

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council
Prevention Working Group
Draft Minutes, July 14 2011

Present: Josh Atwood (HISC), Rachel Neville (OISC), Sky Harrison (PBIN), Jono Blodgett (DAR), Teya Penniman (MSIC), Lori Buchanan (MoMISC), Darcy Oishi (DOA), Domingo Carvalho (USFWS), Charles Chimera (HISC), Diane Sether (UH), Patti Clifford (HISC), Christy Martin (CGAPS), Carol Okada (Chair, DOA), Neil Reimer (DOA), Angela Kieran-Vast (Hawai'i Army National Guard), Kristine Macdonald (Hawai'i Army National Guard), Arnold Hara (UH), Kate Cullison (DAR).

1. Introductions
2. Review of Strategic Plan (Josh Atwood)
 - a. History of the HISC
 - b. Funding history
 - c. Prevention objectives
3. Update on groups addressing Strategic Plan objectives
 - a. DOA (Carol Okada): Working with DOH to develop a rapid response plan for mosquitoes. Capacity of Vector Control Branch has been drastically reduced, working to find ways to restore functionality. DOA received funding to start conducting DNA fingerprinting for plants coming through ports. DNA fingerprinting for plants on the noxious weed list. Governor has restored some inspector positions.
 - b. OISC (Rachel Neville): Surveying for naio thrips. Working with DOA and DOFAW. Responding to coqui calls. Early Detection program has finished their three-year roadside survey and has finished a prioritization of incipient species. Starting delimiting surveys.
 - c. DOA (Darcy Oishi): Hawai'i Ant Lab has received consistent funding from Prevention working group. Mitigating interisland movement of ants and expansion of ants on Big Island. Secured extramural funding. Working with nurseries on export to US mainland. Last year's HISC money funded two positions. Assisting KISC with ant ID. Port of entry surveys in Hilo. Working on a Maui eradication project with MISC, Forest, and Kim Starr. Educating growers, working on a nursery inspection program and collaborative industry guidelines for exporting. For the apiary program, Varroa mite is on O'ahu and Big Island. Statewide survey using USDA funds, including the National Honeybee Pest Survey.
 - d. CGAPS (Christy Martin): The Plant Pono website is in development and is in its second design. Working on an approved planting list with weed risk assessors.
 - e. Weed Risk Assessment (Charles Chimera): There has been good voluntary use of the Hawai'i Pacific Weed Risk Assessment. There is an article in the newsletter of the Landscape Industry Council of Hawai'i describing the voluntary codes of conduct that landscapers are adopting for discontinuing the use of invasive or high risk plants.
4. Review of FY12 budgeting and evaluation process (Josh Atwood)
5. FY12 proposal presentations (Total request: \$344,660.00)
 - a. Continued Support for the Hawai'i Pacific Weed Risk Assessment (Charles Chimera): \$121,041. This request would fund two weed risk assessors (Charles Chimera and Patti Clifford) for 12 months. Budget is for salaries and fringe, with small amounts of travel and supplies. The Hawai'i Pacific Weed Risk Assessment has been used to assess 1145 species to date. The Working with a

Maui County arborist to develop a planting plan. Working on the Plant Pono website, which will help individuals learn about low risk alternatives for planting, landscaping, and horticulture. Looking to update the data entry system and online data storage system to make it more user accessible. Patti is giving a talk to the Ala Wai Community Garden, Charles is giving a presentation to the Master Gardener group on Maui and taking them on an educational hike.

- i. Josh: How many assessments do you do per year?
 1. Charles: Depends on demand. Last year we did 195.
 - ii. Lori: I call Chuck by phone while at nurseries and ask him for information on plant species for sale.
- b. Ballast Water/Hull Fouling Coordinator (Jono Blodgett): \$53,201. The previous hull fouling coordinator vacated his position and it has not been filled. It was a state position, but for now they need to fill it using soft money. The previous coordinator reviewed recreational harbors and assessed the amount of hull fouling taking place and how many boats might be carrying invasive species. This request would hire someone temporarily for 8 months.
- i. Christy: Last year you received money for hull fouling. Where did that go?
 1. Jono: It hasn't been spent. We tried to hire someone but didn't find a qualified applicant. The posting is out again. Last year's money would be used first, and the money from the current proposal would extend the position. That's why the proposal is only for 8 months of funding.
 - ii. Josh: What has been the impact of having this position unfilled?
 1. Jono: Nothing has been done as far as hull fouling issues. Ballast water isn't as big of a need, but for hull fouling, especially for recreational boats, we need more monitoring.
 2. Kate: The commercial industry is complying, so the need is for recreational boats. The lack of detection has been the biggest impact of having the position unfilled.
 - iii. Christy: Is the lack of applicants a salary issue? Are we not offering a high enough salary?
 1. Jono: It's definitely an issue. The salary needs to be comparable to what it would be if the position reverted to being funded by the state.
 2. Kate: The other issue is that there is no set timeline. Not many people are willing to relocate to Hawai'i for a one-year soft money position. We've had two state positions left and unfilled.
 - iv. Lori: Are you looking for someone to do rule-making or out doing inspections?
 1. Jono and Kate: Both.
- c. PBIN (Sky Harrison): \$28,665 from Prevention, \$89,551 total from all working groups. USGS has defunded the national structure that has traditionally supported PBIN. They have a year of funding remaining (through June 2012). Looking for 6 months of support, carrying them through December 2012. PBIN is becoming a project underneath the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit (PCSU) at UH. PBIN supports or hosts the Hawai'i Early Detection alert system, Hawai'i Invasive Species Web Mapping Portal, HISC website, Plant Pono website, CGAPs website, ISC websites, HEAR website. Funding would hire a temporary web developer to improve the reporting system for the Hawai'i Pacific Weed Risk Assessment. This is the project most directly applicable to the Prevention group.
- i. Carol: Domingo, are there funding opportunities for this (at USFWS)?

1. Domingo: With the earmarks, our funding has been cut back like all other offices. There may be sources. Our funding deadline is tomorrow.
 - ii. Christy: How are the other nodes dealing with this? How is USGS moving the data, or will it disappear?
 1. Sky: Each node's situation is unique. Our project was unique in that it integrated with local infrastructure much better. USGS has been completely reorganized and consolidated. NBI was cut.
 - iii. Josh: One of the items you're looking to fund is the web application developer. Are there impacts beyond the weed risk assessment if that position is cut?
 1. Sky: That would be the easiest item to cut. The upgrade wouldn't happen. Also, the developer wouldn't be able to help with upgrades to the Hawai'i Early Detection system.
 - iv. Teya: It doesn't sound like there is enough in the budget for salaries.
 1. Sky: Some of the salaries listed here are temporary positions and don't include fringe.
 - v. Rachel: Does this affect the ISC website, Phillip Thomas and Patty Nakao?
 1. Sky: If I can't keep the group going, it would all go dark. The HEAR website, Plant Pono, and the ISC websites are on our servers and infrastructure. Phillip and Patty have separate funding sources for their salaries. We're all on soft money now. We had talked once about writing one very large proposal for everything, and we still need to consider that.
- d. DOA Hawai'i Ant Lab Prevention Program (Darcy Oishi): \$106,066.12. There are four components. 1) Looking to expand the Pacific Invasive Ant Network. This network started using USFS funds to build survey, protection, and control capacity, primarily in Guam, CNMI, and Palau. The expansion would incorporate all US protectorates with the idea that if ants are detected, having the capacity for protection and control mitigates the risk for Hawai'i. Especially relevant given the military buildup on Guam. 2) We are also proposing to conduct offshore risk management. Raspberry crazy ant is a target. This project would create profiles of ant species that haven't yet arrived in Hawai'i. 3) We are looking to prevent the spread of little fire ant in Kona. Includes nursery and plant vendor best management practices. Providing information to growers. 4) Point of entry surveys for little fire ant, red imported fire ant, and any other highly invasive ants that are identified.
- i. Josh: Your salaries are at 30%. Where are the rest of those salaries coming from?
 1. Darcy: We have two sources of funding: APHIS and DOFAW. We also have HISC monies from last year.
 - ii. Teya: Has little fire ant been detected at the port in Hilo?
 1. Darcy: It has been detected in an urban housing area outside of Young Brothers, but HDOA Plant Pest Control has been aggressively spraying the area. We haven't detected it at the airport or in the harbor proper.
 - iii. Teya: Did you receive funds from multiple working groups last year?
 1. Darcy: Just from Prevention. Our request this year is less because we're also moving forward with a request to Established Pests.

- e. DOA State Apiary Program, Early Detection of Africanized Honeybees and Exotic Honeybee Species (Darcy Oishi): \$35,686.88. Currently the bee program receives money from an earmark specifically for Varroa mite detection and control. There aren't funds for other pest problems. This proposal would provide funding for work on Africanized honeybees and exotic honeybee species. The Asian honeybee is the host of Tropilaelaps mite. Has caused damage in Australia. This would have a significant economic impact in Hawai'i. Hawai'i supplies queen bees to the mainland US and Canada. The proposed project would include placement of swarm traps around high risk areas, training bee keepers for early detection, working with shipping industry. Australia has detected many bee pests in cargo, and Africanized bees were detected on a ship in Vancouver. We want to provide training to people working in shipping yards in Hawai'i. HDOA doesn't have the capacity to do diagnostics, so those would be done by the Florida DOA.
 - i. Josh: What are the diagnostic services?
 - 1. Darcy: Africanized honeybee identification is tricky. There are two tests that assess morphological characters in bees. Africanized bees tend to be smaller and have slightly smaller morphometrics. So far we haven't found Africanized bees here, but we do have very aggressive bees in Hawai'i.
 - ii. Carol: Who is the Apiary Planner now?
 - 1. Darcy: Jackie Robison.
 - iii. Christy: How many swarm traps would you be placing?
 - 1. Darcy: Depending on how we build the program, I have a supply of 200 traps available. We would need to supply lures for the traps. One of our gaps is Maui; we have no one on-island.
 - iv. Neil: The number of swarm traps on islands has decreased significantly. We used to have almost 80 just on Kaua'i, now probably around a dozen.
- 6. Discussion of funding and budget request
 - a. Christy: Last year we had projects that were unfunded or underfunded but were later awarded general funds from DOFAW. Do we have any update on the availability of general funds this year?
 - i. Josh: There has been a substantial cut in general funds this year to balance the state budget. There may be no general funds available to us this year. We do not have an update on general fund availability at this point, and we will likely not have an update prior to the Resources working group meeting.
 - b. Josh: We are considering reinstating the Research and Technology program. Christopher Dunn is creating a statement of research needs to be discussed at the Resources working group meeting. Last year the funding for this group was \$155,266. Special funds and Legacy Land Conservation Program funds are the same this year as they were in FY11.
- 7. Proposal and budget adjustments (Carol Okada)
 - a. Charles: Because ours is essentially just salary for two people, we could only reduce our request by reducing the period of time covered by the funding. We could cover 9 months with no supplies at \$89,505.75.
 - b. Jono: We could go without equipment, supplies, utilities and communication, and the outreach. Funding for ROV repairs is a necessity. The salary could be dropped by limiting the amount of time it would extend, in the hopes that the position would revert to a civil service position.
 - i. Rachel: Is there a company that could perform this service?

1. Jono: The AIS team could conduct surveys.
 2. Kate: Right now we get a lot of support from NOAA, and the Coast Guard, but that's for big ships.
 - ii. Jono: I could submit a lesser time frame or withdraw the proposal. At four months, the total would be \$24,198.
 - c. Sky: The web application developer works on upgrading the database for the weed risk assessment. We could cut that, but it would be unfortunate for the WRA. It would be \$18,890 without the web developer.
 - i. Christy and Carol: Let's not adjust this proposal for now.
 - d. Darcy: For bees, the main issue is to give staff a broader mandate. We could cut down the program significantly as long as we're still expanding the mandate. For ants, we could cut funding there, too, but I'd like feedback on what aspects of the proposal would need revisions.
 - i. Group discussion: Some objectives can be addressed by CGAPS. The Pacific Invasive Ant Network should be addressed to CGAPS. Keep the port of entry surveys.
 - ii. Darcy: I could bring the Hawai'i Ant Lab request down to \$75,000. Reducing the scope of the project can reduce salaries, fringe, and travel. For the bees I can reduce to \$11,728.96.
 - e. Josh: Based on projections we're still over on what we might expect for this group. There are a number of ways to calculate the projections. We're approaching some level of feasibility. Assuming all of the adjustments (except the removal of the PBIN web developer), we'd now be at \$229,097.71. If proportionate funding across working groups is averaged amongst FY08, FY09, and FY11, this number is actually under the project amount.
8. Future HISC Meetings (Josh Atwood):
- a. Established Pests working group meeting and Public Outreach meetings are on July 15, 2011.
 - b. Evaluations for each working group will happen next week. Revisions are due by the end of the day on Tuesday, July 19.
 - c. Resources working group meeting will be on July 29, 2011. This will be when decisions are made regarding Research and Technology.
 - d. Target date for HISC meeting: August 18.
 - e. This working group should meet again this year, outside of the budget setting project.
 - i. Carol: If we met again, we may not want it to be specific to just this working group. The people and organizations overlap, so we could get a picture of where the gaps are as a whole.
9. Announcements
- a. Sky: PBIN needs a new name. Contact him with suggestions.
10. Meeting adjourned.