

**Established Pests Working Group Meeting  
Hawaii Invasive Species Council**

**Monday, August 16, 2010, 1:30-3:30 pm  
Kalanimoku Building, DLNR-DOFAW, Room 322-C**

**Attendance:** Meredith Kuba (DBEDT), Darcy Oishi (HDOA), Neil Reimer (HDOA), Kate Cullison (DAR), Paul Conry (DOFAW), Rob Hauff (DOFAW), Christy Finlayson (DOFAW), Keren Gundersen (KISC), Jan Schipper (BIISC) Josh Fischer (USFWS), Teya Penniman (MISC), Rachel Neville (OISC), Lori Buchanan (MOMISC), Jono Blodgett (DAR), Christy Martin (CGAPS), Jacqueline Kozak (HISC), Darcy Oishi (HDOA), James Leary (CTAHR)

**1. Introductions**

**2. Updates on FY2010 reduced funding**

- OISC received funds for coqui and invasive plants. Did not have to relieve staff because so many left and we did not refill the positions. Continued controlling miconia, conducted fountain grass suppression for leeward populations, coqui responses, and Himalayan blackberry work, and more. Because we didn't have enough staff time, we didn't conduct our normal 800 m buffer searches for known miconia. We had to drop some species and we delayed work on some species to focus on coqui and miconia.
- MISC working on ivy gourd and fountain grass (Lanai). We have plant, miconia, and vertebrate teams. 28 different plant species, BBTv, LFA detection surveys. ED work done by Starrs. They have completed surveys of landing zones, roadsides, and nurseries. Coqui frog has been a key component, just starting to move into Maliko Gulch. Some miconia is done with aerial control. HISC support did not pay for all of it. We did not hire some vacant positions, but got some extra support for coqui work.
- MOMISC controlling mangrove jellyfish in a designated swimming area, half of our priority targets are at zero detection. Two or so introductions of coqui that we caught. Want to start LFA surveys. We have two fulltime workers, but are concerned because we have looked to TNC for help, but their staff will be reduced by 50%. There will only be four people in that office by October 1.
- KISC received 90K from HISC, 24% of previous years. Got ARRA funds. 90 pays for only about 2 positions. Priorities are miconia and coqui frog. We did aerial surveys for miconia. Early detected three mature plants. Shows the importance of aerial surveys. It was within the buffer. Completed ED roadside survey by OISC team. Finalizing data assessment. Moved into CTAHR. Helps us cut our overhead. Charged only electric and water. No longer paying rent. Worked with partnerships to accomplish a lot last year.
- BIISC received 100K from HISC. Haven't rehired any positions we lost. Field crew only has 2. Near paralysis. Historically worked on miconia,

but realizing some of our targets are beyond our control. Scale back what we can work on with available resources. Took a contract to work on miconia just to keep staff employed. BIISC has enough funds to get us through this month, questionable what will happen between end of this month and end of this year. ED team has not finished island yet. ¾ of the island has been completed in two years. Puna is next and final target. Because of resource limitations, there are some things on hold. We have some rescue net funding in coqui to support our crew. It was a grant from DLNR. We were involved with mangrove, but are trying to rebuild funds after lawsuit. Have eradicated a few plant target populations. Applying for independent funding for certain targets. We have been going through a lot of reevaluation. ED funding is from HISC. One ED position will be moving on to funding from a forest service competitive grant. (See summary from BIISC).

- AIS (see PowerPoint) has been focusing on Kappaphycus, working with UH lab to do genetics. Main project is with the reef 16 in Kaneohe Bay. Cleared it with the Supersucker in 2008, but the algae regrew in 5-6 months. Cleared it again this summer and placed 1300 collector sea urchins on windward side of the reef. Monitored and counted them. Year later, the urchins are keeping it under control. Early detection of invasive algae north past Kaneohe Bay. Doing genetic testing on the collections. Have found it as far up as Kunaluu. Molokai project, working with Auntie Lori. Upside down jelly fish and Gracilaria in fish ponds. Working on ballast water prevention with the shipping industries. Have to do exchange off shore. Monitoring Moku Pahu with Matson that is using the new Ecochlor system to treat their ballast water. Experimenting with putting on urchins without removing algae first with Supersucker to compare regrowth. Determining stocking density at Sand Island. Would like to continue surveys and mapping. With budget reductions, we almost had to lay off four people, but with furloughs we downgraded a position and moved someone from Hilo. Only had to lay off two people. Have had to focus all of our attention on Oahu, not able to do as much neighbor island work.

### **3. Budget Requests for FY2011 (see attachment)**

- The process is to get our number down as far as we can. HISC has a total 1.4 million for FY2011. Next step will be the Resources Working Group. If we can't get numbers down, they will get cut along the way. So we may want to figure out how we would like to cut them. First step is to get a sense of where all the projects are, what the needs are, and go from there. The cuts will be at the Resources Working Group because they present a balanced budget to the Council.

- HDOA: We have two proposals. Similar proposals went in last year. The ant coordinator was funded through prevention. Biocontrol was funded in this working group, but in Resources it was cut so that we could fund inspectors. We have no funding to do foreign exploration for biocontrol. With recent cuts, the legislature cut the exploration line item out (75K). Our request is to conduct 2 trips for the high, 1 trip for low. Africa would focus on fireweed. We have natural enemies there that we would like to bring back. Fountain grass would be exploratory. Small hive beetle is a recent pest that is from Africa. Southeast Asia would focus on banana aphid. We already have a predator identified. Melon fly. We already have permits in hand to do this, just don't have funding. We have some nematodes. We want to continue studies for miconia and clidemia. We have collaborators in both areas. Have been there before. The status of the current fireweed biocontrol is that we have a caterpillar of a moth. Finished final EA, came out with the FONZI. Need two permits, working on them. It will have some impact, but won't have a huge impact. We would like to bring in some additional ones for control.
- HDOA Ant position: This is submitted to both Prevention and Established Pests. We hired Cas VanderWoude through funds from Prevention. Has decades of experience. Developed programs for Australia and NZ and other South Pacific islands. Was hired January 2009. Since then, has gotten a lot of work done. Biggest accomplishments....ongoing work on Maui for the LFA infestation. It is at undetectable levels. Developed new techniques for control. We have on the ground and research work. Trying to expand onto Kauai, challenges with getting that population under control. Went from 2 to 10 acre infestation. It is on one property, abutting two adjacent properties. Been dealing with other invasive ant species. Pacific wide survey program. Worked with green waste site. The initial response to Kona. Has been conducting surveys at key points of entry. Response plans and procedures. Have gotten some additional grants. Pacific ant detection program. Funds from Farm Bureau. Collaborating on T Star grant on economic impacts. Grants for this year are 345,000, and over 700,000 total. The goal of the funding is to expand the program and keep it functioning. Because of budget cuts on Big Island to HDOA, went from 7 to 2, Cas has been taking the load. If we don't get funding, we will move from doing response and control and prevention to research only. This would primarily be for the offshore network. Low level funding will give Cas a portion of his salary that we could use as match to leverage more funds. At medium and high levels, we will be asking for more staff to help on the ground on a statewide level. Staffing level on the high end would fund Cas at 50%, could get another high level, or two lower levels. At the medium we would have one tech. And low would be just keeping Cas at 50% (supplemented by other funds). HISC core funding is essential for funding Cas and enabling match for securing other funds. If we really want to succeed, we need

more staff. At this point, we've been focusing solely on LFA, and we should be doing other ant work. 70% of his work has been response and control, 30% has been prevention. We will make the same request from the Prevention working group (as he does both work), but not for double the funds. MISC, BIISC, KISC and OISC spoke in support, calling it a "critical core function." Cas has been funding a quarter of outreach position for BIISC. KISC is assisting with ants, conducting surveys in nursery areas.

- The working groups will probably get around the same amount as they did last year
- AIS request: Only submitted our low. We already have cut 2 jobs this past year. We would have to cut another two people with the new low. Could not operate super sucker. At 282K, the program would basically shut down, end up with only 5 staff. Staff include two of the urchin employees. We have some NOAA funding...about 60K. There is a little bit of USFWS that pays for Kate's position. We are losing all of our federal funding. Our federal and state funding are drying up. We may get another 60K from NOAA. That is not in hand yet.
- ISCs are submitting their proposal as a whole, but will have line items for each ISC. Christy Finlayson suggested that the ISCs will go through approval process if funds shift. Paul Conry expressed that we should make sure to lay out how it is divided up by county, but can still have some flexibility. ISC managers request that if the ISC total gets cut at the Resources Working Group, they want to decide the money amounts themselves.
- BIISC request: BIISC has redefined itself. Been figuring out our niche which is funding dependent. Even our low total is to keep us at where we are now, which is hard to stay on top of everything. It is a big island. *Rauvolfia vomitoria* is a huge concern. Its growth rate is similar to miconia, can grow up to 8000 ft elevation. That is our target if we do nothing else. Been reevaluating our role with miconia. We are just making sure nothing goes extinct because of it, holding out for a biocontrol. Only working on coqui in critical habitat. Building partnerships for coqui with Citizen action groups. Diminished capacity means keeping the lights on for BIISC right now. May get rid of our field crew. Have the most potential with outreach. 350K is ten people total with other funds.
- OISC: We have miconia, coqui, ED team, and support staff. We are asking for 200K as our low. That would carry us for 12 months. It would fund 3 ½ positions. Helicopter fees are included too for aerial miconia survey. Matching funds are money that we have already raised. Have a bunch of agencies on our committee. We have money for the early detection team. Don't have money for coqui frog. Without HISC money, we don't have match. Miconia is 50% of budget. If we had 8 field crew for two teams of 4 people each, miconia would be less of our time. We would have more

people to take on more species. It has taken OISC 8 years to finish the delimiting survey for miconia. There may be mature trees that we don't know about.

- KISC request: Asking for more than we got last year. 90K last year. There will not be stimulus funds this year. 150K other funds. 50K of it is hiring other people. Not keeping existing staff. 13K of it is for citric acid. 15K of it is HISC outreach funds. This request pays for about 4 people. This will get us running for 12 months. We won't work 12 months if we don't get this. We found three mature miconia, hadn't found one since 2003. Heli survey critical for that. Our federal funds are solely for plant species. Doesn't allow us to work on coqui. We have CTAHR CAP funds. We only have one insect in common. Collaborating on nursery surveys for naio thrips.
- MISC request: We are not going to cut MOMISC. We will lower our low to 150K since we have other funds. We will continue to function at that level. The work that everyone is doing is critical. 2 staff would be lost. Losing by attrition.
- BIISC will lower to 300K
- AIS won't be effective at any less than 282K
- Teya (MISC) proposes that the ant work is funded through Prevention. Let's coordinate the groups. Darcy (HDOA) agrees.
- OISC can go to 150, but that is far as we can go
- KISC at 150K, but will have to lay off one person. KISC field is 4, including supervisor, 2 part time people who go out in the field. This will reduce the field crew to 3.
- OISC has 4, plus supervisor.
- BIISC at 300 would keep everyone.
- Biocontrol is appropriate for Established Pests. Biocontrol was put into Research and Technology in the strategic plan but this working group supports biocontrol as an important tool for response and control of Established Pests.

#### **4. Summary of Budget Proposals**

- **See final spreadsheet attached of FY2011 Established Pests Budget Proposal**
- These numbers will be sent to the resources working group

#### **5. New Business**

- Rachel and Christy F. suggest that the working group should meet at some point to discuss how to seek additional funding
- Meredith will be scheduling the Resources Working Group Meeting soon...to be announced.

#### **6. Meeting Adjourned**