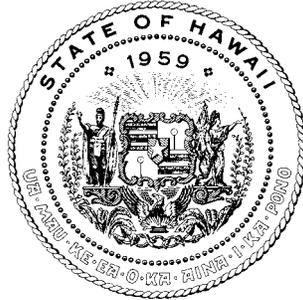


ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2005

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 85, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003

Honolulu Hawaii
December 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.

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTIONS

Over the past year the Hawaii Invasive Species Council has met three times to review and approve actions related to fulfilling the tasks identified by Act 85, SLH 2003, and now detailed in the Interim State of Hawaii Strategic Plan for Invasive Species Prevention, Control, Research and Public Outreach. Following this summary and background section, the minutes from all meetings held are included, which detail the actions and discussion by the Council.

Key actions by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council:

- Approval of an Invasive Species Strategic Plan that presents goals and measures of effectiveness, based on the Hawaii Invasive Species Council tasks identified in Act 85, SLH 2003.
- Approval of a spending plan that addressed the four interrelated plan components: prevention, response and control, research and technology, and public outreach. These plan components are developed by lead agencies and corresponding working groups, that have met to implement the actions identified in the Invasive Species Strategic Plan.
- Addition of the West Nile Virus to the list of priority species.
- Initiation of key projects in four plan areas.

Key Projects Implemented:

Prevention

Goal: Identify possible vectors and pathways of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species into and throughout Hawaii.

Funds were transferred to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to conduct a risk analysis to determine the risk of entry of invasive species through ports of entry across the State, and determine the effectiveness of current prevention efforts. HDOA intends to hire 13 research aid positions through RCUH to collect and analyze the data. The aids will work under the supervision of HDOA - Plant Quarantine Inspectors at ports of entry. Data on commodities and pests entering the State will be collected during periodic intense blitz inspections of 100% of all commodities, during periodic targeted inspections of high-risk commodities, and during regular day-to-day inspections. The data will be analyzed concurrently with the inspections, so that monthly reports can be generated.

Goal: Assess and continue existing monitoring programs and identify efforts that could assist in more effective detection of aquatic invasive species.

Funds were provided to the Department of Land and Natural Resources – Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), to conduct three integrated projects to increase communication between DAR, other state agencies, and the shipping industry, to minimize aquatic invasive species introductions. The projects are: establish a communication link between DAR, the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, and Department of Transportation – Harbors Division, participate in National Ballast Water Information Clearinghouse pilot project, and conduct a targeted outreach campaign

Response and Control

Goal: Increase the number of crews with supervision and appropriate infrastructure for both terrestrial and aquatic invasive species detection and control.

A new marine response team has been created, and an additional 20 staff added to the Island Invasive Species committees, to increase control efforts on priority invasive species.

Goal: Immediately target high priority invasive species that are candidates for eradication in all or part of their range such as coqui on Oahu and Kauai:

Invasive Species Committees have committed to addressing priority pests, including coqui, miconia, little fire ant, mongoose (on Kauai), and new species of agricultural pests and species that threaten agriculture, human health, the environment and our economy.

Research and Applied Technology

The Department issued the first of three rounds of Requests for Proposals (RFP) to fund research and applied technology projects. Projects funded include better biocontrol for miconia, a risk analysis of species likely to be introduced, and an improved data management system, that will allow agencies to share reports of new invasive species and track follow-up action. There was a total of \$1.4 million dollars requested during the first round, and it is clear that additional Federal and private funds could be focused on invasive species issues through this program.

Public Outreach

Goal: Develop a web-based mapping and communication system for partnership programs, including the Invasive Species Committees, that will provide information on the distribution, on-going work, and status of key invasive species such as Miconia and pampas grass.

All counties' Invasive Species Committees have been provided hardware and the database to provide information for a statewide database on invasive species. The program provides web-based maps of the location (property information is protected) of

key invasive species to anyone interested in finding out more about a targeted species, or what might be encountered in their area.

Goal: Develop a series of public service announcements in cooperation with a variety of media outlets, to encourage travelers and residents to not introduce or transport invasive species into and between islands.

The Department processed a RFP and awarded funding to produce three public service announcements, to begin filming in spring 2005.

ACTIONS FOR 2004

Hawaii Invasive Species Council meeting

March 1, 2004

Voting Members Present:

Peter Young, Co-Chairperson, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)
Sandra Lee Kunimoto, Co-Chairperson, Department of Agriculture (DOA)
Sam Callejo for Evan Dobbelle, University of Hawaii (UH)
Dr. Chiyome Fukino, Department of Health (DOH)
Ted Liu, Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT)
Rodney Haraga, Department of Transportation (DOT)

Participating Members Present:

Major General Robert Lee, Department of Defense (DOD)
Mark Recktenwald, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA)
Bill Kenoi, County of Hawaii
Rob Parsons, County of Maui

Others Present:

Linda Chow, Deputy Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
Mike Pitzler, USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services
Mark Ono, USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services
Earl Campbell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
Jeff Burgett, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
Mark Fox, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
Alenka Remec, The Nature Conservancy
Christy Martin, Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS)
Jamie Runnells, Big Island Association of Nurserymen (BIAN)/Plant It Hawaii
S. Okihara, Senator Rosalyn Baker's Office
Cathy Goeggel, Animal Rights Hawaii
Erin Ching, student
Ron Swafford, Department of Defense
Rebecca Alakai, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)

Bill Brennan, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
Liz Corbin, DBEDT
Maurice Kaya, DBEDT
Larry Lau, DOH
Greg Olmsted, DOH, Vector Control Branch
Barry Brennan, UH-College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR)
Arnold Hara, UH-CTAHR
Claudia Hamblin-Katnik, UH-HCA
Lyle Wong, DOA
Neil Reimer, DOA
Carol Okada, DOA
Larry Nakahara, DOA
Nilton Matayoshi, DOA
Kenneth Teramoto, DOA
Kyle Onuma, DOA
Mike Buck, DLNR
Paul Conry, DLNR
Mindy Wilkinson, DLNR
Rob Hauff, DLNR
Tony Montgomery, DLNR

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairperson Peter Young at 3:42pm.

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA (Addition of Item)

Peter Young requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council meeting of October 29, 2003.

MOTION: Ted Liu made a motion to add to the agenda the approval of the minutes of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council held on October 29, 2003. Larry Lau seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously carried.

Discussion:

Sam Callejo proposed an amendment to the minutes on page 3 under Discussion, to read “.... Would this be by rule-making or required statutory authority?”

MOTION: There being no other discussion, Ted Liu made a motion to approve the minutes with the amendment. Sam Callejo seconded and the motion was unanimously carried.

West Nile Virus Briefing:

Jeff Burgett of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Larry Lau of the Department of Health briefed the Council on the West Nile Virus – its mode of transmission primarily from mosquitoes and birds; its flu-like symptoms with no cure and potential impact on Hawaii; early detection and rapid response programs; the need for teamwork and speed as once established West Nile Virus cannot be eliminated.

Larry Lau asked that the HISC schedule another meeting to take action on the recommended plan for prevention of West Nile Virus.

Ted Liu asked if this was the first outbreak of this type of disease in the history of the state.

Larry Lau stated that he doubted that. Dengue fever had a very bad outbreak in the 1940's; an outbreak a few years ago was not as bad as the earlier outbreak.

Peter Young asked if there were any objections to having another meeting before the Council for a single item to address the West Nile Virus recommendations. A week would be required to schedule this meeting.

There were no objections.

Peter Young said the arrangements will be made and the meeting will be a quick one.

Approval of Invasive Species Strategic Plan

Mindy Wilkinson of the Department of Land & Natural Resources explained the “Strategic Plan for Invasive Species – Prevention, Control, Research and Public Outreach” and the budget associated with this plan.

Mindy explained that the 2003 State Legislature authorized the creation of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC). One of the tasks for the HISC is to create and implement a plan that includes the prevention, early detection, rapid response, control and education with respect to invasive species.

Five HISC working groups were established: (1) Interagency Working Group (Lead HISC Member: DOT); (2) Working Group on Pests Not Present in Hawaii (Lead HISC Member: DOA); (3) Working Group on Established Pests (Lead HISC Member: DLNR); (4) Resources Working Group (Lead HISC Member: DBEDT); and (5) Public Outreach Working Group (Lead HISC Member: DOH).

These working groups were approved by HISC at the October 29, 2003 meeting. These five working groups would help to outline the framework for a statewide invasive species prevention, response and control, research, and public outreach program.

There are four parts to the strategic plan: (1) Prevention; (2) Response and Control; (3) Research and Applied Technology; and (4) Public Outreach. Each part is divided into objectives, time frames, and measures of effectiveness.

HISC is supportive of efforts to advise, consult, and coordinate invasive species related efforts between state, federal and county agencies and non-profit organizations, such as The Nature Conservancy.

Approval of Invasive Species Budget Request

Mindy continued with an overview of the budget – Prevention will take up 35% of total funding; Response and Control 30%; Research and Applied Technology 30%; and Public Outreach 5%. The budget consists of state dollars matched 1:1 by non-state dollars or equivalent in-kind services.

This budget request is under the DLNR, but will include and involve programs and projects through nine different departments, the four counties, and federal and private partners. This funding will not replace any of the current funding but will complement and expand existing programs.

Sandra Lee Kunimoto reported that none of the five working groups have met yet. The working groups are to develop their own objectives, time frame, and measures of effectiveness. She added that a caveat should be added that since the working groups have not met it should be noted that any objectives that are discussed are offered only as examples.

Rodney Haraga made a correction on page 24. Under Federal Aviation Administration, the figure should be \$1,000,000 and the money can only be for Kahului Airport.

Mindy Wilkinson added that the \$1,000,000 will be spent in state fiscal year 05.

Sam Callejo suggested that on page 12 under Public Outreach, that the development of public service announcements with a variety of media outlets should encourage travelers and residents not to introduce or transport invasive species into and between the islands. A link should be created between the HVCB website. Also, looking at the numbers, it does not add up – sometimes the numbers are rounded off and sometimes left at the dollar amount.

Larry Lau commented that it looks like a competent piece. The counties should be included as working group members. The University of Hawaii is specifically a member of the Working Group on Established Pests. Time frames should be made much shorter, especially for West Nile Virus. Inspection capabilities are listed at two years – this should be two months. Hawaii needs to be ready by mid-May.

Peter Young then asked if there are any other comments and we noted that the Council had received some favorable written comments.

Alenka Remic of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) stated that TNC strongly supports the strategic plan and budget. But there was no mention of the Invasive Species Committee (ISC) on each island. Each ISC has a voluntary board with a chairperson and paid staff and plays a vital role in provided the infrastructure for the State Environmental Workforce.

Peter Young said that it was never the intent to leave out ISC, but that the committees were always considered an integral part of the process.

Peter Young also assured the members that the plan would be a living document and will change as participants change. This plan will not be adopted just to say that HISC has a great strategic plan.

Lyle Wong commented that the Department of Agriculture plays an important role in a few areas, prevention and rapid response. As the working groups start their meetings, they should not be limited to the percentage breakdown as identified in the budget.

MOTION: Sandra made a motion to adopt the strategic plan as an interim plan noting that the specific programs will be refined by the working groups. Chiyome seconded.

Discussion on Strategic Plan

Peter Young brought up the question as to how to amend the strategic plan when priorities change. Do we bring it up before the full Council for adoption or is there incidental amendments to the plan?

Sandra Lee Kunimoto felt that this plan should not be so specific that every change needs to be brought up to the Council. This plan should only be a basic guideline and don't think that every single operational change needs to come before the Council.

Bill Kenoi asked if there was any idea how often the working groups will meet and how often they will report back to the Council

Peter Young said there is no formal time frames for the working groups. We are hopeful that as soon as the legislature is over, there will be more time for the groups to meet and get started.

Vote taken. Motion unanimously carried.

Discussion on Budget

Mark Fox said that the Senate Ways & Means Committee asked if the Council approved the strategic plan and if the budget was aligned with the strategic plan.

Sandra Lee Kunimoto said that it would be very important that the Senate Ways & Means Committee to know that it is an interim strategic plan and all the caveats just

heard here. This may all change after the working groups incorporate their findings in the percentages or tasks.

MOTION: Sam Callejo moved to approve the budget as amended by DOT on Table 1 with all subsequent pages reflecting the change on Table 1. Sandra Lee Kunimoto seconded the motion.

Vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Larry Lau requested to return to West Nile Virus and requested for the next meeting that include a review of the tasks, as well as the approval of the plan for the prevention of West Nile Virus, be on the agenda.

Peter Young asked if there are any other items that should be addressed in the next meeting or should the next meeting be limited to just those two issues.

Mark Fox brought up a good point that the legislature wanted information from the Council. Is there any other agency or organization that is waiting for us for any type of information? If not, there shouldn't be anything else. We need to get the working groups working on their issues.

Sandra Lee Kunimoto questioned the authority to fumigate containers for mosquito control to prevent entry of the West Nile Virus.

Larry Lau said DOH needs help exploring this possibility, probably federal rules

Lyle Wong said that there would be problems spraying the inside of airplane cabins. DOA would need to get more information and discuss with staff on this.

Suzanne Case of TNC suggested that another topic would be the Kahului Pest Risk Assessment.

Hawaii Invasive Species Council meeting

March 31, 2004

Voting Members Present:

Peter Young, Co-Chair, DLNR
Sandra Lee Kunimoto, Co-Chair, HDOA
Larry Lau (for Dr. Chiyome Fukino), DOH

Participating Members Present:

Wenhao Sun (for Major General Robert Lee), Dept. of Defense
Bill Brennan (for Mark Recktenwald), DCCA

Others Present:

Al Kang, State Civil Defense
Lyle Wong, Dept. of Agriculture
Christy Martin, Coordinating Groups on Alien Species (CGAPS)
Carol Russell, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, CGAPS
Jeff Burgett, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Services
Alenka Remec, The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii (TNC)
Bruce Casler, The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii (TNC)
Mindy Wilkinson, Division of Forestry & Wildlife, DLNR
Linda Chow, Deputy Atty. General, Attorney General's Office

CALL TO ORDER - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Co-Chairperson, Peter Young.

Co-Chair Peter Young reported on recent activity at the legislature. With regard to the House budget relating to invasive species, the House recommended \$4 million from general funds, and \$1 million in funds from DLNR'S Natural Area Reserve fund, to fund the Invasive Species initiative. On behalf of DLNR, we did not contest the \$1 million from the special funds. The Senate also recommended \$5 million funding, all from general funds. Peter Young said it is looking good for that funding.

Co-Chair Young apologized to the council for this special meeting, because of a mistake in the agenda that he had approved for the last meeting. At the last meeting they had a briefing only, on the West Nile virus, not a briefing and action item. Copies of the recommendation were provided to those present. Peter Young said this is coming through the Dept. of Health.

WEST NILE VIRUS – Addition to HISC List of Invasive Species

A motion was made that the Council add the West Nile virus to the HISC list of invasive species. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Larry Lau said the state Laboratories Branch of the Dept. of Health (DOH) has already starting testing of the dead birds. They (DOH) will need help with the pick up of dead birds, and transporting them to the Vector Control Branch of the Dept. of Health. So far the County of Hawaii has already volunteered to pick up dead birds. He mentioned that the City and County (of Honolulu) has some concerns with this, and they are trying to address this. Larry Lau said a presentation on this issue was made to the mayor.

Larry Lau said he has drafted a letter for the Director of DOH to follow-up with the counties on this. Co-Chair Young said we (DLNR) could also send a letter. Suggestion was made that we could re-draft it, and send it out from the HISC.

Voting Members Present:

Peter Young, Co-Chairperson, Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR)
Sandra Lee Kunimoto, Co-Chairperson, Department of Agriculture (DOA)
Sam Callejo for Interim President David McClain, University of Hawaii (UH)
Larry Lau for Dr. Chiyome Fukino, Department of Health (DOH)
Rich Manayan for Theodore Liu, Department of Business, Economic Development,
and Tourism (DBEDT)

Members Present

Bill Brennan for Mark Rectenwald, Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs (DCCA)
Rob Parsons, County of Maui

Others Present

Linda Chow, Deputy Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
Kim Langly, Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS)
Christy Martin, CGAPS
Jamie Runnells, Big Island Association of Nurserymen
Bruce Caslet, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
Cathy Goeggel, Animal Rights Hawaii
Jeff Burgett, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services
Arnold Hara, UH-CTAHR
Clyde Tamaru, UH-Sea Grant Program
Mike Pitzler, USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services (USDA-APHIS-WS)
Mark Ono, USDA-APHIS-WS
Chris Dacus, Department of Transportation (DOT)
Lynn Becones, DOT
Liz Corbin, DBEDT
Mindy Wilkinson, DLNR
Tony Montgomery, DLNR
Sheri Mann, DLNR
Rob Hauff, DLNR
Paul Conry, DLNR
Larry Nakahara, DOA
Nilton Matayoshi, DOA
Kenneth Teramoto, DOA
Neil Reimer, DOA
Darcy Oishi, DOA
Carol Okada, DOA
Keevin Minami, DOA
Jason Knable, Senate, State of Hawaii
Jennifer Chow, Senate, State of Hawaii

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairperson Peter Young at 1:10pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 1 AND MARCH 31

Peter Young said that the minutes of both meetings have been circulated. Then he asked for any discussion.

MOTION: Sam Callejo made a motion to accept the minutes of the meetings of March 1 and March 31. Larry Lau seconded the motion.

Vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON THE STATUS OF BROWN TREE SNAKE INTERDICTION EFFORTS ON GUAM

Mike Pitzler of USDA-APHIS-WS started by saying that Wildlife Services was established on Guam in October 1993. At that time, the Department of Interior, Insular Affairs, started with \$45,000 and Department of Defense put in \$1,000,000. Funds were used to hire canine handlers, and trapping and fence line searches at night. Today, Interior funds increased to \$475,000 while the DOD funds have remained the same at \$1,000,000. Because DOD funds have not increased since 1993, Wildlife Services has had to cut four positions on Guam in June 2003 and will cut an additional four positions in June 2005. Also, beginning in October 2004, Anderson AFB will be charging Wildlife Services \$84,000 annually for kennel space, electrical fees, etc. Also, offices at Anderson AFB have been moved off base, which means slower response time for inspection of aircraft. These aircraft arrive at various times, sometimes with little or no warning.

Mike Pitzler continued by saying Interior bailed out Wildlife Services with an additional \$300,000 in 2004. Wildlife Services actually overspent \$500,000. It takes six to seven months to properly train a canine handler. 6,000 snakes are caught per year. Spot light searches will no longer be conducted. Canine handlers can conduct only one inspection per day. Household goods and military training cargo will no longer be inspected.

Mike Pitzler said he has been trying to secure more funding, especially from DOD. Senator Dan Inouye's office is pushing for \$1.8 million to re-establish four positions lost and to secure the remaining eight positions for the current year. Will need \$2.4 million in 2006. Military will increase activities on Guam by 30%. Prior to 2002, 100% of DOD cargo and 85% of commercial cargo were inspected.

Peter Young asked if more letters need to be written.

Mike Pitzler answered that CGAPS have written letters to Senators Inouye and Akaka and Congressmen Abercrombie and Case. Also, Wildlife Services has kept in touch with

Sen. Inouye through Chauncey Ching. TNC sent letters to Secretary Rumsfeld (DOD) and Secretary Veneman (USDA). More letters will help the cause.

Peter Young asked how much more funding is needed.

Mike Pitzler said at least \$1.8 million on the DOD side. DOI has kept up with their allocations. \$1 million temporary funding comes in February 2005.

Sandra Lee Kunimoto commented that it is extremely vital to keep up this program.

Peter Young thanks Mike Pitzler for the briefing.

UPDATES AND SUMMARY OF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

All of the working groups established by the July 23, 2003 Hawaii Invasive Species Council meeting have met with the exception of the Interagency Working Group. Minutes and agendas of the meetings of all of the working groups are available on the Division of Forestry and Wildlife website on the Hawaii Invasive Species Council page. Working Group recommendations for the distribution of the HISC 2004-2005 budget are noted in the report on the HISC budget. A summary of meetings held is presented below:

| Interagency Working Group Lead: Hawaii Department of Transportation | Working Group on Pests not Present in Hawaii (Prevention) Lead: Hawaii Department of Agriculture | Working Group on Established Pests Lead: Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources | Resources Working Group Lead: Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism | Public Outreach Working Group Lead: Hawaii Department of Health |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| | August 6, 2004 September 15, 2004 | July 27, 2004 | July 16, 2004 August 23, 2004 September 30, 2004 | March 17, 2004 May 5, 2004 June 23, 2004 July 21, 2004 August 25, 2004 September 22, 2004 |

Resources Working Group

Liz Corbin (DBEDT) reported that the group had two meetings with the next meeting on Sept. 30th. The group has started to identify funding groups and also new sources of funding. Also developed preliminary task list and are reviewing with other groups to find gaps in funding. Lead agency for the Resources Working Group (RWG) is the Hawaii Dept. of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

Prevention Working Group

Neil Reimer (DOA) reported that this group met twice to discuss the status of prevention efforts in Hawaii, review the proposed task list, and discuss, develop and recommend a budget for the funding of invasive species prevention programs. Lead agency for the Prevention Working Group (PWG) is the Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture.

Neil Reimer reported that PWG recommends that HISC fund four prevention initiatives for FY04-05: (1) \$650,000 to DOA; (2) \$90,000 to USDA-Wildlife Services; (3) \$75,000 to DLNR-Aquatic Resources; and (4) \$175,000 to DOH.

DOA proposal is to conduct a risk analysis to determine the risk of entry of invasive species through ports-of-entry across the state and determine the effectiveness of current prevention efforts. DOA will hire 13 research aids through RCUH to collect and analyze this data. The aids will work under the supervision of Plant Quarantine inspectors. Data on commodities and pests entering the state will be collected during the intense blitz inspections of 100% commodity inspections. This collected data will be analyzed concurrently with the inspections for the generation of monthly reports.

USDA-Wildlife Services proposal is to conduct a pilot project using two canine handlers to inspect brown tree snakes (BTS) on ship containers on Guam destined for Hawaii. Snake traps will also be placed around these areas. Data collected will provide valuable information on the risks posed by these containers to Hawaii. This proposal is critical considering the recent cutbacks the Wildlife Services program on Guam has suffered. The data will be instrumental in the discussions on the need for a certification program for ship containers leaving Guam for Hawaii.

DLNR-Aquatic Resources proposal is to conduct three projects to increase communication between Aquatic Resources, other state agencies, and the shipping industry to minimize aquatic invasive species introductions.

DOH proposal is to improve surveillance and rapid response capabilities to address the threat of West Nile Virus.

Established Pests Working Group

Mindy Wilkinson (DLNR) reported that this working group met once to review efforts in Hawaii to control established pests by DOA, DLNR, and DOH; review the proposed task

list; review the list of invasive species control programs. Lead agency for the Established Pest Working Group is DLNR.

Based on the discussions at the meeting, the distribution of Response & Control, funds for FY04-05 are as follows: (1) \$220,000 for support of Kauai Invasive Species Committee; (2) \$220,000 for support of Oahu Invasive Species Committee; (3) \$240,000 for support of Maui Invasive Species Committee; (4) \$320,000 for support of Big Island Invasive Species Committee; and (5) \$200,000 for DLNR-Aquatic Resources Marine Invasive Species Response Team.

Public Outreach Working Group

Mindy Wilkinson (DLNR) reported for Laura Lott (DOH) who was not present at the meeting. This group met five times to review and update the list of goals and tasks in the Interim State of Hawaii Strategic Plan; review current efforts; and develop an agency survey form to track current invasive species outreach efforts and matching funds needs. Lead agency for the Public Outreach Working Group is Dept. of Health.

The group agreed that the following issues need to be addressed in the coming year: (1) West Nile Virus; (2) coqui frogs; (3) aquatic issues; (4) Weed Risk Assessment; (5) Ports-of-entry worker outreach; (6) transport of pests (into the state, between islands, around islands); and (7) Red Imported Fire Ant. Recognizes the importance to include DOT and Dept. of Education.

Three funding strategies have been identified: (1) hire additional outreach staff for Big Island, Oahu, and Kauai to be supervised by the Invasive Species Committee to carry out Public Outreach Working Group quarterly work plan; (2) use new staff and funding to support outreach on priority species and messages, including West Nile Virus, CGAPS “Don’t pack a pest, Don’t plant a pest, and Report a pest” public service announcements.; and to support the development of the HISC website; and (3) make grants available for existing programs carrying out invasive species outreach and provide opportunities to coordinate messages between groups relating to priority messages. A Request for Proposals is being developed and will be finalized at the next meeting.

Approval of an Invasive Species Spending Plan for Fiscal Year 2004-2005

The Administration’s invasive species budget initiative calls for the expenditure of \$3,000,000 in state funds for a one year pilot project to provide support for both the operations of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) and its cooperating partners to develop, and implement a partnership of Federal, State, County, and private entities for a comprehensive state-wide invasive species prevention, detection and control program. State dollars will be matched (1:1) by non-state dollars or equivalent in-kind services making this an overall effort of \$6 million. Redistributing the percentages allocated to each budget area as compared to the previous budget proposal will take advantage of the existing infrastructure of the island invasive species committees, provide jobs and involve the public with visible accomplishments on every island, and provide a stronger

justification to support sustained funding for the 2005-2007 administration's invasive species budget request.

Although this budget request is under the Department of Land and Natural Resources, it includes and involves programs and projects through nine different departments, the four counties and federal and private partners. The funding will not replace any of the existing state, private, or federal funding, but will complement and expand on existing programs.

The overall goals of the Administration's budget request for the Hawaii Invasive Species Council are to:

- Coordinate invasive species management and control programs for County, State, Federal and private sector entities by developing a structure for cooperators to work together to share resources and responsibilities to address specific invasive species issues;
- Increase inspection and other "prevention" capabilities to prevent high-risk invasive species and diseases (e.g. brown tree snake, West Nile Virus, etc.) from entry into the State, or to specific islands where they are not currently found;
- Accelerate the control of priority invasive species already present in the state (e.g. Miconia, coqui frogs, marine algae, etc.) by developing a more effective state-wide early detection and rapid response capability with the Island Invasive Species Committee and other response and control efforts;
- Leverage increased involvement and expertise from private and academic sectors to assure that Hawaii has access to the most up-to-date, effective and efficient research and technology tools to combat invasive species; and
- Implement a coordinated statewide invasive species public outreach program with shared resources and responsibilities among cooperating entities.

The state funding is broken into four integrated components:

- 1) Building up **Prevention** capabilities (**33% of total funding**) such as; 1) increased numbers of and training for quarantine inspectors; 2) specialists to identify new insects, plants and diseases and 3) technicians/supervisors and needed infrastructure to lead invasive species control efforts on the ground;
- 2) Establishing **Response and Control** programs (**40% of total funding**) to conduct invasive species detection, response and control actions on the ground;
- 3) Enhance **Research and Applied Technology** funding (**20% of total funding**) for critical projects such as biological control, more effective increased survey and detection efforts, taxonomic identification, master geographical information

system and associated database management as well as a matching grants program to the private and university sector for developing and applying technology for improved efficiencies in invasive species prevention and control efforts; and

- 4) Developing a **Public Outreach Program (7% of total funding)** in cooperation with the public and private sector for visitors and residents to increase voluntary compliance of quarantine laws, avoid accidental introductions of invasive species, and establishing an effective pest hotline that delivers timely information to managers on the ground.

This budget request has been aligned with both the Hawaii Invasive Species Council Strategic Plan and the HISC working group structures to assure not only compatibility with existing efforts but also accountability with specific measures of effectiveness. Lead HISC members will administer specific program components and HISC working groups will assure funding specifications address priority statewide issues and fit into HISC members' and cooperating partners' operational programs.

Mindy Wilkinson explained the budget of \$3 million for a one year pilot project to provide support for both the operations of HISC and its cooperating partners to develop and implement a partnership of federal, state, country and private entities for a comprehensive state-wide invasive species prevention, detection, and control program. State dollars will be matched 1:1 by non-state dollars or equivalent in-kind services making this an overall effort of \$6 million.

Mindy Wilkinson further explained that redistributing the percentages allocated to each budget area as compared to the previous budget proposal will take advantage of the existing infrastructure of the island invasive species committees, provide jobs and involve the public with visible accomplishments on each island, and provide a stronger justification to support sustained funding for the 2005-2007 administration's invasive species budget request.

This budget request is under DLNR but it includes and involves programs and project from nine different departments, four counties, and federal and private partners. This funding will not replace any of the existing state, private, or federal funding, but will complement and expand on existing programs.

The overall goals of the Administration's budget request for HISC are: (1) Coordinate invasive species management and control programs for county, state, federal, and private sector entities by developing a structure for cooperators to work together to share resources and responsibilities; (2) Increase inspection and other "prevention" capabilities to prevent high-risk species and diseases (e.g., brown tree snake, West Nile Virus, etc.) from entry into the state, or to specific islands where they are not currently found; (3) Accelerate the control of priority invasive species already present in the state (e.g., miconia, coqui frogs, marine algae, etc.) by developing a more effective state-wide early detection and rapid response capability with the Island Invasive Species Committees and

other response and control efforts; (4) Leverage increased involvement and expertise from private and academic sectors to assure that Hawaii has access to the most up-to-date, effective and efficient research and technology tools to combat invasive species; and (5) Implement a coordinated statewide invasive species public outreach program with shared research and responsibilities among cooperating entities.

Mindy added that there are four components for state funding: (1) building up prevention capabilities – 33%; (2) establishing response and control programs – 40%; (3) enhance research and applied technology – 20%; and (4) developing a public outreach program – 7%.

Peter Young agreed that there are \$6 million in matching funds. He also questioned how the Invasive Species Committee funding is being spent.

Mindy Wilkinson said that the priorities are set at the county level because each island deals with different pests. Must set schedule and reporting accomplishments and also need to show standards and performance measures. Funding levels depended on the size of the county.

Sandra Lee Kunimoto commented that the contracts for the funding to each island Invasive Species Committee has to be very specific and detailed.

Larry Lau said that the contracts should have a general concern for all activities.

Sandra Lee Kunimoto added that we have to move cautiously and be cognizant of the overall strategy at all times.

Peter Young asked for any other comments.

Rob Parsons, executive assistant to the Mayor of Maui County on environmental concerns, said that the Maui Invasive Species Committee seems to be losing ground to the coqui frog. In the Maliko Gulch area, 150 coqui frogs were caught in two hours recently. Small backyard populations are in various areas on Maui. Commercial nurseries are infested. West and South Maui resorts are also infested. He urged HISC to increase the dollar amount for Maui County, which includes Molokai, Lanai, and Kahoolawe.

Rob Parsons added that DOT has a draft EIS for proposed commercial expansion of Kahului Harbor. The Super Ferry and cruise ships will triple the number of visitors to Maui County, but there is no mitigation language which is a cause for concern.

Peter Young then asked what county should get less dollars.

Rob Parsons could not answer that question. But he just reiterated that Maui County needed more funding because of the limited window of opportunity.

Peter Young asked Mindy Wilkinson to explain the process of allocation of money between counties.

Mindy Wilkinson answered that the first two pests looked at was miconia and coqui frogs. After that, it differed from island to island. Fireweed is a problem on the Big Island and Maui, but almost non-existent on Oahu and Kauai. For the coqui frog on Oahu, Waimanalo and three other fronts; for Kauai, one place. Distribution of funding was agreed upon by a larger group, including U.S. Fish & wildlife Service and other agencies.

Larry Lau said Oahu threats are coqui frog and miconia. The broad funding group includes federal, state, and private entities and also depends on county size. What marine species should be considered?

Tony Montgomery (LNR-R) said that snowflake coral and give species of algae are at the top of the list.

Sandra Lee Kunimoto commented that there should also be a summary on agricultural pests and called on Larry Nakahara (Plant Pest Control) to give this summary.

Larry Nakahara started with fireweed, which infests the Big Island and Maui with smaller infestations on Kauai and Oahu. Currently there are two insects or biological control agents in quarantine. These insects will probably be released some time next year. We are trying to eradicate fireweed on Kauai and prevent the introduction of fireweed in commercial carpet grass from Australia.

Larry Nakahara continued with the little fire ant. The infestation has spread from Puna, the original infestation site on the Big Island, to encompass over 20 square miles. Staff at the USDA laboratory in Florida are willing to assist but need funds for exploration. The little fire ant is very time and slow moving so most people don't know the ant is there until too late.

The coqui frog is a big problem in Hawaii because it infests areas on the Big Island that are inhabited by people. Infested areas on other islands are generally not inhabited. Currently, DOA is trying to get hydrated lime registered as a pesticide. We are trying to empower people to control this frog by researching ways for individuals to control this pest and loaning 100-gallon sprayers to community groups.

Another agricultural pest is the nettle caterpillar on the Big Island according to Larry Nakahara. This caterpillar stings people and attacks palms, coconuts, and many monocots. According to the literature search, biological agents are probably in Indonesia, Southern Thailand, and probably Taiwan. But Indonesia and Southern Thailand are areas of political unrest and not safe for exploration so we are looking at Taiwan right now.

Sandra Lee Kunimoto thanked Larry Nakahara for the report on agricultural pests.

Clyde Tamaru of the UH-Sea Grant Program commended that the apple snail threatens the taro industry in Hawaii. Taro farms are located on U.S. Fish and Wildlife reserves and, therefore, taro farmers cannot use much pesticides to kill the apple snails.

Larry Lau asked Rob Parsons what kind of dollar amount for Maui County will HISC be looking at.

Rob Parsons said anything more will make a difference. He is not prepared at this time to ask for a specific dollar amount. One suggestion would be to have a reserve to tap in to by one of the counties in case of an emergency.

Sandra Lee Kunimoto said the USDA-WS put in for funding of \$3million per year for three years.

Peter Young asked for a motion.

MOTION: Larry Lau moved to accept with an amendment to put aside 10% of Response and Control funds in a reserve for future disposition. Sam Callejo seconded the motion.

Discussion

Peter Young asked if the 10% would be for an emergency for rapid response.

Larry Lau said rapid response would be preferable.

Peter Young then said 10% should be held in reserve by each county.

Larry Lau said it would be better to have 10% put on reserve than each county reserve 10% of its funding.

Sandra Lee Kunimoto commented that it would be better to have each committee hold back 10%. If HISC holds 10% back, then the members would have to vote later on the disposition of the funds.

Peter Young wants the funds available so money must be set aside.

Mindy Wilkinson said Research and Applied Technology has a call for proposals three times during the year.

Sandra Lee Kunimoto reiterated that the purpose is to get the money to the various agencies so everyone can get started.

MOTION: Larry Lau moved to withdraw the motion. San Callejo seconded.

MOTION: Larry Lau moved to accept the budget as proposed. Sam Callejo seconded. Vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF A PLAN FOR REMOVAL OF INVASIVE SPECIES FROM STATE LANDS

The staff of the Department Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife is requesting the Hawaii Invasive Species Council's approval to remove invasive tree species from State lands under the existing permitting systems. State lands contain stands of tree species that were planted during the previous century for reforestation and are now spreading into native forest. Many of these tree species have economic uses and could be removed with minimal impact in certain areas. Allowing Department personnel and contractors to remove invasive trees with a special use permit or equivalent as an invasive species control function would facilitate invasive species control by creating an additional mechanism for the removal of certain species. Permits issued by the Department would require that tree removal not degrade the area or lead to invasion of more harmful plant species. Permits would be approved on a case-by-case basis and would have to be in accordance with current rules and regulations that apply to the area under consideration.

Mindy Wilkinson read the proposal asked for support by HISC for DLNR personnel and contractors to remove invasive trees if they have a special use permit.

Peter Young said this is a sensitive issue and is not considered commercially harvesting trees, but removal of invasive trees from the forest. A permit is needed for removal.

Sandra Lee Kunimoto asked if DLNR only wanted support for the removal of invasive species trees from state lands.

Peter Young said the species are silk oak and eucalyptus.

Larry Nakahara commended that if silk oak and eucalyptus are not on the noxious weed list, then these species are not considered invasive species according to HISC's definition.

Bill Steiner (U.S. Geological Survey) said that the native insects found on these trees targeted for removal should be studied since the trees have been in the forests for a long time, plus these trees may not be in native forests.

Paul Conry (DLNR-Forestry & Wildlife) said DLNR just want support by this policy body. There are trees in the forest that need to be removed because they are causing problems.

Nilton Matayoshi (DOA-Plant Pest Control) wanted to be certain that this involves only state lands and not federal lands.

Sandra Lee Kunimoto mentioned that no resources will be committed to this proposal

Bill Steiner proposed consideration of a recovery program.

MOTION: Sam Callejo moved to support the program. Sandra Lee Kunimoto seconded.

Discussion

Larry Lau asked to add “appropriate” before the removal in the context of permit regulation. Upon further consideration, he said “appropriate” is not needed.

Vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.