

HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL  
PLANT QUARANTINE CONFERENCE ROOM  
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
JULY 19, 2007  
2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair Allan Smith called the meeting of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to order at 2:12 p.m. The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS:

Ms. Sandra Kunimoto, DOA  
Mr. Allan Smith, DLNR  
Mr. Francis Paul Keeno, DOT

Mr. Laurence Lau, DOH  
Mr. Sam Callejo, UH  
Ms. Liz Corbin, DBEDT

AGENCY AND LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES:

Mr. Matthew Goo, USDA

OTHERS:

Mr. Chris Buddenhagen, HISC  
Mr. Mike Pitzler, USDA-WS  
Mr. Joshua Fisher, USFWS  
Ms. Miranda Smith, KMWP  
Mr. Paul Conry, DLNR/HISC  
Mr. Mark Fox, Nature Conservancy  
Ms. Christy Martin, CGAPS  
Ms. Lori Buchanan, MOMISC  
Dr. Arlene Buchholz, DOH  
Mr. Greg Olmsted, DOH  
Ms. Priscilla Billig, HISC  
Mr. Rob Hauff, DOFAW  
Dr. Lyle Wong, DOA  
Mr. Domingo Cravalho, DOA  
Mr. Michael Buck, none

Mr. Darcy Oishi, DOA  
Dr. Neil Reimer, DOA  
Ms. Katie Swift, USFWS  
Ms. Shahin Ansari, Lyon Aboretum  
Ms. Karmin Kine, DLNR/HISC  
Dr. Mindy Wilkinson, DLNR  
Ms. Julie Leialoha, BIISC  
Ms. Teya Pennimen, MISC  
Ms. Maile Sakamoto, DOH  
Mr. Erick Cremer, DOH  
Ms. Sara Pelleteri, DAR  
Ms. Carol Okada, DOA  
Ms. Leslie Iseke, DOA  
Ms. Pam Matsukawa, DAG  
Ms. Jackie Kozak

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 18, 2006**

{Note: language for deletion is [bracketed], new/added is underlined}

The following amendments were made to the minutes:

1. Page 1

Ms. Liz Corbin, DBEDT

Members

Others

[Ms. Liz Corbin, DBEDT]

1. Page 4, Item 4 – Line 3

(UH) – “...take a new look at how [to] things (i.e. applying for federal aid) [was] were being handled.”

2. Page 5, Item 4 – Last paragraph, last line

(UH) – “...(frogs, fire ants) so that’s [were] where they’re sending the manpower.”

3. Page 5, Item 5 – Under “Prevention” – Line 12

(UH) – “...birds including birds, doves, pigeons, and chickens which are species that would not die from the West Nile Virus.”

4. Page 4, Item 4, last paragraph, second sentence from bottom of page

Lyle Wong – “...design a [larger type of unit] large hot water treatment unit which will be placed [at Honolulu Airport.] at State Plant Quarantine.”

5. Page 5, Item 4, first paragraph, third line

Lyle Wong – “...which allowed DOA to [construct] purchase the unit, 1 steam sterilizer, 3 sprayers and the ability to complete the survey.”

Unanimously approved as amended (Corbin/Callejo)

### **HISC MANAGEMENT AND PROGRAM REVIEW**

Co-Chair Sandra Kunimoto welcomed everyone back since the last HISC meeting about a year ago. She thanked staff leadership, including Mindy and Chris and their staff, for working hard throughout the Legislative session to be sure that funding continued. She said that this year we received full funding as compared to half the amount of funding last year and also mentioned that Lyle and his staff obtained additional funding directly into the HDOA budget. She said that everyone needed to look forward and seriously look into proposing funding for departmental budgets for those programs/projects that were originally HISC funded but need to go beyond the trial stage for a longer term.

### **UPDATE STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW AND FUNDING PRIORITIES**

Paul Conry, Administrator, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, said they propose to review and update the Strategic Plan that was prepared about four years ago within the next six months. One of the main goals is to better coordinate the activities of the ISC groups from information and experience gathered over the past four years and incorporate those activities into the Strategic Plan. He said to speed up the process, staff has begun the review process and will disseminate the draft to the working groups for their review and input. He said they are looking into other strategic initiatives for incorporation into the plan and be able to implement and how best to utilize our funds to achieve the goals and objectives for the next four years. The goal is to get a better road map of where we want to go over the next four years, with coordinated efforts across agencies, priority actions that can be implemented and achieved. The existing budget of 4 million is a small part of the resources needed to achieve the goals and objectives that the program

has. Input from the working groups and agencies, will target how we can be utilize the available funds. What is the overall mix for funding for the major categories of work, prevention, control and eradication, research and technology. This will be an opportunity to weight the balance of the different operations that we have out there. There is need for two elements of response for invasive species, one that is provided by the invasive species with early detection and eradicate, and a second for the control of established pest through biological control. Biological control is mentioned in the plan but without any specific details. Another concern is how to incorporate aquatic resources which is now a small part of the overall program. The review of the strategic plan will take place over the next six months in an effort to come up with a strategic plan that can guide the HISC over the next four years.

Lyle Wong, Administrator, Plant Industry Division, said over the past several weeks the HDOA has been in discussion with DLNR regarding HISC and the strategic plan which we believe has served HISC well over the past four years, but clearly should be update at this point in time. This discussion has developed in part because of questions from the chairperson, BOA, regarding how well are we partnering with the members of HISC and are we accomplishing what we are hoping to accomplish. Dr. Wong suggested that the reality within the HDOA is that the department has been focused on the self interest to develop program capacity to best implement core responsibilities, for Plant Quarantine, pest prevention, with available resources and how well are we planning for new program initiatives as new resources become available. The chair's focus has been on how do we more effectively engage in the process, within the HDOA and with HISC. Therein, the focus in house has been on program priorities at the same time not losing any opportunities with respect to HISC on what HISC is trying to do. Dr. Wong suggested that a good first step would be to have meetings with DLNR and have dialog with the membership on a more regular basis. The sense is that the various initiatives of concern within the HDOA need not be all funded by HISC, but should be supported by HISC as other sources of funding are sought from federal and other agencies. HDOA wants to further expand the department's biosecurity programs, State Plant Quarantine was fortunate to expand its program from 62 to almost 105 positions, clearly this will not be enough, but its an addition to be optimistic that we can expand capacity and develop program to address and mitigate specific risk. The HDOA was to expand the department's biocontrol capacity and this has been discussed with DLNR. The feeling within the HDOA is that biocontrol is a program area that fits within the Established Pest Working Group scope, but that HISC would not have the kind of funding needed to along expand the capacity of the HDOA's program so the HDOA much look to other funding sources, including the legislature and federal agencies. Further, it is the HDOA interest to further expand the research capacity in Hawaii to address pest problems through partnerships with other agencies, including the USDA-ARS, Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center, the University of Hawaii-Hilo, and the University of Hawaii-Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, Fish and Wildlife, and the USDA-Wildlife Services. There are opportunities to have alliances with these organizations. Hawaii is the research capital of the world for fruit flies, and 95% or more of the technologies for the control of fruit flies have been developed and/or have origin in Hawaii but for social insects the expertise and technology development has been fairly marginal, but we have an opportunity to expand this capacity as well. The needs of the respective agencies may not necessarily be aligned on the best actions to be taken, so it's important for the agencies to get together to discuss our respective priorities, and this should be under the umbrella of HISC to the extent that we can. HDOA and DLNR has also discussed emergency planning. With new pests entering Hawaii, there is a need to

put aside some funds for emergency projects and to allocate these funds at the appropriate time in the course of the year to programs to assure that no funds lapse at the end of the year should no specific needs arise for the emergency funds for new pests.

## **WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

### **Public Outreach**

Maile Sakamoto, Chair, started with a slide that she has found useful in her presentations on how to best reach out to the community on the issues. She noted that an important factor is to have outreach specialists within the Island Invasive Species Committees to address individual program priorities and needs. The ISC are fully staffed, with outreach personnel as follows:

**Statewide Coordination HISC: Priscilla Billig**  
**Oahu Invasive Species Committee: Rachel Neville**  
**Maui Invasive Species Committee: Joylynn Paman**  
**Big island Invasive Species Committee: Diana Greenough**  
**Kauai Invasive Species Committee: Jackie Kozak**  
**Coordinating Group on Invasive Species: Christy Martin**

The Public Outreach group met five times last year. While funding has been stable, the level of funding has been flat and public outreach costs are high for media coverage and time. A strategic plan has been development by the public outreach group which will be implemented this year. Public outreach will implement a small grant program to communities to support individual community efforts for public outreach and will be supporting several Americorp interns this year. Public outreach hopes to come in with a large budget next year to support additional new initiatives. Funding has been in the range of 230K, which is very small compared to the budget of other working groups. While the strategic plan was not handed out, Maile Sakamoto explained the major components of the plan which includes, goals and objectives, priority emphasis, methodologies, specific actions to be taken, and measures of effectiveness.

Pest hotline, new letters, brochures, and children's fair, were highlighted as major projects of the past year.

### **Prevention**

Carol Okada, Chair and Program Manager, State Plant Quarantine reported that the group met once this past year to review the status of projects. The meeting was chaired by Domingo Cravalho of PQ.

DNLR Aquatic Resources has been working to develop a ballast water program to prevent the movement of marine invasive species through the ballast water systems of ships entering Hawaii.

USDA, Wildlife Services has been working on programs to prevent the movement of the brown tree snake into Hawaii. We had a scare this year when it was thought that the programs would lose federal assistance in inspecting flights leaving Guam for the BTS.

The Office of Insular Affairs Support provides support to HDOA for the inspection of flight with the funds used primarily for the over to cover Guam flights arriving in Hawaii.

Carol Okada provided an update on the HDOA biosecurity program, additional funding from the legislature has been received to added 56 new positions to the program to enhance prevent/inspectional activities. The goal is to prevent pest entry as well as to help promote agriculture. Program development is occurring through several different phases, with the first being the filing of new staff positions through the Legislative appropriation. The program has only one diagnostician and efforts are underway to expand the diagnostic capacity of the program with additional staff as well as through linkages with other agencies, including the California Department of Food and Agriculture. The legislative appropriation of 2.9 million including approximately 2.5 million for additional staff and .5 million for additional operating program funds. These funds allow the program to reinstate inspectional program activities dropped over the past 10 – 12 years as a result of funding cut-backs. One of these activities was rapid response. Prior to the biosecurity funding, program staff was not able to travel interisland to provide assistance to outer island staff when pests were detected. Each investigation costs in the range of \$5,000.

Carol Okada described various other projects funded by Hawaii Department of Transportation for Kahului Airport under the Alien Species Action Plan for airport improvements, including, airport informational displays. Biological surveys around the airport are being conducted by Bishop Museum.

Regarding diagnostics, Carol Okada indicated the Department of Agriculture not does have a botanist on staff; State Plant Quarantine has only one identifier at the present time for insects. This is a problem since for PQ to take regulatory action, the pest of concern must be identified.

Carol Okada gave an update on the filling of staff positions on the various islands. Kona, Kauai and Maui still have vacant position as no qualified candidates applied for the positions. Hilo and Oahu positions have a few vacant positions as a result of recent retirements; these will be filled as many eligible candidates have applied for available positions for the respective ports.

For Maui, we are finding that applicants from Maui are missing required courses and/or a four year degree.

Four Department of Interior funded inspector positions were not filled to provide personnel saving to cover canine handlers' overtime for the inspection of Guam flights that arrive in Hawaii at all hours of the day.

Carol Okada also pointed out what happens when new inspectors are brought into the program. Total inspections are going up for both air and ship cargo. However, when new pest arrive or are of concern, the redirecting of staff to the priority concern (e.g., the varroa mite or the light brown apple moth) results in a decrease in staff time at the ports with a reduction in inspection capacity.

Carol Okada gave a brief update on the development of the Invicta database system for State Plant Quarantine. FAA started funding the program development in 2002. The database at the time was available solely for the Kahului Airport under the Record of

Agreement by FAA to the airport Environmental Impact Statement. In 2004, the database went through further development. In 2005-06, HISC provided \$300,000 for the further expansion of the Invicta Database System for statewide application.

Carol Okada gave a brief review of the Invicta system, including, data fields on flights, carriers, passengers, inspections, cargo and interceptions; organisms detected and identified; permit data and reports that can be generated from the database.

Ms. Okada showed a number of slides of the new Alien Species Inspection Facility at Kahului Airport, which is targeted for completion in October or November of this year. The facility will hold three agencies, State PQ, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, and Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection. The facility has three inspection bays that are fully enclosed to contain cargo if pests are detected. A joint-use facility is being planned for Honolulu International Airport and a team from State PQ will visit federal plant inspection stations in Miami, Houston and Los Angeles shortly as part of the planning process for this facility.

Other collaborative efforts were mentioned. State PQ worked with the Taiwan Plant Quarantine Ministry to assure the safe movement of potted orchids from Taiwan to a nursery in Hawaii. A pathway risk assessment is being finalized with USDA-APHIS-PPQ for domestic and foreign flight, passengers, and cargo arriving in Hawaii. The report will include recommendations on how state and federal quarantine programs can better work together to reduce pest risks.

Regarding the coqui frog, a program is being developed for the construction and cost sharing of thermal heat treatment units on the Island of Hawaii. HDOA has further entered into a contract with the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to build a hot water treatment unit, which will be located on the Island of Hawaii

Ms. Okada gave the committee a brief description of technologies observed in Taiwan for red imported fire ant control to track pesticide application using GIS on tractor spray rigs that we hope to employ in Hawaii in large area wide pest control programs.

### Established Pests

Teya Pennimen, Manager of the Maui Invasive Species Committee, speaking on behalf of this group, gave an update on the aquatic invasive species program.

Teya Pennimen gave an update on the aquatic invasive species program. She noted that the work is a pioneering effort and is achieving national recognition. She said that it is in its third year and that more resources need to be added to this project.

She said that the aquatic invasive species group is working across the state to survey for invasive species and that the eradication of aquatic species is hard to do. She mentioned that a mushroom anemone has been successfully eradicated. Also mentioned was a super sucker that is being used to suck up alien algae at several hundreds pounds per hour. She said the group is also doing hull inspections of all research vessels before they go to the Northwest Hawaiian Islands to be sure they are not transporting invasive organisms.

Ms. Pennimen said that ISC is particularly good in focusing limited resources on the most effective strategy. As an example, she mentioned that a widespread invasive species such as Miconia on the Big Island can't be taken on all a one time, so they locate the outlying populations and work on controlling them. She said in 2006 BIISC controlled over 1,300 mature plants and surveyed over 12,000 acres. She also mentioned that miconia is under control on Oahu and Kauai, with smaller populations on Maui but is over large areas on the Island of Hawaii. She said that surveys are continuing on Molokai where it has not been detected.

Regarding the coqui frog, Ms. Pennimen reported that a large area on Maui in Maliko gulch is infested. Plans are in place to initiate some control in the gulch. The population in Wahiawa on Oahu and Lawae on Kauai appears to be close to eradication as no calling frogs (Wahiawa) or much fewer frogs (Kauai) have been heard in recent months.

She said surveys are continuing on Mokokai for the coqui frog and it appears to be free of the frog at this time.

Maui has 13 established populations with five or more calling frogs. Ms. Pennimen showed a slide of the location of the populations on Maui. The large infestation on Maui is in Maliko Gulch and it is not certain what can be done about the population. The gulch is likely to be a testing ground for various frog control strategies.

Regarding early detection, the Oahu Invasive Species Committee is working with Bishop Museum on an early detection program for invasive plant species. Surveys by OISC have documented over 1,200 species. Of the 175 species that have not been vouchered at the Museum, 17 are known to be invasive elsewhere in the world. There are early detection projects underway on each of the islands at this point.

Agricultural targets of the Invasive Species Committees include noxious weeds, insect pests as well as diseases, including ivy gourd, fire ants, banana bunchy top disease, fire weed and others. Over the past three years, over 40% of ISC efforts have involved agricultural pests. Although Molokai does not have a state agricultural inspector, the Molokai ISC staff has partnered with USDA-APHIS-PPQ staff on some projects, including training on GPS and where surveys can be done.

Ms. Pennimen said that KISC has been working on the long thorn kiawe, clearing about nine acres of the weed.

Ms. Pennimen mentioned the importance of support of partners, both in-kind and dollars, involving state, federal, county, private and non-profit organizations, and that this has been the key to the success of the Invasive Species Committees. She also said that HISC funds are very well leveraged. In closing, she thanked the HISC Council for its leadership and support.

### Research and Technology

Christopher Buddenhagen, HISC Coordinator, DLNR, gave an update on the research and technology development efforts of HISC. He noted that HISC did not have funds for new R/T development projects last year; therefore, the report covers the period 2005 and 2006.

He said that research has been very applied, focusing on five areas, control, biocontrol, detection and risk. Biocontrol including miconia, various weed and Erythrina gall wasp, the supper sucker and lures for the nettle caterpillar. The range of pests, insects and weeds received a large proportion of the money. Partly because the marine group is breaking new ground it received significant funding for the super sucker program.

He reported that the University of Hawaii is the main research provider, USDA received some funding for biological control. He said that several groups including some not in Hawaii also received funds.

He reported that a pheromone based lure was developed for the nettle caterpillar, which is currently being used for detection surveys on Maui and Oahu. The lure attracts the male moth. The principal investigator, Dr. Eric Jang, is exploring the possibility of the lure being used for mass trapping and mating disruption to implement control and eradication.

A hot water shower project was funded for the disinfestation of nursery plants of the coqui frog. The technology is expected to be applied widely to prevent movement of the frog in Hawaii.

The super sucker was developed with research money to remove algae weeds. Recent surveys suggested that areas cleared of the weed appear to repopulate with the algae more slowly as a result of the predation on the alga by fish. Therefore, the impact may be longer term for this method of cleaning out noxious algal species.

Mr. Buddenhagen reported that a good proportion of the budget went into biological control contracts that support USDA and HDOA work. He mentioned that one project included a search for nematode pests in Mexico for noxious weeds in Hawaii.

### West Nile Virus

Larry Lau, Deputy Director of Environmental Health, HDOH, reported that HDOH was very grateful to the HISC for the funding received. HDOH has been very active with many partners. Their accomplishments include continued surveillance for mosquitoes by Vector Control Branch and trapping and testing by State HDOH labs. He said over 2,900 mosquito pools were tested, made up of over 113,000 mosquitoes.

He said over 1,483 live birds have been tested and USDA-APHIS and Wildlife Biology and other agencies have been testing as well and that more islands are being covered. Dead birds have been tested by Vector Control Branch and USGS. A week spot has been the 211 hotline, which has been operating but the number of calls have declined in 2007 from 2006. He mentioned that, in the past, a big media push helped increase the numbers of calls, but have not been able to sustain that media presence. The Vector Control has been treating for mosquitoes and tracking the work in the field with hand held GIS units provided by HISC funds. HDOH also plans to use HISC funds to install GIS units for its trucks in the future. Outreach efforts continue as well with a website and through the media. An online bird submission form should be available soon. He mentioned that HDOH staff time has been significant as well. He said that the prospects are to continue operations with more live bird testing and increases in 211 calls. He did say that the one issue of importance is the timing of the money to DOH, which is critical.

He said that in the past the money has come in the second half of the fiscal year, which makes it tougher to get projects up and running.

Co-Chair Sandra Kunimoto noted that the West Nile virus is now pretty much across the U.S., so basically Hawaii in this mode forever. She also mentioned that the HISC funding is for short-term projects; therefore, the state needs to look for long-term funding for West Nile virus.

### **2007-2008 HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL BUDGET**

Mindy Wilkinson, Invasive Species Coordinator, DLNR, presented the proposed HISC budget for 2008. Dr. Wilkinson pointed out where the \$4 million budget for HISC, which is up from \$2 million last year, is in context with other dedicated invasive species funding other than base budgets for the Departments of Health, Natural Resources, and Agriculture. She said that the Legislature has dedicated specifically for coqui frogs since FY 2006, with last year at a peak and a decrease to \$800,000 for this year. The biggest impact will be on the Big Island, where the bulk of the \$2 million has gone and has the largest infestation, which is conservatively estimated at ten square miles this year. She stated that, currently, the tools and resources for controlling the coqui frog are not sufficient to eradicate the frogs and that HISC has been trying to tie in with that money. They recognize that the coqui will be a problem for the foreseeable future. She said that the strategic plan for coqui frog is research, containment and control objectives and HISC hopes to support the effective use of the money which has been distributed as follows: \$500,000 - Big Island; \$200,000 – Maui; and \$100,000 – Kauai.

Dr. Wilkinson reported that on biosecurity, there was a veto override for the bill authorizing collection of fees for sea containers. She also mentioned that although it was pointed out that an inspection facility was being built in Kahului, there were many other ports in the State, including maritime, that don't have facilities. She said they were hoping that when the inspection fees start coming in and is placed in a special fund that a combination of federal funds in partnership with HDOT and future capital improvement can improve this critical situation.

Sandra Kunimoto commented that the latest estimate on the container fees was revised by DOT to about \$700,00 to \$750,000.

Dr. Wilkinson stated that this was the fourth year since the HISC budget was originally presented to the Legislature in 2003 to start a pilot program for five years. She explained that they have been requesting funding of \$4 million to provide a pool of money that would help start an experimental program by identifying critical projects that are currently not being funded that fill a gap that agencies or other partnerships in the State have not taken on. She said they are hoping that projects that have done well will be incorporated into agency budgets.

### **Research and Technology**

Dr. Wilkinson hopes that Research and Technology will be added in this year and noted that although funding for Prevention projects have not been available for the past two years, it is not to say that it will not become available in the future. She gave a quick overview for the \$375,000 budget for prevention projects such as DOH's West Nile Virus, which included Vector Control and Public Outreach.

### Weed Risk Assessment

Dr. Wilkinson covered the \$111,400 budget for this project, which includes the HISC mini newsletter. She mentioned that there were over 600 plant species that have been screened using the weed risk assessment and voluntarily adopted by Maui, Kauai, Oahu as well as the American Society of Landscape Architects (Hawaii Chapter) to help make decisions as to whether or not to recommend particular plants as weeds. She said that the HISC had agreed earlier this year to evaluate the weed risk assessment to see whether or not Hawaii could move towards a “white list,” as recommended in the Governor’s economic momentum council to screen items before they are brought in. Dr. Wilkinson said there is a high enough volume to create a platform for a “white list.”

### Pacific Island Learning Network (PILN)

Dr. Wilkinson said that PILN is Pacific wide and included the American territories as well as independent states in the Pacific. She explained that we should be involved because one PILN study showed that more than 70% of containers from Pacific Islands contained pests and their solution was to build up quarantine capacity in Hawaii, although it would be better to do pre-departure inspection. She said that PILN is providing an opportunity for a Hawaii team, led by Domingo Cravalho, to participate in a team exchange in Tahiti. Dr. Wilkinson said that Hawaii’s project is called, “Better Intervention Across the Pacific Islands.”

### Hawaii Ants Projects Coordinator and the West Nile Virus and Emergent Diseases Coordinator.

Dr. Wilkinson said the Ant Project Coordinator is a continuation of a project that was funded two years ago and having one person focus on ants was a recommendation after a biosecurity discussion last year with New Zealand. In regards to the West Nile Virus and Emergent Diseases Coordinator, she said that CDC is no longer funding a position in the DOH and USFWS had provided a person, who has since moved on. She said that the lack of funding and subsequent vacancy has not improved the accountability or monitoring the efficacy of efforts in detection and prevention of emergent diseases.

### Ballast Water and Hull Fouling Project

Dr. Wilkinson said this project was proposed by the DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources. She mentioned that in 2005 this Division put together a proposal but was, unfortunately, not successfully completed. She said that one of the stumbling blocks at that time was that they did not have someone dedicated to that position. They have since hired Biologist Jason Leonard, who will accomplish the key components of data management such as identification of survey areas, develop outreach, training and identification, and possibly create a remote-operated vehicle for security and also for biological safety situations.

### Response and Control

Dr. Wilkinson gave a brief overview. She pointed out that the key goals are: 1) Early detection; 2) Identifying items that are just getting established; and 3) Ability to respond.

## Research and Technology

Dr. Wilkinson said there will be two proposals: 1) Broad program goals that encourages researchers to address invasive species problems such as implementation of new technology to prevent the establishment and control of invasive species, develop an effective science-based approach to invasive species, and effectively communicate the results of research to the field where it can be applied; and 2) Focus on coqui frog control methods.

Dr. Wilkinson pointed out that although it will be the same funding, there will be flexibility between the two proposals. Co-Chair Kunimoto agreed with the idea of flexibility. She also wanted to bring to everyone's attention that there should be one person representing each of the voting members on the Council when issuing the Request for Proposal (RFP) and doing the evaluation of the proposals. Ms Kunimoto said she was informed that members of the evaluation committee have to be named when issuing a RFP, so she asked each Council member to have a representative in mind to facilitate the issuance of a RFP.

Dr. Wilkinson mentioned that Sam Ostrander is chairing the Research and Technology Working Group and they will make sure that all agencies are represented. She continued by saying that they are tied into the State procurement process and confirmed that listing of evaluators is a requirement by law.

## Public Outreach

Dr. Wilkinson gave a brief overview. She said the proposed budget will continue to support staffing, supplies, etc., for projects, and a larger scale invasive species campaign to be sure that the message as to why we are doing this will get out.

## HISC Administration Support

Dr. Wilkinson said that this budget has going up. She said that staffing costs cover two staff members: Chris Buddenhagen, HISC Coordinator, who coordinates many of the documents, the strategic plan, assists working groups, and is a technical expert on invasive species and Karmin Kine, HISC Grants Manager, who makes sure that all contracts are proceeding and that information by researchers in the reports are available.

She explained that the indirect costs are tied to the previously mentioned staff and covers contracting with RCUH (University of Hawaii) and PCSU. She continued with the Central Services Fee, which is assessed by Budget and Finance for maintenance of a special fund (7% of \$3,000,000 of the total HISC budget of \$4,000,000). She also explained that the 2% DOFAW Overhead is not 2% of the budget but the percentage of the money that will be administered directly by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

The final category was the Contingency Fund. She said that this amount covers State reductions or across-the-board reductions to avoid funding shortfalls. She pointed out that the explanation in the budget submission refers to the amount as reserved funds and in the case that these restrictions are not imposed, the money would be used as an emergency response for invasive species. She said that for the past three years, this plan has failed and does not recommend it. She further explained that in addition to the

logistics of deciding what constitutes an emergency that is over and above what has been developed by the response and control projects and agencies, they have not been able to find a mechanism to create a special fund to shelter this money so it wouldn't lapse. Dr. Wilkinson said it has been suggested to use the contingency fund to conduct legal reviews over the next year or two on both existing departmental authorities for invasive species as well as institute rules based on HRS 194, which established the Council.

Member Sam Callejo, UH, asked what was appropriated in the second year of the biennium, which is 2009? He was informed that \$4 million was appropriated. He asked how much of this budget is recurring personnel costs? Co-Chair Kunimoto said it has been identified as program staff mostly in DLNR for the programs that they administer. She mentioned that HDOA does not receive funds for positions. Member Lau, DOH, said they have one contract position that is funded.

Mr. Callejo asked if any are full-time State positions or are they contract? Dr. Wilkinson replied that none of the funding is for state staff. She said the approximate 60 staff with the Invasive Species Committees and the Aquatic Invasive Species Team are funded through RCUH. She said a legislative request was turned in for this coming biennium for Invasive Species Biologist positions but the request has not yet left DLNR. She also mentioned that the Dept. of Health is dependent upon CDC funding. She said that other avenues could be taken to fund these positions, but none have been successful this biennium except for the Dept. of Agriculture positions.

Mr. Callejo asked what was the Governor's plan beyond 2009? Ms. Kunimoto answered that this matter has not been discussed with the Governor.

Mr. Callejo inquired whether the Central Services fee of \$210,000 could be waived because it is for short-term programs? Mr. Conry, DLNR, replied that a percentage is assessed on all special funds and, in this case, it is taken from the Natural Area Reserve Fund (NARS). He explained that the original budget request by the Governor four years ago was for general funds. The Legislature, in turn, funded \$2 million from general funds and another \$2 million from special funds. Thereafter, requests were continually submitted to replace the special funds with general funds; however, it has never been reflected as such in final Legislative budgets. Mr. Conry confirmed that the current budget shows \$3 million is from the NARS special fund and the remaining \$1 million is from general funds.

When Co-Chair Smith asked if there was flexibility to make a decision later in regards to the contingency fund, Ms. Kunimoto agreed as suggested that the Co-Chairs retain the ability to make a determination at a later date if the money is not used. Mr. Smith stated that this should be kept track of and would probably need to be assigned to someone.

Mr. Lau, DOH, wondered how Council would deal with issues regarding line items such as equipment that may not be available for whatever reason and whether the money could be used within a project or a cross project? Mr. Smith replied that a meeting could be convened to make a determination. Ms. Kunimoto felt that if it stayed within a component, it probably might be considered a minor shift.

Ms. Kunimoto asked if it was possible for DOH to receive West Nile funding prior to the third quarter and if there was any way to speed up the process? Dr. Wilkinson replied

that the DLNR staff drafts a request for transfer of funds to the Governor as soon as the Council approves the budget. She stated that last year it took nearly eight weeks for the Governor's approval. Dr. Wilkinson said she would continue to do her best and welcomed any suggestions to increase the speed in which transfers are approved.

There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Council members approved the FY 2008 budget proposal as presented and the motion was carried unanimously.

**Michael Buck** commented on the good work by HISC. He said that HISC is 75% special funded, with 60-80 contract positions that may go quickly. He urged Cabinet Heads to actively participate in the next budget cycle to try to get more permanent funding for HISC.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 pm by Co-Chairperson Allan Smith.