

**JOSH GREEN**  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



## **HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL**

1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

### **VOTING MEMBERS**

**DAWN CHANG**  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL  
RESOURCES

**SHARON HURD**  
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**KATHLEEN HO, D.Env**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**PARWINDER GREWAL**  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &  
TOURISM

**EDWIN SNIFFEN**  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## **DRAFT MEETING NOTES**

### **Hawai'i Invasive Species Council**

**March 20, 2025; 11:00 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 Co-Chair Chang starting at 11:10 am.

#### **2. Introductions**

List of Attendees:

- Council Voting Members:
  - Dawn Chang, Co-Chair (Department of Land and Natural Resources [DLNR]);
  - Sharon Hurd, Co-Chair, Department of Agriculture (HDOA)];
  - Mary Alice Evans (Department of Economic Development and Tourism - DBEDT);
  - Dexter Kishida – (Department of Transportation);
  - Parwinder Grewal (University of Hawaii [UH]); and
  - Kathleen Ho (Department of Health)
- Legislative Non-Voting Members:
  - Representative Kristin Kahaloa (District 6), staff Clara Ronquillo.
  - For Senator Inouye – Monique Tokumi
- Other Legislators: None.
- Support Staff:
  - Matt Kurano (Department of Health), Rob Hauff, (Forestry & Wildlife); Chelsea Arnott (DLNR/HISC), Elizabeth Speith (HISC); Chuck Chimera (HISC), Jack Reef (HISC).
- Other Attendees (in-person and online):

Danica Swenson (Attorney General), Stephanie Easley (CGAPS), Nate Dube (OISC), Franny Brewer (BIISC), [other unidentified attendees online: “Nadia notetaker,” “Lia’s notetaker,” and “Janet.”

**3. Approval of minutes from November 14, 2024 meeting**

- HISC approved the minutes from August 14, 2024.
  - A motion of approval was made and seconded by Member Evans.

**4. Discussion of Senate Bill 1100, Senate Draft 2 and House Bill 427 House Draft 2 (Hawaii State Legislature) and Actions that Impact the Hawaii Invasive Species Council**

*Presentation by: Chelsea Arnott (DLNR – HISC)*

Chelsea provided an overview of the two bills as follows:

SB 1100

- i. Renames the Department to include “Biosecurity.
  - ii. Establishes a Deputy Chairperson for Biosecurity.
  - iii. Establishes an emergency response team.
  - iv. Allows for transitional facilities, requires inspection of various items transported interisland. Increases penalties for illegally transporting plants, animals, and microorganisms.
  - v. Requires government-industry agreements to detect and respond to unwanted organisms in Hawaii.
  - vi. Authorizes pest management plans; and enforcement of the Plant Care Component Program, and Administrative penalties.
- Transfer of HISC to HDOA
    - i. The Bill would also transfer the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to HDOA. HISC is currently housed under DLNR only for administrative purposes.
    - ii. The presentation noted the original language in the bill and relevant HRS sections.
    - iii. The bill has been amended by the House after crossover to remove the transfer.
    - iv. SB 1100 is scheduled for a hearing in the House Finance Committee.
    - v. If Finance approves the bill it will be sent to “conference” between the two legislative bodies.
    - vi. Rep. Kahaloa advised that next steps for the bill include: filing; sent to the floor to pass 2<sup>nd</sup> reading; sent to Finance Committee; and then sent to Conference.

HB 427

- vii. This bill is the House version of a biosecurity bill but it is not a companion to SB 1100, although it has some of the same key components.
- viii. Renames the Department to include Biosecurity.
- ix. Establishes a Deputy Chair of Biosecurity.
- x. Renames the Plant and Animal Declaration Form the Biosecurity form.
- xi. Authorizes an emergency declaration with Governor approval.

- xii. The House bill does not include language to transfer HISC to HDOA.
  - xiii. HB 427 has crossed-over to the Senate
  - xiv. HB 427 was amended to remove language stating that HISC report to the new Biosecurity Chair.
  - xv. The bill was amended to replace HB 427 with the current version of SB 1100, but that the amended HB 427 include recommendations from the CGAPS testimony.
  - xvi. Next step is for the bill to be heard by WAM/JDC, and if passed sent to conference.
- Rep. Kahaloa provided additional updates, as follows:
    - i. Written amendments to be published for the bill is today;
    - ii. The Senate and House will likely vote on the bills Friday;
    - iii. Any recommendation from HISC will provide a more fruitful discussion of worthwhile statutory changes for a biosecurity bill; and
    - iv. Federal funding deficits could impact a comprehensive biosecurity response from the State.

#### Discussion of a possible HISC Action

- Co-Chair Chang stated that the purpose of meeting was to:
  - i. Ensure testimony was reflective of the HISC Council; and
  - ii. HISC to ensure discussion among the members and hear public testimony.
- In response to a question from member Grewal, Chair Chang said the current version of the bill in the house does not include the transfer of HISC.
- Member Evans stated the following:
  - i. The CGPAS testimony is a useful guide;
  - ii. The HISC and Council has done good work under DLJNR; and
  - iii. Based on experience, a move of HISC may unsettle things, and that now is not the time to move as long as co-chairs and the HISC members have a productive and supportive relationship and support HISC's current work.
- Kathleen Ho said she echoes Chair Evans, but also:
  - i. DOH is similar to HISC in that environment law is based on public health.
  - ii. It important to restate that HISC is more than a conservation commission. It's a body of all entities.
  - iii. Dept of AG has so much on its plate now, and if takes HSIC there is a lot more work to do to effectuate the transfer;
  - iv. Perhaps a transition period of 1 or 2 years perhaps would be helpful to prepare for the move.
- Dexter Kishida stated that DOT feels similar. Keeping HISC at DLNR doesn't mean HDOA won't be the "tip of the spear," but that HISC would a be a partner to rely on.
- In response to Chair Chang's question, Member Greweal said he had no comment on the transfer as long as the partners work together.
- Co-Chair Hurd stated that HDOA should remain the tip of the spear. HDOA has a lot of responsibility currently, and does not have space, equipment, vehicles {for HISC} and would need time to undertake such a transition.

- Co-Chair Hurd reiterated Member Evan’s statement that HISC departments need to work together and speak with one voice.
- Co-Chair Chang stated that structural change is needed:
  - i. There is a perception that HISC is tied to DLNR;
  - ii. DLNR has advocated for HISC to obtain its own “LNR id #” so that HISC could advocate for its own funding;
  - iii. The Interagency Biosecurity plan acknowledges that HISC departments are working separately on different issues, but collectively to address biosecurity;
  - iv. There is something valuable in DLNR retaining HISC in some capacity;
  - v. It’s a Legislature decision;
  - vi. DOA would have its “own priorities”;
  - vii. DLNR trying to make HISC more independent; and
  - viii. There should be discussion if all biosecurity matters should be transferred to HDOA because DLNR has its own unique biosecurity needs such as corals and ungulates. DLNR and DOA have slightly different priorities.
- Co-Chair Hurd offered the example of migratory birds as an issue that crosses over the jurisdiction among HISC departments and this shows that cooperation is imperative when addressing biosecurity;

#### *Executive Session*

- HISC went into Executive Session at 11:50am to discuss the legal powers and role of the Council relative to the transfer of HISC between departments.
- HISC Reconvened at 12:05pm
- Co-Chair Chang stated that no action was taken in Executive session.

#### Public Comments if Council takes action

- Stephanie Easley CGAPS stated the following:
  - CGAPS provided testimony for today’s meeting;
  - The Governor opened the HISC meeting in 2011;
  - *The Mechanics* of the bills are complicated:
    1. HDOA has a lot on its plate already;
    2. Subsequent versions of the bills take out language effectuating the transfer;
    3. CGAPS wants HISC to be retained in DLNR to continue its great work; and
    4. CGAPS would like HISC to remain independent, and that no one person should have oversight of HISC (and its members departments) including the Deputy of Biosecurity for HDOA.
- Nate Dube – OISC
  - i. HISC has been supportive of ISCs;
  - ii. OISC raised concerns of language in the bill related to the invasive species Dashboard and that it complicates data sharing. HDOA partners and ISCs have to adhere to guidelines and some data required by HDOA in the Dashboard may not be permissible to share. The Bill could result in the

ISCs losing funding if data is not provided to the Dashboard for publication.

1. During the meeting, Member Evans commented on the State's data sharing policy. After the meeting, Member Evans clarified her comments by citing Hawaii Revised Statute, Chapter 225. A summary of Members Evan's post-meeting comments are as follows:
    - a. The executive heads of all state departments/agencies shall provide information as the governor and DBEDT director, deem necessary for the effective discharge of its duties;
    - b. The governor may withhold the expenditure of planning funds appropriated to agencies until the governor is satisfied that the expenditures will implement the goals and objectives of the Hawaii State Plan;
    - c. The Office of Planning & Sustainable Development (OPSD) does not have the authority to withhold funding, only the Governor has this power; and
    - d. Free and open data sharing is encouraged between all government agencies, and OPSD shall ensure the security of "restricted" data.
  2. During the meeting, Co-Chang stated that there is an effort to clarify this data transfer / publication issue.
  3. During the meeting, Member Ho asked if OISC's data was publicly available?
    - a. Nate Dube stated that maps are published on OISC's website.
- Franny Brewer from BIISC stated there is a different set of rules between partners sharing data and what data is released to the public. BIISC's public facing data does not allow personal information to be published as that would compromise members of the public. There was an Axis deer issue in the past where public information was not released as to discourage illegal hunting.
  - Co-Chair Hurd stated she believes public funded data collection should be made available to the public, but HDOA is not trying to put its partners in a bad situation. HDOA sometimes uses "waivers" obtained from members of the public it assists to allow for the release of private data.
  - HISC staff stated that some attendees did not return after the Executive Session. Co-Chair Chang asked that HISC staff notify the public that the meeting has reconvened.

#### HISC Action

- Co-Chair Chang asked the members if greater instructions should be provided to the Co-Chair Departments when drafting testimony.
- Co-Chair Chang also informed that there are two more committees left to provide testimony.
- Member Evans said its not the right time to transfer HISC to HDOA.

- In response to a question from Member Ho, Member Evans stated that “**...there seemed to be a consensus among HISC members and public that transferring the HISC at this time would not be the way to ensure that State coordinated efforts to prevent and mitigate invasive species could go forward full strength at time point.**”
- Member Ho asked Member Evans if she wanted the HISC body to keep HISC in DLNR at this time. Member Evans said yes.
- Co-Chair Chang said that convening of a meeting among all HISC members to take a position on this pending legislation (SB 1100 and HB 427) was preferable. Testimony submitted by the Co-Chairs could now reflect the intent of all HISC departments.
- The Motion passed with five (5) Ayes and one vote from Member Grewal to abstain.
- *Adjourn 12:31pm*