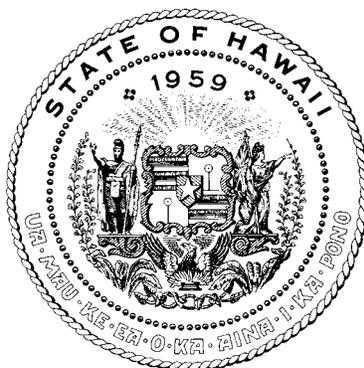


REPORT TO THE TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

2006 REGULAR SESSION

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES



PREPARED BY

THE STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE

IN RESPONSE TO ACT 85, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2003

HONOLULU HAWAII  
NOVEMBER 2005

## RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

### PURPOSE

This annual report complies with Act 85, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2003, and covers the actions of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council. Act 85, SLH 2003, established the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), providing statutory authority to continue its special purpose to foster and organize coordinated approaches among various executive departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives for the prevention and control of invasive species; and to affirm the objective of the state to stop the introduction and spread of invasive species in Hawaii.

### BACKGROUND

Formal efforts to create a comprehensive invasive species program began with the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS), formed in 1995, consisting of senior staff in numerous federal, state, county, and private entities actively involved in invasive species prevention, control, research, and public outreach programs.

In 2003 the Hawaii Invasive Species Council was formed pursuant to Act 85. Hawaii is one of the four states in the Nation that has recognized the need for coordination among all state agencies, at a cabinet level.

The creation of the Council (whose members are the chairs or directors of the Departments of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR,) Agriculture (DOA,) Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT,) Health (DOH,) Transportation (DOT) and University of Hawaii (UH,) and other Department Directors (Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL,) Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) and Defense (DOD)) provide the institutional framework for coordination for a state-wide invasive species prevention and control program.

### SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTIONS

Over the past calendar year the Council has met once to review and approve actions related to fulfilling the tasks identified by Act 85, SLH 2003, and detailed in the *Interim State of Hawaii Strategic Plan for Invasive Species Prevention, Control, Research and Public Outreach*. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled in December 2005.

Key actions by the HISC:

- Reviewed reports on spending related to the *Interim State of Hawaii Strategic Plan for Invasive Species Prevention, Control, Research and Public Outreach* by all new and participating projects and approved working group summaries.

- Reviewed the status of efforts to prevent the introduction of West Nile Virus and brown treesnakes to Hawaii and encouraged further improvements and coordination.
- Created a Research and Technology Working Group, chaired by the University of Hawaii to increase participation in that program area.
- Approved a spending plan for FY 2006 of \$4,000,000 that addresses the four interrelated plan components:
  - Prevention \$1,516,535,
  - Response and Control \$1,560,000,
  - Research and Technology \$675,000, and
  - Public Outreach \$248,465
 and incorporates the lessons learned from the first year of the Program (see separate Legislative Report for Acts 41 – 2004 and Act 178 – 2005 budgets).

## SUMMARY OF KEY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Accomplishments of the four HISC Program areas--Prevention, Response and Control, Research and Technology, and Public Outreach as accomplished by the working groups established by the HISC Plan—are summarized below.

### **Prevention**

The lead agency for the Prevention Working Group (PWG) is the DOA. The PWG met on August 6, 2004 and September 15, 2004 to discuss the status of prevention efforts in Hawaii, review the proposed Prevention Working Group Task List, and discuss, develop, and recommend a budget for the funding of invasive species prevention programs.

- Funded Projects: Managed by DOA, DOH, USDA Wildlife Services, and DLNR.
- DOA continued their risk assessments with intensive inspections of incoming cargo at Honolulu International Airport. Species not known to exist in the State were intercepted—38 insects and 43 plant diseases. Most of them arrived from California, Florida, Columbia, and Ecuador.
- Results from the first year of the Wildlife Services brown treesnake certification feasibility study on Guam the certification process focus on Hawaii-bound surface cargo only. Any certification program will require a substantial amount of staffing.
- DLNR was granted limited access to vessel arrival information by DOT Harbors Division. This is critical to fulfilling the goal of a three-way inter-agency communication link for the shipping industry. DLNR also developed four educational pamphlets for the shipping industry.
- DOH increased West Nile Virus surveillance, analysis, and response capabilities, through the purchase of traps, test kits, insecticide sprayers, insecticides, staff training, and computer hardware and software.

## **Response and Control**

The Established Pests Working Group (EWG) met on July 27, 2004 to review efforts in Hawaii to control established pests by the DOA, DLNR, and DOH, review the proposed EWG Task List, review the list of invasive species generated by the HISC and discuss invasive species control programs. The lead agency for the EWG is the DLNR.

The work of the Island Invasive Species Committees on priority pests (economic, agricultural, and environmental) in each county was supported along with a pilot marine response program being developed by the DLNR – Division of Aquatic resources in cooperation with Federal, private and county resources.

HISC funding was directed, according to Act 85, to the Island Invasive Species Committees and to DLNR's Aquatic Invasive Species Team.

- The Big Island Invasive Species Committee continued to coordinate efforts to control the State's largest infestations of both miconia and coqui frogs, including the purchase of additional citric acid.
- The Maui Invasive Species Committee increased its field staff in response to coqui, expanded surveys for incipient invasive species, and continued its involvement with multi-agency control of miconia.
- The Oahu Invasive Species Committee hired a coqui frog control crew to control the Wahiawa population. It has been reduced to just a few frogs. They also surveyed over 3,500 acres for miconia and removed almost 5,000 plants.
- The Kauai Invasive Species Committee also focused on miconia and coqui frogs. They were also able to move to a more permanent office and base yard and purchase a vehicle.
- The Aquatic Invasive Species Team of divers inspected a vessel bound for the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. On their recommendation, the hull was successfully cleaned of invasives. The team also developed a successful method to eliminate snowflake coral from the pier at Port Allen.

## **Research and Technology**

The Department issued the three rounds (two in calendar year 2005) of requests for proposals to fund research and applied technology contracts, summarized below. A small sample of the 17 projects funded include:

- Better biocontrol for miconia,
- a risk analysis of species likely to be introduced,
- and an improved data management system, that will allow agencies to share reports of new invasive species and track follow-up action.

There was a total of \$2.6 million dollars requested. With the University of Hawaii agreeing to chair the newly-formed Research and Technology Working Group the Program will continue to develop critical resources to address Hawaii's invasive species issues.

<b>HISC Research &amp; Technology Contracts, FY05 Summary</b>		
<b>Proposals</b>	Received	73
	Reviewed	71
	Awarded	17
<b>Reviewers</b>	Individuals	9
	Agencies	7
<b>Amounts</b>	Awarded	\$599,788
	Of Match	\$1,082,366
<b>Contractors</b>	University	8
	Private	4
	Federal	4
	State	1
<b>Strategy</b> (may inform more than one)	Control	15
	Prevention	3
	Detection & Response	3
<b>Threats Addressed</b> (may address more than one)	Terrestrial	10
	Aquatic	5
	Commerce	4
	Agriculture	4
	Public Health	3
<b>Primary Location</b> (may be more than one)	O'ahu	8
	Hawai'i	8
	Maui	3
	Kaua'i	1
	Lana'i & Molokai	0

### **Public Outreach**

The HISC Outreach Specialists, CGAPS, and other members of the Working Group provided information displays at five local festivals and three libraries; made presentations to five community groups; provided information for media coverage for multiple newspaper, television, and radio segments; and printed flyers and other materials including miconia, aquatic invasive species, and coqui.

The grant program also funded thirteen public outreach projects, summarized below:

<b>HISC Public Outreach Grants, FY05 Summary</b>		
<b>Proposals</b>	Received	23

	Reviewed	23
	Awarded	13
<b>Reviewers</b>	Individuals	5
	Agencies	2
<b>Amounts</b>	Awarded	\$109,710
	Of Match	\$238,156
<b>Contractors</b>	Private	7
	University	4
	State	2
<b>Strategy Promoted</b> (may promote more than one)	General Awareness	7
	Detection & Response	3
	Prevention	1
	Control	1
<b>Threats Addressed</b> (may address more than one)	Terrestrial	4
	Aquatic	2
	Public Health	2
	Commerce	1
	Agriculture	1
<b>Primary Audience</b> (may address more than one)	State-wide	5
	O'ahu	5
	Maui	3
	Hawai'i	1
	Kaua'i	1
	Lana'i & Molokai	0