

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SHAN TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

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PLANNING

DAVID RODRIGUEZ
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MINUTES

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

June 26, 2014, 9:00AM

Rm 325, Hawai'i State Capitol Building, 415 S. Beretania St, Honolulu, HI, 96813

Council Members in Attendance: William J. Aila, Jr. (DLNR), Neil Reimer (HDOA), Leo Asuncion (DBEDT), Gary Gill (DOH), Kenneth Grace (UH), David Rodriguez (DOT),

Participants in Attendance: Representative Richard Onishi, Senator Mike Gabbard, Representative Chris Lee

AGENDA

1. Call to order (*Chair Aila*)
2. Introductions
3. Approval of minutes (*Motion by Gill, seconded by Asuncion, unanimous approval*)
4. Overview of changes in Council membership, participation, and support staff (*Reviewed by Josh Atwood, HISC Program Supervisor*)
 - a. New Council members: Scott Enright (Dept. of Agriculture) and Leo Asuncion (Dept. of Business, Economic Development and Tourism)
 - b. New legislative participants appointed in 2014:
 - i. *Appointed senators: Kouchi, Gabbard, English, Kahele. Appointed representatives: Kawakami, Lee, Ing, Onishi.*
 - c. New HISC support staff structure:
 - i. *HISC Support staff includes Josh Atwood (Program Supervisor), Randal Bartlett (Interagency Coordinator), and Emily Montgomery (Planner).*
5. Review of invasive species bills/resolutions in 2014 legislative session
 - a. *Many bills regarding invasive species were introduced this year, none passed with the exception of the appropriation for the HISC and species-specific appropriations for control of the coffee berry borer and the macadamia feltid coccid. Three resolutions were passed, supporting restrictions on import of potential hosts of 'ōhi'a rust, urging the federal government to control and regulate invasive species, and endorsing the Aloha+ Challenge.*
6. Request for approval to reissue an unspent portion of an FY12 award to the HDOA biocontrol foreign exploration program
 - a. *Due to intermittent expenses related to exploratory biocontrol, \$24,716.84 remained unspent at the end of an FY12 HISC award to HDOA and was returned to DLNR as the HISC's administrative host. Gill made a motion to reissue these funds, Grace seconded. No public comments on motion, unanimous approval.*
7. FY15 HISC Budget (Overview provided by Josh Atwood)

- a. Overview of evaluation process
- b. Overview of recommended FY15 budget
 - i. *Full details of recommended budget can be found online at <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/projects/fy15>*
 - ii. *61 proposals received, 42 projects recommended for at least partial funding. Recommended budget overview:*
 - a. *DOFAW Overhead (3.5%): \$201,250*
 - b. *HISC Support: \$226,700 (including direction to solicit a contract up to \$50,000 for an economic impact study on invasive species)*
 - c. *Control projects: \$3,620,865*
 - d. *Outreach projects: \$470,311*
 - e. *Prevention projects: \$720,091*
 - f. *Research projects: \$529,000*
- c. Council review and vote on budget
 - i. *Discussion on the need to balance the merit of individual project proposals with geographic distribution. Noted that sub-island proposals were not prioritized in favor of island-wide work on O'ahu. Council members discussed the logistics of funding project outcomes versus capacity building for staff at various projects. Staff noted that the application base was much broader this year as the HISC budget has increased. Representative Onishi discussed the value of the collaborative budget process and noted that the content of the proposals was the primary focus in evaluations. Suggested that if the Council wants more consideration of distribution of funds among programs and geographic areas, that direction can be provided to the staff and evaluation committee in coming years. Council member Grace noted that he appreciated the focus on outcomes rather than programmatic capacity. Council member Gill agreed that additional direction can be provided for evaluations in the future.*
 - ii. *Council member Rodriguez discussed mongoose control strategy on Kaua'i. Council, staff, and a representative from the Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee (KISC) discussed the history of mongoose reports and captures on Kaua'i and how to move forward with funding detection for a cryptic species. The group discussed that strategic mongoose planning would move forward in FY15 under the new KISC manager in cooperation with partners, including HISC support staff, and that this process would provide more long-term planning ability to mongoose efforts on Kaua'i.*
 - iii. *Council member Gill discussed whether the evaluation committee prioritized the effective use of funds by focusing on incipient populations that have small current control costs relative to their potential future costs. Staff discussed the ways in which the evaluation process prioritized incipient populations, but that the HISC's mandate was very broad and is not necessarily restricted to incipient work. Council member Gill recommended that participants in the evaluation process discuss in the strategic planning process how to prioritize incipient versus established project funding.*

- iv. *Council discussed that if funds become available midway through FY15, that an evaluation of providing funds to additional projects or groups would be undertaken and reviewed by the Council.*
 - v. *Public comments were solicited; no members of the public provided comments.*
 - vi. *Vote taken by Chair Aila, recommended budget unanimously approved by Council.*
8. Next meeting date and topics
- a. *Senator Gabbard recommended that the Council continue to focus on the issue of interisland biosecurity and that the Council direct staff to facilitate a stakeholder discussion to provide recommendations for legislation in the 2015 session. HDOA representative Reimer noted that the department is putting together biosecurity legislation for the 2015 session and will be looking to talk to stakeholders, and setting up these meetings through HISC Support would be beneficial. Teya Penniman (Maui) noted that she and Lloyd Loope are working on a pathways analysis funded by Hawaii Tourism Authority and would be interested in engaging in this process. HISC Program Supervisor Atwood affirmed that support staff would work with these ongoing efforts to facilitate recommendations to Senator Gabbard ahead of the 2015 session.*
 - b. *Program Supervisor Atwood also recommended that the next HISC meeting focus on updates to ongoing support staff projects, including Māmalu Poepoe, the Report-a-Pest online reporting system, and regional involvement in the Pacific, including engagement on the Regional Biosecurity Plan for Micronesia and Hawaii.*
 - c. *A general timeline for the next Council meeting was discussed, targeting September 2014.*
9. Public Comments
- a. *Teya Penniman (Maui) thanked the Council for their support.*
 - b. *Christy Martin (Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species) noted that the evaluation process included discussions about the relationship between the State civil service and the Research Cooperation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH). Martin noted that RCUH staff filled gaps in existing capacity and expertise. Representative Onishi noted that gaps in agency capacity can also be addressed by legislation that allows for hiring of new civil service positions. This would increase efficiency of expending funds by decreasing overhead fees. Was encouraged by how much gets done with a small amount of funding; the issue of legislation for State capacity should continue to be examined.*
 - c. *Senator Gabbard expressed appreciation for the collective work of invasive species practitioners.*
10. Adjournment (Chair Aila)

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