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HISC Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2014, 2:00 PM

Hawaii State Capitol, Rm 325

415 S. Beretania St Honolulu HI 96813

HISC Members in Attendance: Leo Asuncion (DBEDT), Scott Enright (HDOA), William J. Aila Jr. (DLNR), Kenneth Grace (UH), David Rodriguez (DOT), Gary Gil (DOH)

**Meeting attendance reflects membership at time of meeting*

HISC Participants in Attendance: Senator Mike Gabbard, Representative Richard Onishi, Senator Gil Kahele

Public Attendees: Josh Atwood (HISC), Emily Montgomery (HISC), Randy Bartlett (HISC), Dan Purcell, Rob Curtiss (HDOA), Neil Reimer (HDOA), Mark Fox (TNC), Ben Salfo (HPU), Elizabeth Speith (HBIN), Lori Buchanan (MoMISC), Angela Kieran-Vast (DOD), Julia Parish (OISC), Rob Hauff (DLNR), Katie Erback (DLNR), Teya Penniman (MISC), Josh Fisher (US FWS), Sean Cozo (US FWS), Patrick Chee (DLNR), Christy Martin (CGAPS), Justine Nihipali (DBEDT), Danielle Frohlich (SWCA), Ken Kakesako (HDOA), Albert Vargas, House Finance Committee, Bill Lucey (KISC), Connie Winterstein (SWCA), Shawn Carrier (SWCA)

Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to order** (Co-chair Aila)
2. **Introductions**
3. **Review and approval of June 26, 2014 meeting minutes**
Unanimously approved as submitted (Enright, Grace).

4. **Brief update on status of interagency response efforts for Little Fire Ant and Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle**

Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) Update, Response Incident Commander Rob Curtiss

Summary: Found on Oahu in December 2013. In January 2014, a National Incident Management (NIM) team came out to help set up the Incident Command Structure. Ongoing activities include surveying all of Oahu for CRB, evaluating pesticides, removing trees, incinerating infested and potentially infested materials at JBPH-HI. There have been recent isolated trap captures of single beetles in Mililani-Mauka and Diamond Head areas. Crews were mobilized and no breeding sites or damaged trees were found. Trapping is being increased in these areas. Around 2,300 traps have been deployed across all of Oahu, which have been checked over 31,000 times. Mulch piles (potential breeding sites) have also been identified and mapped. Ideally mulch piles would be removed and destroyed, but it is cost prohibitive (\$91.00 per ton) to have it burned at HPOWER. Over 95,000 palms have been surveyed for damage, with around 130 trees being removed. To date, around 1,000 adult beetles, 1,300 larvae, and 22 pupae have been found on JBPH-HI. Off the base, no larvae or pupae have been detected, but about 60 adults have been found, most of which likely flew off base and landed in traps. Most of the finds in traps off base have been single beetles. Next Steps: 1) Seeking more USDA funding, will request about \$3.5 million for the program, 2) Increased public outreach, 3) Continue delimiting surveys and pesticide trials.

Discussion:

- Is this a battle we are not winning and if so, how much is being invested in biocontrol?
 - Biocontrol is something being considered but the HDOA pathology facility is not in operational condition. We can contract some of the work, but at increased cost. Biocontrol is a more long-term solution and this program is still confident in the feasibility of eradication. First step toward eradication is elimination of mulch piles and breeding sites.
- Based on current work, what can be expected in a year from now?
 - This is uncertain in a dynamic response. We are certain the current strategy is the right one.
- Have we been able to pinpoint how they came in and where?
 - No, air cargo is suspected due to proximity to airport and Mamala Bay Golf Course is the closest area with good habitat. We have daily flights from several counties where CRB are present. Genetic analysis shows that it shares a common ancestor with the Guam population, but the samples size of the study was very limited so this doesn't definitively ascertain that it came from Guam.
- What is the probable way the CRB in Mililani-Mauka and Diamond spread?
 - Uncertain, still being investigated, but suspect that they were hitchhikers. CRB can fly up to 2 miles in their lifetime but typically will not go that far.
- Will there be a program to collect and destroy mulch piles?
 - For all within the buffer zones, the property owners have been cooperative to get rid of them on their own. The CRB program does not have the funds to take those costs on and have been working with the City and County of Honolulu to reduce the cost but they have not gone below \$91.00 per ton (HPOWER is not waiving fees). Recommendation: that the CRB program come up with a plan and cost for what it would take to get rid of all the mulch piles and then we try to figure out how to fund it.
- How certain are we that it will remain contained on Oahu and not spread to neighbor islands?
 - Hawaiian Air Cargo and other airlines have agreed to modify practices to minimize the risk, also have traps up at points of entry on the neighbor islands. The military has modified what they do in terms of loading cargo. Everything that has been asked of the military they have done and more.
- Have we worked with tree trimmers so that any mulch in that area is accounted for?
 - A lot of outreach has been done; we are looking to do more.
- Can we burn onsite at JBPH-HI to avoid the disposal fees?
 - Program has a burn permit but it is still logistically difficult. The military purchased 4 air curtain burners and USDA purchased 1, adding capacity burn about 300 tons per month total with all 5. They are also changing their landscaping contracts so that people are not mulching green waste, but just taking it whole to the burners, which is more efficient to burn. The City and County of Honolulu are also considering purchasing an air curtain burner (total cost around \$100,000). Steam was investigated but not a good solution.

Little Fire Ants (LFA) Update, HDOA Plant Industry Division Administrator Neil Reimer

Summary: Collaborative effort with HDOA, HAL, HISC, ISCs, and many different agencies and partners. Oahu infestation began with infested hapuu logs found at garden stores and nurseries in December 2013. HDOA formed an Incident Command System to respond. Distribution of infested logs was stopped at the source and infested material found at shops and nurseries was destroyed. HDOA was also able to trace forward to a few sites where the hapuu was used in landscaping, one of which did have LFA. All sites were treated and continue to be monitored. Through increased survey efforts, LFA was discovered at nurseries in Waimanalo and in a gulch area that runs across many properties. To date the area has been delimited and 4 treatments have been administered. Monitoring shows significant declines of LFA within the infested area. If LFA is still present at the end of the treatment schedule, the group will reassess and continue control, if absent will begin 3 year monitoring phase. LFA were also found in Mililani-Mauka, the infestation was delimited and includes 22 private properties and a greenbelt area. Eight treatments are scheduled, ending in May 2015. In addition to work at these 2 infested sites, the operations team has completed 97 surveys at 61 priority sites across Oahu. The Outreach team on Oahu has participated in or coordinated 60 events reaching an estimated over 4,000. Priority outreach message is that we need the public to test for LFA. We have received over 300 calls, reports, or inquiries with 256 of those including samples being submitted to HDOA for identification.

Discussion:

- What happens when LFA is discovered?

- The ICS team fully delimits the infested area and works with HAL to develop a treatment plan and implement in. Treatment plans for Waimanalo and Mililani-Mauka are each 1-year (or until ants are no longer detected) followed by 3 years of monitoring. If during monitoring LFA are detected again, more treatments are conducted and 3 year monitoring starts over. Also work with property owners upon initial find to try and determine where it came from or if they may have moved infested material to other sites and survey those areas as well.
- What type of funding will be sought from the legislature?
 - Do not have a specific request at this time. Social insects are very difficult to eradicate.
- Latest Maui infestation was found by MISC crews while conducting Miconia work in Nahiku. Still working to fully delimit. Options for Nahiku include: eradication, aggressive containment, base action on funds available, or no action. Ballpark for eradication is \$3-5 million. Immediate strategy will be to treat heavily infested home centers (where people and products are moving regularly) to reduce immediate risk of spreading by human activity.
- If there is a property on the Big Island that has no history of LFA and it is found there, what is the response for that property?
 - The sample would be verified and, if positive, agencies would work with that homeowner to educate and teach them how to control/eliminate it from their property. Additional survey/delimiting depends on the location on Big Island. If found in an area where LFA was not previously known to be, additional surveys in the surrounding area would be conducted. Both HAL and HDOA are working with property owners on Big Island.
- Are any supplies or financial support to property owners in East Hawaii where LFA are fully established?
 - HDOA/HAL do not have the resources to do so.
- Are the property owners on Oahu paying the costs to control?
 - It is a different situation on Oahu where eradication is feasible/most cost effective HDOA/HAL is conducting all control. With exception of nurseries where it is a part of their business practice, we train and assist them to implement control and they provide their own chemicals. If LFA are detected on Big Island where they have not been previously found, HDOA/HAL will follow the same strategy. However in the heavily infested areas this is not feasible and HAL works with homeowners all year to help them manage it.

5. Review of goals and action items relating to Hawaii in the Regional Biosecurity Plan for Micronesia and Hawaii developed by the U.S. Department of Defense

Summary: The plan was initiated in 2009 and originally known as the Micronesia Biosecurity Plan, it was renamed due to Hawaii's increased involvement. This is a US DOD publication that has 2 components: (1) Risks analysis for movement of invasive species associated with a military relocation plan from Okinawa Japan to Guam and other areas in the Pacific and (2) a matrix of recommendations and suggested actions for impacted jurisdictions. There were Hawaii consultations for the plan in 2011 and a HISC resolution to support the planning effort in 2012. The jurisdictional recommendations for Hawaii were developed with input from local experts and include 28 broad recommendations associated with 200 suggested actions. This is a guiding document and participants agreed to seek endorsement from their respective governments on the broad level recommendations, which can be used to guide future projects, actions to increase biosecurity. The full text of the plan and recommendations for Hawaii can be found at: dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/plans/rbp/.

Discussion:

- How do the jurisdictional recommendations for Hawaii compare to those of others?
 - Hawaii's are more general in part because compared to other jurisdictions in this plan Hawaii is much further along in biosecurity efforts. We have a lot of the laws, regulations, and systems already in place.
- How many of the recommendations are similar to what we are currently doing under HISC or in other organizations relating to invasive species?
 - There is nothing controversial or that is opposition to what Hawaii is already doing. Some of it is a bit broader and there are some topics HISC has not, but could work more on and make improvements in, i.e. improvements to mail biosecurity.

6. Submittal: request for a resolution endorsing the goals of the Regional Biosecurity Plan for Micronesia and Hawaii

Summary: This resolution supports the 5 overarching goals, 28 broad recommendations for Hawaii, and encourages staff at state agencies to review and revise the specific action items to fit individual goals progressing towards enhanced regional biosecurity. This does not obligate the HISC or the State of Hawaii to implement and fund any specific actions, but is a regional guiding document for potentially identifying ways to move forward on biosecurity projects.

Discussion:

- What happens if the HISC does not endorse this?
 - The RBP would still be published by the US DOD. It is anticipated that other governments will endorse it; some have already including the president of Palau. It is an optional endorsement.
- If we endorse it, how does it not obligate us to follow it?
 - It does not obligate any jurisdiction to fund or implement any specific program. These are policy statements, not contractual obligations and there is no liability involved in not implementing programs related to it. It's saying these are appropriate areas for us to make developments in and we appreciate the regional focus. This signals to our partners that as much as we can, we are in this together.
- Reservations were expressed about how the federal government will interpret/enforce endorsement.
- This plan could at some point provide support/funding for programs to achieve goals and increase opportunities for partnerships and collaborative opportunities.
- Unanimously approved as submitted (Enright, Gill).

7. Submittal: Requesting a Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) study to follow the 2002 LRB report, *Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species* that describes the current capacity and funding needs to address invasive species issues in Hawaii

Summary: The original study was in response to a senate concurrent resolution in 2001 and came out the following year. It described the invasive species issues both globally and locally and estimated the cost of supporting invasive species programs at Federal, State, and County levels in Hawaii. Draft resolution 14-2 would support/request an updated LBR study.

Discussion:

- How does the LRB go about producing the report?
 - Via consultations. At the time of first report there was no HISC (it actually came about as a result of this document). Worked closely with CGAPS as well as agencies dealing with invasive species and literature review.
- This resolution is the HISC requesting the LRB to do the study, however the direction/formal request must come from the legislature. Recommendation: in the first "Be it resolved," have the HISC request that the legislature make the request to the LBR, this way it gives the legislature clear direction. Representative Onishi is willing to move a resolution forward in the legislature.
- Public Comments: Mark Fox, TNC, supports this effort. First report was very impactful, resulted in creation of HISC and improved structure and process for invasive species work. There is a lot more information out there now and an updated study would help all of us in updating the economics of the problems, strategies related to them, and solutions. Also provides a good 3rd party review.
- Unanimously approved with amendments as suggested by Representative Onishi (Enright, Gill)

8. Review of Outcomes from 2014 HISC Strategic Planning Meetings

Summary: HISC's previous strategic plan covered 2008-2013. 2014 was a gap-planning year. Conducted a statewide workshop in January 2014 to generate and rank a list of priorities, develop vision and mission statements, and get feedback on HISC structure and capacity needs. Over 2014, held 5 HISC working group meetings to collaboratively develop goals and strategies based on priorities. Conducted planning process in concert with CGAPS, used the same set of generated priorities and then each zoomed in on unique roles and kuleanas to identify strategies. Complete lists of Goals and Strategies, as well as planning process information, available at: dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/hisc-strategic-planning-2014/. Outcomes include:

- HISC Vision Statement (a world in which we are no longer needed) - Top two:

1. Hawaii's unique economy, natural environment and the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people and visitors is protected from the impacts of invasive species (12 votes)
 2. Effective protection of Hawaii from invasive species (10 votes)
- HISC Mission Statement (how we achieve the vision) - strong consensus around:
HISC will provide strategic policy and fiscal direction, coordination, and planning among state departments and other stakeholders to address invasive species issues in a science-based, culturally and socially conscious way.
 - HISC Structure and Capacity – plan is structured for the 5 HISC working groups to take on the strategies identified to achieve the goals. Additional beneficial capacity identified: agency liaisons, statewide outreach coordinator, statewide data coordinator
 - The goals and strategies in the plan provide guidance and a way forward for the 6 HISC agencies and will be accomplished through a combination of agency action, HISC support work, HISC funded projects and active collaborative working groups.
 - Next steps: Incorporating Climate Change in Invasive Species Planning in Hawaii webinar in partnership with the Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative addressing the need to begin considering climate change in invasive species work and collaborating with the climate change community of practice on research related to synergies between invasive species and climate.

Discussion:

- The working group structure is where many of these strategies occur. The discussions by the working groups can lead to suggestions for changes/needs at agencies.
- Does HISC have authority under the law to adopt rules?
 - Yes, it is part of our statutory mandate that we have the authority to adopt administrative rules and there was a council resolution in 2011 to encourage pursuing this.
- Is Hawaii Ant Lab a part of the HDOA?
 - Partially supported by DOA but a project of the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit.

9. HISC support project updates:

a. Review of agency discussions regarding the integration of the Report a Pest online reporting system into state agency protocols, with recommendations for next steps

Summary: Report a Pest is an online reporting system that allows the public to enter a report, submit an image of any invasive/suspect species and have that report be reviewed and sent to a relevant agency. It was developed between 2005-07 and has been live since 2007. At last meeting there was direction from the council for HISC staff to conduct consultations with agencies to identify issues/barriers to adopting this product and integrating as part of protocol. Met with HDOA, DLNR DOFAW, UH CTAHR, and DOT. Invited DBEDT and DOH to provide feedback or have consultations if they had any issues or concerns about the process. Across the agencies there is consensus about the usefulness/need for this tool, but there are some barriers related to how it is implemented. Primarily a concern for HDOA because they have much of the mandated responsibility and also manage the 643-PEST hotline. Issues identified in agency consultations include:

- Need to update responder tables in the system
- There are certain cases that involve illegal activities and require investigation (i.e. possessing a snake), and these cases need to be handled internally. Right now people should call 643-PEST. This could work in the same way as when folks call different agencies first and we refer them to HDOA. We are trying to ensure that if a sensitive report comes in that it is transferred confidentially to the appropriate agency.
- Reviewers in the system would need to have a minimum level of training to screen reports. Assessors should be providing ID only and the reviewer acts a facilitator to make sure responders are notified.
- Need to determine how to integrate with 643-PEST

Suggested next steps:

- HISC and HBIN staff update responder tables
- Explore options to ensure confidentiality in cases that may result in an investigation
- Develop a training protocol for reviewers
- Suggestions for integration with 643-PEST – develop a reporting form that allows DOA to report calls into the same database, rebrand report a pest as 643-PEST.org or look into setting up 643pest.hawaii.gov and develop mobile app/interface.

Discussion:

- Participants inquired about current status of receiving and responding to public reports and how online reporting would improve these efforts.
 - Consulted agencies confirmed that this is a useful tool, but want to proceed carefully. Additionally this tool provides immediate and ongoing interaction with reporters to encourage more feedback from the public about what they are seeing.
- How many pest hotline calls coming in?
 - One per month for CRB. For LFA they received 800 calls.
- Ideally we want to integrate systems. HDOA screens a lot of calls, this system could really help reduce time spent screening reports of common pests and the future generations are also more likely to report something online than call it in.
- Where in the flow chart does responding back to reporter occur?
 - If anonymously reported, no interaction takes place. Otherwise, the reviewer will start the interaction to get more info if needed. Interaction occurs immediately. This encourages community engagement.

b. Update on implementation of the *Māmalu Poepoe* interagency airport pest monitoring project

Summary: DLNR has approved the wording of an MOA between DLNR and DOT to transfer \$300,000 per year for the project. Dept of the Attorney General needs to review and approve.

c. HISC administrative rules development

Summary: Administrative rules are necessary for HISC to fulfill its mandate to identify and record all invasive species present in the State. Draft rules were created in 2011, with criteria and process for designating species. Haven't moved forward, there was a lot of discussion about the need to have specific criteria for how a species is designated as invasive. There is interest from Hawaii County in having albizia designated as invasive. HISC support would like to restart progress on this.

Discussion:

- If it's helpful we should do it, but are we on verge of creating new bureaucracy? Wary that this could slow down ability to respond if something is new and not on the official list, this needs to be considered.

10. Next meeting date and topics

- Suggested topics: orientation for new council members, approval of HISC Strategic Plan

11. Public Comments

- Christy Martin, CGAPS: Expressed thanks for collaborative, active approach to CRB and LFA responses.
- Dan Purcell: Expressed concern over a Board of Agriculture decision to approve the zoo to import various species of reptiles.
- HISC staff reviewed some of the Council's actions under the current administration and expressed their appreciation.

12. Adjournment**For information, please contact:**

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