

# Established Pests Working Group Meeting May 31, 2007

Attendees: Mindy Wilkinson (DOFAW) chair

Ainoa Naniole for Senator Kokubun  
Brian Hauk (DAR)  
Chris Buddenhagen HISC  
Clift Tsuji (Senator)  
Ellen VanGelder (PCSU)  
Jason Leonard (DAR)  
Joshua Fisher (USFWS)  
Karl Buermeyer (FWS)  
Katie Swift (FWS)  
Ken Teramoto (HDOA)

Lloyd Loope (USGS)  
Lori Buchanan (MoMISC)  
Mohsen Ramadan (HDOA)  
Neil Reimer (HDOA)  
Rachelle Neville (OISC)  
Rob Hauff (DOFAW)  
Ryan Smith (OISC)  
Sam Goldstein (USDA-APHIS).  
Teya Penniman (MISC)  
Tony Montgomery (DAR)

1) Call to order

Meeting starts at: 10:10 AM

## 2) Introductions

**Mindy Wilkinson:** Move agenda item 5 to the beginning to take into account early departure of HDOA staff.

### 5. Discuss and propose HISC budget priorities 2007-2008

Overview of the program for the last few years- emphasis on early detection and cost effective eradication plus aquatic species capacity (ISCs and AIS). Projects should and have addressed gaps in invasive species management- not agency staff replacement or infrastructure.

Open up for priorities for group- Mindy mentions ISC efforts for Agricultural pests- especially Little Fire Ant (LFA) surveys on Kauai and Maui, Public Outreach for Stinging Nettle Caterpillar detection on Kauai.

**Ellen Van Gelder:** Outlines a proposal to work on LFA, Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA) and the Ant Plan. LFA impacts human health, animal health, industry. No methods for arboreal control of LFA, AMDRO not allowed for crops in Hawaii, need for new tools and intra (Big Island) and inter-island quarantine. No money at UH for research. Key strategies- research on control techniques, label development and efficacy of early detection and control, development of quarantine treatments, public outreach and shared inter-institutional databases.

Discussion about the LFA surveys on Maui done by Forest and Kim Starr under USGS. Neil Reimer had concerns about the methodology, but Lloyd Loope had consulted HDOA entomologists to ascertain methods- survey had focused on new developments on Maui under advice from HDOA staff. Need for better communication of ISC efforts to Administrative staff in HDOA.

**Mindy Wilkinson:** Mentions the suggested Ant Plan Coordinator position for HISC funding.

HDOA staff leave for an off-island meeting.

### 4) Discuss current HISC funded work and implications for 2007-08.

**Tony Montgomery:** Discusses the difficulties in addressing aquatic invasive species- ocean difficult environment- reefs- depth- lack of tools, no early detection ability, sighting of *Carijoa riisei* at an important mid-ocean reef Five Pinnacles Monument near Kauai at 52 meters in depth. Need to do broader surveys- super sucker control may be effective for relatively long periods if browsing vegetarian fish can keep algae at bay. Need a central baseyard.

**Discussion:** Avian Diseases- Mindy Wilkinson mentions DOH efforts. Josh Fisher- FWS focus on dead birds- especially native species and the use of professionals. Sam Goldstein- WS to hire a wildlife biologist for wildlife diseases work.

To recommend breakdown of budget to HISC:

\$300k Big Island, \$400k MISC and Oahu, \$275k KISC, \$425k AIST.

**Tony Montgomery:** AIST is not operated as a committee but it does or has had an advisory group- it could be good to revive the concept for Aquatic pests.

**Jason Leonard:** Navy wants to bring infested decommissioned ships from mainland into Pearl Harbor- and have put up some walls in terms of mitigating risks of new species introduction. Navy is not obliged to follow laws in many cases.

### 3) Approve minutes

Mindy Wilkinson: Summarized the Noxious Weeds discussion at the last Established Pests Meeting.

Not approved.

### 6) Announcements

No announcements

### 7) Close meeting

Meeting end at 12:15 pm.

### Summary

The purpose and budget section responsibility for the EPWG as defined in the interim Strategic Plan for Invasive Species Prevention, Control, Research and Public Outreach is included below for reference but basically, the Response and Control project funding has focused on building an early detection and rapid response capacity for invasive species while the working group has begun addressing the tasks laid out in the plan. This has led to the first island wide surveys for newly naturalizing invasive plants in all counties, the application of a risk assessment to pick species targeted for eradication and the creation of the Aquatic Invasive Species Team (AIS). Major successes include; all established populations of coqui on Kauai and Oahu are nearing successful eradication this year, multiple island wide invasive plant eradications and the creation of a model to predict the potential distribution of priority species such as miconia. Work for the next year will focus on the early detection projects, include reporting and interagency databases for accountability, and the island partnerships will assist in the implementation of HDOA's developing plan to address the Little Fire Ant populations on the Big Island and its continued spread to the other islands.

Report on 2006 actions:

A copy of the complete 2006 report on control efforts was provide to all attendees. A summary was presented in January:

<http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/HISC/HISC%20Documents/Legislative%20RepSummary2007%20FINAL.pdf>

Proposed distribution for FY08 with brief justifications:

Aquatic Invasive Species \$425,000 [Developing detection tools and demonstration projects.]

Big Island \$300,000 [Currently building capacity.]

Maui \$400,000 [Support ability to contain miconia and coqui.]

Oahu \$400,000 [Replace coqui funding omitted by legislature.]

Kauai \$275,000 [Maintain current project given increased county support.]

Total: \$1,800,000

From the Strategic Plan:

HISC Working Group on Established Pests  
(Early Detection, Rapid Response & Control)  
(Lead HISC Member: DLNR)

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

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.

HISC Response and Control Working Group Tasks:

- Work with Island Invasive Species Committees and others in the detection, response and control of invasive species on each of the islands.
- Determine what species are invasive to trigger access provisions onto private lands.
- Review and update DOAs Noxious Weed List and DLNRs injurious wildlife list.
- Implement a decision making protocol for targeting species for eradication efforts.
- Identify a list of invasive species for immediate control action.
- Develop operational protocol so existing high-risk invasive species that could spread through inter- and intra-state movement are closely monitored and/or eradicated.
- Designate invasive vertebrate pests.
- Eliminate known existing invasive plant species from public projects and contracts.
- Review and revise regulations governing the introduction of biological control agents.
- Develop management plans for widespread vertebrate pests.

This working group has met and reviewed the project goals for the Response and Control section of the HISC FY08 based on the following objectives:

Response and Control

Response and Control: Build-up Response and Control capabilities to conduct invasive species detection and control actions on the ground by increasing support to Island Invasive Species Committees and other cooperative efforts.

Response & Control Objectives and Time frame:

- Increase the number of crews with supervision and appropriate infrastructure for both terrestrial and aquatic invasive species detection and control (1 year and ongoing).
- Immediately target high priority invasive species that are candidates for eradication in all or part of their range such as Coqui frogs on Oahu and Kauai (1-year & ongoing).
- Develop a process to identify terrestrial and aquatic invasive species and appropriate action strategies for immediate and/or long-term control (1 year and ongoing).
- Eliminate existing invasive plant species from public projects and contracts (2 years).
- Response & Control - Measures of Effectiveness
- Number (area, #s) of invasive species eradicated and/or controlled
- Implementation of the Aquatic Invasive Species, West Nile Virus, and red-imported fire ant plans
- Maintaining a zero tolerance for Miconia on the Islands of Kauai, Oahu and Molokai