



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL
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MEETING NOTICE

**Hawaii Department of Agriculture
Plant Quarantine Branch, Conference Room
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, HI 96819**

**Friday
February 23, 2018
11 AM**

**Prevention Working Group
of the
Hawaii Invasive Species Council**

Agenda & Notes

- 1. Call to order:** 11:20a by Jonathan Ho, Chair
- 2. Introductions:**
 - a. *In person:* Randy Bartlett/HISC, Elizabeth Speith/HISC, Jonathan Ho/HDOA, Chris Kishimoto/HDOA, Christy Martin/CGAPS, Jules Kuo/DAR, Natalie Dunn/DAR
 - b. *On call:* Joshua Fisher/USFWS, Domingo Carvalho/FWS, Dorothy Alontaga/USDA PPQ, Chuck Chimera/HWRA, Chelsea Arnott/CGAPS
- 3. Past meeting notes available for review at:**
<http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/meetings/wg/prevention/>
- 4. Action Items:** (see table below)
- 5. Updates:**

- a. **Brown Tree Snake:** *Jonathan Ho:* PQ Branch lost one of the handlers, Jana Miyata (?) now works for USDA. We are down to 3 handlers. Working to recruit another staff person so we can continue to utilize her detector dog. Maintaining trapping at Joint Base Pearl Harbor - Hickam on all BTS flights. Working on applying for a new BTS grant for FY18 or 19 for the detector dog program, which is due at the end of March. The grant will maintain the dog handler program, BTS inspections and trapping efforts, and rapid response training with USGS. There are 11 new inspectors that we would like to send for USGS rapid response training. We would like to send as many as possible, as there are spaces available in the next year or so. Will Leon Guerrero is working with the new coordinator to set up a training for stateside plant inspectors.
- b. **643PEST.org:** *Elizabeth Speith:* 643pest.org is an online pest reporting system available throughout the state. The system is up and running and we are currently accepting reports from the online form and apps for Android and iOS. We lost one of our facilitators, JC Watson, but Randy Bartlett will be training to facilitate reports.

6. Review of [Prevention WG FY18-19 Action Plan](#): *Jonathan Ho/HDOA PQB*

- a. **PrePol1.8- Submit petitions to HDOA to either add unlisted AIS organisms to list of prohibited species or change its placement.**
 - i. **High Risk Aquatic organisms:** Trenton is working with Brian Nelson on Nile tilapia. It will be placed on a list. When individual applicants submit applications, each application will go before the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals and the board and will have a public comment period. We are working with Brian and DAR on the list of restricted animals that they determined to be high risk, and then to list high risk species as either prohibited or restricted animals part A in order to restrict importation. This process requires a petition to have the board take action and to add to the list. Example: Asian carp is restricted list B. A commercial aquaculture company can apply for a permit to import this species currently and potentially import it. This species might need to be moved

from restricted list b, to restricted list a, list a high, or prohibited. Restricted list A is only for research and exhibition. Delisting a species is impossible. An organism on the list can be moved to different lists either up or down, but cannot be delisted. If a species is unlisted, it is considered prohibited until it is imported. It can be reviewed at this point. There is not a standardized assessment like the HPWRA. Risks are assessed based on review by technical advisors, the plant and animal committees, and finally the board. The risk is assessed based on documentation from the petitioner, which can introduce bias into the review process. If the applicant can bring in documentation that there is no to low risk, the importation can be conditionally approved.

1. *Christy Martin: There are tools that have been tested in HI for assessing risk for aquatic species. Does that fall anywhere in regulatory or is that a question for the plants and animals committee?*

a. *Jonathan: A tool could be required for regulatory assessment of risks looked at during the review process. I am not aware of another one being used from a regulatory standpoint. If you prohibit, the only way something is getting here is smuggling or unintentional movement.*

ii. **Mosquito Importation:** The importation of mosquitos is going to be very difficult. It likely would not be approved. Not only from a public standpoint, but from a research standpoint. This would be true for species that do not exist in HI already, as well as species that are already here. Just because it is here- why would you want to bring in more? From the scientific standpoint, the need to have a specific strain that is raised in the lab to do a specific study, would be helpful for research. Regardless of the need for research needs, the public would likely not agree. HDOA

wanted to bring in lab rats for rat lungworm research and there was a petition against the importation from the public due to welfare.

1. *Josh Fisher: So this would be based on the public sentiment? Not on regulatory or administrative restrictions? Unlike the Nile tilapia, this importation would be for control purposes, to address a problem.*
 - a. *Jonathan Ho: It wouldn't stop us from moving it through the process, if that is the need. That is just a hurdle. Culex could be added to the restricted list A, but it will be a battle.*
2. *Josh Fisher: Based on your comment on the lab rats, was that an individual or was that a group, and how much is that weighted in the decision making process. There will always be people that will be people in opposition. If there is evidence for the importation, how is the decision made?*
 - a. *Jonathan Ho: The review process is a bunch of people that are making a decision, and ultimately people are swayed by other people. How much weight it has is up to the individual voting member. For example, with dangerous wild animals we had lots of testimony. They ended up being prohibited, but the reasons for that decision may have been different than the regulatory precedent or evidence. The intent was to ban lions, tigers, and bears for public safety and to prohibit performances. The PQ branch is protecting the effect on the environment and public health and safety. That is our authority. All of the testimony for the ban were about animal welfare issues. PQ doesn't regulate animal welfare issues. However the*

board members decision was swayed by the testimony on the cruelty. That is the nature of the process.

3. *Josh Fisher: The process weighs public sentiment, so it may have hurdles.*

a. *Jonathan Ho:* Actual evidence that it will be effective and useful, regardless of the public sentiment it has a fair shot. Local collection would be almost immediate. We could do that almost immediately. Microorganisms that are unlisted have a quick review and if it is determined to be low risk, then we can administratively issue. Even if species are here, it would likely not have public approval for importation. From the scientific standpoint, importing a strain of a species that is already here would not be popular with the public. Public can petition against the importation. From a regulatory or administrative standpoint, there are no preventions from adding these species to one of the regulatory lists. For low risk microorganisms HDOA can administratively approve authorization for importation. It is around \$50. This could take around a month.

b. **PrePol3.1- Analysis of International and Federal Laws.**

i. *Jonathan Ho:* Catherine Stanaway (CGAPS legal fellow who started January 24) is working with Lance and Chris to finalize Myrtaceae, to clean up the rule, and do the public hearings. We are working with Dorothy Alontaga to figure out the federal aspects of creating this rule and concurrent implementation. There is more than just implementing a rule. There are steps and hurdles to comply and work with federal rules.

c. **PrePol3.2- Consultation with Florida and California**

- i. Jonathan Ho:* Ongoing. CDFA and HI share rejection notices. This allows both states to follow up. HDOA uses DOT port of call arrivals to know what vessels are coming. Private ships are neglected. They are supposed to fill out the Agriculture Declaration form, but there are not always inspectors/people there to get the form.

d. **PrePol3.3- Align Notifiable Disease List with Internationally and Nationally recognized lists**

- i. Jonathan Ho:* Dr. Wong in AI (HDOA Animal Industries) is reviewing the aquatic list. There are currently no aquatic organisms on the list (i.e. aquatic livestock diseases).

e. **PrePro1.1- Implement a comprehensive e-manifest.**

- i. Jonathan Ho:* PQ did a RFP for a new data collection system that would include a new e-manifest system last quarter of last year. There were 4 proposals. A vendor was selected. The funds are available and we are finalizing the contract with the AG office. Next month some time the work will begin. Pacific Point was chosen. E-manifest and E-permitting will be the first priority. Then the Pest hotline, interisland inspection, investigations, phytosanitary certificates, and dog handler modules will be in the second half, phase 2. Vendor has promised 49 weeks, HDOA is giving them 2 years. It should be done this time next year.

f. **PrePro1.2- Conduct Risk Analysis**

- i. Jonathan Ho:* We already talked about aquatics. Catherine is working with us to implement a list of restricted plants that would be regulated due to the plant itself, not just due to the pests it could vector. Plants we do not want in Hawaii could be included in this list, as well as species we do not want to be imported, like gorse or *Miconia*. There are not regulatory hurdles for importing new species. This new process would create a similar approach to the importation lists for animals. Conditionally approved, low risk, or high risk. We can not list all of the species in the

world, but we can have rules for plants that are bad and worse. The statutory authority is already there for us to change these rules “in house”. We just need to draft the rules. Catherine is working on this, based on the Myrtaceae experience. This process has been ongoing for a while, so they want to finish this process first and then move on to a larger restricted plant list process.

g. **PrePol1.5- MOUs**

- i. *Jonathan Ho:* Plant Quarantine Branch and CDFA already have a gentleman’s agreement to share rejection notices between the states. Everything rejected from HI is shared back, and everything rejected from California is shared with them.

h. **PrePro1.6- Annual policy review**

- i. *Jonathan Ho:* HDOA is reviewing everything.

i. **Prepro 2.1: Create working groups**

- i. *Jonathan Ho:* The Chairperson’s office is in progress for this for food and cut flower. This is mostly for specific industries. I can’t speak to livestock and biofuels.

- j. *Christy Martin: Can we go back to risk assessments and risk analysis. Does Sharon Hurd (HDOA Marketing) have access to the high risk commodities coming in and does she communicate that with the industries so we can target people to produce more?*

- i. *Jonathan Ho:* Sharon targets established markets and uses the data for importation to direct farmers to niche markets. This outreach is not directed towards risk, but more towards needs (shortage of carrots- grow more carrots).

- ii. *Christy Martin: There are outreach opportunities for encouraging farmers to grown produce that is a high risk import. This could be used as a marketing tool.*

- 1. *Jonathan Ho:* This makes sense. We could work on that.

2. *Christy Martin: Maybe even if it was communicated internally we could work on that outreach.*

k. **PrePro 3.2- MOA with DOD**

- i. *Jonathan Ho: Currently the MOAs in place with HDOA are specific to BTS and CRB. The focus is geo-specific to places with BTS. Joint Base PHH is creating their own biosecurity plan. Darcy Oishi (CRB Response) is working with them on this. Darcy Oishi is working on this and could speak to it better. Ongoing.*

l. **PrePro 3.3- State and Federal Agencies**

- i. *Jonathan Ho: We have been working with USFWS to work on folks bringing in fish and wildlife illegally, for species that are listed or are being smuggled. It has been an important tool for people that are serial violators. This collaboration has been important to stop this behaviour. This is conjunction with PQ working with the Attorney General's office to crack down, as well.*
 1. *Josh Fisher: Do you know what aquatic species this involved?*
 2. *Jonathan Ho: It was a bunch of unlisted pet trade fishes and animals. At that point they are considered prohibited. There was one mistake for aquaculture, barramundi, but that was caught. Some fish, but lots of live coral that is being imported via the mail via FedEx and UPS.*

m. **PreTifs 2.1- Hire 2 policy analyst**

- i. *Jonathan Ho: Not started. May be possible under a reorganization.*

n. **BorPol2.2- Admin Rules for Restricted plant list**

- i. *Jonathan Ho: Catherine is working with us on this one, as talked about previously.*

o. **BorPro1.1- Detector dogs inspections**

- i. *Jonathan Ho: Ongoing, minus 1 inspector. The dogs are cross-trained for Ag already, so they are not exclusively BTS. They can not do baggage*

because they are “active” dogs. They currently go to UPS and cargo facilities. HDOA is working on getting the dogs to the bags before they are released to the owner. USDA will be working with HDOA on the feasibility of having the dogs inspect baggage. They have found some undeclared plants shipped through UPS.

1. *Christy Martin: A press release about this program may help with deterring people from smuggling.*
2. *Jonathan Ho: A press release is in the works to let the public know about the inspector dog program, which will help with deterrence.*

p. **BorPro 1.2- Transitional facilities**

- i. *Jonathan Ho: We have the draft standards for the transitional facilities. Four current participants. With the implementation of e-manifest, we are looking to open it more. In progress/ongoing.*

q. **BorPro 1.3- Public-private partnership**

- i. *Jonathan Ho: HIRAC is already done. Ongoing.*

r. **BorPro 1.4- Meetings**

- i. *Jonathan Ho: Done.*

s. **BorPro 1.5- Annual Training State Inspectors**

- i. *Jonathan Ho: One of the big issues with the state audit was the lack of a training program. Lester and Ronnie are working on a formal training program for all of the new staff. There are 40 power points for each task and we are already testing them. Staff is being tested on comprehension. There will be a retraining program for all of the staff and periodic staff retraining. On the federal level, Matt Gu trains all of the inspectors for nematodes. We have \$100,000 of new microscopes for the state.*

t. **BorPro 1.6- Emerging pests:**

- i. *Christy Martin: This is about more formalized risk assessments for commodity and non commodity imports?*

1. *Jonathan Ho:* We are collecting the data and working on the data analysis aspect of that. The new e-manifest system will help with this. Non-regulated commodity imports will require a dedicated space in the harbor space to inspect the non-agricultural goods. Statutorily HDOA already can do this. HDOA needs a very defined protocol or list of criteria to be able to randomly inspect cargo, in order to make sure no individuals are “targeted”. Randomly selected containers could be inspected. This would generate data over time which could be used to predict which types of goods were high risk. A dedicated space at the port is needed for these inspections. Also an MOU for partnering to inspect hulls and ballast water inspections. Doubling of inspector staff and training would allow HDOA to look at hulls for AIS. Deputizing additional agency staff to inspect can be difficult legally. The inspectors could be the eyes on the boats, flagging the vessels for additional attention for DAR, animal inspections. HDOA already has the staff that are trained to look, then need to be trained what to look for.

ii. *Jules Kuo: DAR is interested in looking at hulls and ballast water. We are currently looking for money and statutory authority to inspect. Perhaps a MOU with HDOA would be a path to these inspections?*

1. *Jonathan Ho:* We don’t need a MOU. It’s just a matter of cross-training the staff to identify organisms on the side of the boat. The ability to conduct the inspection is difficult. It is a greater challenge to deputize inspectors from other agencies. We can help each other out and be your eyes & ears. We do that already with dogs on boats. We do not board boats right now, but when we get the staff this is feasible.

iii. *Christy Martin: We need additional funding to manage the external portions of the vessel. Would this be a new few? That would be tough.*

1. *Jules Kuo: California has a fee that goes towards their bio-fouling programs.*

u. **BorPol 1.7- Administer livestock disease detection monitoring program**

- i. *Jonathan Ho: They are getting ready to move them. OCCC is moving to Halawa, where the animal quarantine is currently. Animal quarantine will have to move. It may move near PQ. Animal quarantine is where the inspection training is based. Optimally the new building would be large enough for all agencies and cross-training.*

v. **BorPro 3.1- Multi agency biosecurity emergency response task force**

- i. *Jonathan Ho: There is a bill for the fund. This may be through HISC?*

1. *Randy Bartlett: Maybe if we get HISA up & running?*

- ii. *Jules Kuo: Did you get the big autoclave? In case we need to emergency respond to an emergency fouling.*

1. *Jonathan Ho: We did not get an autoclave for the mulch. Hawaii Biowaste is close by on Kahai St. They do all of the waste from vessels. They have an autoclave that is large enough for a car. We also freeze infested shipments, then take it to H-Power. H-Power will sometimes let the materials sit for awhile, which can be a problem. They didn't want mulch due to density.*

2. *Jules Kuo: There could be anti-fouling paint in it, which has copper and other restricted metals.*

w. **BorPro 3.2- Host post-incident workshops**

- i. *Jonathan Ho: They do this regularly. There was workshop was held for the tick that was wiping out *Bufo* toads on the Big Island. They only attack amphibians.*

7. Announcements/Public comments:

- a. **Next Meeting:** *FY18 Q4 TBD - Sometime in late May-early June after the end of the legislative session and before the HISC proposal funding process.*

8. Adjournment: 12:35p

WebEx Participation Instructions:

Topic: HISC Prevention Working Group Meeting

Date: Friday, February 23, 2018

Time: 11 AM, Hawaii Time (Honolulu, GMT-10:00)

[JOIN WEBEX MEETING](#) <==click the link

Meeting number: **748 061 892**

Meeting password: **H!\$cWG18**

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Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): 1-877-787-0206 (US)

Attendee access code: 499 006 3

For information, contact:

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Prevention Working Group Action Items Tracking			
Date Started	Action Item	Personnel	Date Completed
9/28/17	Invite Julie Kuo/DAR & Raquel Wong/HDOH to future PWG mtgs	Randy Bartlett	2/12/18

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