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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY COMMITTEE (ESRC)
PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: April 28, 2023
TIME: 9:00 AM
LOCATION: DLNR – DOFAW Main Conference, Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl St, Room #325., Honolulu, Hawai'i
Online via Zoom; and Livestream via YouTube recorded at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kzQeQ81FgnA>

FINAL SUMMARY MINUTES

MEMBERS

Lainie Berry
Loyal Merhoff
Michelle Bogardus

Lisa Spain
Melissa Price
Kawika Winter

STAFF

Myrna N. Giraldo Pérez – DOFAW

Katherine Cullison – DOFAW

OTHERS

Michael Belles – Sheraton
Dan Sheldon – Sheraton
Dayton Yamashita

Kaupena Kinimaka
Jinny Kim - USFWS

04.28.2023/9:02AM/0:40

ITEM 1 - Call to order, announcements.

Lainie Berry called the meeting to order. Requested ESRC members to introduce themselves.

- ESRC members requested to hold May 17 for KIUC draft HCP review and to look out for doodle poll for future KIUC HCP meeting dates
- Lainie announced that for this meeting and future meetings, for each annual permit review, the ESRC may be voting on a list of recommendations categorized on whether each is required to ensure compliance
- Myrna gave an update on the status of the Bat Guidance Document
- Lainie announced that the scheduled presenter for items 3A-C had an emergency and was unable to be present today and had requested we reschedule those agenda items.
- The ESRC voted to go into an executive session to discuss this request to postpone items 3A-C at 9:12 AM. The committee resumed the regular session at 9:56 AM

Executive Session 9:12AM-9:56AM (7:03)

04.28.2023/9:56AM/54:39

ITEM 2 - Brief presentation by Linda Chow on ESRC role in annual reviews pursuant to HRS 195D-25(b)(2)

Linda Chow clarifies ESRC's role as a review and recommendation scientific expertise committee to the DLNR in regards to the annual reviews of Habitat Conservation Plans, Safe Harbor Agreements, and Incidental Take Licenses. The role of the ESRC during these annual reviews is to evaluate, weigh in, and make recommendations, for necessary changes to ensure compliance, as well as provide additional recommendations for effective conservation actions for the species in consideration, to the Department and Board. The ultimate decision to determine approval and compliance of permittees with their designated permits, licenses, and HCPs rests with the Board.

It is crucial for the continued conservation of the species in consideration that the annual review meetings will proceed with ESRC making necessary recommendations with or without representative permittees in attendance and whether the permittees are present to share testimony and respond to the ESRC or not.

ITEM 3 - Participant presentations of Kauai Seabird Habitat Conservation Plan annual reports and discussion

- ITEM 3.A NCL was canceled
- ITEM 3.B Sonesta Royal Kauai Resort was canceled
- ITEM 3.C Hotel Hanalei Bay (formerly Princeville Resort Kauai) was canceled

04.28.2023/10:32AM/1:24

ITEM 3.D - Participant presentations of Kaua'i Seabird Habitat Conservation Plan annual reports and discussion: Sheraton Resort- presented by Michael Belles and Dan Sheldon. Committee may vote on recommended changes.

Michael Belles and Dan Sheldon presented, on behalf of Sheraton Resort, an overview of the FY 2022 annual report from the Kaua'i Seabird Habitat Conservation Plan.

Katherine Cullison and Jinny Kim presented a joint-agency submittal.

Committee Additional Recommendations to Ensure Compliance

- Improve predator survey data collection (i.e., daily counts). This can be accomplished by using a standardized method.

- Use a standardized method for collecting predator-trapping data.
- Use of decoys is suitable for testing searcher efficiency.
- Implement a zero-cat policy at the property. Confirm no cat presence or feeding at the property.

Committee Additional Recommendation for All Licensees under the Kaua'i Seabird HCP

- Coordinate training with Dilek Sahin on searching for downed seabirds.
- Re-evaluate the survivorship of SOS-released birds.
- Revise annual take estimate based on searcher efficiency and predator control
- Consider utilizing canine detection surveys.
- Carcass retention trials should be conducted.

04.28.2023/12:01 PM/2:59

MOTION

ESRC voted and approved Sheraton Resort recommendations to ensure compliance unanimously.

Break from 12:02 PM to 12:32 PM

04.28.2023/12:32 PM/3:30

ITEM 4 - Hōkūala annual review and discussion- presented by Myrna Giraldo-Perez. Committee may vote on recommended changes.

Myrna N. Giraldo Pérez presented on behalf of Hokuala an overview of the FY 2022 draft annual report of the Hōkūala Habitat Conservation Plan in combination with agency recommendations provided in the submittal for Item 4.

Committee Additional Recommendations to Ensure Compliance

- Verify that the predator control/trapping program is adequate (that they are meeting their mitigation obligations) to meet the changing needs of the populations of covered species through monitoring of predators at the site and egg or chick predation.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the staff training program.

Committee Additional Recommendations – General Changes

- Add a column that contains the percentage of eggs fledged.
- Add the number of trap nights to determine the level of effort and success of the predator control program.
- Claiming no detection of predation events is inaccurate unless a predator monitoring program is in place. Refrain from making claims not backed with data.
- Remove attractants on locations with frequent vehicle strikes.
- Consider potentially installing low fencing alongside the roads.
- Consider the use of roundabouts.
- Improve the traffic management program at the project site.
- Clarify the roles of the DOFAW Habitat Conservation Planning Program and the Kaua'i Branch Office.

04.28.2023/2:21 PM/5:18

MOTION

ESRC voted and approved Hōkūala recommendations to ensure compliance unanimously.

04.28.2023/2:29 PM/5:27

ITEM 5 - Discussion regarding election of ESRC Chair and Vice Chair positions

Committee discussed Chair and Vice Chair positions and requested that a vote be added to the next ESRC meeting to appoint these positions. The committee discussed the need for quarterly scheduled meetings, a running list of future agenda items, and an update to the SOS survival rates.

04.28.2023/2:53 PM/[5:51](#)

ITEM 6 - Adjournment