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PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Hawaii Invasive Species Council

May 20, 2020, 1:00 PM

Considering the evolving COVID-19 situation, protecting the health and welfare of the community is of utmost concern. As such, this meeting was held remotely, with Council members, legislative participants, and staff participating via online meeting software.

AGENDA

1. Call to order: Chair Case calls meeting to order at 1:03 pm
2. Introductions:
 - a. Council members: *Suzanne Case (DLNR, Co-Chair), Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser (HDOA, co-chair), Nicholas Comerford (UH-CTAHR), David Rodriguez (HDOT), Keith Kawaoka (DOH)*
 - b. Legislative participants: *Senate President Kouchi, Representative Lowen, Representative Wildberger Representative Nakamura*
 - c. Agency/project staff: *Josh Atwood (HISC Coordinator), Randy Bartlett (HISC Interagency coordinator), Jules Kuo (DLNR-DAR), Leyla Kaufman (HISC-MP), Christy Martin (Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species)*
3. Approval of minutes from November 22, 2019 meeting - *Approved*
4. Presentation: Summary of HISC & CGAPS 2025 Joint Strategy and restructured HISC Working Groups – *Josh Atwood, Chelsea Arnott*
 - a. Discussion with Council
 - i. *Rep Nakamura* –
 1. Are the strategies in order of priority? Josh – No, funding is number six and that's important every strategy. Each strategy is a priority for a different sector so it's difficult to prioritize one over the other.
 2. Why are there only 5 working groups for 10 strategies? Josh – some of the working groups take on more than one strategy like the Prevention/EDRR WG is Strategy 1&2. Strategies 8-10 are organizational development that will be overseen by the HISC and CGAPS. We decided that the funding strategy is a core function and would be implemented by HISC and CGAPS.
 - ii. *Shimabukuro-Geiser* – The Governor signed the state Myrtaceae rule so need to change the language in Strategy 1, KA 5 to reflect that. We have also intercepted several importations of Myrtaceae since implementation.
 1. *Josh* – that is a minor change that we can make before finalizing the plan.

- b. Discussion from YouTube (public)
 - i. The Research and Technology Working Group was a forum to work on the new pest, Asian longhorn beetle. Would it be a priority in the future?
 - ii. *Josh* – yes, it can be. The best fit would be under the Prevention/EDRR WG.
 - iii. CGAPS continues to work on the foreign Myrtaceae restriction
- 5. Submittal: Requesting approval of 2025 HISC & CGAPS Joint Strategy and restructured HISC Working Groups.
 - a. David Rodriguez moved and Nick Comerford seconded. All executive branch members voted Aye.
- 6. Presentation: Aquatic biosecurity capacity needs relating to the federal Vessel Incidental Discharge Act – *Jules Kuo (DLNR-DAR)*
 - a. Discussion with Council
 - i. Rep Nakamura – CA shipping fee cannot be adopted here?
 - 1. *Christy* – VIDA doesn't allow you to create any shipping fee after the bill was signed so Hawaii missed out on that.
 - 2. What are the fees exactly?
 - a. *Christy* – for vessel biofouling and ballast water. Fees could only be utilized for work in commercial ports but we also need to address noncommercial vessels which is why we wouldn't necessarily use a port fee.
 - ii. *Case* – Governor petition to the USCG? More effective to go through individual agencies.
 - 1. *Jules* – Yes, it would better to go through individual agencies.
 - iii. *David Rodriguez* – reiterates that HDOT is in support of protecting the environment and how we can move forward with the current situation of COVID-19?
 - 1. *Josh* - HIBP, Aquatic Strategic Plan, and the 2025 Strategy are all based on building capacity for invasive species work, particularly in recovering from the 2008 economic downturn. How do we move forward as we enter another economic downturn?
 - 2. *Case* - We need to find places where we can make the progress. Maybe it's regulatory versus dollar amount work right now. It's uncertain times.
 - iv. *Rep Wildberger* – Is there something we can look at for resiliency funding? How can we frame something like that?
 - 1. *Josh* - Looking at what the federal funding available will be to support these projects.
 - 2. *Rep Wildberger* – Suggest growing our Christmas trees locally and stopping importation, doing major tree plantings
 - 3. *Case* - Looking at job programs, Conservation Corp-style projects.
 - 4. *Sen Kouchi* - \$610 million into the rainy day fund. Everything is predicated on whether they move stimulus or not. FY21 and 22 is going to be an even tougher funding picture. It's really hard to predict. Not able to increase tax revenue because there's no revenue to tax currently.
 - a. *Case* - Great amount of need but no money to do it.

5. *Josh* – We can share our departmental list of potential projects for stimulus funding related invasive species to address Rep Wildberger’s point, with DLNR approval.
 - a. *Rep Wildberger* – can we stop the importation of Christmas trees this year?
 - i. *Josh* – I don’t have an answer for that.
 - b. Discussion on YouTube (public)
 - i. Question: To be qualified as an EPA NDZ there has to be 100% coverage for vessels (including recreational vessels) to be able to discharge sewage, grey water, ballast water, etc. to a shoreside facility? Washington State did not meet this requirement, but the EPA granted them NDZ status anyways. They are now tied up in a legal battle.
 1. Jules answered offline due technical difficulties:
7. Presentation: Outline of potential biosecurity video projects
8. Public Comments
 - a. Christy Martin (CGAPS) – testimony posted on HISC website.
9. Adjourned by Chair Case; 2:38 pm