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HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

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VOTING MEMBERS

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SHARON HURD
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KATHLEEN HO, D.Env
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

APPROVED MEETING NOTES

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

August 28, 2024; 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://youtube.com/@hawaiiinvsivespeciescouncil/featured>

1. Call to order

- Opening comments for the hybrid committee meeting were made by Chair Chang at 1:00 pm.

2. Introductions

List of Attendees:

- Council Voting Members:
 - Dawn Chang, Co-Chair (Department of Land and Natural Resources [DLNR]);
 - Sharon Hurd, Co-Chair, and designee Dexter Kishida [Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA)];
 - Mary Alice Evans (Department of Economic Development and Tourism);
 - Tammy Lee on behalf of Ed Sniffen (Department of Transportation);
 - Parwinder Grewal (University of Hawaii [UH]); and
 - Matt Kurano (Department of Health)
- Legislative Non-Voting Members:
 - Representative Kristin Kahaloa (District 6).
 - Meg Turner (Senator Gabbard's Office);
 - Senator DeCoite's Office; and
 - Representative Luke Evslyn (District 16);
 - Representative Lisa Marten (District 51).
- Other Legislators:
 - Senator Jarrett Keohokalole.

- Support Staff:
 - Dave Smith and Rob Hauff, (Forestry & Wildlife); Chelsea Arnott (HISC), Elizabeth Speith (HISC), Chuck Chimera (HISC); Jack Reef (HISC).
- Other Attendees (in-person and online):
 - Christy Martin (CGAPS); Kimeona Kane (Waimanalo Neighborhood Council); Teya Penniman (MISC); Lori Buchanan (MoMISC); Rachel Beasley (DBEBT); Tiffani Keanini (KISC); Franny Brewer (BIISC); Justin Hite (Forestry & Wildlife); Tomo Murata (DOT); Leyla Kaufman (Fish & Wildlife Service); Nicole Galase (Hawaii Cattleman's Council); Melanie Spielman (KMWP); other unidentified attendees online.

3. Approval of minutes from May 29, 2024 meeting

- HISC approved the minutes from May 29, 2024.
 - A motion of approval was made by Member Evans and seconded by Member Kurano.

4. Presentation FY25 HISC Funding Process and Recommended Budget - Rob Hauff [Chair of Resources Working Group (RWG)], Chelsea Arnott (HISC Support).

Chelsea Arnott recognized the members of the RWG:

- Rob Hauff, Christy Martin, Rachel Beasley, Tomo Murata, Matt Kurano, Darcy Oishi, Elizabeth Monaghan, and Mike Melzer.

Chelsea provided background on HISC and the funding process as follows:

- HISC's funding process furthers its core mission of filling gaps in agency mandates, expanding research, and developing tools;
- HISC funds are distributed through a competitive grant;
- Applications are scored based on their adherence to five HISC/CGAPS Report Strategies, a funding formula, and RWG analysis and discussion;
 - The five HISC/CGAPS strategies of equal rank are as follows: Prevention, Interisland movement of invasives, Control of high-impact invasives, Research and Capacity, and Outreach;
- This year's process included: 19 total applications; one additional application was withdrawn; \$8M in total requested funding; two aquatic proposals; six research proposals; and 11 ISC/CGPAS proposals;
 - Available funding this year was \$4,686,081;
 - REPI Funding has helped supplement funding to applicants;
 - HDOA received \$10M through House Bill 2619 to enhance its biosecurity program;
- Chelsea provided a summary of each of the 19 applications (*Please see the [Submittal](#) for a listing of each project*);
- The RWG will reconvene to potentially refocus how grant funds are distributed, and set-aside funds for certain projects such as research;
- Chair Chang expressed concern in the recent trend of fewer application submittals being received, down from 60 in previous years;
 - Chelsea said more tools in toolbox is needed, and she has spoken with HDOA to expand the process;
 - Fewer applications resulted in-part from the ISCs consolidating their requests;

- Rob Hauff further advised that fewer applications have been received because many applicants who previously were denied funding, decided against applying;
- Chair Chang allowed questions from the attendees:
 - Kimeona Kane stated that invasive species do not select county vs. state, and asked how collaboration with the County's can occur?
 - He also asked how UH can be tasked to do more work to advance progress in addressing invasive species, as it does not appear that Hawaii receives its share of benefits from UH research:
 - In response:
 - Chair Chang said they are promoting aina based indigenous knowledge, as Hawaiians can provide valuable insight into how island communities have historically dealt with invasive species; and
 - Member Parwinder Grewal (UH) stated he set up a Task Force to address this issue with faculty. Many faculty are working on "control" but not on "prevention. Faculty is being pushed to look at "points of entry."

Chelsea presented the recommended budget:

- All projects are getting funding, except two that have alternative sources;
- The DLNR mosquito control larvicide project to aid recovery of native Hawaiian forest birds received full funding as extinction of forest birds is a pending reality;
- The DAR Ballast Water and Hull Fouling staff position was fully funded as partial funding would likely result in lay-offs of furloughs;
- The Hawaii Ant Lab (HAL) received about \$670k of its \$1m request as HAL was not funded elsewhere;
- ISCs have programmatic asks larger than others. ISCs are soft-funded every year, and HISC tries to fund them similarly on a yearly basis so as to create stability;
- This year MISC/MoMISC was funded at a \$100k deficit, but HISC staff will try to help them close the gap;
- In response to questions from Dexter Kishida, staff advised that funding is on rare occasions not accepted by awardees, returned, and/or reprogrammed to that entity. Rob Hauff clarified that other sources of funding have led to fund refusal, but that the application process includes a question on project scalability;
- In response to a question from Chair Chang Chelsea stated that HISC funding is distributed by the RWG with knowledge of other funding sources each applicant is receiving. For example, HDOA funding projects with House Bill 2619 was noted by the RWG;
- Rep. Marten noted the incredible delay in setting up contracts with RCUH for awardees to spend their funds. Chelsea advised that awardees have until March/April, 2026 to expend this year's funds.
- Rep Marten stated that HAL is very helpful and effective, but short staffed.
- In response to a question from Rep. Marten regarding HAL, Dexter Kishida stated that House Bill 2619 funding will provide \$75K to HAL for private contractors to treat residential areas;

- Chair Chang and Chelsea stated to Rep. Marten that discussions have occurred to bring HAL into DLNR to ensure ongoing funding, and that other sources of funds are being researched, such as through the High Priority Pest MOU;
- Dave Smith advised that Forestry & Wildlife unsuccessfully requested legislative funding for HAL and doubling of the HISC budget in order to fully fund all of the applicants in the HISC funding grant process. He further stated that invasive species are a lot cheaper to prevent than dealing with the problems after they've become established. Doubling the budget was also requested because HISC does not have enough funding to set-aside for emergencies;
- Chair Chang stated they do not know answer to funding problems, but they are constantly looking for creative ways through the legislature or by federal funds;

Public Comment:

- Nicole Galase from the Hawaii Cattleman's Council asked that HISC consider partially funding of the application that would help farmers address Two-Lined Spittle Bug. There is a heightened need to monitor the spread of TLSB as drought subsidies;
 - Chair Chang received confirmation from HDOA that part of the \$10M in State funding will fund TLSB activities;
 - Chelsea stated in response to Chair Chang, that if HDOA had not funded TLSB then HISC funds would likely have been awarded;
- Kiimeona Kane stated he has concern regarding HAL's funding as a lack of funding may lead to HAL not being present in a few years. He wants to avoid O'ahu having the same widespread LFA problem as seen on the Big island;
 - In response to Mr. Kane, Chair Chang stated that FY 2025 is expected to be declared by the Governor as the year of Climate action and the Green Fee will be proposed;
 - In response to Mr. Kane Dave Smith and Chelsea stated that Forestry & Wildlife overhead costs are kept to very low rates (5% to 8%), and that his agency allows the ISCs to use their baseyards and houses HISC staff in their offices;
 - Mr. Kane stated that the \$200k DLNR/Forestry & Wildlife expends in overhead should be covered by other State funding sources as these funds could support critical invasive species work;
 - Chair Chang advised that savings from one agency can be redirected toward another agency;
- Teya Penniman from MISC thanked staff and acknowledged the HISC funding process is transparent and inclusive. She also stated that if Maui County had not provided funding to address Little Fire Ant, MISC would have relied on HAL to assist.

5. Submittal: Requesting approval of the Fiscal Year 2025 Hawai'i Invasive Species Council budget

- Member Evans moved to approve this item as presented, Member Kurano seconded. The item passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- In response to a question from Kimeona Kane, Chelsea informed that Forestry & Wildlife is increasing efforts to address the spread of Coqui frog on the windward side of O’ahu in the southern Ko’olau mountains.
- Chelsea further stated that future HISC Council meetings will likely include updates on addressing the high priority pests of LFA, CRB, and Coqui frogs as set forth in the recent MOU between DLNR, HDOA, and UH;
 - Developing MOU Response Plans is being addressed as previously suggested by Rep. Kahaloa, so that funding for these high priority pests can be obtained in the next legislative session;
- In response to Member Evans, Chelsea advised that ISCs are the entities most involved in conducting outreach to access private property to treat invasive species;
- Rep. Marten informed that some members of the public and private property owners are spreading misinformation that LFA is not a major problem and that it can be addressed with insecticide;
- Chelsea stated, in response to a question from Mr. Kane, that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) can be solicited to help in the movement to address invasive species; and
 - Chair Chang stated that OHA can be invited to future HISC meetings;

7. Adjournment

2:47 pm