

## Minutes for February 10, 2017

### In Attendance:

Jane Clement	County Council
Derek Shigematsu	HDOA – Pesticide Branch
Rob Curtiss	HDOA – Entomologist
Ty McDonald	UH Extension agent
Susan Kim	Governor’s Rep West Hawaii
Ken Sugai	Hawaii Island Landscape Assoc (HILA)
Lauren Nudelman	Leg. Aide to Rep. Lowen (speaker phone)
Heather Forester	Hawaii Ant Lab (HAL)
Karen Eoff	County Council
Franny Brewer	B.I. Invasive Species Committee (BIISC)
Davelyn Barido	County Council
Nancy Redfeather	The Kohala Center
Paul Strauss	HDOH
Dave Wiseman	Vice Chair
Carolyn Dillon	Chair

### Announcements:

The next scheduled HUI has been changed to Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am-12:00pm. The change is due to the Hawaii Invasive Species Awareness Week (HISAW) awards ceremony in Honolulu where Chair Carolyn Dillon will travel to receive the 2017 MVP award for Hawaii County. She hopes this honor will help Little Fire Ant HUI raise awareness for the LFA crisis threatening our state.

Chair Carolyn Dillon has created a new email for all future communications: [littlefireanthui@gmail.com](mailto:littlefireanthui@gmail.com)

Minutes from the January 27, 2017 meeting did not include an important announcement made by Wil Okabe, Managing Director of the Mayor's Office, that "Little Fire Ants are a priority of the new administration."

Next on the agenda, Heather Forester shared a brief history of Hawaii Ant Lab (HAL):

HAL formed in late 2008 by HISC and HDOA to address the growing problem of invasive ants in Hawaii. Cas Vanderwoude was brought on in January 2009, based on his extensive LFA work throughout the Pacific. In 2010, LFA were detected in Kona simultaneously with funding running low in Hawai'i.

Additionally Heather outlined the following steps undertaken by the County since the 2008 Resolution:

- A committee was set up to work with County on the Resolution
- The County has been involved in solutions since 2009
- Funds contributed to R&D in 2009 & 2015
- Funds contributed to voucher program 2016/17
- Cas met with Mayor Kim who reiterated LFA is a priority

Next we discussed the Landscape/Arborist LFA Service Provider initiative. The Pest Control sector has been added to this initiative. Derek Shigematsu, in advance of our meeting, contacted all the licensed Pest Control Operators (PCO) on island to learn of their interest in participating in the training. More than half to date have stated they'd like to be involved. Derek has created a list.

Ty McDonald offered that CTAHR could provide outreach and education of the LFA problem, as well as promote this initiative through CTAHR. He also mentioned Master Gardener's have been educated on LFA and are currently undertaking monthly community outreach.

Ken Sugai and Ty McDonald confirmed that our Landscape LFA Service training could be piggybacked onto the HILA's annual Landscape Management Conference. This year's conference was cancelled so we will plan for 2018.

Currently, the Landscape LFA training program is being developed at BIISC. They have applied for a grant and expect to receive the funding. HAL has expressed interest in providing training as well.

Franny Brewer asked what aspects of training would be important to Landscape personnel. Ken Sugai emphasized that "hands-on" training would be an essential component of any training program. Ty shared that one barrier to training Landscape personnel would be resistance adopting this new service when landscapers are already busy or do not have the interest.

Even so, educating as many landscape and arborist personnel as possible will be important as they may unwittingly be transporting LFA from one location to another in the course of their work.

Rob Curtiss suggested that once the training program is developed the first trial should be tested on the Pest Control Operators as it is a very small group, therefore manageable. Everyone agreed with this idea.

Once the training program is fully developed and we are ready to scale, a media campaign was discussed. The County could purchase ad space in the newspaper. We would also reach out to the Landscape sector via email lists from Aloha Arborist, LICH and HILA. Another idea proposed was to post training notice at garden suppliers and other retail outlets. We decided we would refer to this training as a "Certification Program" and use the Little Fire Ant HUI logo as the organizing symbol.

Dave Wiseman suggested that Little Fire Ant HUI could issue a certificate that the training has been successfully taken and that we endorse the training but without further representations. A set of criteria could be decided upon and description of the curriculum created.

Carolyn Dillon asked if we couldn't also use the Landscape initiative to help us identify and map infestations more quickly. Ty McDonald explained that until that sector had received proper LFA education the reports might be inaccurate since the Red Ant also stings and could be misreported as LFA.

Comments were made that a better in-the-field method of LFA identification is needed since the current practice of delivering specimens to HAL & HDOA is time consuming.

A hyperlink has been provided by HAL that shows the microscope they currently use in the field:

[https://www.amazon.com/Carson-MicroBrite-60x-120x-Microscope-MM-300/dp/B00LAX52IQ/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1487032635&sr=8-1&keywords=mini+microscope](https://www.amazon.com/Carson-MicroBrite-60x-120x-Microscope-MM-300/dp/B00LAX52IQ/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1487032635&sr=8-1&keywords=mini+microscope)

Continuing with agenda item Survey & Mapping, Carolyn reported that the initiative continues to progress: Art Souza, West Hawaii Complex Superintendent, has sent emails to all of the Principals requesting names of teachers that would likely participate in this initiative. Amy Stafford has one teacher committed with more participants expected to follow.

Regarding a permanent line item in the County Budget for Invasive Species, Karen Eoff explained that this might be easier for R&D to accommodate. Karen offered to contact Diane Ley to inquire about this possibility. Jane Clement commented that if permanent funds were established at R&D, it might make sense in the future to move the Landscape LFA Service Provider training to this county division permanently.

Everyone agreed that management of LFA will be an ongoing reality without end on the Big Island. We foresee the Landscape LFA Service Provider sector as a necessity to address this actuality.

Paul Strauss brought up Facebook and everyone agreed that when a broad public outreach initiative is undertaken social media will be a necessary part of it.

Finally, the Governor's proclamation for September's "Spot the Ant, Stop the Ant Month" was mentioned. It was suggested that Little Fire Ant HUI might like to participate in this initiative.

In closing, just another reminder that our next Little Fire Ant HUI has been re-scheduled for Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Mahalos to everyone for your participation and support. Working together we are sure to make a difference.