

JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

VOTING MEMBERS

DAWN CHANG
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL
RESOURCES

SHARON HURD
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

KATHLEEN HO, D.Env
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PARAWINDER GREWAL, Ph.D.
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

MARY ALICE EVANS
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
TOURISM

DEXTER KISHIDA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

DATE: Wednesday, March 28, 2025
TIME: 9:00 am
PLACE: In-person – DLNR Board Room, #132, Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl St., Honolulu, HI 96813 & Online Via
Zoom Meeting ID: 863 8192 7269

ZOOM LINK:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86381927269?pwd=Kg380wnNzBDcKyJrOFFb1HflyqbD6U.1>

Meeting ID: 863 8192 7269

Passcode: 162895

This Council meeting will be held using interactive conference technology under section 92-3.7, Haw. Rev. Stat. Council members, staff, testifiers and the public can choose to participate in person, online via Zoom, or by telephone. The public may also view the live meeting via its live stream

at: <https://youtube.com/live/JevWGSunb98?feature=share>

To Provide Written Testimony

We encourage interested persons to submit written testimony in advance of the meeting, which will be distributed to Council members prior to the meeting and allow a timely review. Please submit written testimony via email to:

jack.f.reef.researcher@hawaii.gov.

Written testimonies can also be mailed to: 1151 Punchbowl Street, Rm 325 Honolulu HI 96813. Written testimonies may be posted upon the Hawaii'i Invasive Species Council Meeting website; as a precaution, please be mindful with any personal information prior to submitting unless you intend it to be shared. Late testimony will be retained as part of the record and distributed to Council members as soon as practicable, but we cannot ensure Council members will receive it in sufficient time to review prior to any decision-making.

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council Meeting Agenda
May 28, 2025

To Provide In-Person Oral Testimony (masks are highly encouraged)

Attend in-person at: DLNR Board Room, Rm 132 (Kalanimoku Building) at 1151 Punchbowl St., Honolulu, HI 96813

To Provide Testimony by Telephone

On the day of the meeting at the start of the agenda item you wish to testify on, dial: + 1 253-215-8782 (Zoom); input the Meeting ID: 863 8192 7269 and follow the prompts.

To Provide Video/Zoom Testimony

If you would like to provide oral testimony virtually, please use the Zoom link provided in this agenda. You can send your request to provide oral testimony virtually to jack.f.reef.researcher@hawaii.gov with your information, email address, and the agenda item you wish to testify on, but this is not a requirement.

We ask that you identify yourself and any affiliation before speaking, but you can choose not to do so.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86381927269?pwd=Kg380wnNzBDcKyJrOFFb1HflyqbD6U.1>

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Special Accommodations

If you need auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to disability, please contact Jack Reef, the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council Planner, at 808-587-0166 or jack.f.reef.researcher@hawaii.gov as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled. Upon request, this agenda and other materials are available in alternate/accessible forms.

The Council may go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 92-5(a) (4), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, in order to consult with its attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the Council's powers, duties, privileges, immunities and liabilities.

For information, contact:

HISC Support staff:

1151 Punchbowl St, #325, Honolulu, HI 96813; (808) 587-0166; Fax: (808) 587-0160

Chelsea Arnott, Program Manager: Chelsea.L.Arnott@hawaii.gov

Elizabeth Speith, 643pest.org Report Facilitator: speith@hawaii.edu

Chuck Chimera, Weed Risk Assessment Specialist: chimera@hawaii.edu

Jack Reef, Planner: jack.f.reef.researcher@hawaii.gov

Mason Russo, Research & Projects Coordinator: mason.h.russo.researcher@hawaii.gov

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Introductions of Hawai'i Invasive Species Council Members
3. Approval of minutes from March 20, 2025, Hawai'i Invasive Species Council meeting
4. Update to HISC members on House Bill No. 427, Relating to Biosecurity from HISC Program Support. Link to the Hawai'i State Legislature: [HB 427, CD1 – Relating to Biosecurity.](#)
5. Hawai'i Invasive Species Council Review and Recommendations relating to Fiscal Year 2026 Funding Process
 - a. Presentation by HISC Program Manager, Chelsea Arnott: Overview of the HISC Funding Process & Recommendations from the HISC Resources Working Group for the Fiscal Year 2026 Funding Process
 - b. Discussion and Recommendations by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council members on changes, improvements, and/or issues to address for the Fiscal Year 2026 HISC Funding Process. HISC members may vote on the matter and direct the HISC Resources Working Group to incorporate any approved items.
6. Presentation of 2025 Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Month (HISAM) Award Recipients. More information on each recipient can be found at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/news/hisam-2025-awardees/>.
 - a. **Trenton Yasui**, Greatest Hit
 - b. **Aloha Termite and Pest Control**, Outstanding Business Leader
 - c. **Haleakalā Ranch**, Community Hero
 - d. **Thomas Griego**, O'ahu MVP
 - e. **Michael Opgenorth**, Maui Nui MVP
 - f. **Kiane Prietto**, Hawai'i Island MVP
 - g. **Work It Out Kaua'i**, Kaua'i MVP
7. Public Comments
8. Adjournment

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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 council 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);
 - 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 Clare 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 November 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 2nd 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. Member Evans stated that if a state agency refuses to give data DBEDT can ask B&F to withhold funds from that agency. But that to her knowledge, this has never been enforced.
 - 2. Co-Chang stated that there is an effort to clarify this data transfer / publication issue.
 - 3. 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 preferrable.

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*