Title: Support of Invasive Species Public Outreach Efforts in Hawaii

Organization: Hawaiian Ecosystems at Risk project (HEAR)

Award: $20,000

This year, the HEAR Invasive Species Information Technician (the position that this funding supported) provided direct support to the Hawaii Invasive Species Partnership (HISC/CGAPS/ISCs) website, provided direct support to creation of a Hawaii-centric biocontrol website, provided quality control for the Hawaii-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment (HPWRA) "sources" data, and provided direct support for outreach efforts of the Hawaiian Ecosystems at Risk project (HEAR).

Utilizing the HEAR technical assistant, HEAR provided consistent, stable support for key invasive species outreach efforts in the state, focused on direct support to agency invasive species public outreach goals. In particular, HEAR provided direct support for the Hawaii Invasive Species Partnership website (www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org), which includes subsites for the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS), and the island-based Invasive Species Committees (ISCs). Additionally, the HEAR technical assistant provided direct support for the creation and maintenance of a Hawaii-centric biocontrol website (www.hear.org/biocontrol/hawaii), provided support for quality control of Weed Risk Assessment source information, and provided direct support for outreach efforts of the Hawaii Ecosystem at Risk project (www.hear.org). Strong partnerships provided the foundation for successful efforts during FY2011.

Direct Support to the Hawaii Invasive Species Partnership Website

HEAR hosted, maintained, and updated the Hawaii Invasive Species Partnership (HISP) website (www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org) with direction from HISC, CGAPS and the ISCs. This process included maintenance of existing content and providing new content on specific web pages for HISC, CGAPS, and the ISCs, including organization-specific information (e.g., meeting announcements, minutes, etc.) and summary information about priority pest species as determined by the various partners.

Direct Support to a Hawaii-centric Biocontrol Website

HEAR created a new Hawaii-centric biocontrol website (www.hear.org/biocontrol/hawaii), utilizing the HEAR technical assistant.

Quality Control for the Hawaii-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment Sources Data

The Hawaii – Pacific Weed Risk Assessment (HPWRA) system is a methodology designed to identify high-risk species (likely invasive pest plants), allowing us to make informed decisions that will reduce the economic and ecological harm caused by invasive plants in Hawaii and on other Pacific Islands. Due to the completely unstandardized nature of data that had been entered by HPWRA personnel over the years, it was not possible to import this data into

relational database format in any meaningful way using automated conversion. The HEAR technical assistant provided quality control and entered several thousand source data records.

Direct Support to HEAR Outreach Efforts

The Hawaiian Ecosystems at Risk (HEAR) project has supported the invasive species community in Hawaii for many years. Some of the most relevant support functions relate to general technical support, the content created and maintained on the HEAR website (www.hear.org), and management of the web-based outreach and inter-agency communication efforts of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) and the island-based Invasive Species Committees (ISCs). The HEAR technical assistant was crucial to this year's success in these efforts, including maintenance of dozens of relevant e-mail lists (www.hear.org/hearlists) which facilitate critical interagency communications; keeping current the very-well-utilized announcements and jobs listings (www.hear.org/announcements, www.hear.org/jobs) (as well as other partner-related information); and assistance to the HEAR webmaster with creation and dissemination of important invasive species information on the HEAR website.