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Hawaii Invasive Species Council

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June 4, 2013

SUBMITTAL

Chairpersons and Members
Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC)
State of Hawaii

SUBJECT: Requesting HISC resolutions regarding state and federal invasive species issues in Hawaii

At a meeting of the HISC on January 8, 2013, a summary of state and federal invasive species issues in Hawaii was presented to the Council by staff from the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS). This summary identified a number of program and policy needs at both the state and federal levels that, if addressed, could support invasive species prevention nationwide and in Hawaii. These areas include:

1. Support for federal recognition of Hawaii's unique biosecurity needs and coordination between federal and state inspection agencies, including information sharing between federal and state inspection staff and the development of joint inspection facilities: Hawaii's ecological history as an isolated island chain has resulted in an environment distinct from that of other states. While state and federal lists of pests for quarantine differ, federal preemption under the U.S. Plant Protection Act of 2000 prevents the State from regulating in foreign and interstate commerce pests that are not federally listed. Further, current regulations do not allow for information sharing between federal and state inspectors.
2. Supporting federal recognition of pest inspections as a core airport function: Airports represent a primary vector for the movement of pests associated with air passengers, luggage, and cargo. Federal recognition of pest inspections would better allow for biosecurity measures to address this pathway for invasive species transport.
3. Supporting the reauthorization of the Brown Tree Snake Control and Eradication Act of 2004: The original authorization of the Brown Tree Snake Control and Eradication Act of 2004 appropriated funds to support detection, control, and research pertaining to the invasive brown tree snake. Brown tree snake remains a high-risk pest for Hawaii and other jurisdictions. Reauthorization of this act, with appropriations, would allow critical detection, control, and research activities to continue.
4. Supporting amendments to the list of injurious species under the Lacey Act: The Lacey Act prohibits the import, export, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, or purchase of species listed as injurious wildlife. In

2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommended nine species of constrictor snakes to be added to this list. Of the nine species, Indian python, Northern African python, Southern African python, and yellow anaconda were added as injurious wildlife. Reticulated python, boa constrictor, DeSchauensee's anaconda, green anaconda, and Beni anaconda were not added. As there are no native snake species in Hawaii, and a number of these species have been recovered in Hawaii, continuing the listing process for injurious wildlife and adding these remaining five snake species would enhance biosecurity for Hawaii as well as other states.

The HISC is authorized by Chapter 194, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to coordinate and promote the State's position with respect to federal issues. The Council is requested to review and vote on four draft resolutions included in this submittal, one for each of the aforementioned state and federal issues.