Hawaii Coral Reef Initiative.
- iv. Outreach activities are coordinated by staff funded by the State and supervised by The Nature Conservancy.

For the new appropriation, State funds need to be matched 1:1 from non-State sources, either cash or in-kind and they should be “new” funds. Wilkinson is working on a new grant from the Consumer Credit Corporation and will ask the Attorney General’s office to make the determination on the definition of “new” funds.

Mark Fox commented that the University of Hawaii (UH) and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH) have been critical to success in seeking and managing external funds for invasive species projects. Many of the County projects involving field conservation would not be possible without RCUH because of their ability to address issues related to safety and liability. There is a need to insure that UH and RCUH see continued benefit in this role.

- b. Discussion of the RWG tasks was begun but deferred until background was provided on earlier efforts to compile data related to invasive species project funding and needs (V.a.)

V. Discussion of Implementation Strategy

- a. Review of previous efforts
 - i. Alenka Remec of The Nature Conservancy outlined the effort undertaken by the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) in 2001. They developed an Additional Needs Matrix that assessed personnel and funding needs by species and activity. The annual requirements projected were 515 new FTE’s at \$35.5 million and \$17.1 million in project funds for a total of \$52.6 million. Because of the events of 9/11/01, CGAPS decided to focus on non-funded projects.

Earl Campbell noted that the effort had yielded good results but that the numbers were probably conservative. He pointed out that we need a good definition of what will be considered an invasive species. The CGAPS matrix includes conservation, health and agriculture issues.

- ii. Wilkinson described the process that she used to gather data included in the “Interim Strategic Plan for Invasive Species Prevention, Control, Research and Public Outreach.” This effort was confined to the items in the Strategic Plan and did not include the Department of Health (DOH) and was not species specific. The updated total, including projected FY 05 funds of \$5 million was \$17.9 million.

Discussion involved whether it is the responsibility of the RWG to develop definitions for what will be included. Wilkinson provided the national definition which is broad and short and reiterated that the HISC had adopted the DOA list of organisms that are prohibited from being imported into the State, the State Noxious Weeds list and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Injurious Wildlife List. These do not include all species that are being worked on. The Established Pests Working Group will probably develop the definition of what will be included under the HISC.

The discussion returned to what specific tasks the RWG will undertake. Liz Corbin asked Wilkinson if she is doing an annual update and how important it would be to keep the data updated. Wilkinson said that her data are current through FY 04 and she is not currently planning to do the update, but could. It took about 3-1/2 months to do the first one, but should be easier the second time. Campbell said that it is critical to keep the data updated for purposes of identifying matching funds for federal grants. Remec said that it would help identify gaps and Kaya offered that it would help to prioritize needs.

The RWG decided to recommend to the HISC that all agencies should be directed to cooperate with DLNR in the annual update and that the effort should be institutionalized.

Campbell recommended that tight definitions or guidelines should be developed for the update to avoid inflation of in-kind match.

Kaya asked about the source of Federal funds – line items or plus up? Fox replied that some is plus up and they work with the Congressional delegation to secure funds. He does not think that we need to invite them to be part of the RWG, but do need to keep them informed of new ideas. He offered that we should be looking at new sources of funds and that so far the emphasis has been on environmental issues, but health concerns may be greater and more immediate, e.g. fire ants and biting sandflies. We should look for new federal and private funds related to human health and economic impacts.

Campbell noted that it isn't just looking for new sources of funds, but also people to handle writing proposals and managing contracts. Remec noted that Kim Langley has recently joined CGAPS to work in that area. Fox suggested that the RWG might want to eventually consider a recommendation to create staff to write and pursue grants.

Campbell suggested that the HISC Working Groups could form a coalition for going after grants. Kaya offered that part of what the RWG could undertake is to broaden the coalition and bring in new interest groups – in this way part of what the RWG does would impact the Outreach Working Group.

Fox asked if the RWG should undertake making recommendations on approaching the Legislature for continuation of the General Funds appropriated for FY 05, or perhaps creating a special fund from fees or taxes, and make recommendations for the counties and their funding. Kaya said it would be helpful for RWG to get insights from the relevant State and county agencies on their needs and outlook on user feeds and that it should be more that the HISC provides broad support but that each agency decides its own priorities.

Robert Boesch noted that there is also a shortage of qualified personnel even if there is funding.

It was decided that it is not the responsibility of the RWG to determine funding priorities, but that we should get that information from the other working groups and then work on developing new resources to meet the gaps that have been identified.

- b. Development of preliminary task list
 - i. Recommend to the HISC that the annual update of funding data be institutionalized.
 - ii. Ask the other Working Groups to identify the gaps in funding for their priority needs by August 16. Wilkinson will provide WG contact information to Corbin.
 - iii. Review those lists and look for sources of new funding to meet the needs.
 - iv. Work with Outreach Working Group to build a broader coalition of interest groups, e.g. from the tourism industry and the business community.
 - v. Prepare report to the HISC for inclusion in report to the 2005 Legislature.
- c. Development of preliminary timeline
 - i. Gather data from other working groups by mid-August.
 - ii. Review data at August 23rd meeting and discuss how to proceed to identify new funding.
 - iii. Work on identifying funding sources and building coalition of interest groups through October.
 - iv. Complete report to HISC on RWG activities and recommendations in November.

- VI. Public Comment Period: Everyone participated in the meeting.
- VII. Announcements: Several people announced upcoming meetings of other Working Groups and CGAPS. They are to get details to Corbin for forwarding to RWG.
- VIII. Review of Decisions and Action Items from Meeting
 - a. A memo will be sent from RWG Chair Liu to HISC co-chairs recommending that the annual update of funding be institutionalized and all agencies directed to cooperate.
 - b. A memo will be sent from RWG Chair Liu to other Working Groups asking for their funding gap priorities by August 16, 2004. Wilkinson will send Corbin contact information for WG chairs.
 - c. A memo will be sent from RWG Chair Liu to the Outreach Working Group offering to coordinate efforts to broaden the coalition of supporters.
- IX. Scheduling of Subsequent Meetings: Meetings will be held monthly. A particular day has not been decided on yet. The next meeting will be on August 23, 2004 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Room 501 of the State Office Tower, 235 S. Beretania Street. Teleconference arrangements will be made and sent to the RWG.
- X. Adjournment at 11:05 a.m.