

Hawaii Invasive Species Council
Prevention Working Group Meeting
Meeting notes

Attendance: Carol Okada (HDOA), Mark Fox (TNC), Josh Atwood (HISC), Jackie, Christy Martin (CGAPS), Teya Penniman (MISC), Chuck Chimera (HPWRA), Lori Buchanan (BIISC), Darcy Oishi (HDOA), Domingo Cravalho (USFWS), Kristine MacDonald (Army National Guard), Michelle Montgomery (HAL), Angela Kieran-Vast (Army National Guard), Rachel Neville (OISC), Keahi Makaimoku (Hau 'oli Mau Loa), Sonjia, Jono Blodgett (DAR), Mike Melzer (UH), Sonia Gorgula (DAR)

1. Call to Order (Carol Okada)
2. Introductions
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Motion by Rachel, seconded by Domingo.
4. Discussion of FY13 funding process (Josh)
 - a. We have four proposals. First we solicit proposals, then have WG meetings to go over proposals as a group to have input, applicants have opportunity to voluntarily amend their proposals, then we have quantitative scoring process, followed by Resources WG meeting with working group chairs, then submit balanced budget to Council for approval.
5. FY13 proposals
 - o **Ballast Water/Hull Fouling Coordinator** (Sonia Gorgula)
 - Working on a legislative mandate to work on these two risks. Part of the proposal includes conferences on the mainland with other Pacific states that are working on these issues. Relates to how vessels have invasive species. At base we need to collect data by convening a task force, which involves reps from other state agencies. When vessels come into Hawaii, if they have ballast water, they tell us if they are intending to discharge. The regulations are that they need to manage that water. Most of the vessels are compliant and let us know before they arrive. When they do, 90% of the time they are meeting Hawaii's regulations. Full funding will carry us to October 2013.
 - Josh: does county get involved with harbor issues?
 - Sonia: probably not. I am working a little bit on the Japanese tsunami debris, there were invasive species attached to the debris that landed on mainland, if it does land on shore, it will be county responsibility. If on reef, it will be DAR's responsibility. Relating to biosecurity, probably not.
 - o **Ant Lab Core Funding** (Darcy Oishi)
 - Main difference between this and EPWG proposal is to address problem area of farmers market cooperative scheme, which is a potential risk for moving LFA from infested areas to uninfested areas. Essentially that area is the one we would cut if we need to (which is the 1500 of travel and

training and outreach materials) we could cut back of travel to Kona as well.

- Josh: Two surveys per year per port, is that sufficient?
- Michelle: yes, twice a year is good. Because you get the same ants at the different sites. And some of the major concern ants don't show up at points of entry, not the kind of place where they would get established. What we actually detect at the ports are more urban type of ants.
- Lori: the port surveys...that can't be incorporated in the surveys that DOA is already doing?
- Darcy: DOA has surveys through CAPS program, but that funding is being cut from USDA. We are going into new agreement period, just underwent another 15% cut. Our capacity on that front is being reduced too. It's specific to RIFA. Before we used to have leeway to address other ants, but agreement language has changed to focus only on RIFA.
- Weed Risk Assessment (Chuck Chimera)
 - Since it has been developed 1316 plants have been screened. 180 assessments in 2011 and 12, and 118 this year. We have been more efficient in answering the questions, and more information is available. Another thing that affected our productivity is that it was originally done on spreadsheets, a new data base funded by HISC, Sky from HBIN got funding to transfer database from access platform to a web-based data entry portal that will hopefully update info in real time and will be tied to Plant Pono website. That will be the user-friendly place where people can go to see what plants they should be planting and which ones to avoid. There is a lot of work to still do, we give priority to plants that are of most interest to people. We have a lot more private individuals submitting requests due to Hawaii Landscape Magazine, including a temporary website that allows you to download all assessments. Been working with the state in the past year to set up a non-invasive Christmas tree industry, which would hopefully prevent more shipments from mainland. We also have worked a lot about cultivation of biofuels to promote the use of non-invasive plants in biofuel, or if they do use high-risk plants how they can mitigate the spread. NRCS also has submitted requests about new plants for fodder. As far as funding is concerned, our budget is simple. 2 positions. High-end budget would cover office supplies and travel. The low end is for us to come up with the rest of our salary or do work outside of FTE. If fully funded we could do 200 assessments in the next year. Reduction of funding would be reduction of that total.
 - Lori: WRA is valuable. When we see a weird plant showing up, I can take picture and send to Chuck, and Chuck will respond on the phone and talk to nursery person with shipment. So we can stop the shipment.
 - Josh: You mentioned the volume of requests have been increasing, do you know how many in a year?

- Chuck: I don't have that number, but we know that we have gone from 33 requests in 2009 and 2010, it was 131 in 2011, 180 in 2012, and up to 118 in mid year. We have 40 waiting to be done.
 - Josh: Any flexibility of funding?
 - Christy: I would like you to be able to give updates at conferences.
Chuck: Thanks to Rachel, I was able to come here today and give a talk tomorrow.
 - Christy: So maybe we can move travel and training to low budget request.
- HISC Interdepartmental Legal Fellow
 - Kate Cullison has been a lead. Kate and Denise absent. Josh referred to proposal. It would be a student from Richardson Law School. She would be funded to review existing policy, ID gaps, and could draft rules and/or bills to go to the legislature. There are some specific gaps that Kate and Denise have identified. On page 2 of proposal (possible deliverables). The person could have a lot of different focuses, could get priority input from Council. Basically just salary and fringe, laptop, conference. Christy: some comments—we are looking at proposing a legal fellow program through Hau'oli Mau Loa, so Myrtaceae would be off of this desk. I participated with Kate in initial meeting with Denise. This would be a post-graduate person, who has already gone through law school. Denise already has people in mind for this position. This is a really long list of things they could be working on, so it would really require to ID one thing on this list that this person is going to do for the year. That is a step that still hasn't been done yet, identifying the low hanging fruit.
 - Josh: That makes it difficult to score since they are just possibilities.
 - Rachel: it would be good if they could give us a presentation that breaks down the information, what the next steps are, interprets the legal part, which is confusing for us. That should be a deliverable at the end.
- Funding overview
 - Josh: not a lot of extraneous stuff in proposals this year. Funding projection is only a rough target, but if are to keep percentage of HISC funds going to prevention, we have about \$125K going to this group and received \$300K this year, so difference of \$175K with only four proposals. Quantitative evaluations should be handed in this Friday, then deadline for amendments is July 27, but sooner would be helpful for evaluations. If you have any comments on proposals or process, feedback would be great.

6. Public Comments

- a. Rachel: if HISC had admin rules, could the Council help us find more money.
- b. Josh: We haven't gone to different council members and asked them for money yet, but we are going to take time this summer and fall to hopefully do something with the leg next year. We need our own dedicated funding source.

- c. Mark: we have talked about what we might be able to do to elevate this to the Governor's office level. Looking at allocations to each of the agencies and if a little bit could come from other agencies. Could start at Governor's office with an invasives initiative. Could boost the budget a lot.
- d. Christy: recommend HISC staff reach out to private foundations. So each individual project doesn't have to go, more consolidated way to do that.
- e. Josh: not sure how we would do that with DLNR?
- f. Christy: not necessarily through DLNR, but ask if private foundations might want to partner with us to help fund projects.
- g. Teya: such a great opportunity for a funding agency, so many projects to choose from. Wouldn't that logically fall under the resources working group? At one of the priority setting sessions to talk about HISC funding, we talked about R&T projects, collective identification of priorities.
- h. Jackie: yes, we have identified a new Chair from CTAHR who will help us move that forward.

7. Adjournment (Mark Fox)