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Hawaii Invasive Species Council – Resources Working Group

Fourth Meeting

Monday, June 13, 2005

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

State Office Tower, 235 S. Beretania St., Room 405

Honolulu, HI 96813

MEETING MINUTES

- I. Call to Order at 2:00 p.m. by Elizabeth Corbin for Maurice Kaya, acting Resources Working Group (RWG) chair on behalf of Theodore E. Liu, DBEDT Director.
- II. Attendance: Mindy Wilkinson (DLNR/DOFAW); Kim Langley (CGAPS); Laurence Lau (DOH); Mark Fox (The Nature Conservancy); Mark Defley (DLNR/DOFAW); Elizabeth Corbin (DBEDT/ORB).
- III. The minutes of the August 23, 2004 meeting were approved.
- IV. Wilkinson provided an update on the activities of the other HISC Working Groups. Only the Outreach Group has been active since September 30, 2004. There are three new staff members on the Big Island, one on Kauai and one for Maui and Oahu. They are producing quarterly work plans. They are working on PSAs and on finding a phone number for a central reporting call-in line. Department of Agriculture has declined, stating that it is not an appropriate activity for DOA.
- V. Wilkinson reported that there are 13 grant projects, including local outreach PSAs on coqui frogs that have generated calls. The HISC staff will be preparing a budget for the \$4 million appropriated for FY 05. Lau asked about the process of budgeting the State funds. Wilkinson said that proposals are submitted through the working groups for approval by the HISC. She noted that there will probably be no impact on the Natural Area Reserves fund as long as inputs stay high.

Lau asked if there is a federal appropriation. Wilkinson replied that it was her understanding that we must apply each year. A chart of federal funding indicates that about one-third goes to State agencies.

Fox pointed out that we need to be aware of federal funding ceilings as it relates to financial planning. If new funds are found, the Governor can approve the expenditure and the Department of Budget and Finance needs to update the plans during the next legislative session. There was a comment that federal funds are not coordinated.

Kaya offered that the RWG could perhaps help with working with the Congressional delegation to provide ear-mark funding. Fox offered that the invasive species groups in Hawaii have a good relationship with the delegation.

It was suggested that for competitive grants it would be good to have a clearinghouse of funding sources and opportunities. Some possibilities include a list serve maintained by USGS Hawaii

Ecosystems at Risk and the National Invasive Species Council. It was also suggested that we investigate landowner assistance programs.

Lau asked to what extent the agencies are trained to help each other.

Fox reported that the Fish & Wildlife Service has gotten \$700,000 for the past few years (through Senator Inouye), but that it is not in the Senate version for FY 06, but that the budget has not gone to the Senate floor or conference.

Wilkinson reported that in Guam the invasive species inspection program has been moved to temporary space on the Air Force base and that funding is still pending to keep the program from declining.

There was some discussion about technology uses, including where to use and how to fund. Defley said that a perspective shift needs to happen. Technology is not expensive relative to the consequences of not using it.

Corbin asked about the project to enlist corporate support. Fox said that it is still important and we should prepare a presentation and do a beta test on a few individuals or groups. We need to look at corporate sponsorship rules. We should use DBEDT's access to corporate leaders.

The head of The Nature Conservancy is on the new Economic Momentum Commission, which is being staffed by DBEDT's Research and Economic Analysis Division (READ).

VI. No public comment

VII. No announcements

VIII. Review of Action Items:

1. Corbin to work on the PowerPoint presentation with Christy Martin and Priscilla Billig (working with CGAPS on outreach)
2. Corbin to lay groundwork with DBEDT Director Ted Liu for corporate presentations
3. Corbin to check with Pearl Imada-Iboshi of READ on the Economic Momentum Commission process and Fox to bring TNC director into the discussion
4. Corbin & Wilkinson to work on language for an RFP to get a technology assessment, including critical points and costs. Perhaps use HISC R&T funds and look for other sorts of funding Pacific-wide (e.g. USAID, foreign private foundations) to address pest importation issues.

IX. Next meeting – plan for Monday, August 1.

X. Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.