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EDWIN SNIFFEN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

November 14, 2024; 10:30 AM

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 Hurd starting at 10:30 am.

2. Introductions

List of Attendees:

- Council Voting Members:
 - Dawn Chang, Co-Chair (Department of Land and Natural Resources [DLNR]) in-person;
 - Sharon Hurd, Co-Chair, Department of Agriculture (HDOA) in-person;
 - Mary Alice Evans (Department of Economic Development and Tourism) in-person;
 - Tammy Lee – Now designated as primary representative (Department of Transportation)- virtually;
 - Parwinder Grewal (University of Hawaii [UH]) virtually; and
 - Matt Kurano (Department of Health) virtually
- Legislative Non-Voting Members:
 - Representative Kristin Kahaloa (District 6) virtually
 - Senator Decoite's Clerk on behalf of Senator DeCoite's Office;
 - Representative Lisa Marten (District 51) in-person;
 - Senate President Ron Kouchi, virtually
- Support Staff:
 - Chelsea Arnott (DLNR/HISC), Elizabeth Speith (HISC); Jack Reef (HISC).

- Other Attendees (in-person and online):
 - Dave Smith and Rob Hauff, (Forestry & Wildlife); Danica Swenson (Attorney General), Christy Martin (CGAPS); Lori Buchanan (MoMISC); Rachel Beasley (DBEBT); Tiffani Keanini (KISC); Franny Brewer (BIISC); Stephanie Easley (CGAPS), Dexter Kishida (HDOA), Keith Wesier (CRB Response), Michelle Montgomery (HAL), Nate Dube (OISC), Clare Ronquillo, Brian Hauk, [other unidentified attendees online: “Curt”, and “Mladao.”

3. Approval of minutes from August 8, 2024 meeting

- Co-Chair Hurd asked that the minutes be amended that any reference to ab 2619 be amended to read “House Bill 2619” or “Act 231.”
- HISC approved the minutes from August 8, 2024 as amended by Chair Hurd’s suggestion.
 - A motion of approval was made by Co-Chair Chang and seconded by Member Evans.

4. Submittal: Request for Final Approval to adopt Proposed New Subtitle and New Chapters Under Hawaii Administrative Rules as Title 13, Subtitle 14, Chapters 325 “General Provisions” and 326 “Control and Eradication of Invasive Species.”

Presentation by: Chelsea Arnott (DLNR – HISC) and Stephanie Easley (CGAPS)

- Chelsea provided an overview of the proposed rule changes and the administrative process to adopt the changes;
 - i. Proposed Rules changes involved the following issues: identifying invasive species; requirements for control or eradication on public and private property; Notice of Entry requirements; and Warrants to enter property.
- In May 2024 HISC acted to begin the Rulemaking process for these proposed rule changes;
- A Public Hearing was held in September;
 - i. Exhibit 1 of the agenda packet details the public hearing and comments received;
 - ii. All testimony was in support except one comment that did not advocate a position;
 - iii. Two individuals suggested changes to the proposed rules, including changes to the list of species identified by the Council for control or eradication; and
 - iv. Highlights of significant proposed changes include updated scientific name changes for plants that are listed for control or eradication by HISC.
- Member Evans asked if Tibouchina had a “common name” and Chelsea informed the common name is “Glory Bush” or “Cane Tibouchina”
- Co-Chair Chang asked for clarification of the rule changes regarding warrants and notice. Who is county/department seeking a warrant from? Who issued and enforcement authority?

- i. In Response Stephanie Easley stated that it's the State District Court that makes a judgement and selects the appropriate law enforcement agency;
 - ii. Member Evans asked what happens with out-of-state land owners that cannot be reached regarding issuing a warrant.
 - 1. Attorney General representative Danica Swenson said the notice serves as the legal authority to enter a property, but that the occupant of property (a long-term tenant or vacationer) could serve as the point-of-contact.
 - iii. Chair Hurd asked if a warrant allowed access to a residence in addition to the property. Chelsea advised that the warrant would cover the infested areas. Chair Hurd discussed amending the proposed Rules to add language specifying that resident access is a possibility but withdrew the proposal so as not to delay the overall approval process as amendments would require the rulemaking process to start over.
 - iv. Senate Chair Kouchi said he appreciates the work of the Council and follows the happenings of the Council.
 - v. In response to questions from Co-Chair Chang and Rep. Marten, Stephanie Easley said the proposed Rules include emergency warrant approval language and that a District Court Judge is on call 24/7; and
 - vi. Co-Chair Hurd acknowledged that written public comments were received prior to the meeting.
- HISC Voted unanimously to approve the item.

5. **Updates on the Implementation of the “Interagency Memorandum of Understanding for the Prevention, Rapid Response, and Control or Eradication of High Priority Pests”. Priority pests are defined as little fire ants, coqui frogs, and coconut rhinoceros beetle: Chelsea Arnott, Program Support for the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council. Summary and the full MOU can be found at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/info/policy/2024-mou-for-high-priority-pests>.**

PRESENTATION

Chelsea introduced the item and provided a ppt presentation. The presentation stated that multi-agency responses to the three pests (little fire ants, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and coqui frogs) date back to 2021. Chelsea informed that a workshop occurred in January 2024 among key partners to clarify roles and responsibilities. Challenges to addressing these pests include lack of communication and operational capacity.

Recent actions include the development of Response Plans to ensure action and communications are ongoing. Development of data Sharing protocols and survey & treatment protocols are also desired. This agenda item is in response to the public who sought transparency on the MOU and its implementation. Chelsea advised that HISC created a webpage to also reflect this process for public education, and in response to Co-Chair advised that the HISC page is part of the DLNR website and “priority pest mou 2024” is a good keyword search term. Mou partners will continue to meet no less than monthly to continue to implement the MOU.

Updates from partners were given for the three priority pests as set forth below (note that the presentations were conducted out of agenda order: Coqui, CRB, LFA).

b. Innovative approaches to controlling coqui frogs on windward, O'ahu: Nate Dube, Manager for the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee

- Nate Dube provided a ppt on Coqui frog innovative control actions on O'ahu's windward side;
- There is a robust effort including the community in Waimanalo, Forestry & Wildlife, HDOA, OISC, KMWP, and contracted service providers that assist in operating drones, and bioacoustics (listening technology).
- Nate listed four major coqui infestations on O'ahu:
 - Waimanalo, 33 acres, up to 9k to 43k frogs;
 - Kuliouou,(Forest Reserve) 8 acres;
 - Palolo 8 acres, and
 - Central O'ahu (little information is known HDOA is the contact).
- Treatments include: habitat modification; community hand capture; bioacoustics monitoring; drone treatment; installation of a citric acid pipeline, and a trailer mounted sprayer. HDOA is the point of contact for the Central Oahu treatment that appears to have been successful;
- Nate provided maps of the infestations;
- Habitat modification – Forestry & Wildlife has taken lead, cutting trees which helps the effectiveness of all treatments. Community handcapturing can help strategically around borders of infestation. OISC feels lucky and grateful for community support;
- Bioacoustics – records the mating calls of coqui frogs. Used before and after habitat modifications and treatments to determine population changes;
- Experimental Drones can be helpful, but obstacles to their use need to be addressed,
- Citric acid pipeline – potentially operational in 2025,
- Summary: more drone treatments and equipment are needed, looking into installing coqui barrier fencing, and experimental trapping.

- Chair Hurd stated that the Central Oahu infestation occurred at a business so prioritizing public release of information did not occur. Chair Hurd stated multiple treatments occurred and HDOA believes eradication has been achieved in cooperation with the property owner. Bioacoustics was used on a very basic level. \$74k appropriated by legislature and governor helped purchase citric acid through ACT 231.
- Rep Marten asked for clarity on the origins of the three windward infestations. Also in response to Rep. Marten Nate informed that coqui barriers are not a good fit for Waimanalo because the “mat” has to be buried four feet deep in the soil. MISC advised OISC that fences require constant

maintenance, and they could be used for containment but not control & eradication which are higher priority;

- Rep. Marten also asked if passive trapping is more useful at nurseries. Nate said “pvc” piping may be an open in heavily infested areas, but that nurseries may benefit from bioacoustics.
- Co-Hair Hurd said trapping can help keep pests in infested areas and help keep pests out of natural uninfested areas.
- Member Grewal asked if these are the only three sites on O’ahu. Nate advised that HDOA responds, treats, and monitors other reported sites. 2) Member Grewal also asked how big is the Waimanalo site? Nat advised that the Waimanalo is the largest, but can be potentially eradicated. The Palolo site is more likely to be eradicated because its smaller and proven methods will work. Funding for citric acid is important because its expensive and hard to get;
- Chair Hurd said she was happy to know that eradication is possible; and
- Staff advised that addressing Coqui is a 10-year commitment, but only short term funding is available.

c. Update on the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response Plan for Hawai‘i Island and overview of statewide monitoring and control efforts: Franny Brewer, Manager for the Big Island Invasive Species Committee, & Dr. Keith Weiser, Deputy of Operations for the CRB Response Team.

- Franny Brewer advised that an MOU response plan is under development;
- The County LFA plans are finished, and work continues on the CRB and Coqui plans.
- The CRB plans are based on the CRB planning Guide and MOU Matrix;
- The process brings partners together to understand roles & responsibilities;
- The Goal was to finish the plan by the end of November, but not sure if that Goal will be reached;
- Keith Weiser provided a ppt presentation regarding CRB;
- Benefits of MOU include: data standardization; regional status and actions, and identifying who is Lead;
- Updates by island: Oahu heavily infested in lowlands; Kauai several sites; Maui no sitings is one year; Hawaii in the Waikoloa area only;
- Few resources on Kauai do to treatments;
- Maps were shown with hotspots on O’ahu and individual palm trees
- Member Evans asked if netting is effective?
 - Keith said no single treatment is enough. Advised to do netting, and reduce breeding material. Netting is not easy to apply, but as a tree fronds grows the netting needs to moved every 2-3 months. Keith also listed pesticides used as treatment. Keith advised that different islands have different pesticide approvals
 - Chair Hurd advised to use caution with chemicals with fruit trees, and not to eat fruit after treatment. Fruits and flowers should be

removed before pesticide treatment, and that HDOA applies “tape” to trees to show treatment has occurred;

- Rep. Marten asked Chair Hurd, as a representative of HDOA, is there help for farmers? In response Chair Hurd said HDOA has a compost reimbursement program available on its website, but that local farmers should apply as soon as possible because of limited funds.
- Expensive to manage CRB in Waimanalo. Compost reimbursement program is on HDOA website for 50% reimbursement: \$400k total available. Homeowners be diligent because large landowners could use all \$400k quickly with \$50k individual grants.
- Chair Hurd also stated HDOA just posted RFPs for: Greenwaste removal, hauling dead trees for public lands;
- Rep Marten stated that the legislature could help famers in the next session if nothing is available for them now;
- Keith advised there is one “crown applied” pesticide for coconuts; and
- A comment was provided by a member of the public (Ryan Chang) on Youtube. This comment was not addressed during the meeting.
 - “How do we stop the inter and intra island crb movement? Are there policies and laws coming out? Is it 100% that there are no CRB coming out of O‘ahu to outer islands when you do those checks?”

a. Update for little fire ant response and planning: Michelle Montgomery, Manager for the Hawai‘i Ant Lab

LFA response plans updates;

- 2024 has seen increase in LFA: 8 sites in Maui; 19 on O‘ahu; and 8 (6 nurseries) on Kauai;
- Constantly assessing where on invasion curve each island is;
- MOU helps determine Roles & Responsibilities;
- Difficulty lies with on island capacity and funding for all partners involved. Goal to shift left on invasion curve towards containment or eradication;
- Maui had detection in Haleakala;
- Maui does not think LFA in nursery system;
- O‘ahu direct link with 2 nurseries;
- 69 total infestations on O‘ahu, (not included nurseries);
- Over capacity of HAL and OISC to manage sites;
- OISC focuses on residents;
- Hal focuses on residential areas;
- HDOA focus on nurseries;
- KISC doing work with some assistance from HDOA;
- ACT 231 provides \$1.2M in an RFP for license pest control operators (PCOs) to treat residential sites;

- HAL and the ISCs are ineligible to apply;
- Co-Chair Hurd said ISCs are ineligible because PCOs have expertise such as training for “allergies” and other sensitivities.
- Chair Chang asked if PCO’s use the same successful treatments as HAL?
 - Michelle said there are only 4 PCOs on O’ahu and the HAL provides specialty training;
 - Nate mentioned that it’s important to follow BMPs outlined by HAL, not just pesticides, but the scheduling of treatment and monitoring. Nate asked if PCO’s do that long-term treatment and monitoring
 - Michelle stated that HAL and ISCs cannot participate in the RFP process without being funded.
 - Rep. Marten said she is concerned about the RFP and not allowing experts to participate. Additionally, she is concerned that the PCO’s will not conduct delimiting and monitoring.
 - Co-Chair Hurd said there are problems with liability, allergies, and kupuna, and that perhaps the program can be expanded with additional funding.

6. Update on Outcomes from the Fall 2024 Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting held in Honolulu, HI: Christy Martin, Program Manager for the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species

- *Executive Summary of white paper titles “Island Resilience is American Resilience: Actions Towards Reducing the Impacts of Invasive Species on U.S. and U.S.-Affiliated Islands” included in meeting packet.*

The Item was Deferred to the next meeting as the meeting ended before it could be heard.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was adjourned before the agenda item was heard and that the agenda item was not heard at the meeting. Public comments were heard for the other agenda items that were not deferred.

8. Adjournment

12:28 pm