

Minutes of Meeting held Friday, January 27, 2017 @ 11:00am-12:15pm

In attendance:

Wil Okabe - Managing Director, Office of the Mayor  
Art Souza - West Hawaii Complex Area Superintendent  
Amy Stafford - Vice Principle (CISL) Kohala High School  
Donna Mitts - Kohala Center Program Coordinator  
Karen Eoff - Council member  
Jane Clement - Legislative Assistant to Council member Dru Kanuha  
Davelyn Barido- Legislative Assistant to Council member Maile David  
Susan Kim - Governor's Representative West Hawaii  
Nicole Lowen - House Representative (by speaker phone)  
Rob Curtis - HDOA  
Springer Kaye - Director BIISC  
Franny Brewer - Communications Director BIISC  
Dave Wiseman - Vice Chair  
Carolyn Dillon - Chair

The meeting began with introductions and brief attention called to the newly implemented Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan (HIBP). The Executive Summary is a 10-year framework for Invasive Species prevention and control state-wide. The link below is provided for your convenience in reviewing this important document. The "Post Border" section applies to LFA on the Big Island.

<http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/blog/main/biosecurityplan/>

An Identity & Brand Development professional has been engaged for our group to develop a logo and tagline that we can all use for email communications i.e. a letterhead and signature. The new official name for our group is "Little Fire Ant HUI" and the tagline is "Hawaii Unites against Invasives" a play on the acronym HUI. We will also adopt the State's existing slogan: "Spot the ant ~ Stop the ant"

The structure of the Little Fire Ant HUI is citizen-based volunteerism. No funding is necessary to operate or sustain this group. Each meeting will include the participation of HDOA, HDOH, Governor's Office Representative, House Representatives, County Council, BIISC and various community leaders as discussions require. We've conducted four meetings to date and all deem this model to be effective and efficient. Meetings have been set for the second Friday of each month at 10:30am-12:00pm at the West Hawaii Civic Center Council member's conference room. Each meeting will be led by a community citizen Chair or Vice Chair. The schedule for the remainder of the year is as follows:

Feb 10  
March 10  
April 14  
May 12  
June 9  
July 14  
Aug 11  
Sep 8  
Oct 13  
Nov 10  
Dec 8

Our Survey & Mapping initiative continues to move forward. The concept is for K-12 teachers to engage their students to test and map their homes for LFA using a modified Ho'ike curriculum. The students will then report their findings back to their schools. BIISC will collect the data and generate results to share approximately 30 days after collection.

Franny Brewer (BIISC) is currently making the flyers to give to Donna Mitt who will distribute to the Hawaii Island Student Garden Network(HISGN) and to Art Souza. Art Souza and Amy Stafford will reach out to three Principals and several teachers whom they believe will be interested in this initiative to help generate excitement for this project.

Currently two Teacher Workshops have been scheduled:

- Saturday, April 8, at Mala'ai; Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School
- Saturday, May 6, at Innovations PCS, Kailua Kona

The second program under development is the LFA Landscape Service Provider. We learned CTAHR is unable to house this program as staffing/funding is unavailable at this time. BIISC has applied for a grant and will staff the position. They requested that at our next meeting individuals from the Landscape and Arborist trades attend our HUI to help with further development.

To this end, representatives from the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii (LICH), Aloha Arborist Association and Hawaii Island Landscape Association (HILA) will all be attending.

In other business, we continue to pursue a permanent line item in the County Budget for Invasive Species (BIISC). Springer Kaye will be in contact with Glen Sako (R&D) on this important issue. The first draft of the budget is approximately April 1st.

We also reviewed Resolution #816 08. The link is provided below.

<http://records.co.hawaii.hi.us/WebLink/DocView.aspx?dbid=0&id=51805&page=1&cr=1>

It was noted that this Resolution passed unanimously in 2008 but those actions spelled out in the document did not occur. These include:

- Mapping of infestations
- Public education campaign
- Coordinate efforts to control LFA infestations
- Collaborate on information with farmers/agriculture
- Inspection of commercial landscape material
- Inspection of green waste mulch
- Seek State and Federal funds to educate & control
- Seek State and Federal funds for research
- Allocate funding in the Operating Budget

The Little Fire Ant HUI members acknowledge all of these as essential to adequately address the LFA crisis. Together, we are working diligently to accomplish these tasks as soon as possible. Time is of the essence...

