

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

Minutes for Monday, July 1, 2013, 9:00 AM

Rm 325, Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania St, Honolulu, HI, 96813

HISC Voting Members Present: Jesse Souki (DBEDT), Gary Gill (DOH), Russell Kokubun (DOA), William Aila (DLNR), Maria Gallo (CTAHR)

HISC Participants Present: Senator Clarence Nishihara, Senator Kalani English, Representative Derek Kawakami, Representative James Tokioka

Public Attendees: Josh Atwood (DLNR), Emily Montgomery (HISC), Earl Campbell (USFWS), David Cohen (DAR), Neil Reimer (HDOA), Po-Yung Lai (City and County of Honolulu Mayor's Office), Josh Fisher (USFWS), Angela Kieran-Vast (DOD), Donna Lay (Office of Sen. Gabbard), Julia Parish (OISC), Kanalu Sproat (MADWG), Teya Penniman (MISC), Jodie Chew (USFS), Christy Martin (CGAPS), Rep. Tokioka (Kaua'i), Leo Asuncion (DBEDT), Sonia Gorgula (DAR)

Action Items:

- Set up discussion for next HISC meeting to include report for ISCs/AIS on budgets over time and alternative funding models for HISC
- Follow up on interagency options for dealing with point of entry concerns raised by DOH, specifically citing 4 occurrences *Aedes aegypti* at HNL

Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to order** (9:15 a.m., Chair Aila)
2. **Introductions**
3. **Review and approval of June 4, 2013 meeting minutes:**
 - i. Gary (DOH) - correction from dear to deer on the last page.
 - ii. Josh - correction on first page will delete *and participants present* from first line of meeting attendees.Chair Kokubun moves to approve, Gary Gill seconds, all approve
4. **Final signing of resolutions approved at June 4, 2013 meeting:**
 - a. Reso. 13-1: Supporting federal recognition of Hawaii's unique biosecurity needs and coordination between federal and state inspection agencies, including information sharing between federal and state inspection staff and the development of joint inspection facilities
 - i. Language was amended per comment from Jesse (DBEDT) at June 4 meeting to clarify not asking for removal but to expedite exemptions.
 - b. Reso. 13-2: Supporting the reauthorization of the Brown Tree Snake Control and Eradication Act of 2004
 - c. Reso. 13-3: Supporting amendments to the list of injurious species under the Lacey Act
5. **Briefing regarding the recommended FY2014 Budget**
 - a. **Process Overview:** The process was the same as in past years, *outline received as submittal*. \$4.5 million total requested, all stakeholders worked to come up with a good plan for the \$2.5 million available.
 - b. **Review of Recommended Budget** \$2.55 million total budget includes \$750,000 in general funds designated by the legislature and 1.8 million from the NAR fund, which is discretionary support from DOFAW.
 - i. **Planning**

- New category this year based on interest from council to support coordinated interagency planning across the state.
- Sen. English cautioned on potential negative context of the word Naio.

ii. Prevention

- 5 proposals mostly continuing projects looking for minimal staff support. Includes Weed Risk Assessment, Hawai'i Ant Lab, Ballast Water and Hull Fouling. *Project details provided in submittal.*

iii. Outreach

- Mostly ISCs funding to provide majority of support for one outreach staff for each ISC. Other proposals included Hawaii Biodiversity Network (formerly PBIN) partial award to support Report-A-Pest online reporting.

iv. Control

- Challenging component because it is very expensive. Requests from ISC core proposals are higher than in the past, partly due to loss of federal support (USFWS, NPS), therefore funding recommendations are almost \$600,000 more than last year. HISC is trying to help with the gap but there is still additional need. DAR Urchin Hatchery proposal not funded because funds will be received from the Cape Flattery settlement.
- This current amount will get the project through most of FY14. Funding not recommended for DOA/USFS biocontrol EA writer due to budget constraints and current priorities. Maui axis deer working group project funding reduced because the late hiring of the coordinator left 6 months FTE salary from last year's HISC award. Current number seeks to match county contribution and provide \$12,000 for a vehicle. Anchialine pool proposal not funded due to concerns over funding structure and project implementation. BIISC/USFS Albizia control proposal will receive partial funding for supplies and operations.

c. Council discussion and approval of recommended budget

- Is there a reporting mechanism for these funds? How are the impacts evaluated since many of them are continuing projects?
 - This has varied in the past. For the last few years, we have required a summary for the annual legislative report. We are looking to make it more formalized and quantitative.
- How is the money distributed?
 - It's a reimbursement process, with projects invoicing HISC at DOFAW.
- Sen. English expressed concerns regarding HISC direction: When we created the HISC through legislation it was to look at the issue collectively, and then help to fund the ISCs. I am hearing a programmatic shift away from that ideal and moving more towards project oriented focus with quarterly reports, measurable outcomes rather than providing core funding. Am I understanding that they will be considered as projects and will have to compete for their core funding and complete quarterly reports which increases staff time. Was Maui considered as 4 islands or as one organization like the others? I am also concerned for Kaua'i and the Big Island with additional reporting requirements and no increased capacity, having to compete for what should be their core funding. If you don't properly fund the ISCs you will be answering to the legislative bodies next year.
 - Josh Atwood: HISC funding support to the ISCs is \$1.5 million out of \$2.55. ISCs provide quarterly reports already, it will not be adding an additional report. The final project report would be new. This discussion gets at a fundamental perception of what the HISC is: do we provide a dedicated funding source for certain organizations or do we provide a competitive funding source each year that funds projects and deliverables? The ISCs do very well and this is the budget that has most supported the ISCs as a proportion of the total budget amount in the past 5 years. In FY09 only 59% of the budget went to ISCs now that we are

dealing with less resources we are providing more proportional support to the ISCs. These are groups that the HISC does not manage, we have no oversight over ISCs but we partner with them very well. The HISC itself does not have a dedicated annual funding source.

- Sen English: That was the intent of the legislation, that instead of including line items for each ISC the money would be allocated here and would pass through to them. We didn't specifically outline that because it was the understanding of how it would work.
- Teya Penniman, MISC: In the past when the ISCs came to this process they already knew what their overall state funding would be, and DNLR has been very supportive. It's not clear this year how much funding will be available from the state. Saying there is \$600,000 more to the ISCs this year is really not the case if that's all that we are getting. In 2003 when the HISC went through, ISCs got more funding and more staff through FY08, but budgets have been variable which is a challenge from a project management perspective. This could be attributed to economic variability and soft money but county support has remained stable or increased throughout. This indicates prioritization. Now we are being told to go to the legislature for funding?
- Josh Atwood, HISC: This is a policy question for the council. Comparing what the county does in budgeting for the program is different than for what we are doing here. Reading the statutes (194.2), it's just not set up that way. It could be, but it would require a statutory change to say that the purpose of the HISC is to fund the ISCs. This is a primary concern, if we have a dedicated amount going to certain groups that are not managed by the HISC, it is not reflected in the statute how we relate to different organizations. The idea that HISC is not supporting the ISCs is simply not supported by data. Even with a smaller total HISC budget, a greater proportion goes to the ISCs each year. The problem to this year really is the loss of federal funds. This HISC is helping cover some of that gap but cannot cover all of it.
- Teya Penniman, MISC: If ISCs go to the legislature next year, will we have the council's support?
- Potential conflict could be if there was a bill seeking dedicated funding for the HISC and another seeking core funding for the ISCs. We can't answer right now. It seems like what the ISCs asked for they got, so what is the missing link, how much more is needed? It doesn't show here how much you're not getting from the feds, we don't know what the whole is that you are trying to fill. The council can't answer without looking at the entire budget. Council requests presentation on a more complete picture of ISC budgets and for the HISC staff to explore whether core funding to the ISCs would look like, rather than an annual competitive funding process. A request was made to include aquatics in the planned discussion.
- Sen. English: If we get a retrospective on what and how, then we have something to move forward with. Maybe our part can be to figure out how to put some base funding into the program so there is long-term stability and the council has the flexibility to say they can do that, so we'll work on that side of it, as opposed to having HISC competing.
- Motion to approve this recommended budget based on the understanding that we are going to have a longer discussion and that we would also look to the sequestration fund. (Chair Kokubun, seconded by Gary Gill, motion passed unanimously)

6. Next meeting date and topics

- DOH has confirmed 4 occurrences of *Aedes aegypti*, the dengue mosquito at HNL. It is either being regularly introduced or is established for the 1st time since WWII on Oahu. Is there a framework for how we collaborate on this kind of point of entry issue?

7. Public Comments

- MoMISC can help with mosquitos on Molokai if shown how

8. Adjournment – (12:00 p.m., Chair Aila)