

*HISC PREVENTION WORKING GROUP*  
*Hawaii Department of Agriculture Inspectors*

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To: HISC Prevention Working Group

From: Carol Okada, Manager  
Plant Quarantine Branch

Subject: Final Report: Reimbursement of Payroll Expenses for Department of Agriculture, Plant Quarantine Inspectors with Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) Funds.

Numerous Plant Quarantine Inspector positions statewide were identified during the FY10 reduction in force process as part of the Department's initiative to balance the executive budget. In an effort to maintain the Hawaii Biosecurity Program, the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) approved funds to assist in supporting (22) twenty-two of these important positions, which were strategically placed as follows:

LOCATION	NUMBER OF POSITIONS
HAWAII (Hilo)	5
HAWAII (Kona)	3
KAUAI (Lihue)	1
MAUI (Kahului)	3
OAHU (Honolulu)	10

In accordance with the HISC funding approval, the following was accomplished in FY10 by the Department of Agriculture, Plant Quarantine Branch:

- Although no interim air cargo consolidation facility at Honolulu International Airport has materialized to date, the Department continued to identify possible sites near the airport environs. In an effort to deal with this shortcoming, airport operations continues to be reprioritized by ensuring inspectional capabilities for the inspection and clearances of late night domestic cargo arrivals, maintaining foreign clearances, and conducting priority parcel inspections in the Lagoon Drive area throughout the morning period. Domestic cargo inspection and passenger/baggage inspection are maintained in the afternoon and evening periods that cover both Ewa and Diamond Head corridors, while interisland inspections for restricted plants and non-domestic animals for transport are conducted throughout the day and night;



- Maritime inspectors continued to be utilized in the morning to clear maritime container inspections at eleven premise inspection sites on a daily basis, and then assist with air arrivals or transitional facility inspections in the afternoon;
- A Cooperative Agreement remained in effect for a major produce importer as a transitional facility that addresses about 20-percent of incoming produce, and discussions with other entities have been on-going to also participate in the transitional facility program;
- The pilot-project for the Certified Seed Producer program has been developed and is readied to be implemented, which will reduce the inspection and clearance of imported seed crops, and will allow for the interisland movement of locally produced seed crops that have been grown under proper sanitation standards and practices to further reduce pest movement intrastate;
- Several public meetings have been conducted and discussions are on-going with the Hawaii Department of Transportation – Harbors to identify inspection, quarantine, and treatment facility areas in and around the harbor environs with the future port expansion planning at Hilo, Kawaihae and Kahului Harbors;
- Readied to implement the electronic manifest reporting system with Matson Navigation Company, which will greatly enhanced the identification of high-risk commodities prior to entering the State, resulting in the capability of intensified inspection of selected commodities that would warrant any treatments, if necessary, and provide timely clearances of imported articles; and
- Continued to evaluate and revise port operations by relocating personnel, adjusting operational periods, and marshaling resources to improve program efficiencies with maximizing coverage with limited personnel as a direct result of the reduction in force.

Amount of Payroll Expenses Expended:

- FY2010, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter: none expended
- FY2010, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter: \$147,637.28
- FY2010, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter: \$312,637.07
- FY2010, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter: \$138,725.65
- TOTAL ..... \$600,000.00

The much needed HISC funding in FY 10 provided the program with adequate funding support to continue the Hawaii Biosecurity Program during the State's economic downturn. During the State Legislature of Hawaii 2010 session, the Department of Agriculture was able to realize key legislative initiatives. From July 1, 2010, any violations for failure to pay, or bill and remit inspection service fees for imported freight were subject to a fine of \$50 or two times the amount of net weight, whichever is greater, and the implementation of higher application fees for plants, animals and microorganisms requiring permits, or for microorganisms that require a letter of authorization or registration. In addition, there will be fees imposed effective on October 1, 2010 for specified inspections conducted by the department as well. These sweeping legislative changes will go a long way to support the growth of the Hawaii Biosecurity Program that was previously funded by the HISC grant in FY 10. Mahalo!