

Minutes for March 17, 2017

In Attendance:

Paul Strauss	HDOH
Susan Kim	Governor's Rep West Hawaii
Ty McDonald	UH Extension agent
Franny Brewer	BIISC
Jade Miyashiro	BIISC
Davelyn Barido	County Council
Karen Eoff	County Council
Dave Wiseman	Vice Chair
Carolyn Dillon	Chair

Announcements:

The next regularly scheduled HUI has been changed to Friday, **April 21st, 10:30am-12:00pm** (due to Good Friday the week before).

The Hawaii Invasive Species Awareness Week (HISAW) awards ceremony on March 10th began with the Governor's proclamation stating that "Invasive species is one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's agriculture, environment, economy and way of life." Governor Ige also voiced his support of the Sustainable Hawaii Initiative and the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. Several legislators emphasized the seriousness of the task ahead to control invasive species and spoke of the need for "steady increasing amounts of funding" and that it is the legislators' responsibility to "provide funding even in the most difficult times." At this same event Rep. Nicole Lowen gave a shout out to Little Fire Ant HUI.

Following announcements, Franny Brewer gave an overview presentation of the Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC). She reported that since their community pilot program launch in May of 2016 they have met with 27 communities around the island totaling

over 1,000 attendees. To date, the neighborhoods that have contacted BIISC due to LFA infestations are as follows:

- Kona: Holualoa, Keauhou Bay Estates, Captain Cook
- Kohala: Kapa'au, Maliu Ridge
- Hilo: Kaumana Gardens, Komohana Kumiai, Waiakea, Homesites, Pana'ewa, Wainaku, Hilo Kumiai, Pi'ihonua
- Puna: HPP, Nanawale Estates, Leilani Estates, Kalapana Seaview, Black Sands, Hawaiian Shores/Beaches, Opihikao, Wa'awa'a, Koa'e, Orchidland, Ainaloa
- North Hilo/Hamakua: Umauma, Honomu, Laupahoehoe

BIISC has learned that the four greatest challenges for neighborhoods to effectively treat an area of LFA infestation are:

- Neighbors don't care
- Unsure of proper treatment protocol
- Vacant lots and absentee owners unresponsive
- Cost

Franny reiterated data from the March 2015 Ecological Economics study which found that LFA will cost the Big Island \$6 billion to agriculture, tourism, and other industries over the next 35 years if left unchecked.

BIISC will be ready to begin their landscape training programs in June. Ty McDonald suggested Jade Miyashiro (BIISC) attend a HILA Board meeting to present their training program to them.

Hawaii Ant Lab (HAL) was unable to attend in person but has previously stated that they would like to assume training of the Pest Control Providers, as well as participate in training of landscapers. Their launch date for these training programs – to be announced.

In further refinement of the landscape initiative, Little Fire Ant HUI has determined it will not use its brand or logo to promote or endorse the training programs. The role of the HUI will be solely to advocate for both BIISC and HAL who will undertake the training.

We will coordinate announcements about the training using the various avenues available to us i.e. partners' boards, committees, and associations and their websites, Facebook, news outlets etc.

Karen Eoff updated us on the continued quest to gain a permanent line item in the County budget for Invasive Species. She contacted Diane Ley of R&D asking her to consider a more permanent source, though it was indicated that funding with grant dollars might be all they can do right now.

Karen also reported that a Big Island Delegation attended the National Association of Counties Conference in Washington DC last month. Dru Kanuha has been nominated to the NACo Ag Committee as representative for the state of Hawaii. Additionally, Council members from all four counties coordinated their Capitol Hill visits to Senators Hirono and Schatz, and Congresswomen Hanabusa and Gabbard to deliver their message that "invasive species was the number one priority" for the Big Island.

It was decided our next HUI outreach will include industry leaders for the resort, real estate, and property management sectors to convene on Friday, April 21st @ 10:30am-12:00pm at the Civic Center council members' conference room.

The HUI envisions beginning a public awareness campaign later this year. In order to manage this important initiative more citizen volunteers will be needed. Please thoughtfully consider and forward any prospects to Carolyn Dillon at: littlefireanthui@gmail.com

Mahalo to everyone for your kokua. Together we will make a difference!

