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### Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) – Resources Working Group

#### Eighth Meeting

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Hawaii Department of Agriculture  
Plant Quarantine Conference Room  
1849 Auiki Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

### MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 3:05 p.m. by Elizabeth Corbin, acting Resources Working Group (RWG) chair on behalf of Theodore E. Liu, DBEDT Director. Thanked all for being present at the meeting.
2. Introductions: Chelsea Arnott (OISC); Chris Buddenhagen (DLNR/DOFAW); Karl Buermeyer (USFWS); Patrick Chee (DLNR/DAR); Paul Conry (DLNR/DOFAW); Elizabeth Corbin (DBEDT/STB); Domingo Cravalho (HDOA); Chris Dacus (DOT); Susan Gray-Ellis (DBEDT/STB); Tony Montgomery (DLNR/DAR); Carol Okada (HDOA).
3. Approval of minutes: The minutes of the August 14, 2008 meeting were approved with no changes.
4. Conry explained that all agencies are looking at 10%, 15%, and 20% general fund restrictions. Montgomery emphasized that those cuts were departmental cuts and when you get below that level, programs are looking at more than 20% cuts. Corbin added that at the last meeting, Conry explained that HISC funding would be reduced due to lower conveyance taxes as well as the decrease in revenue which affects the general fund. The Governor's directive is to try not to lay off any warm bodies, so HISC funds will be seriously impacted. HISC's general fund monies are gone. The conveyance tax is going downward to \$6M per year. HISC is looking at roughly \$2M in FY10 and \$1.0-1.2M in FY 11 (approx. figures).
5. Discuss devising a new process for developing the annual budget: Buddenhagen handed out criteria for the RWG to review regarding RFP process. Developing annual budget process to be discussed at next meeting.
6. Finding alternative sources of funding: Corbin asked if there were alternate sources of funding available at this time. Okada stated that she believed there will be a repeal of the cargo tax and no personnel will be transferred to those special funds. Also, if HDOA is required to go to a 20% cut, there will be no cargo inspection on the neighbor islands. No cargo will be allowed from the mainland to the neighbor islands directly. The only exception will be exports from Hilo because of the importance of their exports on the State's economy. If HDOA is required to make 20% budget cuts, all cargo will have to

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flow through Honolulu and all inspection will be done in Honolulu. This was decided because 95% of all cargo currently comes through Honolulu now.

Corbin asked the group if there was any strength in the HISC as a whole going after a grant as opposed to individual groups going after separate grants. Were there any advantages to this instead of going for them separately? Are there resources out there that aren't being tapped yet? What was discussed several years ago in the RWG was that groups knew what federal grants were available and were not able to go after those grants because:

1. Agencies are constrained by personnel to write the grants;
2. Agencies are limited by personnel to manage the grant once it's been awarded.

Conry suggested that there may be grant opportunities that weren't there 5 years ago. One grant to look at is the EPA Watershed grant, which requires a 50% match, but it might be worth it for the ISCs to look into these types of grants because they could use their volunteer hours as match. Buddenhagen suggested that the ISCs could apply for grants that had to do with control rather than eradication, which would broaden their scope of work and allow them to apply to a wider range of grants. Conry agreed. Dacus suggested that one person in the ISCs might be the best source of knowledge for federal funding. Buddenhagen stated that Taya at MISC has received the most federal funding. Buddenhagen stressed the value of prevention work. He expressed how important it is and that it is the most cost effective form of invasive species work. He stated that there is an economic argument in terms of preventing the influx of invasive species instead of trying to control it once it arrives. Conry stated that the funding issue may be brought up in the legislature this session because of the budget reductions. Montgomery voiced that one of the gaps we have is that we don't have the right packages of economists or experts to show the need [for prevention work] before it spreads exponentially. Corbin suggested doing an Economic Impact Brief along with some estimate of the likelihood of it happening, and incidences of it happening somewhere else. Conry suggests looking at CGAPS Economic Impacts Brief first. Corbin suggested checking with the National Invasive Species contact: Mindy Wilkinson. Corbin stated that an Economic Impact Brief would be an impartial, objective tool which might help programs get additional funding.

7. Announcements: Big Island Invasive Species Council (BISC) - Chee explained that BISC shut down as of close of business yesterday due to lack of funds. PCSU has advanced the money in the past but due to the uncertainty of the economic situation, PCSU has refused to do so. Affects 10 workers.

Conry explained that contract-type services w/ DOFAW are at B & F, and B & F analysts are reviewing. The request to release money to the ISCs is at B & F. Anything that was over \$10,000 now needs Governor's approval; approx. 30-40 other services type projects, the ones with the shortest time line went in first.

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Corbin asked if any other ISC's would be affected, Chee replied that OISC will likely shut down Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, KISC and MISC will likely shut down Dec. 15, if funding is not approved. Buddenhagen and Chee commented that ISCs will lose good, trained people because of this shut down. (During the meeting, Conry received a phone call from B & F saying the BISC had been approved and was being sent to the Governor for her signature.)

Follow-up action to be taken by RWG:

- a. Economic Impact Brief
- b. Other sources of funding – send around an email to gather information for other funding options along with the possibility for umbrella funding under the HISC as a whole.

Next meeting to be scheduled in approx. 1 month (mid-November)

8. Meeting Adjourned at 4:25 pm.