

HISC Prevention Working Group Meeting
August 19, 2010 9am-12pm
HDOA Plant Quarantine

Attendance: Carol Okada (HDOA), Darcy Oishi (HDOA), Christy Martin (CGAPS), Domingo Cravalho (HDOA), Neil Reimer (HDOA), Rachel Neville (OISC), Chuck Chimera (HISC-WRA), Patti Clifford (HISC-WRA), Jacqueline Kozak (HISC), Christy Finlayson (DOFAW-PCSU), Tony Montgomery (DAR), Celia Smith (UH)

1. Introductions
2. Update from FY2010 funding
 - **WRA, Chuck:** There are two specialists. We have been working on a new database in partnership with PBIN. We are entering new assessments into this database. It will be really useful when all of the species are entered. We have 50 entered, about 970 still in the spreadsheets. Patti has been working with CTAHR on publications to promote low risk species (fragrant flowers and fruit trees). Been involved with Million Trees of Aloha project with Senator Chun Oakland. WRA made sure that people were educated about using non-invasive trees. Jackie Kozak has been writing WRA articles in the LICH 's publication *Hawaii Landscape*. Other outreach is that we have a Facebook page. Just did a bunch of assessments for the Maui County Planting Plan. Maui County Council has agreed to only use low risk species. We have been doing a lot of work on the biofuel issue. Did a poster at HCC last year. We have an article in an industry journal called *Biofuels*. The article is on the invasiveness of some biocontrol species. This Australian based assessment that Hawaii uses is now starting to be used around the U.S. and the world. Different countries are adapting it to their climate. Christy M: last year there was a resolution by the HISC for government agencies to use the WRA. We are making progress. Neil: Is the one used in other countries, based on the Hawaii WRA? Chuck: Hawaii is based on Australia's, but the questions get reworded to be more appropriate for the region. Tony: Did you consider using macro algae in your biofuel project? Patti: We have had some requests for it, but haven't seen it progress. We only saw info on micro algae.
 - **Invasive Ant Program, Darcy:** There have been many accomplishments in the last year. Survey training, detection and delimiting. Worked with Kona Farm Bureau to keep LFA contained. Also worked with Green Waste Program in Hilo. Developed a website to promote awareness, includes FAQs and fact sheets. We have a good handle on the Maui infestation using the Master Blaster. Publication in Entomological Society about new tools and technologies developed. We have gotten several extramural grants totaling \$345,000. Pacific Ant Plan will work on biosecurity and prevention, especially with Pacific trading partners. Letters of support from various organizations (get list from Darcy).

- **Inspectors, Domingo:** Due to riffs we lost 40% of our staff. We identified 22 positions that were critical to maintaining state functioning and neighbor island capacity. We would have had to shut down Kona, we would have had only one inspector on Kauai, for Maui we would have been down to 10 (majority would be locked into airport, so maritime would not be addressed), Oahu would have been severely affected as well. With HISC funding, we were able to reinstate those positions. We were looking to develop an air cargo center. However, DOT was not able to provide space, and funding was not released from the earmark, we were not able move forward. We are just reprioritizing our workload that would cover late night domestic arrivals, maintaining foreign arrivals referred by USDA, and parcels. We had to maintain passenger and baggage inspections. We were spread thin at airports. On maritime side, we reduced the amount of sites that we had to go off site. We got it down from 43 to 11 sites. That was a major undertaking. We were able to utilize existing staff to cover those 11 sites. In morning would do maritime, in afternoon airports. We established a cooperative agreement with major produce importers (20% of all imports) so that we could unload it in their facility, we earmark it to what we want to inspect on the side, and no-risk items were released to make it more efficient. We are having talks with other businesses that may want to do something similar. We implemented a pilot project for seed producers. It has been developed where they can reduce inspections of things that come in from the mainland and things that go inter island. Carol has been involved with Public Meetings with DOT in counties to identify inspection and quarantine areas, Hilo, Kawai Hai, and Kahului. Carol: each one is developing a master plan. When it comes to implementation, has to go into phasing documents. We are now in the statewide transportation plan. Honolulu is our major goal. We are hoping for a facility that will house a number of state and federal agencies, CDC, FDA, USFWS and quarantine agencies, so that we could address emergencies with a rapid response. It provided a way to flag things automatically as high or low risk. Could go into containers...if there is something skewed that commodity was flagged as low risk, but shouldn't have been, we can change that. Electronic manifest is an exciting new tool. As we go along, we have to realize that our staff is stretched thin. We are evaluating each of the port's operations, and trying to make things better. Change isn't always easy. We are still having issues with the air cargo fees. They haven't paid fees and are challenging state and federal acts related to this issue. We are cautiously optimistic. The legislation provided us with higher fees for inspections that we do. As a whole, the legislative changes and assistance from HISC, helps us to have some growth in the biosecurity program, we thank HISC for that much needed funding.
- **DAR-Ballast Water and Hull Fouling, Tony (40K in FY10):** Unfortunately the position became vacant soon after, but we maintained

those duties. We are reviewing reports, cross checking them with DOT records. AIS team and NOAA been maintaining at the low level. 5K for Jason. 35K was combined with contract for AIS. Established Pests and Prevention were combined. Carol: What were the staffing riffs for DAR? Tony: DLNR had 27 positions cut. 7 were in DAR. The majority of positions were in commercial fishing. Christy M: how many DAR? Tony: civil service is about 60, near 100 with contractors. Rob: what is the status of Jason's position? Tony: it is vacant. We lost a lot through attrition. 70% vacancy in our division. Could be awhile until vacant positions are filled.

3. Budget Requests for FY2011 (see attachments)

- Carol: Explain what the high and low would mean for each proposal.
- **WRA:** The high is 120K. The high is salary for both and a bit for travel. The low would be funding for one of us. Carol: would be continuing the same work? Chuck: a big portion of our future work will be getting backlog of species inputted in the database. Christy M.: WRA is a priority of the HISC POWG. One project in particular, Plant Pono. We want to help move WRA into landscape industry in an easy to use way. We are putting together a Plant Pono website which will promote low risk plants. We have gone to each island nursery associations and have been able to get planting lists to see which plants that are in the trade that haven't been screened. The timeline for this project is in the coming year. I request funding for both positions. Christy F.: what will low funding mean? Christy M.: things will fall off...the outreach capacity, timely screening. Ability to respond to new interest generated from work with the landscaping industry. Chuck: it takes about 2 days to screen one plant. Christy M: there is a big to do list, and I don't see one person being able to do it. Rob: is there anything in HISC strategy or CGAPS action plan to take it beyond an outreach plan? Christy M.: it is in the CGAPS priority action plan, we see it as very important to take it further. Chuck: it has been challenging to get the website updated, but the Plant Pono website will help to solve that. Christy M.: need to reevaluate ones that didn't have a lot of information when initially screened. Chuck: it is amazing that this has been used since the 90s in Australia and 2002 in Hawaii, but so much more information is on the Internet then when this began. We always give priorities to the newest assessments in.
- **Invasive Ant Program:** we brought in a lot of extramural grants. We have \$345K for Cas, but most of it is for research and development, and prevention strategy for Pacific. But doesn't include a lot of Hawaii specifically. More to develop capacity in other Pacific islands. If we don't get funding, we lose ability to address issues in Hawaii. We have to rely on HDOA staff, which is already full of gaps due to reductions. On Kauai, we only have one staff member there. Cas spends a lot of time in Kona for response and control and prevention. It's clear that there is a need. All of

that will disappear if Cas doesn't have operational funds. We also need it for match. The low funding would be 50% of Cas' salary. Modest travel and supplies budget. He will be out of the country a lot. So medium budget request allows us to hire one fulltime tech in addition to Cas. High funds Cas at 50%, plus two techs, or one junior specialist. This will help us to develop a more robust ant program and expand it in the Pacific. Carol: low, medium and high has Cas at 50%? Darcy: yes, the rest is covered by extramural funds, mainly federal. This would make him part time HISC. Rob: where would the tech be stationed? Darcy: we are trying to decide between Hilo and Kona? Probably Hilo. They would need to be trained by Cas. Neil: we can get by with 50% for Cas, but we can't go lower. We need it as match. Rachel: If we don't hire help for Cas, we will be losing 50% of ant help in Hawaii? Darcy: yes. Christy M: I would definitely support adding another person for Cas. Neil: we don't know what the split will be between prevention and response and control. Mainly we are focusing on control and eradication. Tony: in the end it doesn't matter which working group. It is an administrative point on how we categorize it. This project clearly is in both areas. Domingo: what will the split be between the working groups? Christy M: Last year it was 740K for Prevention, 820K for R&C, 130K for outreach, 310K for HISC Support (overhead, admin, grants). 1.4 million. Prevention is cut in half this year, but the bulk of it was for the inspectors last year.

- **Celia Smith, DAR:** We have had 10 years of research on alien algae. My lab has been the place for this. We are training grad students. Mike, the proposed RA, is able to be spokesperson for these issues. It would be great to have an algal intern to build capacity for the different agencies. This would be an education campaign. I included products that we would deliver, including workshops on target algae. Taking this approach will allow quick learning opportunity for detection and identification. I would advise this student and go on inspections. Neil: 24 workshops seem like a lot for state staff. Celia: these would be unique workshops, but might not always be to the same audience. This is flexible in timing and content.
- **Tony Montgomery, DAR:** we lost the ballast water position. We are trying to maintain internally and do minimum hull inspections. We are losing momentum of what this position should address. We should figure out policy on how to deal with hull fouling. Difficult topic nationally and internationally. This is good timing to keep this momentum going. California has a deadline to figure out these guidelines. We can participate and California will pave the way. Without this position, we will lose these opportunities. NOAA is doing NWHI monument inspections. One of the advantages that I see is that we will eventually get the state position filled. I envision this as a temp position under PCSU helps us to recruit for the eventual full time state position. This will help to maintain consistency in the program. Two different budgets based on

time it will take to get it filled. If we did this through PCSU, does not require governor's approval.

4. Summary of Proposals

- All proposals are supported by the group
- Domingo: I would support putting forth all of the proposals at the high. At the low, I would support putting the ant at the medium and rest at the low.
- The committee agrees.

5. No New Business