

Established Pests Working Group Meeting February 25, 2008
Monday, February 25, 2008
1:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.
Rm 322C, 1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI, 96813

Attendees: Mindy Wilkinson (DOFAW) chair

Chris Buddenhagen (HISC)
Christy Martin (CGAPS)
Julie Leialoha (BIISC)
Keren Gundersen (KISC)
Stephanie Joe (HISC)

Sara Pelleteri (DAR)
Teya Penniman (MISC)
Rob Hauff (DOFAW)
Rachel Neville (OISC)
Alan Tye (SPREP)

HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL
Established Pests (Response and Control) Working Group

1. **Call to Order 1:39 PM**
2. **Introductions**
3. **Approval of minutes of meetings on May 31, 2007 and March 7, 2007**

The summary section of the May 31 meeting minutes was amended to note that all established coqui populations were nearing successful eradication on Oahu and Kauai. The minutes for May 31, 2007 were approved with the change. The minutes for March 7, 2007 were approved unamended.

4. **Review and approve new strategic plan established pests section, discuss other changes to the strategic plan**

The Established Pests section of the strategic plan was discussed and revised. The approved revised text is included after the minutes. Priorities included focusing on developing early detection and rapid response and supporting county-based partnership efforts.

5. **Review status of ant coordinator position**

The funding for the ant coordinator has been encumbered to PCSU. The tasks described in the HISC supported, "Plan for Prevention of Establishment of New Ant Species in Hawaii, with Special Attention to the Red Imported Fire Ant (*Solenopsis invicta*) and Little Fire Ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*)" (Ant Plan) were reviewed. There was concern that the status of the tasks in the plan are not well known and before the ant coordinator position is re-described a status report on the progress towards implementing the Ant Plan. A request to the Department of Agriculture and other appropriate response agencies for an update on progress and needs to carry out the Ant Plan will be sent out by HISC staff. The recommendation on re-describing the Ant Coordinator position will be pending the review of the update progress towards the tasks of the Ant Plan.

6. Review and comment on ISC support with respect to agricultural pests

Past concern about response target selection and incorporation of ISC support for agricultural pests was discussed. In 2004, a scope of work for the Invasive Species Committees was generated by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. It was agreed that ISC Coordinators would work with local branch staff to recommend work plans and that these county based priorities would be discussed collectively with administrative staff in a future meeting. The outcome would be a revised work plan and strategy for addressing new targets as they arise. A formal invitation letter to the Department of Agriculture to participate in developing the work plan will be drafted by HISC staff.

7. Review and discuss HISC needs assessment for invasive species

The Resources Working Group is revisiting the needs assessment for invasive species prevention and control projects. The Established Pests Working Group members are asked to work with the Resources Working Group to provide information about currently unaddressed priority needs that would improve invasive species management in Hawaii and address gaps. This is in the context of HRS194 a) (3) Identify and prioritize each lead agency's organizational and resource shortfalls with respect to invasive species. Staff involved in this effort are Chris Buddenhagen (HISC), Christy Martin (CGAPS) and Susan Gray-Ellis (DBEDT), they will be contacting staff in different agencies to gather information.

8. Review and approve recommendations to the HISC for an Invasive Species Special fund for outbreak response.

The need to develop a special fund with an administrative protocol for distributing the funds was discussed. The general language for establishing an Invasive Species Special Fund was approved for recommendation to the HISC for inclusion in the legislative priorities of the Council.

SECTION 2. Chapter 194, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§194-A Invasive species special fund. (a) There is established in the state treasury the invasive species special fund, into which shall be deposited:

- (1) Revenues from the bottled water special fund under section 340E-B;
- (2) Appropriations made by the legislature into the fund;
- (3) Accrued interest from the fund; and
- (4) Any other funding made by private or government sources.

(b) Moneys in the invasive species special fund shall be used to:

- (1) Fund administrative, audit, and compliance expenses associated with the fund; and
- (2) Fulfill the purposes of this chapter as directed by the invasive species council under section 194-2."

9. Adjournment at 3:39PM

Response and Control- Established Pests Approved text for plan.

Chair of working group: DLNR

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

Goals: (1) Review priorities for the control of pests already present or recently arrived in the state; (2) implement cost effective eradication and control programs against incipient and established pests with shared resources and shared responsibilities of all agencies.

Where it is achievable, eradication is the best management option for dealing with alien invasive species when prevention has failed. It is much more cost effective financially than ongoing control, and better for the environment. Technological improvements are increasing the number of situations where eradication is possible, especially on islands.

One of the most important improvements has been in "Early Detection". This means that we consistently and systematically survey for newly establishing species, identify these species correctly and use mapping and data management to identify where all known individuals are located. Successful eradication is only possible with support from early detection that includes taxonomic experts, agency and public awareness and documentation to ensure accountability.

Response & Control Established Pests Objectives:

- Implement improvements to capacity for detection, eradication and control e.g. increased staffing, training and infrastructure to respond to both terrestrial and aquatic invasive species.
 - Detect and immediately target high priority invasive species that are candidates for eradication in all or part of their range e.g. Coqui frogs on Oahu and Kauai.
 - Include and coordinate with the county based invasive species committees to increase resources and funding and to address county-sponsored activities that involve invasive species HRS 194-2 (12).
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- Eliminate known invasive plant species from public projects and contracts.
 - For those species that do arrive in Hawaii identify and record all introduced and invasive species present in the. State HRS 194-2 (a) (6).
 - Develop and implement a decision making protocol for targeting species for eradication and or control efforts
 - Review and update DLNR's injurious wildlife list and DOA's Noxious Weed List as needed in a timely manner.
 - Identify and prioritize each lead agency's organizational and resource shortfalls with respect to invasive species HRS 194-2 (a) (3)
 - Determine what species are invasive to trigger access provisions onto private lands.
 - Review and revise regulations governing the introduction of biological control agents.
 - Support development of management plans for widespread vertebrate pests.
 - Develop capacity on each island to conduct effective coordinated rapid response to all

snake sightings.

- Establish clear agency responsibilities and criteria for rapid response activities to ensure coordinated efforts.
- Follow up with ag and health Dept of Hawaiian Homelands diseases and invertebrates.

Response & Control - Measures of Effectiveness

- Number of species detected and evaluated for feasibility of eradication.
- Proportion (area, #'s) of invasive species eradicated and/or controlled of those detected.
- Prioritization processes identified and in place.
- Implementation of the priority response and control actions of the Aquatic Invasive Species, West Nile Virus, Coqui frog, and red-imported fire ant plans
- Number and names of species, habitats, ecosystems, landscapes, agricultural or other managed areas protected because of control efforts.