

DAVID IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SHAN TSUTSUI  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



## HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

### VOTING MEMBERS

SUZANNE CASE  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL  
RESOURCES

SCOTT ENRIGHT  
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

KEITH KAWAOKA, D.Env  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MARIA GALLO, PhD  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

LEO ASUNCION  
OFFICE OF PLANNING, DEPARTMENT OF  
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &  
TOURISM

DAVID RODRIGUEZ  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

May 31, 2016

### SUBMITTAL

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

FROM: Joshua Atwood, Ph.D., Program Supervisor  
Hawaii Invasive Species Council

SUBJECT: Approving the integration of online pest reporting as a function of the HISC support program

### Background

The Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) provided a grant in Fiscal Year 2005 for a project entitled "Pilot Multi-Agency Early Detection Reporting System." This pilot project allowed for the initial infrastructure to be created for an online pest reporting system that would allow invasive species reports from members of the public to be reviewed and, when necessary, forwarded to various agencies for response. This pilot system, known as "Report-a-Pest," was managed by the US Geological Survey's Pacific Basin Information Node (PBIN) until reductions in federal funding caused PBIN to close in 2010. Key PBIN staff working on Report-a-Pest restructured in 2011 as the Hawaii Biodiversity Information Network (HBIN), a project of the University of Hawaii (UH) Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit. The technical infrastructure for the Report-a-Pest system was moved to servers at UH. The HISC continues to support development of the system as a pilot project.

### Discussion

During the time that HISC has funded Report-a-Pest as a pilot system, opportunities have been explored to implement it as a standard reporting tool utilized by the State, and to integrate online pest reporting with the existing pest hotline (643-PEST) managed by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA). At the October 28, 2014 meeting of the HISC staff presented a review of the Report-a-Pest system and, based on meetings with HDOA staff, a list of issues to be addressed in order to facilitate implementation and integration with 643-PEST. In particular, HDOA staff requested the development of a taxonomic training module for users of the online reporting system, the development of a pilot implementation program, and a clear delineation for reports of illegal animals to be handled directly by HDOA for potential investigation. Staff at various agencies also noted that it may be confusing to the public if the State utilizes pest reporting systems under two different names ("643-PEST" and "Report-a-Pest").

In coordination with HDOA and the HISC Public Outreach Working Group, HISC staff and HBIN staff have worked to rebrand Report-a-Pest as the online component of 643-PEST.

The underlying infrastructure from [www.reportapest.org](http://www.reportapest.org) will be available at 643pest.org in late 2016. A taxonomic training module has been developed for users of the 643pest.org system, and a pilot implementation program is being developed for 2016 that will allow staff at various agencies to use the system to receive sample reports and provide feedback. Following a successful pilot implementation program, 643pest.org could be publicly launched and utilized as standard reporting tool for receiving public pest reports.

This system presents a number of advantages over relying solely on a telephone hotline, including the ability to geographically tag the location of a species sighting on a map, providing standard input fields for collecting information, recording reports in an archived database, and allowing erroneous reports or reports for common pests to be handled by HBIN or HISC staff instead of staff at HDOA or other responding agencies.

The HISC has invested in the development of an online pest reporting system for 11 years. Given recent technological progress and collaborations amongst agency staff to begin testing implementation of this system, providing an institutional home for this reporting system is timely to ensure stability during implementation. As an interagency coordinating body, the HISC is uniquely situated to serve as a host to a multi-agency reporting system.

Should the HISC adopt online invasive species reporting as a function of its support program, the following would become components of the annual request for “HISC Support” rather than being submitted by HBIN as a competitive proposal for HISC grant funds:

- Part-time FTE for 1 technical support position, part-time FTE for two web application developers, partial FTE for project administrative support (approximately \$65,000)
- Costs associated with server access and support (approximately \$5,000)
- Interisland travel for support technician to work with agency staff (approximately \$1,500).

#### Legal Authority

- HRS 194-2(a)(1) mandates that the HISC shall maintain a broad overview of the invasive species problem in the State
- HRS 194-2(a)(2) mandates the HISC to advise, consult, and coordinate invasive species-related efforts with and between the departments of agriculture, land and natural resources, health and transportation, as well as state, federal, international, and privately organized programs and policies
- HRS 194-2(a)(6) mandates that the HISC shall identify and record all invasive species present in the State.

#### Recommendations

That the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) adopt as a function of its support program the maintenance of an online invasive species reporting system, known as 634pest.org, to facilitate the collection of public reports and their appropriate dissemination amongst HISC agencies and partners for response.