

Hawaii Invasive Species Council – 07/18/06
Draft Minutes for Approval

Hawaii Invasive Species Council Meeting
Thursday, January 19, 2006
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Hawaii Department of Transportation
Airport Conference Center, Room #3, Seventh Floor
Honolulu International Airport, Interisland Terminal
Honolulu, Hawaii

Call to Order

Peter Young called to order at 9:42 am

Approval of Minutes from August 18, 2005

Motion and Carried – Minutes Approved

Amend name from Bob Parsons to Rob Parsons – Executive Assistant for Environmental Concerns- Maui County Council

Approval of a resolution in support of the Hawaii Invasive Species Prevention Act, H.R. 3468. (Item A)

Ed Case letter of bill H.R. 3468 read aloud to county council.

Recommendation of the council to support the Hawaii Invasive Species Prevention Act sponsored by Congressman Ed Case.

Larry Lau suggest to support bill. Move to support general intent of the bill but would want something implemented to avoid federal preemption of state authorities.

Mark Fox of nature conservancy- allow Hawaii to work on an expedited process with the Secretary of Agriculture which is normally preempted regarding alien species, pests, or diseases. He states that it will not impact the strength of any of the federal protection the state has regarding invasive species. He also states that there is nothing in the bill that impairs state authority. Willing to seek legal analysis for statements.

On record- in decision for support that's what the council is supporting.

Question of airlines stating there is preemption of disease or pests

Page 9 involving prevention agencies.

Maui County Council has passed a resolution of support.

Motion Carried 9:50 am

Approval of a resolution to prevent the transport of coqui frogs. (Item B)

The resolution comes from the meetings of the Big Island delegation with the constituents last year. They've had two meetings per district involving coqui frog concerns.

Big Island – frustration of land owners refusal of removal of coqui frogs

- green waste transported to other sites which lead to the spread of the coqui frogs to other locations
- request to improve actions and authority of removal of coqui frogs. Make sure we use all existing authority and areas where the council does not have authority such as warrant processes to enter private lands to control vertebrates that the council uses any existing authority they have such as Act 85 of 2003. This will enable an even more successful control.
- recommendation to adopt new policies to prevent the spread of coqui frogs of all agencies. All agencies will work together to stop the spread of coqui.

No comments

Moved and seconded – motion carried 10:02 am

Working Group

Lyle Wong of the Department of Agriculture

Carol Okada is the new plant quarantine branch manager

Neal – 20 projects of pests including gull wasp.

Working with U.H. to suppress gull wasp population with various pesticides and chemical treatment as well as biological control methods. Possible introduction of natural control species. Exploratory research in Africa with shipments of control species currently in quarantine. Suggest the project will take several years to accomplish their goal.

Update on prevention projects- presented by Carol Okada

HISC Prevention plan – identify possible vectors and pathways of invasive species introduction spread

Data from assessments will allow for more effective utilization of limited funds by prioritizing inspection activity.

A risk assessment was implemented to identify movement of pests between islands.

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First assessment at HNL –

-first efforts focused on cut flowers, foliage, and propagated plant material which went further to produce

The assessment was to identify high risk commodities and to find more ways to improve movement other than the use of inspectors.

The department utilized inspectors at night on overtime to do very thorough inspections to understand what was coming into HNL. Assessment on OGG continued from November 2003 to December 2005. The funding for the project was funded by the Department of Transportation and totaled \$275,000.

During the risk assessment for HNL over 31,000 parcels inspected which normally would be over 400,000 inspections during the same time period for cut flowers, some produce items, and propagated plants. A total of 1.6 million parcels of total goods came to Oahu in that period. For the 31,000 parcels inspected approximately 1,000 interceptions occurred.

Highest Risk involve transportation of agriculture goods.

The state of the art Kahului ASAP building is to be built to treat alien species at Kahului airport with adjoining cargo facility. Groundbreaking occurred on January 13, 2006 with the building expected to be operational by August of 2007. Costs for the inspection facility is estimated at 2.3 million dollars.

HNL needs to have an alien species control and inspection facility since it is the first point of entry for most goods coming into the state. Domestic movement alone on Oahu is estimated to be at least 6 times the amount of Maui. An inspection facility on Oahu will be able to help prevent invasive species from entering the state from Asia and the continental U.S.

Need to take action on High risk commodities; or commodities that present the most risk of introducing alien species. The first action was to change statutory manifest of the department to utilize limited resources for the highest risk commodities.

Compliance agreements are use to facilitate movement between states while mitigating high risk commodities. The Department of Agriculture on the origin side is to monitor the growing and handling of high risk commodities which has been found to be very effective but does need to be updated to keep things in compliance.

Pre and post entry treatments – Mandatory high risk treatments to prevent movements of pests.

The department is moving to have a joint treatment facility for state inspections.

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Goal is to identify the pathway of pests between islands and the state. And to implement a mitigation movement to stop the movement and establishment of pests in the state. The movement of nursery stock is a high risk pathway for the species such as the coqui frog.

HISC Funding of \$67,000 to prevent spread of coqui frog with USDA funding of \$103,000. The funding allowed for the conducting of surveys with each of the nurseries which enabled drafting of ways to control the movement of the coqui frog. It also allowed for the implementation of protocol letters to be sent to transportation companies. The funding also was used to purchase equipment to suppress coqui frog population, such as hot water treatment containers.

Plan to initiate rule 18 for Chapter 4–72, intrastate rules, creating a new section on restrictions on Coqui Frogs and revising Chapter 4-73 which is the export rules, restructuring the whole chapter to encompass not only exports but also movements of products from nurseries. This will expand and strengthen the nursery program.

Australia and New Zealand trip to analyze pest prevention methods.

Actions taken from the trip is to implement HDOA’s strategic plan by creating our own bio security system. The department has already broadened qualifications for inspector positions to any persons with a bachelors degree in any biological science.

HISC prevention project to determine facilities needed, staffing, risk assessment at airports and harbors.

Incorporate teams of dogs to screen unlabeled commodities.

Mike- question on certified nursery. What is a certified nursery? Inspected by AG and allowed to export goods without inspection. Annual inspections of the nursery facilities determine pest levels and given certification if nursery meets recommended pest levels. A revision of the rules is being done to expand and strengthen the program. A problem that is occurring is the inability to effectively enforce people to move plants safely. The idea of a rule change is to place heavy restrictions on non-compliant or poor shippers to prevent further pest invasion or terminate them.

Larry- participate in strategies? Meant to develop strategies or to implement strategies? Strategies vary from location to location.

Domingo – both research and implementation of strategies is being done. Thermal treatment system is the next strategy for pest treatment.

Sandra - huge amount of activity going on involving invasive species and the control of alien species. Thank you for support

Rob- any risk assessment of state harbors? Kahului harbor is tentative site for evaluation. Will require HISC funding.

No comments

Pests Not Present including West Nile Virus

Larry – 7 days analysis time. Steady pace for testing and outer islands are doing more tests at own facilities.

Lab purchase of 148,000 plus of equipment

Vector control prepared 392 bird tests, 2662 pools of mosquitoes.

Results – Maui had lowest mosquito counts per trap. Kauai has been fluctuating. Hilo, Hickam, and Honolulu have been reporting high counts of mosquito population

Larry's team has been working to find out where the mosquitoes are coming from but has not determined a point of origin.

CDC money used to buy more supplies

Vector staff using pda's and more technological equipment in the field. Which enables faster tracking of data and future plans are to link the islands together for fast sharing of gathered data.

The branch has also started a field citation system so that if any problems are found, quick action can be done to correct such problems in the field.

Shifted CDC money to cover funds that were supposed to be covered by HISC funds due to the governor's decision to withhold HISC funds till December.

Legal issues involving data collection involving invasive species. Working with the EPA on a data exchange system.

Military a big issue of transport of goods and land control – suggestion of a high level military official to join the council.

Use CDC funds to maintain staffing

Mike- regarding high counts of mosquito, where are there movements? Seems to be centralized around airport but may vary due to mosquito ability to travel miles. Future plan is to put up more tracking stations as funds allow for it.

No further comments

Research & Technology

Mark- 30 combined projects with research and technology and public outreach.

Approved by Peter and the Board, list is official and approved. 18 projects totaling \$600,000 dollars.

No idea is turned down.

Mark- referring to the HISC Research & Technology Projects FY2006 Summary Chart, explains the sections and data contained within.

Coqui- Karen has estimated population of 15,000 to 24,000 frogs. Coqui does reduce aerial insects but unfortunately do not eat mosquitoes. Studies of the Coqui are ongoing.

Snowflake coral- Believed to be from the western pacific

Ongoing study of invasive ants on Mokulua. Big-headed ant was successfully eradicated on a particular island with the use of Androne and is still eradicated after 2 years.

Black twig borer- a pest to coffee, avocado, citrus, and koa. Japanese beetle traps with ethynol have been successful on the eradication.

Red-Masked Parakeet- found in the Diamond Head Area
- ranges from Punahou area to Niu Valley

Would irradiation be allowed? HISC will need to discuss and investigate in the future.

Nettle Caterpillar- threat to native palms
- There is a successful pheromone lure that takes minimal amounts to work.

No comment

Public Outreach

Mark is standing in for Maile Sakamoto

\$65,279 in project funding for 9 projects in FY 2006

Discussion by Mark of the HISC Public Outreach Grants, FY2006 Summary Chart

Silent Invasion PSA's by CGAPS possibly aired with HISC funds.

There are five 30 second spots to possibly be aired on local television.

643-PEST hotline number to report pests

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FY2005 Highlights for Outreach Grants-

Coqui Radio PSA's have been aired on Kauai and Oahu
Aired in the summer of last June to August on KSSK during the warmer months.

Mike- Work with radio station management? Contributions and donations by radio stations

Christy Martin- CGAPS – writer of PSA's. Maui aired PSA's numerous times with strong support. Oahu support is minimal, but aired via KSSK for a short period of approximately 3-4 times a week.

HISC funds to be used for PSA's in the future.

Invasive Species organizations and advertisements

Landscape Council of Hawaii 2005 Annual Conference and Trade Show.

Included in that conference was a round table discussion for the formulation of a code of conduct for the industry.

18 of 25 species in Kohala area eradicated by the Kohala coalition.

Oahu- Palolo Invasive Species Swat Team

To bring awareness of centralized invasive species with over 400 residents and students in the area

West Nile bus poster along with PSA on Oahu

www.hear.org support site for fire ants as well as other invasive species

Approval of a resolution in support of the invasive species recommendations of the Governor's Economic Momentum Commission. (Item C)

Susan Case- Executive Director of the Nature Conservancy.

Analyze implemental projects within 6 year period that can make a difference in our economical stability. There's 17 working groups.

The organization went through 100 recommendations of which 36 were selected
One of the recommendations involved invasive species. Cost to control was hugely less.
Cost to control invasive species already established in Hawaii costs hundreds of millions while cost to prevent invasive species from entering the state is far less.

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Sandra- Modified to say an investigation to provide rules on conduct. Should be inclusive. Suggest a working group to do this type of plan.

Christy Martin- code of conduct used by certain nurseries that provide to retailers such as Home Depot.

Landscape Architects should be included and educated about compliance issues

Mike- if fees are raised, nurseries may try to get around regulations?

Lyle- user fee: DOA. Plant pest control branch- \$6 million budget
Plant quarantine- \$3.1 million budget for a staff of 62 statewide
\$3 million to protect Hawaii
\$15 million to protect the United States
55 inspectors statewide protecting Hawaii from the U.S./ World

The White List for plants with risk assessment has been in development for over the past 9 years. Resources are available to support not just on a static white list but to carry out assessments on any species in a timely fashion. Estimate to do a dozen assessments per week.

Sandra- Move to adopt resolution with amendment. With analysis within one years time of adoption

No comments

Moved and Seconded

Motion Carried.

Rep. Dwight Takamine would like to have a meeting. Friday January 27th 9:00 a.m.
Would like background of HISC.
Would also like update on what is going on with coqui frogs.
Needs? What does the HISC need? Funding? Legislation?
Wants participation from AG, the AG groups, and along with invasive species committees.

Next Meeting to be held Thurs. April 27, 2006

Public Comment

No comments

Adjournment

Peter Young Adjourns at 11:33 am