

HISC Prevention Working Group Meeting  
March 19, 2008  
Plant Quarantine Branch Conference Room  
1849 Auiki St.  
Honolulu, HI 96819

Attendees:

Mr. Domingo Cravalho, HDOA-Plant Quarantine Branch (Chair)  
Mr. Darcy Oishi, HDOA-Plant Quarantine Branch (Secretary)  
Dr. Lloyd Loope, USGS  
Mr. Tony Montgomery, DLNR-Aquatic Resources  
Mr. Greg Olmsted, HDOH-Vector Control Branch  
Mr. Chris Buddenhagen, DLNR-DOFAW  
Mr. Robert Hauff, DLNR-DOFAW  
Dr. Paul Krushelnycky, USGS/UH  
Ms. Stephanie Joe, HISC Weed Risk Assessment Specialist  
Mr. Todd Russell, Marine Corps. Base Hawaii  
Mr. Carl Buermeyer, USFWS Invasive Species Division  
Dr. Shahin Ansari, SWCA Environmental Consultants  
Mr. Jeffery Herod, USFW  
Mr. Jason Leonard, DLNR-DAR  
Mr. Keevin Minami, HDOA-PQ  
Dr. Mindy Wilkinson, DLNR-DOFAW

Agenda:

I. Call to Order: Mr. Domingo Cravalho called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM

II. Introductions

III. 2007 Project Updates

- Current HISC funded projects:
  - West Nile Virus, \$375,000
  - Ant Coordinator Position (unfilled), \$50,000
  - Hull Fouling/Ballast Water, \$95,000
  - Weed Risk Assessment Work, \$110,000
  - Pacific Invasives Learning Network \$30,000
  - Avian disease coordinator \$75,000
  
- Total funding: approximately \$736,400
  
- Update on West Nile Virus Program (Greg Olmsted)
  - New Programs: Working with American Mosquito Control Association to develop Public Service Announcements for education
  - Prevention

- Larvicides: Larvicides have been ordered but not received (purchased using HISC money). Currently using existing supplies of larvicides.
  - Surveillance
    - Aloha United Way 211 Number in place
    - Necropsies and West Nile testing still ongoing
    - Gravid traps have been set up at each port (25 on Oahu)
    - HISC funds used to purchase RAMP/PCR testing kits
  - Response and Control
    - Truck mounted GPS/GIS system for applying ULV mosquito adulticides: HISC funds used for pilot project; if it works well it will be expanded to rest of Vector fleet; ESRI based
    - Have 7 trucks mounted with ULV sprayers
    - Backpack ULV sprayers
    - Toured C130 retrofitted for mosquito control
  - Discussion
    - Targeting on source reduction priorities
    - Have long term appropriations/funding from DOH been sought by Vector Control for West Nile Control Programs?
- West Nile Virus Coordinator Update (Mindy Wilkinson)
  - Purpose: Pick-up interagency efforts previously conducted and administered by USFW staff
  - Hired Ana Gabela
- Ant Coordinator Update (Mindy Wilkinson)
  - Position not hired yet
    - \$50,000 allocated
  - Discussions on going where to house
  - HDOA questioning need for Ant Coordinator
  - Money has been encumbered with PCSU
    - Money good for 18 months
  - Discussion: need for an Ant Coordinator
  - Action Items
    - Job description to be forwarded to Domingo Cravalho
    - Domingo to discuss position/situation with superiors
- Ballast Water and Hull Fouling (Jason Leonard)
  - Ballast Water Administrative Rules passed
  - Looking at management plan for hull fouling
    - Recreational hull fouling situation unknown
    - Currently working with Navy to reduce hull fouling issues with Navy ships
  - Aquatic Invasive Team
    - an Underwater ISC
    - helps do field work
  - HISC Funding
    - Project funding comes totally from HISC
      - field camera

- reference material
  - basic supplies
  - invertebrate training
  - ID of specimens
  - HISC funding Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV)
- Weed Risk Assessment (Stephanie Joe)
  - Stephanie started about a month ago/ Chuck Chimera started in September
  - Priority currently given to landscapers/trying to give more priority to the public.
  - Support also given to the early detection teams that are looking for incipient invasive plants species on each island.
  - can contact by emailing [hpwra@yahoo.com](mailto:hpwra@yahoo.com)
  - Discussed USDA risk assessment for plants and weeds
- PILN (Chris Buddenhagen)
  - Background
    - Pacific Island Learning Network
    - Based in Samoa
    - Peer learning program so people go to other islands to learn invasive species issues
    - Funding project to send staff to Hawaii to work with Domingo and DLNR on biosecurity issues

#### IV. Legislative Update (Mindy Wilkinson)

- Recommendations in HISC Report to Legislature
  - Revisit service fees to close gap between sea containers and air containers
  - Address gaps with regards to imports of plants
- Domingo update on HDOA related bills

#### V. HISC Strategic Plan

- Extensive discussion regarding Strategic Plan and wordings; including
  - the feasibility and value of identifying all invasive and introduced species in Hawaii;
  - measures of effectiveness;
  - management of pathways to reduce introductions.

Motion to Adjourn by Carl Buermeyer at 12:18 PM. Lloyd Loope seconded. Meeting was adjourned.

Proposal to the HISC Prevention Working Group

Total Request \$150,200 [Approved budget on July 19, 2007 was \$125,000.]

1) The Hawaii Ant Projects Coordinator \$75,200

The Invasive Species Strategy Specialist facilitates more effective protection of Hawaii's environment from harmful alien species by gathering background information and facilitating coordination, organization, prioritization, and implementation of measures to prevent the introduction of alien pests into Hawaii, with special emphasis on prevention of establishment and interisland spread of the Little Fire Ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) and the Red Imported Fire Ant (*Solenopsis invicta*). Incumbent accomplishes this by assisting federal and state agencies to implement more effective protection measures from non-native pest organisms, including identification of alien species pathways of entry into Hawaii, developing management plans and educational material, technical writing, organizing meetings, and other support work as necessary to fulfill program objectives. Supervises and trains field personnel in collection of entomological field data, conducts data analyses, and prepares research papers and reports for publication in professional journals and dissemination to interested parties. This is a one-year position, subject to renewal based on performance and available funding.

Total request:                   \$75,200  
  \$54,000 Salary  
  \$16,200 Fringe  
  \$5,000 Travel and Materials

2) West Nile Virus and Emergent Disease Inter-agency Response Coordination - \$75,000

West Nile virus (WNV) was introduced from Eurasia into North America in 1999, and has now spread across the continent. In addition to causing the largest human meningoencephalitis epidemic in American history, WNV has caused dieoffs of many North American birds. WNV has several potential routes of entry into Hawaii and other Pacific islands. Once established in Hawaii, WNV could not be eradicated and would spread throughout the islands, jeopardizing the survival and precluding the recovery of many species and causing recurrent human illness and mortality. This could be as catastrophic for native birds as were the introductions of avian malaria and pox over a century ago.

A public-private coalition has worked on this issue for two years and hosted an international workshop in January 2004. Participants agreed that Hawaii's best strategy to avoid the impacts of WNV was detection and prompt eradication of WNV outbreaks. To implement this technically and logistically challenging strategy, branches of the State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) are directing prevention, surveillance, and response planning. Because public health threats generally tend to attract more attention than wildlife threats, the work being done by DOH will supplement the efforts of natural resources agencies to prevent the arrival of WNV to Hawaii. Actions to date include a postal embargo and bird quarantine, and surveillance of dead and live birds, mosquitoes, horses, and humans. Challenges include reduction of mosquito transport to Hawaii, rapid testing of surveillance samples, and rehearsal of response actions. As the USFWS based coordinator for these issues has moved on, the State of Hawaii needs to provide leadership on this issue. Coordinating the prevention efforts for this disease and other emergent diseases with HDOH, HDOA and DLNR staff is a key role that current agency staff are not able to fill due to current work load constraints. This position would use the existing West Nile Virus Working Group to accomplish planning and response needs for the State.

Total request:                   \$75,000  
  \$53,000 Salary  
  \$17,000 Fringe  
  \$5,000 Travel and Materials (requests for publications)

## INVASIVE ANT STRATEGY SPECIALIST

### Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit

- I. SUMMARY OF DUTIES: Regular, Full-Time, Limited Term (one-year in duration), RCUH Non-Civil Service position with the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit (PCSU), Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Hawaii County, located in Hilo, Hawaii. Continuation of employment is dependent upon program/operational needs, satisfactory work performance, and availability of funds.

Facilitates more effective protection of Hawaii's environment from harmful alien species by gathering background information and facilitating coordination, organization, prioritization, and implementation of measures to prevent the introduction of alien pests into Hawaii, with special emphasis on prevention of establishment and interisland spread of the Little Fire Ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) and the Red Imported Fire Ant (*Solenopsis invicta*). Incumbent accomplishes this by assisting federal and state agencies to implement more effective protection measures from non-native pest organisms, including identification of alien species pathways of entry into Hawaii, developing management plans and educational material, technical writing, organizing meetings, and other support work as necessary to fulfill program objectives. Supervises and trains field personnel in collection of entomological field data, conducts data analyses, and prepares research papers and reports for publication in professional journals and dissemination to interested parties. This is a one-year position, subject to renewal based on performance and available funding.

. **Key needing to be addressed in the updated plan include, for example:**

1. The need to change the criteria (set forth by USDA in the HI ant policy) that initiates action by DHS when ants are found on goods coming in from foreign countries
2. The need for a RIFA quarantine, modeled on the federal domestic RIFA quarantine, for high risk goods entering HI from foreign countries known to have RIFA infestations
3. The need to be able to quarantine individual infested nurseries, or quarantine infested areas within an island
4. The need for a state provision to compensate growers for condemned or destroyed crops, or loss of organic certification, in order to remove a major disincentive to report invasive ant infestations on their property
5. The need for an HDOA rule-change for a requirement that all plants undergo an approved treatment for LFA before being shipped off the big island.
6. The need for avenues, other than that of the governor declaring a state of emergency, via which a response to a new infestation can be rapidly implemented, i.e. via which an HDOA interim rule can be rapidly approved and implemented.

Actions pertaining to these and other issues were incorporated into a second draft of the revised plan and sent out to the group on May 9<sup>th</sup>. A second Hawaii Ant Group meeting is scheduled for May 31<sup>st</sup> to finalize the revisions, and to determine how to complete the many tasks outlined in the plan.

**In addition to updating the ant plan:**

1. Work on updating the HEAR website's invasive ant information and outreach material was initiated, and is about ½ way complete.
2. Work on compiling information on ant baits registered for use in HI, and types of sites on which they can be used, has been completed in the form of a spreadsheet. The spreadsheet also includes a list of products not registered in HI that might be useful to have registered here.
3. Work on compiling information on spray treatments, similar to that compiled for ant baits, was initiated and is in progress.
4. Work on updating RIFA and LFA detection survey protocols is in progress and should be complete following discussions at the May 21-24 Pacific Invasive Ant Conference on the big island.
5. A meeting of Hawaii Ant Group representatives and HDOA-PQ will be held on May 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss language and submission of an HDOA rule change request pertaining to: quarantine of individual nurseries, potentially with provision to compensate; general area quarantine; and a requirement for treatment of all plants for LFA before they leave big island
6. A meeting of HDOA, UH, and other scientists, is being planned for the third week of May to prioritize research on LFA treatment strategies