

Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee Meeting

Kilauea Military Camp, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
99-252 Crater Rim Drive, Hawai'i National Park, Hawai'i 96718-0048
January 20-21, 2012

Present: John Henshaw (Chair), Koa Kaulukukui, Laura Brezinsky, Katie Friday, Betsy Gagne, Rich von Wellsheim, Dayday Hopkins, Kip Dunbar, Michael Constantinides, JB Friday, Alvin Kyono, Benton Pang

Members Excused: Gregory Hendrickson

Staff: Sheri Mann, M. Irene Sprecher, Malia Nanbara, Randy Kennedy, Nelson Ayers

Guests: Pat Tummons, Mike Robinson (DHHL), Peter Simmons (HFIA), Christian Giardina (USFS).

12:00 pm, 1/20/2012

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Review September 2, 2011 meeting minutes: Motion to approve Forest Stewardship Meeting minutes from September 2, 2011. Moved by Alvin Kyono, seconded by Rich von Wellsheim. Pass unanimously.

Hawaiian Sunshine Law from the Office of Information Practices (OIP): Committee was provided with information regarding Hawaiian Sunshine Law from a representative from OIP.

FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM:

FY13 grant applications:

- Kaawaloa Hawaiian Forest and Recoup the Loop projects were both submitted to the Forest Legacy Western Review Committee and have now moved on to the National Review Committee. We are still not sure how the projects have ranked but we did receive a call from the National Review Committee with questions on our applications and closed projects. The final project applications are available through request.

Project updates:

- Kainalu Forest Watershed FY10 project is still being processed. Staff is working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Recovery Land Acquisition program as well as the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) to finalize the conservation easement language. Once that is complete, we can get an appraisal for the property. We can use both funding sources, though we end up returning a portion of the funding from either program depending on the results of the appraisal. The total acquisition cannot exceed \$4 million in grant funding. We are reaching the two year mark on this project, but considering the need to communicate between multiple agencies, two years is still within a responsible timeline.
- Kealakekua Heritage Ranch project closed on June 26, 2011. The conservation easement is a public document, but will likely need a Freedom of Information Act request to be release for review.
- FY12 Kukaiau Koa Forest project was submitted last year, has ranked well and is in a good position for funding. Hawaii has always competed well in this program; we just need to make sure we are submitting strong projects.
- FLP National Budget: There was a lot of uncertainty about the national budget for FY12, especially related to Forest Legacy Program funding. A national budget was just released and the western states did well in the competition.
- Western Legacy States (WLS) Position Paper: At previous meetings, the committee has discussed that the western states have received less funding than other regions. This in addition to a low number of

projects receiving funding and no new start-up projects for new states being approved in FY11, the western group of FLP program managers submitted comments regarding the national funding allocation process and size of projects. There has been no immediate response on the comments, but the funding allocation is not supposed to be influenced by politics. While Hawaii is doing well in competitions, we are part of the Western region and were a signatory to the comment letter. The reason for the discrepancy is unclear, but it could be tied to the high land value in the south and east, higher perceived threat due to larger populations, and/or a larger amount of privately owned lands.

Discussion:

- Forest Legacy projects are required to have an approved Forest Stewardship Program management plan before the project can be closed. The committee will be reviewing two Forest Stewardship plans for the Forest Legacy projects, Kaawaloa Hawaiian Forest and Kukaiaua Koa Forest. These two projects are not necessarily applying for funding support through the Hawaii Forest Stewardship Program at this time, but are submitting their management plans for review and approval related to FLP. Forest Legacy projects cannot be closed or receive funding for FLP until this committee has approved the Forest Stewardship plan. Once the plan has been approved by the Committee, the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) Administrator, Paul Conry, reviews and approved the plans under Forest Legacy. The Committee's role in FLP is to review the applications and corresponding management plans, make suggestions for revisions of both, rank the projects for submission to the national competition, and forward all comments and recommendations to the DOFAW Administrator. The plans can also serve as a multi-use plan instead of following the Forest Stewardship Program format.
- Kona Hema, including Papa, Kapua, and Honomalino FLP projects, and the McCandless Ranch project had multi-use plans associated with their FLP acquisition. These projects used multi-use plans, which were reviewed by the Committee, to meet the requirements for Forest Legacy. The goal of a forest stewardship plan is to help landowners have access to professional foresters that can assist them with planning for their resources. Forest Stewardship management plans have thus had a higher standard of professionalism, while the multi-use plans under Forest Legacy are not as detailed. Multi-use plans should still have enough detail to account for sustainable management of the forest resources. Kealakekua Heritage Ranch project chose to use the Forest Stewardship Management Plan template for their conservation easement.
- Conservation Easements (CE) require that the property be monitored at least once a year, but can be more frequently monitored if it is warranted. Whether it is a Forest Stewardship plan or multi-use plan, the easement holder, i.e.: the State, cannot force the landowner to implement the management plan, but the landowner is held to the best management practices as identified in their plan, if they do choose to implement any management actions. If the landowner violates their management or multi-use plan associated with their CE, they are not necessarily violating their CE. On the other side, if the landowner chooses to enroll in the Hawaii Forest Stewardship Program, through a formal contract agreement for cost-share assistance, the landowner is required to implement the Forest Stewardship plan.
- CE are an unchanging document, but management plans are living documents that can be updated. The two documents often refer to each other; but CE's do not require that management plan be implemented. CE require that a certain condition be maintained on the property (e.g.: in the case of FLP the land must remain 75% forested or be in the process of reforesting to 75%) and there is a restriction on allowed actions. The Forest Stewardship management plans and multi-use plans are an excellent way to encourage dialogue on management of the property, create relationships between the landowner and the State, and inform them of other opportunities to assist in the management of their resources.
- CEs under FLP protect the property from development and conversion of the forest to non-forest uses. They remain under the control of the landowner, and if we want to control the management actions that are implemented then we should be buy the full title to the property. Protection of the property from development is significant and participation in the FLP shows that the landowner is willing to protect the forest and have it remain as a forest into the future.
- The Ka'awaloa Hawaiian Forest project is submitting a multi-use plan for their FLP project, but the plan is much more detailed than what is required for a multi-use plan or even a Forest Stewardship plan.

The landowners are interested in exploring a Forest Stewardship Council certification (under the national program) for the management of their forests.

- If the Committee approves a multi-use plan for a project, it is probably not eligible for enrollment under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) as defined under the Joint Forestry Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). They would need to do a Forest Stewardship management plan or work with the planners at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop a project under the program.
- For CE acquisition, developing the CE language and corresponding multi-use or Forest Stewardship plan should be done together. Having a multi-use or other management plan helps with drafting the CE document. However, the CE document would likely not be available for review before the acquisition closes because that is considered propriety information.

Meeting adjourned for day 1 at 4:17pm, to recess until 8:30 am on January 21, 2012.

January 21, 2012- Day 2

8:35 am, 1/21/2012

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Excused Members: Katie Friday, Greg Hendrickson

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM:

Cost Share Review: The Committee was provided with a spreadsheet prepared by staff showing the average and actual costs for Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) participants and the allowed cost-share rates for EQIP and Hawaii Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Staff has been working with NRCS to possibly modify the management practice names to better match NRCS practice names; this could allow for better integration of the two program. Staff recommends establishing a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to allow for continued research, evaluation, and recommendation on an update to FSP cost-share rates.

Discussion:

- Ultimately, we would like to be using similar language between FSP and NRCS programs, including cost estimates, available cost-share, and practice names. This will make it easier for landowners/participants. NRCS practice names are pretty inflexible because they are set at national level, but the specific under the practices are more flexible. For example, FSP has a practice for seedling acquisition and another one for planting where NRCS has only one practice that includes both actions.
- A simple solution to aligning the practice names would be to add an asterisk with how the FSP practice relates to the NRCS practices. This would be the fastest route, but we should ultimately make a more permanent change in keeping with the spirit of the Joint Forestry MOU. Changes to the practice names and definitions would support the MOU; however, some practices should not be combined because the practice for FSP may have more flexibility than the corresponding NRCS practice.
- Currently, FSP does not have all the practices that NRCS has, but the FSP practices allow for more flexibility in how they are defined. The Committee should discuss if we want to have more specific definitions for individual practices under FSP; this would be more helpful for the landowners/participants.
- FSP has such a broad objective that we don't want to become too difficult to understand for landowners. We also do not need to completely align FSP practices with NRCS, just identify which practices best fit together. For example, FSP fencing practice definition is more flexible and offers a better cost-share rate for forestry projects than what is available under EQIP. Also FSP allows for a special management practices that is unique to the program and does not match a NRCS practice.
- Michael Constantinides has the responsibility to set the cost-share amounts for NRCS forestry practices and will be looking to review the practice once a year to bring them in-line with actual costs.
- The Committee would like staff to determine which practices should be considered for alignment with NRCS practices, and requests additional information added to the spreadsheet that shows the current cost share rates in the range of actual costs for the various practices.

Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee member review and selection was tabled until later in the agenda

Forest Stewardship Program Evaluation Criteria: The Committee reviewed the previously established evaluation criteria for FSP projects for potential inclusion in the revision of the Forest Stewardship Program Handbook. The evaluation criteria is required as part of the procurement process for projects and is especially important in the event that projects will have to compete for available funding. The evaluation criteria was created using the Spatial Analysis Program (SAP), which in some areas did not have very strong data. The State updated much of the information that was used in SAP during the Statewide Assessment and Resource Strategy (SWARS). We have not had to use the evaluation criteria yet, because we have not funded any projects after it was established.

Motion to add an economic evaluation criteria to the Forest Stewardship Program evaluation criteria. Moved by JB Friday, Seconded by Rich von Wellsheim.

Discussion:

- The Committee would like to use the high priority areas identified through the SWARS process as the high priority areas for FSP projects instead of the SAP criteria.
- Projects will need to also be evaluated based on the management actions and on the ground situation faced by the project in addition to the SWARS criteria.

Friendly amendment to revise the Forest Stewardship evaluation criteria to reflect the high priority areas identified through the Statewide Assessment and Resource Strategy, an economic evaluation criteria, and management actions criteria. Proposed by Rich von Wellsheim, seconded by Dayday Hopkins. JB Friday accepts friendly amendment.

Further Discussion:

- The Committee recommends that staff update the evaluation criteria based on SWARS as well as other evaluation factors, including adding economic feasibility and a probability of success to the criteria.

In Favor: John Henshaw, Koa Kaulukukui, Katie Friday, Betsy Gagne, Rich von Wellsheim, Dayday Hopkins, Michael Constantinides, JB Friday, Alvin Kyono

Opposed: Kip Dunbar, Laura Brezinsky

Motion carries

Forest Stewardship Program Handbook Revision: Staff has been working with NRCS to update the FSP Handbook to be more consistent with NRCS programs so that they can be integrated. The Committee has reviewed the updated forest stewardship project proposal and management plan template at a previous meeting and that feedback will be incorporated into an updated FSP Handbook. Staff and NRCS would like to review the FSP management plan template again to further incorporate national level templates, including the NRCS Woodlands template. There is about seventy percent overlapped with between the two management plan templates, but the NRCS Woodlands template is more focused for mainland forestry operations.

Discussion:

- The Committee discussed including the FSP Handbook revision and management plan template into a PIG, and JB Friday and Michael Constantinides volunteered as members for the PIG. The Chair postponed a decision on the formation of a PIG till the end of the meeting.

Hawaii Administrative Rule Change (§109) for the Forest Stewardship Program: Committee and staff have been interested in exploring a possible administrative rule change for FSP to the rules to allow for matching funding from County and Federal sources, which would allow for consistency with the Natural Area Partnership Program (NAPP). Additionally, staff is recommending revisions to the allowed practices for the program as listed in the program rules, especially in light for the prior discussion regarding merging of practice names with NRCS practices. Other changes could include updating the Committee term lengths to three years instead of 2 years and allowing for flexibility for funding the development of FSP management plans with requiring a full commitment to funding the implementation

of the plan. Staff is requesting Committee approval to proceed with the rule changes to Chapter 109, Hawaii Administrative Rules; after the Committee's approval, staff will either forward the changes to the Department of the Attorney General or will submit the changes directly to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) for approval to conduct public hearings on the rule change.

Discussion

- The Committee would complete a revision to the listed practices in the FSP rules, including having the majority of the information regarding the types of eligible practices to be included in the FSP Handbook instead of the rules. The FSP Handbook is a living document and further updates to the allowed FSP practices may be necessary in the future; this is easier to accomplish in the Handbook than in the rules.
- The Committee recommends that all the changes to the rules be submitted to the Attorney General before proceeding for BLNR approval.

Motion to procedure with seeking revisions to Chapter 109, Hawaii Administrative Rules, for the Forest Stewardship Program and forward the proposed changes to the Department of the Attorney General. Moved by Betsy Gagne, seconded by Kip Dunbar. Pass unanimously.

Motion to move up the agenda item for the Hawaii Forest Industry Association. Moved by Michael Constantinides, seconded by Laura Brezinsky. Pass unanimously.

Hawaii Forest Industry Association (HFIA): representatives Mike Robinson and Peter Simmons presented two items for consideration by the Committee. Mike Robinson provided background on a proposal for a **Koa Workshop and Symposium** discussing the use, reforestation, and knowledge of koa. HFIA is requesting funding support to put on the workshop.

Discussion:

- The long-term goal may be to harvest the koa in the future, but we are currently just trying to change our lands from pasturelands back to koa forest.
- Research topics to be discussed at the workshop would involve how much koa forest exists, how much we need for the future, and examining data collected over the past twenty years. Historically data has been collected by asking landowners to report on the current operations and land types, which allows us to outreach and do better publicity for koa.
- This symposium is targeted to educate the landowners on koa reforestation so they will be encouraged to plant, as well as focused to help land managers, land owners, and specialists dealing with koa. The symposium would be useful now because of the increased focus in forest watershed protection under the State's watershed initiative.
- The budget is based on the past conference hosted by HFIA.

Motion to approve funding request for the Hawaii Forest Industry Association Koa Workshop and Symposium. Moved by Dayday Hopkins, seconded by Rich von Wellsheim.

In favor: John Henshaw, Koa Kaulukukui, Laura Brezinsky, Betsy Gagne, Rich von Wellsheim, Dayday Hopkins, Michael Constantinides, Alvin Kyono.

Abstain: JB Friday and Kip Dunbar due to their affiliation with HFIA.

Motion carries

Tropical Forest Action Plan: Peter Simmons provided information on the HFIA funding request to do a review of the Tropical Forestry Act. HFIA is requesting \$9,000 to do an assessment of the Act.

Discussion:

- The Committee is supportive of reviewing and carrying forward the Tropical Forestry Act. It is not clear what the outcome will be for this request. The Committee would like staff to review the funding request with staff to determine if FSP should support the funding request.

Motion to defer the decision on the Hawaii Forest Industry Association request for a review of the Tropical Forestry Act to the Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Moved by Alvin Kyono, seconded by Dayday Hopkins.

In favor: John Henshaw, Koa Kaulukukui, Laura Brezinsky, Katie Friday, Betsy Gagne, Rich von Wellsheim, Dayday Hopkins, Michael Constantinides, Alvin Kyono

Abstain: Kip Dunbar and JB Friday.

Motion carries

Manual for Tropical Reforestation: JB Friday through the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) requested funding support for the development and publication of a Manual for Tropical Reforestation. JB wanted to provide this book for people that are interested in reforestation but may not have the expertise in tropical systems. The Book will include information for planning projects, such as what are their goals; sections on different forests types, economics of forestry, and general ecosystem management. CTAHR requested \$6,500 for printing and \$1,600 for editing. He would also like to include land manager stories and testimonials as a side bar in the book; the Committee is asked to forward any potential landowners for the side bars. This book will not include details on specific reforestation programs, so people will still go to the agencies for those specifics. The Division has already approved funding support for this project, and wanted to keep the Committee informed on the project.

Christmas Tree project: Staff would like to encourage locally grown Christmas trees that are not invasive instead of shipping them in each year. This could be a revenue opportunity as well as help with invasive species introductions. We have had initial discussions with Hawaii Agricultural Research Center (HARC) to help identify appropriate sites and species for plantings. Haleakala National Park has an annual Christmas Tree project that allows the community to come into the park and collect Christmas trees for wreath materials from invasive evergreen trees. There were previous tests done with Palani Ranch and in Koloko for potential trees and many found a fungal disease with pines grown in Hawaii. HARC has done a test on conifers in the past as well.

Stewardship Management Plan Workshop: Staff received a multi-state grant from the U.S. Forest Service along Palau, Micronesia, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) to educate landowners and agencies on how to identify and manage invasive ants, such as the little fire ant. Staff would like to incorporate and expand this grant by holding a Management Plan Workshop. The workshop would include how to monitor for ants or invasive species, how to respond, and how to manage populations over time. Staff has been working with Cass Vonderwood with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture on this project, and together we would like to hold the workshop sometime in the summer. Other topics at the workshop could include how to write long term management plans and strategies for grant writing. The workshop will be Hawaii specific, but will send out invitations to the international community because invasive species are a much larger issue that extends across the Pacific Islands. The workshop would be an offshoot of the original grant.

Discussion:

- Benton Pang, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, would like to help with the workshop, is supportive of the little fire ant component, and interested involvement with Pacific Islands.

Dalton Forest Stewardship Management Plan: This was the second time the Committee has reviewed the Dalton management plan. Comments from the Committee were forward to the landowner and the new management plan incorporates the Committee suggestions. Staff has worked with the landowner as well to further update the plan.

Discussion:

- There is currently not much of a market for Queensland Maple, and there are two species of Eucalyptus identified for planting that have not been evaluated by the Hawaii Weed Risk Assessment. The Committee would like to have these two species evaluated before they are planted or approved under the plan. The landowner and planner are fine with removing those species from the planting list.

- The Committee recommends using a slow release fertilizer.

- The Committee can approve the management plan as well as approve funding support under FSP for the implementation of the plan. Approving both would allow the landowner to review options for funding support for implementation. The landowner is also eligible for funding support under EQIP or the Hawaii Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

Motion to approve the Dalton Forest Stewardship management plan and approve funding support for the implementation of the plan provided the planting species selection is approved by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Moved by Michael Constantinides, seconded by Kip Dunbar.

In favor: Koa Kaulukukui, Laura Brezinsky, Katie Friday, Betsy Gagne, Rich von Wellsheim, Dayday Hopkins, Kip Dunbar, Michael Constantinides, Alvin Kyono

Abstain: JB Friday.

John Henshaw excused

Motion passes.

Adjourn meeting for lunch at 12:36pm

Meeting reconvened at 1:40pm

Pacific Fire Consortium: Christian Giardina with the U.S. Forest Service provided information to the Committee on the grant received through the Joint Fire Team to start a Pacific Fire Consortium in Hawaii. The grant includes funding to support a cooperative extension agent from the University of Hawaii, as well as support for a researcher at Institute of Pacific Island Forestry.

Discussion:

- The Committee could consider incorporating fire pre-suppression and management related practices in FSP management plans.

Tropical Hardwood Tree Improvement and Regeneration Center: Christian Giardina provided information on this new center that is specifically focusing its research to koa improvement. The center will be studying other tropical hardwoods, but koa is the current focus. The goal of the center is to establish a tree improvement for koa similar to what has been done for hardwoods in the eastern U.S. Currently Purdue began research on the DNA of koa to determine if there is a specific genetic trait for curly koa.

Kukaiua Koa Forest Multi-Use Plan: This management plan is associated with their Forest Legacy project, which is a requirement of their acquisition, and they are not asking for cost share funding support for the implementation of the plan.

Discussion:

- The CE language has not been agreed upon yet and there may be a need to make changes to the plan based on the CE document.

- The Committee recommends a harvest schedule and economic analysis be included in the management plan. The Hawaiian Legacy Hardwoods (HLH) projected yield is much higher than that at Umikoa Ranch. HLH model includes both investment trees and legacy trees. The legacy trees cannot be harvested; if a tree is removed for thinning purposes, then a new tree must be replanted. In previous FLP management plans there has been a requirement for no harvesting except for dead; however, the CE allows for timber harvest if they provide a timber harvesting plan first.

Motion deny the approval of the Kukaiua Koa Forest multi-use plan at this time and submit comments and recommendations to the applicant so that they may resubmit. Moved by Alvin Kyono, seconded by Benton Pang.

In favor: Koa Kaulukukui, Laura Brezinsky, Katie Friday, Betsy Gagne, Rich von Wellsheim, Dayday Hopkins, Kip Dunbar, Michael Constantinides, Alvin Kyono

Abstain: JB Friday, John Henshaw

Motion passes

Kaawaloa Hawaiian Forest Multi-Use Plan: This management plan is associated with their Forest Legacy project, which is requirement of their acquisition, and they are not asking for funding support for the implementation of the plan. The management plan is in a different format than the Committee is used to reviewing, because it has been written to the national Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards. The applicant is interested in getting an FSC certification for their forestry operations, which would show sustainable harvest of a mature forest. Staff has not had an opportunity to review the multi-use management plan, so we are not asking for Committee approval of the plan at this time. The plan will be resubmitted for Committee approval at the next meeting.

Discussion:

- The Committee would like more information on the harvest method, scale, schedule, and details on access over state land. They also want to know more about reforestation practices and standards expected to be used.
- One of the goals in the plan is to increase biodiversity, but they are only now planting koa.

Brookes Forest Stewardship Management Plan: The Brookes' property is situated between two large gulches that have a large amount of guava along the banks, but the actual project area is mostly grasses with limited invasive or non-native trees. Koa is present on the property and not showing any signs of koa wilt disease.

Discussion:

- The Committee recommends collecting koa seeds from property for out-planting. The plan currently includes nurseries that operate primarily on the Kona side of the Big Island, which is much drier than the project site. Additionally, the applicant should consider starting the fast growing species in initial plantings before out-planting the slow growing or rare species. Committee would like to know where the quotes for the seedlings came from.
- It may be difficult to get to a site that is suitable for out-planting threatened and endangered species within ten years. Additional permit for out-planting threatened and endangered species will be required. The implementation schedule should also be reviewed in regards to the timing lag of seedling out-planting and the time needed to grow the seedlings in the nursery.

Motion deny the approval of the Brookes Forest Stewardship management plan at this time and submit comments and recommendations to the applicant so that they may resubmit. Moved by Rich von Wellsheim, seconded by Dayday Hopkins.

In favor: John Henshaw, Koa Kaulukukui, Laura Brezinsky, Katie Friday, Betsy Gagne, Rich von Wellsheim, Dayday Hopkins, Kip Dunbar, Alvin Kyono

Opposed: Michael Constantinides

Abstain: JB Friday

Motion passes.

Hui Ku Maoli Ola Forest Stewardship Management Plan: This project plan has already been approved by the Committee in 2008, but at that time the State was having financial trouble and could not get the approvals need to enter into a contract agreement. Now that some of the financial restrictions have eased, staff has resubmitted the contract agreement for funding; however, due to the time lag, the applicant had to renew their lease documents for the property in order to comply with the time commitment required by FSP. Additionally, staff has requested that HKMO revise their original management plan to represent any of the work that has been completed to date. This revision is being submitted for Committee review.

Discussion:

- The cost associated with irrigation and special areas practices seems high, but they will be hand clearing the majority of the area. The applicant is treating this project more as a native botanical garden to display the plants from their nursery.
- There is also a large component of community outreach, education, and involvement in the project and it is a good place to show native plants to the general public.

Motion to approve the revised Hui Ku Maoli Ola Forest Stewardship management plan and support the implementation of the management practices as described in the plan. Moved by Dayday Hopkins, seconded by Benton Pang.

In favor: John Henshaw, Koa Kaulukukui, Laura Brezinsky, Katie Friday, Betsy Gagne, Rich von Wellsheim, Dayday Hopkins, Kip Dunbar, Michael Constantinides, Alvin Kyono

Abstain: JB Friday

Motion passes

Ahulani Sanctuary Forest Stewardship request: The Ahulani Sanctuary project was approved by the Committee in 2008, but at that time the State was having financial trouble and could not get the approvals need to enter into a contract agreement. The applicant decided to instead apply for funding support for their project under the Hawaii CREP. Their CREP project has been completed, but as they were the first project enrolled in CREP we have discovered problems with the planning of their management practices under the new program. The conservation plan for CREP included fencing and planting along a gulch that contains a number of *Eucalyptus robusta* trees that have been damaging the new fence and native out-plantings. There are a number of the trees within the project area as well that should be removed. The applicant is requesting funding support to remove or trim the trees, repair the fence, and do additional out-plants as needed. The Committee reviewed this request at the last meeting and asked for additional quotes for the work be submitted; two additional quotes have been included.

Discussion:

- The Committee is concerned about setting a precedent for tree trimming and removal; e.g. completely removing some trees and leaving others. Some the trees are being trimmed along the gulch so that they fall away from the property and fence line.
- The prices for repairing the fence is high, but is being used for matching purposes. The Committee is supportive of unpinning the fence and rolling it back instead of dropping the trees on the fence and then having to repair it.
- The price of the trimming and tree removal is high, but reasonable considering the location.
- The Committee has concerns on why the trees were not removed before the project started and the fence was installed. This was a factor of the newness of CREP and the first project that planners had undertaken. Hawaii CREP cannot provide for funding support under the program for these activities, because their project has already been completed under the program.

Motion to deny the request from Ahulani Sanctuary and have them resubmit with a 10 year management plan request that would include fence maintenance. Moved by Dayday Hopkins, seconded by Koa Kaulukukui.

Further Discussion:

- Hawaii CREP provides for some funding support for fence and project maintenance.
- Not appropriate to include planting costs as match under the FSP; this may be too close to what CREP requires of the applicant.

In favor: Laura Brezinsky, Dayday Hopkins, Koa Kaulukukui, Rich von Wellsheim

Opposed: Michael Constantinides, Benton Pang, Betsy Gagne, Alvin Kyono.

Abstain: JB Friday

Motion is tied.

Further Discussion:

- Benton Pang recommended a new motion that would deny the project.
- Ahulani Sanctuary project has been a good example project for encouraging enrollment into Hawaii CREP.

New vote on Motion

In favor: Laura Brezinsky, Dayday Hopkins, Rich von Wellsheim

Apposed: Michael Constantinides, Benton Pang, Betsy Gagne, Alvin Kyono, Koa Kaulukukui.

Abstain: JB Friday

Motion Fails

Motion to deny the Ahulani Sanctuary funding request because it is not appropriate use of the Forest Stewardship Program. Moved by Benton Peng, seconded by Alvin Kyono.

In favor:- Laura Brezinsky, Dayday Hopkins, Rich von Wellsheim, Constantinides, Benton Pang, Betsy Gagne, Alvin Kyono, Koa Kaulukukui.

Opposed: Dayday Hopkins

Abstain: JB Friday

Motion passes

Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee New Members: The Committee has 13 member seats that include a variety of expertise. There are four seats available this year including those held by JB Friday, Laura Brezinsky, Dayday Hopkins, and Benton Pang. Committee members can reapply for their seats. The applicants for consideration are:

- 1) Nick Koch who is a private forestry consultant with Forest Solutions and has expertise in native and exotic forest management. He is interested in supporting more small forestry lots in Hawaii
- 2) JB Friday who is the extension forester for the university system. He will not be casting an official vote for any Forest Stewardship projects because there is a conflict of interest with the work that he does through the CTAHR. He will still be providing his insight and suggestions to all projects.
- 3) Benton Pang who is representing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. His background is in Hawaiian Ethnobotany.
- 4) Laura Brezinsky who is with the Hawaii Community College and is a private landowner that has been involved in FSP and a number of other assistance programs. She enjoys being on the Committee to stay current in conservation actions which she shares with the community. She is interested in the protection of Hawaii's native species and making sure that they are protected.
- 5) Linda Larish is a horticulturalist with the Hawaii Invasive Species Council as well as a project under FSP. Her focus is in invasive species.
- 6) Mark Howland is involved with Honolulu transit authority and has background in environmental consulting and management.
- 7) Charles Christ is a student at the university in the botany department. He is interested in participating in the committee and feels he can bring good insight.

Discussion:

- The Committee submitted their votes on paper and was recorded by staff:

Alvin Kyono's vote: Pang, Brezinsky, Friday, Koch

Rich von Wellsheim's vote: Friday, Brezinsky, Koch, Pang

Koa Kaulukukui's vote: Pang, Brezinsky, Larish, Koch,

Michael Constantinides' vote: Larish, Friday, Koch, Pang

Dayday Hopkin's vote: Koch, Brezinsky, Larish, Friday

Betsy Gagne's vote: Koch, Pang, Brezinsky, Larish

Laura Brezinsky's vote: Pang, Friday, Brezinsky, Larish

JB Friday's vote: Friday, Koch, Pang, Brezinsky

Benton Pang's Vote: Brezinsky, Friday, Pang, Koch

Based on Committee votes, the four seats will be held by Benton Pang, Laura Brezinsky, Nick Koch, and JB Friday.

Joint Forestry MOU: Partner staff under the MOU recommended that a frequently asked questions (FAQ) be developed that explained what their roles are under the MOU; the FAQ was provided to the Committee. Staff has also been working on putting together a poster and spreadsheet describing the various forestry management assistance programs so that District staff with each of the MOU partners would be able to talk knowledgeably about the different available programs. The poster is targeted for the public and the spreadsheet is targeted for use by staff. We will also provide for this information on the internet.

Discussion:

- JB Friday has a flow chart of the various agencies involved in forestry management on the CTAHR website. The poster and spreadsheet is basically a smaller version of the Forestry Matrix that was developed previously, but specifically focused on forestry management programs.

Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee Permitted Interaction Group: Staff recommends establishing a PIG, whose duties would include identifying needed revisions to the Forest Stewardship Program Handbook, including updates to the Forest Stewardship management plan template; review and recommendations on updates to the allowed program cost-share rates; update the Forest Stewardship rules; and suggest revisions to the Forest Stewardship Program evaluation criteria.

Discussion:

- Committee members in the PIG should include Michael Constantinides with NRCS, JB Friday with CTAHR, Katie Friday with U.S. Forest Service, and Nick Koch as a consulting forester.

Motion to establish a permitted interaction group to identify needed revisions to the Forest Stewardship Program Handbook, including updates to the Forest Stewardship management plan template; update Forest Stewardship rules, review and recommendations on updates to the allowed program cost-share rates; and suggest revisions to the Forest Stewardship Program evaluation criteria and to include Michael Constantinides, JB Friday, Katie Friday, and Nick Koch. Moved by Alvin Kyono, seconded by Dayday Hopkins.

Pass unanimously

Non-Industrial Private Forest Lands (NIPFL) list: Staff is working on putting together a NIPFL landowner list for target outreach for forestry management assistance. We currently have GIS information but the information is not completely accurate.

Discussion:

- Brett Butler with the U.S. Forest Service may have a mailing list that includes NIPFL landowners.

Joint Forestry Position: Staff is interested in creating a position that would be jointly funded by the MOU partners (primarily the Division of Forestry and Wildlife and NRCS) and would work towards better forestry management and outreach to private landowners across the state. Discussions are ongoing on the available funding from the different partners to support such a position. The position would likely be stationed on the Big Island and assist with developing Hawaii CREP conservation plans.

Hawaii CREP Annual Report: was submitted to the national office in October 2011 and includes details on what has been completed under or in conjunction with the program over the last two and a half years. The report is available by request and will be posted on the program website shortly.

NEXT Meeting: Kauai is the next location; possible location for the meeting at the Dody property. They have a meeting room that should work for the Committee meeting as well as have a project site to view. The Committee meeting will be scheduled for either late April or early May depending on availability.

Motion to close the meeting. Moved by Laura Brezinsky, seconded by Alvin Kyono.

Passes unanimously (Dayday Hopkins and John Henshaw excused)

Meeting adjourned 5:22pm