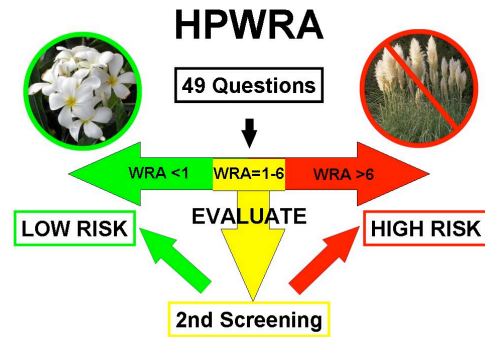


Title: Continued Support of the HPWRA

Organization: Hawaii-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment (HPWRA)

Award: \$119,541

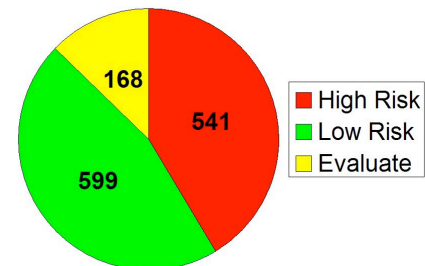
Introduction: The Hawaii-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment (HPWRA) system is an internationally recognized screening tool that rates a plant's potential to become invasive by answering 49 questions about its biology, ecology and weediness tendencies elsewhere. The answers result in a score that predicts a plant's likelihood to be invasive in Hawaii or other tropical Pacific islands. The HPWRA aids in identification of invasive plants before they impact Hawaii's economy, ecology or human health and supports Goal one of the Prevention working group, to "review risks of pest/invasive species entry into the state". The HPWRA also addresses the Prevention objectives to "develop a comprehensive 'approved planting list' to ensure that invasive species are not being planted in State projects or by any state contractors, e.g. screened by the Weed Risk Assessment protocol" and to "develop collaborative industry guidelines and codes of conduct, which minimize or eliminate unintentional introductions." In accordance with these objectives, two Weed Risk Assessment Specialists have been 100% funded by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to the amount of \$119,541 in FY12.



Achievements in FY12

[Deliverable 1] Annual report to the legislature: WRA specialists submitted an annual report documenting HPWRA progress and accomplishments for inclusion in the 2012 HISC legislative report.

[Deliverable 2] Expanded List of Assessments: The primary responsibility of WRA specialists is to complete new and update old assessments, both for species already present in the Hawaiian Islands, as well as for new species introductions. This information is summarized and disseminated to the requesting individual or agency via direct correspondence, and to the public and land management agencies through technical and general publications, public presentations, and other outreach activities. In the previous 12 month period (July 2011 – June 2012), 182 new or updated assessments were completed, representing an increase of 20 assessments over the previous 12-month period (162 assessments from July 2010 – June 2011).



1308 assessments by risk category

As of June 30, 2012, 1,308 assessments have been completed and assigned to the following categories:

- High Risk (541 plants) : Predicted to become invasive in Hawaii or Pacific Island ecosystems
- Low Risk (599 plants): Not predicted to become invasive
- Evaluate (168 plants): Needs further information to make a prediction of invasiveness

hpwra.org: Since October 2011, all new and previously completed assessments dating back to 2002 have been posted at hpwra.org (<https://sites.google.com/site/weedriskassessment/home>). This website has addressed a gap in the accessibility of assessments which were no longer being posted on the original WRA website (<http://www.botany.hawaii.edu/faculty/daehler/WRA/>), last updated in July 2009. The current website allows users to download any individual assessment, as well as a regularly updated

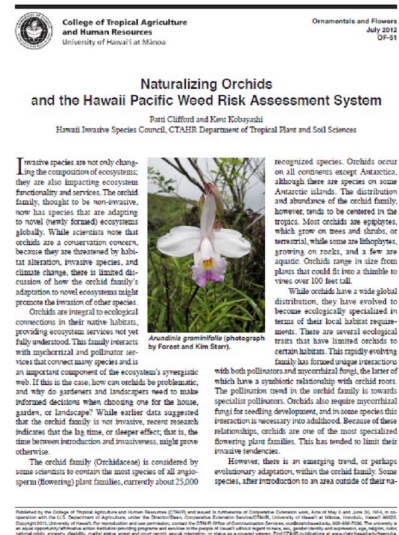
list of all assessments completed to date. From February 2012 (when site tracking began) to present, the website received 1,504 visits and 4,596 page views, demonstrating a continued interest and need for risk assessment predictions to make informed planting decisions. It is anticipated that traffic to the forthcoming Plant Pono website (www.plantpono.org/), a more user-friendly, non-academic planting site with HPWRA-generated content, will generate even greater interest in and desire for weed risk assessments after site launch in the fall of 2012.



Weed Risk Assessment Requests by Affiliation: During the period from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012, 226 requests were received to assess potential invasiveness of new plant species or to revise previous assessments. These requests originated from members of the general public and individuals associated with island invasive species committees, county, state and federal government agencies, private businesses, nurseries and botanical gardens, university researchers and extension agents, and international invasive species organizations, among others. Contact hpwra@yahoo.com for the full list of requests.

[Deliverable 3] Public presentations and Outreach: To continue to promote awareness and encourage adoption of the HPWRA system, WRA Specialists have been involved in additional outreach activities with partner agencies and other interested parties. The following highlights outreach activities and efforts from Jul 2011 – June 2012:

- 25 January: Invasive biofuels presentation to Oahu DLNR staff utilizing WRA assessment information
- 25 January: Invasive plant presentation to the legislature as part of the Silent Invasion Update for the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species
- 11 June: WRA presentation to Project Learning Tree at Maui Nui Botanical Garden
- 15 September: WRA talk & garden tour to the Maui Master Gardener's group
- July 2011 – June 2012: WRA specialist responded to twenty-four public inquiries directed to the Maui Invasive Species Committee about invasiveness of plants
- WRA specialist Patti Clifford gave presentations on the WRA to two Community Gardens and to the Presidents of the Community Gardens on Oahu (http://awcga.org/AWCGA_Invasive.ppt)
- WRA specialist Patti Clifford wrote an article on invasive orchids and the HPWRA (Clifford, P. and Kobayashi, K. 2012. Naturalizing Orchids and the Hawaii Pacific Weed Risk Assessment System. OF-51. University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI. <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/OF-51.pdf>)
- WRA specialist Patti Clifford edited six CTAHR publications to include HPWRA information and ratings for screened species



Clifford and Kobayashi (2012)

For more information, please contact: hpwra@yahoo.com or visit hpwra.org