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HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

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EDWIN SNIFFEN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

August 23, 2023; 1:00 PM

**Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Board Room (Rm 132) 1151
Punchbowl St, Honolulu, HI, 96813**

Per Hawaii Sunshine Law guidelines, this meeting was hybrid with attendees participating virtually through a Zoom link provided by HISC Support Staff or through the HISC YouTube channel or in-person at the DLNR Board Room in the Kalanimoku Building in Honolulu, HI. Council members, legislative representatives, and HISC Resources Working Group members were provided with a Zoom link. Members of the public were able to view the meeting through the HISC YouTube Channel. A recording of the meeting can be found here:
<https://youtu.be/AznHvYVS6K0>

1. Call to order

- Opening comments for the hybrid committee were made by Chair Hurd at 1:02pm.

2. Introductions

List of Attendees:

- Council Voting Members:
 - Dawn Chang, Co-Chair (Department of Land and Natural Resources); Sharon Hurd, Co-Chair [Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA)]; Tammy Lee on behalf of Ed Sniffen (Department of Transportation); Mary Alice Evans (Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism); Ania Wieczorek (University of Hawaii)
- Legislative Non-Voting Members:
 - Representative Kirstin Kahaloa (District 6). Malie Thoemmes Adams on behalf of Representative Luke Evslin (District 16)
- Support staff:
 - Chelsea Arnott (HISC), Darcy Oishi (HDOA); Rob Hauff (Forestry and Wildlife); Elizabeth Speith (HISC), Jack Reef (HISC), Ellie Montgomery (HISC)
- Other Participants:
 - Christy Martin (CGAPS); Franny Brewer (Hawai'i Invasive Species Committee), Nate Dube (O'ahu Invasive Species Committee); Laurie Buchanan (Molokai/Maui Invasive Species Committee); Tiffani Keanini (Kauai Invasive Species Committee).
- Other Attendees:
 - Tom Hallwalk and his wife.

3. Approval of minutes from June 13, 2023 meeting

HISC approved the minutes from June 13, 2023.

A motion of approval was made by Member Evans and seconded by Co-Chair Chang.

4. Presentations: FY24 HISC Recommended Budget

Item 4 involved two presentations by staff. The first presentation was from Rob Hauff (Forestry and Wildlife) and Chelsea Arnott (Forestry and Wildlife and HISC) regarding HISC funding recommendations as recommended by HISC's Working Resources Group (RWG).

The second presentation was from Franny Brewer (Big Island Invasive Species Committee) regarding the operations and funding of the Island Invasive Species Committees that operate on Kauai, O'ahu, Molokai, Maui, and Hawai'i islands.

A summary of these presentations and the discussion with HISC members is set forth below.

HISC Funding Recommendations

Rob Hauff (DLNR and the RWG Chair) provided background regarding the HISC funding applications and recommended funding actions of RWG.

- HISC funding awards followed its scoring process to recommend funding allocations;
- There were 10 members of RWG evaluating applications;
- RWG funding priorities were based on the Hawaii interagency Biosecurity Plan;
- There were 28 funding applications submitted this year;
- Total funding requested was \$8.494M; and
- HISC 2024 available funding was \$4.1M.

Questions and Discussion from the Council Members and Staff

Biocontrol

- Rob Hauff provided a description of "biocontrol" and the process to implement biocontrol in the field in response to Member Evans' question;
- Chair Hurd added that the process to implement biocontrol is an extremely lengthy process; and
- Rob Hauff advised that the HISC website has a great detailed description of Biocontrol.

Application Procedures

- In response to a question from Chair Hurd, Chelsea Arnott provided details regarding the RFP process to solicit HISC funding applicants; and
- Member Evans asked about the challenges with State procurement requirements, and staff stated that not all of the State's restrictive procurement requirements applied to HISC because HISC funding is only open to other State agencies.

HISC Funding Applications

- Chair Chang asked why the number of HISC applicants was smaller this year, and Chelsea Arnott advised that entities who previously applied and were not awarded funds, decided against applying for funds this year. In addition, in response to Member Wieczorek's question Chelsea stated that 97% of applicants were repeat candidates;
- Member Wieczorek and Co-Chair Chang asked about "scalability" of funding proposals. Staff advised that applicants are offered an opportunity to detail how their projects could be scaled down based on funding availability, and that applicants can clarify questions for evaluators if they attend the RWG meeting;
- In response to member Evan's questions, Chelsea Arnott advised that HISC does request funding from the legislature to supplement the HISC awards, but that last year's request was not approved. Co-Chairs Chang and Hurd stressed the importance of stakeholders attending legislative meetings to advocate for funding and legislative action;
- Staff clarified for Co-Chair Hurd that reducing funding for LFA did not reduce the number of islands served.
- Member Wieczorek stated that the public could falsely perceive that applicants had inflated their funding needs because awards were provided at a reduced amount. Therefore, the process needed more clarity that reduced funding directly leads to a reduction in project scope. Chelsea Arnott said that HISC is always looking for ways to improve the process;
- Staff advised that payments are reimbursements to applicants in response to a question from Co-Chair Hurd;
- Co-Chair Hurd stressed the importance of the RWG's recommendation to provide funding for two-lined spittlebug; and
- Co-Chair Chang and Member Evans discussed that UHERO relies on contracting and grant funding for student projects.

ISCs

- Chelsea stated that last year former Chair Case discussed the topic of setting aside a set-amount of funding for the ISCs; and

- Co-Chair Chang stressed the important of quantifying “In kind services” or community volunteering in order to demonstrate that “in kind services” double or triple the investments made by the legislature. Member Wiczoek seconded this point. Co-Chair Chang said that the private sector is a potential collaborative partner.

Franny Brewer’s Presentation on ISCs

- Each ISC has its own steering committee;
 - ISCs are not State employees and therefore can operate with more flexibility such as accessing private property;
 - ISC core work is to assess invasive species and work toward eradication;
 - ISCs work as the glue to help diverse stakeholders work together;
 - 14k plants have been introduced in state of Hawaii and there are 56 action plans to eradicate invasive species on the Hawaiian islands;
 - Early detection is not a passive duty;
 - Eradication is possible, but easier if caught early;
 - ISCs leverage government funding with private funding;
 - In response to Member Evans, Franny Brewer clarified that administrative costs can reach 15%;
 - Co-Chair Hurd commented that ISCs and HDOA can mutually benefit from staff recruiting between entities;
 - Co-Chair Chang said that DLNR has taken steps to expand work experiences when scoring job applications in order to ensure those who have experience working on invasive species are eligible for State jobs; and
 - Co-Chair Chang stated that community outreach is important for LFA.
- Non-voting Member Deputy Lee (DOT) stated that in regards to addressing Albizia, the State created a temporary exemption to allow for expanding contracting capabilities.

5. Submittal: Requesting approval of a recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2024

Rob Hauff summarized the actions steps needed to approve RWG’s recommendations.

Member Evans moved that the HISC submittal be approved and Co-Chair Chang seconded this action.

Co-Chair Hurd acknowledged that the Motion was approved without objection.

6. Public Comments

- Tom Hallwalk from a local cat sanctuary discussed that feral cats are a danger to endangered species. Co-Chair Chang expressed willingness to partner with a cat sanctuary if DLNR is given priority preference. Mr. Hallwalk requested a briefing with Chair Hurd to further develop a cat sanctuary.
- Chelsea summarized written public testimony as follows:
 - David Davis proposed a new tool to combat Coqui Frogs;
 - Chair Hurd asked for more information regarding the Coqui frog proposal and said that the pesticide branch of HDOA is best suited to address this proposal; and
 - Community members, windward side of Oahu (Waimanalu) expressed concern for Little Fire Ant, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle and Coqui frogs and that they are seeking HISC assistance.
- The Maui ISC wanted to inform HISC that they receive funding from the County.
- Co-Chair Chang said that the recent Waimanolu community meeting was well attended;
- Co-Chair Chang stated that staff should consider or the next HISC meeting should address combatting invasive species in order to reduce the risk of wildfires, including focusing on the areas impacted by the Maui fire. Any review should address how to ensure invasive species do not grow back in wildfire impacted areas, and that underground utilities may be helpful. Co-Chair Hurd said that Hemp wood is termite resistant and fireproof.`; and
- Co-Chair Hurd stressed that its important for stakeholders to show up to the legislature when advocating for funding of legislative action. Members Chang and Evans agreed with Co-Chair's Hurd's comments regarding advocacy to the legislature.

7. Adjournment

2:48pm