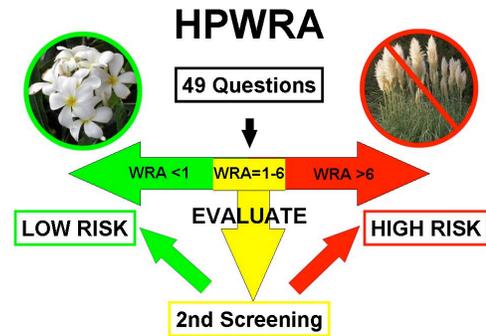


Title: Continued Support of the HPWRA

Organization: Hawaii-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment (HPWRA)

Award(s): \$71,032

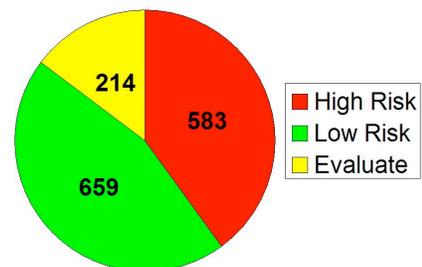
Introduction: The Hawaii-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment (HPWRA) system is an internationally recognized screening tool that rates a plant's potential to become invasive by answering 49 questions about its biology, ecology and history of invasiveness elsewhere. The answers generate a score that predicts a plant's likelihood to be invasive in Hawaii or other tropical Pacific islands. The HPWRA aids in identification of invasive plants before they impact Hawaii's economy, ecology or human health and supports Goal one of the Prevention working group, to "review risks of pest/invasive species entry into the state". The HPWRA also addresses the Prevention objectives to "develop a comprehensive 'approved planting list' to ensure that invasive species are not being planted in State projects or by any state contractors, e.g. screened by the Weed Risk Assessment protocol" and to "develop collaborative industry guidelines and codes of conduct, which minimize or eliminate unintentional introductions." In accordance with these objectives, one Weed Risk Assessment Specialist has been 100% funded by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to the amount of \$71,032 in FY13.



Achievements in FY13

[Deliverable 1] Annual report to the legislature: Annual reports are submitted documenting HPWRA progress and accomplishments for inclusion in HISC legislative reports.

[Deliverable 2] Expanded List of Assessments: The HPWRA provides new and updates old assessments, both for species already present in the Hawaiian Islands, as well as for new introductions. This information is summarized and disseminated to the requesting individual or agency via direct correspondence, and to the public and land management agencies through technical and general publications, public presentations, and other outreach activities. From July 2012 to June 2013, 188 assessment requests were received, and 148 new and 8 updated assessments were completed, despite reduction in HPWRA staff to one position beginning in January 2013.



1,456 Risk Assessments by Category

As of June 30, 2013, 1,456 assessments have been completed and assigned to the following categories:

- High Risk (583 plants): Predicted to become invasive in Hawaii or Pacific Island ecosystems
- Low Risk (659 plants): Not predicted to become invasive
- Evaluate (214 plants): Needs further information to make a prediction of invasiveness

[Deliverable 3] Public presentations and Outreach: To promote awareness and encourage adoption of the HPWRA system, the WRA Specialist is involved in additional outreach activities with partner agencies and interested parties. The following highlights outreach activities and efforts from July 2012 – June 2013:

- 02 Aug: Presentation on tsunami impacts to native and invasive plants at the Hawaii Conservation Conference



Presentations to Master Gardeners

- 17 Jul: Presentation on invasive biofuels at Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels meeting
- 19 Feb: WRA & invasive plant presentation to Kona Master Gardeners
- 09 Apr: WRA & invasive plant presentation to Hilo Master Gardeners class
- 16 Apr: Submitted article on edible native plants for "Hawaii Landscape" magazine
- 12 Jun: WRA presentation to Kauai Master Gardeners

[Deliverable 4] Hpwra.org & Partner Website

Updates: All new and previously completed assessments continue to be posted at hpwra.org. This site allows users to download any individual assessment, as well as a regularly updated list of all assessments completed to date. From July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, the website received 1,380 visits and 6,565 page views, demonstrating a continued interest and need for risk assessment predictions to make informed planting decisions. With the fall 2012 launch of the Plant Pono website, a more user-friendly, non-academic planting site with HPWRA-generated content, and the recent hiring of a Plant Pono and Weed Risk Assessment Liaison in April 2013, it is anticipated that greater interest in and utilization of weed risk assessments will be generated in the future.



Plant Pono WRA Page

Summary of website developments (July 2012 – June 2013):

- 1,456 assessments posted to hpwra.org (<https://sites.google.com/site/weedriskassessment/home>)
- 1316 assessments posted to Plant Pono (www.plantpono.org/)
- 205 assessments provided for posting on the Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk site (<http://www.hear.org/Pier/>)
- HPWRA Project website (<https://sites.google.com/site/hpwraproject/>) provides access to the work calendar, quarterly and annual reports, and other HPWRA-related documentation.

[Deliverable 5] Respond to public inquiries directed to Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) about invasiveness of plants: The WRA Specialist, stationed on Maui, responded to 37 plant-related calls, providing information on identification, impacts and control of invasive, non-native plants.

Other Activities in FY13

[Other activity 1]: Collaboration on new database with HBIN: Progress continues to be made on development of a new, web-based HPWRA database with staff of the Hawaii Biodiversity Information Network. The new database addresses shortcomings with the current program, and will provide greater accessibility to information through enhanced query features. It is anticipated that HPWRA content, through queries, will eventually be made available to members of the general public.

[Other Activity 2] Peer review of invasive species manuscripts: The WRA Specialist's expertise on invasion ecology was solicited for review of manuscripts submitted to scientific journals. From July 2012 through June 2013, peer reviews were provided for the Caribbean Journal of Science, Journal of Field Ornithology, Biotropica and Invasive Plant Science and Management.

For more information, please contact: hpwra@yahoo.com or visit hpwra.org