

HISC POWG Meeting
January 17, 2012
Minutes

In attendance: Chris Dacus, Darcy Oishi, Lissa Fox, Page Else, Lara Reynolds, Michelle Jones, Stephanie Hurder, Donna Lehmann, Barry Brennan, Sonia Gorgula, Kate Cullison, Rob Hauff, Christy Martin, Josh Atwood, Jackie Kozak Thiel

1. Call to order- 10:06 am
 - a. Recognition of Chris Dacus as outgoing POWG chair.
2. Introductions
3. Approval of minutes from July 15, 2011: Approved, with the suggestion that we have action items listed in minutes.
 - a. Page: Did the policy gap analysis fact sheets get made? (Item 2.b.3.a)
 - i. Policy gaps have been discussed at HISC meetings over the last six months. A summary will be provided to legislators by HISC staff in the next week.
 - b. Kate: What do we need to do to support HDOA in revising their rules?
 - i. Supporting ways to increase their personnel numbers.
 - c. What about the legislative process for updating their rules [Resolution 77, 2011].
 - i. DOA testified in opposition, based on staffing limitations.
4. New OISC Outreach Specialist: Lara Reynolds. Hoping to revive the OISC volunteer program with monthly volunteer trips.
 - a. Donna [BIISC] working on a "don't release your pets" program
 - b. Sonia is the new DAR Ballast Water/Hull Fouling Coordinator
 - c. Stephanie is the new DOFAW education assistant
5. Discussion on new POWG Chair
 - a. Maile Sakamoto (DOH) will hopefully be our new chair, pending approval by DOH.
6. Launch of Hawaii Environmental Literacy Plan
 - a. Michelle Jones: The HELP was inspired by the No Child Left Inside Act. The Act has federal funding tied to it (when available). Any state with an approved plan is eligible to apply for funding. Goals are to increase student knowledge and educator confidence. The HELP is Hawai'i's plan, making the state eligible for the federal funds. Will be introducing the plan at an event on February 4. Looking for supporting grants, will likely be coming to the HISC POWG meeting this summer to request funds. The plan is about 70 pages long and has a summary at the end. Working on securing Dept of Education support, which is needed to apply for the federal funds. DOE administrators have been involved in the development of the plan. The plan will need to be signed off on by the

Board of Education, Michelle will let the group know when the meeting is if anyone would like to submit letters of support.

7. Review of Draft Invasive Ant Communications Plan and Workshop
 - a. Resulting from the November 11, 2011 Ant Communications Workshop in Hilo.
 - b. No way to quantify number of ant reports on 643-PEST. HDOA does not provide those numbers at this time.
 - c. Need to change “survey” to “pest detection.” The word “survey” is getting confused between its intended definition in this context (monitoring and detection) and the more common definition of public polling.
 - d. Number of nurseries signing on to voluntary codes of conduct: Cas is working on a nursery program and is trying to get nurseries on board. Cas has codes of conduct and BMPs already for infested areas, but BMPs for uninfested areas need to be developed.
 - e. Need to create a citizen science monitoring website so people can see what areas have been surveyed and when.
 - f. Make sure to distinguish between outcomes and measures.
 - g. Methods: a citizen scientist website to records areas that have been surveyed.
 - h. Promoting 643-PEST and reportapest.org: Elizabeth Speith is working on getting HDOA buy in on reportapest.org as an online reporting system in concert with 643-PEST. Want to ensure we’re not splitting our reporting messages.
 - i. Need to coordinate messaging and be consistent.
 - j. Next step: developing an implementation plan
8. Discussion on POWG 2012 goals and the role of POWG in HISC
 - a. Ant materials: Cas has vinyl banners, there are existing brochures.
 - b. Ant goals: listed in the draft Ant Communications Plan.
 - i. Lissa: Would like to do an Ant Awareness Week
 - ii. Michelle: Doing 5-day teaching trainings through DOFAW. Could focus part of the training on ants. Likely happening in June/July.
 - c. Top species for the year: ants.
 - d. Messaging for the Watershed Initiative: funds directed towards this initiative will likely be available through an RFP process that would be open to Watershed Partnerships, ISCs, and other groups. One key point is that directing money towards invasive species and water resources ends up saving money.
 - e. Messaging should include economic benefits.
 - f. This group could create value publications. What are the impacts of invasive species on water and other resources? What are the economic costs associated with those impacts?
 - g. Biocontrol: progress on existing projects, need for funding, facilities. Working on melastomes. Long term goal: kahili ginger (should be

renamed Himalayan ginger). HDOA is committed to renovating some existing facilities.

- h. Coordinating state's position on certain topics designated in HRS 194 (all working groups)
- i. Strategic Plan update over the course of 2012. What did we not accomplish from the 2008 plan, and what were the reasons?
 - i. Funding: External funding not identified by Resources Working Group. Should it be a focus of other working groups, or should Resources Working Group be revitalized to fill that role?
 - 1. Darcy: The HISC should be soliciting private funds to augment the annual HISC budget.
- j. Priority setting: comments from working groups will be taken to Council, Council will hopefully set priorities for FY13 funding at a May meeting.
- k. Coordination with DOFAW and Watershed Partnership and other organization's outreach staff: invite them to next meeting and expand network.
- l. How to outreach on specific topics or to specific groups: hunters, fishermen, etc.

9. Discussion on 2012 legislative session

10. Announcements

- a. Patti: Hawaii Asthma Initiative. Wants to increase knowledge of pollen risks to public health. Related to invasive plants, could be utilized in landscaping suggestions (i.e., suggesting alternatives to invasives that produce a high amount of pollen). Thomas Leo Ogren is a pollen expert who created Allergy Free Gardening. Focusing on this issue could be a goal of the POWG for 2012.
 - i. Rob: Does pollen get recorded in the WRA?
 - 1. Patti: There is an allergy question on the WRA. Hawai'i is the only state that doesn't measure its pollen levels.
 - ii. Christy: If you could think of a way to feature this on the Plant Pono website, that could be an outreach outlet.
- b. Page: Rat Lungworm Disease in the Puna area: can cause meningitis. Also a new slug: the Semi Slug, which concentrates Rat Lungworm Disease. Seven people are now in comas. The spread of the semi slug through nursery plants could facilitate the spread of Rat Lungworm Disease.
 - i. Darcy: DOH has put out materials on Rat Lungworm Disease.
- c. Chris: There is a DOT invasive species plan for roadways that is coming out this year. Could include payments for ISCs for road surveys. Funding is being considered this leg session. 80% federal, 20% state match. Draft of plan will be available online within the next month. Will email to the group.

11. Adjournment: 12:17pm

Action items:

Jackie: Distribute new logo to HISC partners

Darcy/Jackie: Update Ant Communications Plan per item #7.

Elizabeth: Continue to make inroads with HDOA regarding reportapest.org

Josh: Talk to Mary Lou about having another Resources WG meeting outside of the HISC budget cycle. May want to try to have one-on-one re-orientation meetings with Council members prior to May meeting.

Chris: Email the group the DOT roadway plan for invasive species.