**Hawaii Invasive Species Council Report Fy15**

**January 2016**

**Proposal Title:** Minimizing the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species in Hawaii

**Content area:** Prevention

**Applicant: Current PI**: Julie Kuo, Ballast Water and Hull Fouling Coordinator, DAR, Julie.C.Kuo@hawaii.gov

**Interim:** Brian Neilson (interim), DAR Biologist, [brian.j.neilson@hawaii.gov](mailto:brian.j.neilson@hawaii.gov)

**Previous:** Sonia Gorgula, Ballast Water and Hull Fouling Coordinator, DAR,

**Updates:** The former Ballast Water and Hull Fouling Coordinator and original PI of this grant, Sonia Gorgula left this position in March 2015. The position was vacant between April 2015 and December 2015. Julie Kuo took over this position and grant January 2016. DAR Biologist, Brian Neilson and CGAPS legal fellow, Kevin Richardson contributed to some of the project during the interim. The grant funds covered travel costs for Kevin Richardson to attend two meetings covered under the grant project goals. Brian Neilson’s salary and travel were covered entirely from other funding sources. Below is a summary of the work accomplished under this grant. Due to vacancy savings, this grant is still active and covers the Coordinator’s salary in FY 2016. A proposed re-budget is underway to expend the remaining funds by April 2016.

**Goal 1**: Complete a draft vessel biofouling bill. (In progress).

**Goal 2**: Complete a summary of stakeholder consultation (Completed)

**Outcome**: Biofouling Report: Sonia Gorgula in collaboration with Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) produced a report on the current status on ship biofouling in Hawaii including management recommendations.

**Goal 3:** Summarize the in-water cleaning data and recommendations for managing in-water cleaning (In-progress).

**Outcome**: Initiated In-water cleaning study: Sonia Gorgula initiated a collaborative project with SERC, Hau’oli Mau Loa Foundation, and CGAPS to evaluate the current status on in-water ship cleaning in Hawaii including current technology, evaluation of risk of introduced species, and a sharing workshop with stakeholders and managers. DAR Biologist, Brian Neilson and CGAPS legal fellow Kevin Richardson have continued the project with Chela Zabin from SERC. Brian and Kevin have had several consultations with In-water cleaning operators on Oahu and held an information sharing workshop in May 2015, where cleaning companies, shipping companies, resource managers, and researchers shared information on latest technologies, introduced species risks, and best management practices. A survey was sent out to ship cleaning companies to evaluate current practices. The final report will be completed in 2016.

**Goal 4:** Finalize DLNR's Ballast Water Rule Amendment (In-Progress)

**Outcome:** The effort to amend the current State of Hawaii Ballast Water Rules was sidetracked by U.S. proposed Senate Bill S. 373, The Vessel Incidental Discharge Act which would establish a uniform national standard for regulating ballast water discharge. However, there were several issues concerning this bill that could negatively impact Hawaii’s ability to manage invasive species introduction. Specifically its inclusion of other “non-ballast water” discharges within the scope of regulation could impact Hawaii’s ability to regulate biofouling. Kevin Richardson and Julie Kuo are currently working to amend Hawaii’s Ballast Water Rules.

**Goal 5**: Summarize JTMD-AIS response in Hawaii (Accomplished)

**Outcome:** JTMD Response, database, and sample collection: Sonia served as the primary contact at DAR for JTMD reports. She created a database for JTMD landings and collected biofouling samples. Brian Neilson has since taken the lead on this project and hired a Marine Debris Coordinator, Kirsten Moy. We conducted follow-up monitoring surveys in Oahu and Kauai for early detection of species translocated by JTMD. The JTMD database is up to date and JTMD landing reports and sampling continue in 2016.

**Goal 6**: Regional biofouling workshop (In Progress)

**Outcome**: Sonia Gorgula and other Western Regional Panel Coastal Committee members initiated the drafting of a Regional Biofouling Plan for Western States and Hawaii. Julie Kuo, Kevin Richardson, and Brian Neilson attended Coastal Committee workshops in preparation of the plan. A third workshop is schedule for April to work on the plan.