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December 4, 2015

SUBMITTAL

TO: Co-chairs and Members
Hawaii Invasive Species Council
State of Hawaii

FROM: Joshua Atwood, Program Supervisor
Hawaii Invasive Species Council

SUBJECT: Requesting a resolution supporting interagency biosecurity planning and committing agency engagement

Background

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is mandated by Chapter 150A to establish a multi-dimensional Biosecurity Program. To assist in fulfilling this mandate, HDOA will be developing a biosecurity plan in 2016. This planning initiative is designed to be interagency and encompass a broad spectrum of pre-border, border, and post-border actions that address invasive species impacts on the environment, economy, and human health.

The concept of an interagency plan for invasive species actions has been addressed before, notably with the 1995 Federal-State Alien Species Action Plan (ASAP). While the ASAP identified a number of key issues related to invasive species and biosecurity, the timeline for actions proposed by the ASAP was limited in scope (generally within one or two years of the document's adoption) and the method of implementation relied on assigning high-level department leadership to carry on the proposed work. Though no longer used as a guiding document for interagency collaboration on invasive species issues, the ASAP's legacy continues 20 years later through the presence of the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS), which was formulated to coordinate actions related to the ASAP.

Another analysis of Hawaii's biosecurity systems was conducted in 2006 at the request of the Hawaii Conservation Alliance (HCA). The HCA contracted Paula Warren of the New Zealand Department of Conservation to produce a position paper on biosecurity that assessed Hawaii's current system, compared it to an ideal system, and suggested improvements. The resulting report, *Biosecurity Systems of Hawaii: An Evaluation and Recommendations for Reform* provided a number of recommendations but did not outline strategies, costs, or timelines for implementing those recommendations. The paper, colloquially referred to as "The Warren Report," did not result in the development of a biosecurity plan.

The biosecurity planning process being developed by the HDOA for 2016 would engage a broad set of environmental, economic, and health stakeholders. The goal of the planning process is to identify and prioritize gaps related to prevention, control, and outreach, and would result in a succinct implementation matrix with a 5-10 year timeline including specific policy, funding, and research needs to address identified gaps.

Discussion

In the years since the 1995 ASAP and the 2006 “Warren Report,” the landscape of the state’s invasive species programs has changed drastically. The 2009 Reduction-in-Force resulted in substantial personnel losses within agencies, including HDOA inspectors at ports of entry and the Vector Control Branch at the Hawaii Department of Health. In recent years the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) has become an active board for coordination of policy and interagency project funding, though capacity for core programs within agencies remains a challenge. A current, comprehensive plan describing gaps and solutions relating to biosecurity in Hawaii is much needed.

Though the Biosecurity Program is housed within HDOA, the concepts of biosecurity and invasive species are inherently interagency in scope. It is therefore appropriate that, while HDOA will develop and lead the biosecurity planning process, the HISC play an active role in ensuring interagency engagement in the planning process and advocating for the development of a comprehensive, multi-agency implementation matrix.

Legal Authority

- HRS 150A-51 establishes a biosecurity program within the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA).
- HRS 150A-53 authorizes HDOA to collaborate with relevant government and private entities to develop and implement systems to enhance the biosecurity program.
- HRS 194-2 authorizes the HISC to advise and coordinate invasive species-related efforts with and between state, federal, international, and private programs.

Recommendations

That the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) adopt a resolution, in substantially the same form as attached to this submittal, supporting the interagency biosecurity planning effort led by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture in 2016 and committing engagement from the HISC’s constituent agency personnel in identifying gaps and solutions related to Hawaii’s biosecurity needs.

Attachments

- Draft HISC Resolution 15-1: Supporting the Hawaii Department of Agriculture’s 2016 interagency biosecurity planning initiative and committing agency engagement

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RESOLUTION 15-1

SUPPORTING THE HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S 2016 INTERAGENCY BIOSECURITY PLANNING INITIATIVE AND COMMITTING AGENCY ENGAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii, as an archipelago of volcanic origin, has unique natural and cultural resources threatened by the introduction, spread and establishment of alien invasive species; and

WHEREAS, the term "biosecurity" refers to policies and procedures relating to the exclusion, eradication or effective management of risks posed by invasive species to the environment, economy, and human health; and

WHEREAS, a broad-spectrum approach to a biosecurity system that encompasses pre-border, border, and post-border actions can reduce the potential for invasive species to enter, spread and establish within the State; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture is, at present, the only state agency with a mandated "Biosecurity Program" per Chapter 150A, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the invasive species problem in Hawaii impacts multiple sectors and is relevant to, and the shared responsibility of, multiple state, federal, county, and private entities; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture will launch an interagency planning initiative in 2016 to develop a multi-sector biosecurity plan for Hawaii; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawaii Invasive Species Council supports the development of a biosecurity plan for the State of Hawaii that describes the issues of biosecurity and invasive species from an interagency perspective; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council support the biosecurity planning initiative being led by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture in 2016 by committing to the engagement of their respective agencies' staff and expertise in the planning process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Hawaii, the President of the State Senate, and the Speaker of the State House of Representatives.

Adopted by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council on the following date: December 4, 2015.

Suzanne D. Case, Dept. of Land & Natural Resources

Scott Enright, Dept. of Agriculture

Keith Kawaoka, D.Env., Dept. of Health

David Rodriguez, Dept. of Transportation

Leo Asuncion, Office of Planning, Dept. of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

Maria Gallo, Ph.D., University of Hawaii