Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council

January 10, 2012

Chairpersons and Members
Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council (HISC)
State of Hawai‘i

Co-Chairs and Council Members:

SUBJECT: Requesting HISC recognition and support for the completion of the Micronesian Biosecurity Plan and the Strategic Implementation Plan as an unprecedented model of invasive species prevention and management for the greater Pacific region.

In anticipation of a military relocation to Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the U.S. Department of Defense has funded a large-scale risk analysis and set of recommendations relating to invasive species biosecurity in Micronesia. Recognizing that increased transport in the Pacific associated with the military buildup will significantly increase the potential for the spread of invasive species across the region, the U.S. Department of Defense partnered with the U.S. National Invasive Species Council (NISC) to coordinate this project. The project has funded scientists at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Geological Survey, and Smithsonian Institute to assess risks associated with the military relocation and current biosecurity capacity in three Micronesian countries (Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau and Republic of the Marshall Islands) as well as the two U.S. territories of Guam and the CNMI. The MBP is unprecedented in taking this regional approach and addressing a broad range of potentially invasive life forms pathways for invasion. The resulting Micronesian Biosecurity Plan (MBP) will be reviewed by scientists at the University of Guam and partners in New Zealand’s LandCare and the Secretariat for the Pacific Community, along with selected experts from within Micronesia and the greater Pacific region. The University of Guam and its partners will also be responsible for developing a Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) for implementing the finalized MBP. NISC has asked the State of Hawai`i to actively participate in this planning process. At the date of this submittal, the University of Guam is considering experts from Hawai‘i who have applied to be reviewers of the MBP and participants in the SIP development.

While the MBP focuses primarily on Micronesia, Hawai‘i is a major transportation hub for Micronesia and the rest of the Pacific and will be significantly impacted by the increased military presence in Guam and the CNMI. Increased transportation in the Pacific will lead to the increased

potential for introductions of invasive species from Micronesia to Hawai‘i, and vice versa. Measures to prevent the introduction of invasive species to Hawai‘i that have already negatively impacted Micronesia, such as the brown tree snake or the coconut rhinoceros beetle, should be integrated into the MBP and the SIP. Further, Hawai`i's experience and expertise in invasive species management could strengthen the effectiveness of these regional plans.

Recommendation: That the Council adopts a resolution to 1) Recognize the leadership of the U.S. Department of Defense in funding this unprecedented regional initiative, 2) Support the review of the Micronesian Biosecurity Plan and the development of the Strategic Implementation Plan, and 3) Request that both the MBP and SIP recognize the risk of invasive species being introduced to Hawai‘i as a result of the buildup, and provide recommendations to reduce that risk.