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Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

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Hawai'i Invasive Species Council Minutes

Friday, August 3, 2012, 9:00 AM

Rm 325, Hawaii State Capitol Building, 415 South Beretania St, Honolulu,
HI, 96813

Council members and participants present: Russell Kokubun (HDOA), Gary Gill (DOH), Guy Kaulukukui (DLNR), Jesse Souki (DBEDT), Senator Clarence Nishihara. **Others present:** Teya Penniman (MISC), Josh Atwood (HISC), Laura McIntyre (DOH), Leo Asuncion (DBEDT), Gini Kapali (Rep Derek Kawakami), Keren Gundersen (KISC), Neil Reimer (HDOA PPC), Angela Kieran-Vast (HI DOD), Sonia Gorgula (DLNR DAR), Paul Conry (DLNR DOFAW), Christy Martin (CGAPS), Jono Blodgett (DLNR DAR), Carol Okada (HDOA PQB), Lori Buchanan (MoMISC), Soana Fanoga (Rep Mele Carroll).

1. Call to order (9:05 am)
2. Introductions
3. Approval of minutes (Motion by Gary Gill, seconded by Guy Kaulukukui, unanimous approval)
4. Briefing regarding the recommended FY2013 Budget

a. Process Overview (Leo Asuncion, DBEDT, HISC Resources Working Group Chair; Josh Atwood, HISC Coordinator)

Reviewed process of soliciting proposals in May, reviewing proposals as a group to encourage voluntary adjustments to approach available funding. \$2.9M in requests, \$1.8M available. Proposers were asked to estimate their total organizational need for FY13 across all funding sources (totaling \$7.1M) and their total annual organizational need assuming ideal staffing and resource capacity required to meet organizational goals (\$13M).

b. Proposed projects

i. Established Pests Working Group (Josh Atwood for Rob Hauff, DLNR)

This working group provides the bulk of requests. HISC is not able to match the requests for this group. DOFAW general funds are often used to supplement awards that are less than the original request. Funding support to: the Invasive Species Committees, the Hawai'i Ant Lab, US Forest Service to work on Christmas berry and Miconia biocontrol projects, others. Gary Gill asked whether there was precedent for State providing funds to federal offices. There have been state funds used for federal initiatives that have special State interest, such as coqui frog.

ii. Public Outreach Working Group (Christy Martin, CGAPS)
Support to outreach specialists at each of the Invasive Species Committees, as well as the Division of Aquatic Resources. Support to

Hawaiian Ecosystems at Risk (HEAR) to manage HISC, CGAPS and ISC websites. Support to Hawai'i Biodiversity Information Network to develop online pest reporting and other invasive species data projects.

iii. Prevention Working Group (Carol Okada, HDOA)

Funded Hawai'i Ant Lab, Hawai'i Pacific Weed Risk Assessment, and prevention of aquatic invasive species through DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources.

5. Council discussion and approval of recommended budget (Motion by Gary Gill to approve as recommended, seconded by Jesse Souki, unanimous approval).

Chair Kokubun expressed appreciation for the collaborative process. Wants to continue to place emphasis on finding a dedicated funding source.

Guy Kaulukukui noted that only one proposal came into the Watershed Initiative RFP from an invasive species committee. Encouraged the ISCs to apply in the future; it's a fund and effort that DLNR sees expanding.

Teya Penniman: With this level of funding, the ISCs will run out of funding between February and late summer 2013. Could cost the ISCs 25 positions.

Rachel Neville: The ISCs need to increase capacity. OISC's data shows that they are missing miconia regenerations with their current schedule of miconia surveys.

Paul Conry: We will try to get back to a point where we can support the current need.

Chair Kokubun recommended inserting a placeholder in DLNR's administrative package to allow additional time to consider a dedicated funding source bill.

Senator Nishihara recommended talking to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority to discuss not legislation, but a donation platform for tourists to contribute to conservation.
6. Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Exchange Program participant: Carolyn Lewis, National Coordinator for Weedbusters New Zealand
Reviewed Weedbusters program and public perception of invasive species control measures. Public is more aware of invasive species issue and is more willing to give up certain liberties or modify behaviors to assist in invasive species prevention and control efforts. The public wants conservation efforts.
7. Discussion of next meeting date and topics
Consider a HISC meeting in September regarding bill for dedicated funding.
8. Public comments
9. Adjournment (11:10 am)