

STATE OF HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

June 13, 2014

Chairperson and Members  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Land Board Members:

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CHAIRPERSON TO SIGN, EXECUTE, AND AMEND A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING THE FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INVASIVE SPECIES MONITORING PROGRAM AT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

**SCOPE:** STATEWIDE

**STATUTE:** HAWAI'I REVISED STATUTES CHAPTER 194

SUMMARY

The Division of Forestry and Wildlife ("Division") requests Board of Land and Natural Resources ("Board") approval for the Chairperson to sign, execute, and amend a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the Department of Transportation (DOT). The DLNR and DOT are members of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) established by Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) 194, which is administratively hosted by DLNR within the Division. This MOU would establish that the DOT would provide funding to the DLNR, as administrative host of the HISC, to implement an interagency invasive species monitoring plan at DOT facilities that serve as points of entry into the State.

BACKGROUND

HRS 194 establishes the HISC for cabinet-level direction and coordination on invasive species issues. HRS 194 designates as member agencies the DLNR, DOT, Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEBT), and the University of Hawaii (UH). This statute places the HISC within the DLNR for administrative purposes.

Airports in the State of Hawaii comprise one of the major pathways of entry into the State for invasive species. Monitoring for invasive species at airports include some agricultural inspections of baggage and cargo, and some minimal monitoring for mosquitoes as vectors of human disease. Mosquito monitoring was a core function of the DOH Vector Control Branch until the branch was dissolved under the Lingle administration. A small number of staff (approximately one Vector Control Worker per island) remain at DOH, but have been placed under the Sanitation Program. The lack of an adequate mosquito monitoring program leaves Hawaii's population at increased risk for the introduction of mosquito-borne illnesses including dengue fever, yellow fever, and malaria.

While baggage and cargo may be inspected, airport facilities themselves can function as pathways for the movement of invasive pests. Invasive species arriving in airplanes or in cargo may establish in and around airports first. For example, the current infestation of coconut rhinoceros beetle on O'ahu is concentrated near airport facilities, and the detection of an ornate tree snake at Hickham Air Force Base in 2013 likely followed the accidental transport of the snake by aircraft. Invasive species that have become established at or near airports increase the risk of pests leaving one area and introducing another. On Hawaii Island, the Hilo airport has been infested with both coqui frog and little fire ant, greatly increasing the risk that these species could be transported to other islands.

As no State program is currently in place to monitor airport facilities for priority pest species, members of the HISC are collaborating on an interagency monitoring program for points-of-entry and points-of-exit known as Māmalu Poepoe. This program would be administered by the HISC at DLNR, and would integrate DOT, DOH, HDOA, and UH staff in establishing a statewide monitoring effort for four priority pests of interagency concern:

- Mosquitoes (including *Aedes sp.*, *Culex sp.*, *Anopheles sp.*)
- Ants (including *Solenopsis invicta* and *Wasmannia auropunctata*)
- Coconut rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*)
- Africanized honeybee (*Apis mellifera scutellata*)

The DOT has tentatively committed to fund this program at approximately \$300,000 per year. HISC support staff, including the DOFAW Invasive Species Coordinator, would administer these funds and facilitate the hiring of a program coordinator through UH. Funds would also support partial FTE for monitoring staff from existing UH-DLNR collaborations including the island-based Invasive Species Committees (ISCs). Under the direction of the program coordinator, ISC staff would join DOH and HDOA staff in accessing DOT facilities to implement regular monitoring for pest targets. Other uses for these funds would include response planning, monitoring equipment, a baseline survey for ant species at airports, and data analysis.

## DISCUSSION

The draft MOU between the DLNR and DOT is similar in language and purpose to an existing MOU between these departments regarding the provision of funds from DOT to DLNR for the translocation of nene (*Branta sandvichensis*). The MOU will stipulate the schedule of funding transfers as well as the purpose for which funds may be expended. The receipt of funds by the DLNR may require the creation of a trust fund, similar to the trust fund created to support the

translocation of nene.

The draft MOU is attached to this submittal and has been reviewed by Mr. Ford Fuchigami, Interim Director for the Department of Transportation.

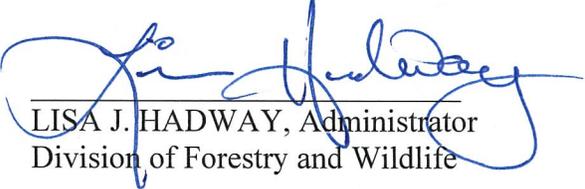
#### LEGAL AUTHORITY

- HRS 194; Related to the function and administration of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board authorizes the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to sign, execute, and amend a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation regarding the funding and implementation of an invasive species monitoring program at department of transportation facilities, substantially in the same form as the draft MOU attached to this submittal.

Respectfully submitted,



LISA J. HADWAY, Administrator  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



WILLIAM J. AILA, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Attachment 1: Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation regarding the funding and implementation of an invasive species monitoring program at department of transportation facilities.

## AGREEMENT

This Agreement, entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013 by and between the State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation (hereinafter "DOT"), and the State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources (hereinafter "DLNR").

### WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, airports within the State of Hawaii comprise a primary point of entry into the State and into individual islands of the State for traveling residents, visitors, and commodities, and

WHEREAS, the accidental introduction of nonnative pest species, including pests that threaten human health or local agricultural resources, into airport facilities poses a risk to travellers, airport facilities and their surrounding environs, and

WHEREAS, an enhanced monitoring system for such species would facilitate early detection and control of pests at airports, and

WHEREAS, Chapter 194, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), establishes the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), for the special purpose of providing policy level direction, coordination, and planning among state departments for the control and eradication of harmful invasive species infestations throughout the State and for preventing the introduction of other invasive species that may be potentially harmful, and

WHEREAS, Chapter 194, HRS, identifies as members of the HISC the Departments of Transportation (DOT), Health (DOH), Agriculture (HDOA), Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Businesses, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), and the University of Hawaii (UH), and

WHEREAS, Chapter 194, HRS, places the HISC within the DLNR, for administrative purposes only, and

WHEREAS, the DOT, DOH, HDOA, UH, and DLNR are cooperating to develop and implement a plan to enhance pest monitoring at airports across the State of Hawaii,

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants hereinafter set forth, the agencies agree as follows:

Prior to the execution of this agreement, HISC staff shall submit to the DOT an estimated budget for the first year operating costs to implement an interagency monitoring plan (hereinafter "plan"). This plan shall utilize existing staff and resources at the DOH and HDOA while identifying and ameliorating gaps in capacity and resources required for enhanced monitoring of a list of pests agreed upon by the cooperating agencies.

The DLNR, as administrative host of the interagency HISC, agrees to implement the plan and will furnish personnel required to coordinate necessary functions, in cooperation with staff from cooperating agencies, including the DOT, DOH, and HDOA.

Upon execution of this agreement by the agencies, the DOT agrees to transfer one quarter of the funds identified in the budget for the fiscal year of operations to the DLNR. Prior to the start of each subsequent quarter of the fiscal year, the DOT agrees to transfer funds identified in the budget to the DLNR for operations in each respective quarter of the fiscal year.

Prior to the start of each fiscal year, the agencies may, by mutual agreement, modify the budget for any or all of the subsequent fiscal years.

The DLNR, as administrative host of the interagency HISC, agrees to provide DOT with an account of expenditures within 45 days of the close of each fiscal year. Any budget funds not used in a fiscal year may be transferred for use in subsequent years. Any funds not used at the close of operations on April 14, 2019 shall be transferred to DOT within 45 days.

The DLNR, as administrative host of the interagency HISC, will insure that all records, contracts and data necessary to substantiate actual costs shall be available for audit as deemed appropriate, and in accordance with current practices and standards. The DLNR shall keep all records for each fiscal year for a period of 6 years.

The DLNR, as administrative host of the interagency HISC, agrees to furnish to the DOT an annual report of the results of the operations at the end of each fiscal year. The agencies shall review the reports annually to determine whether the operations are meeting the plan's goals and establish any changes to the plan by mutual agreement and employment of principles of adaptive management.

The DLNR, as administrative host of the interagency HISC, agrees to perform the work as specified herein commencing on the execution of this agreement by the agencies. The Agreement shall be subject to the availability of funds, all in strict accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement. This Agreement may be terminated by either agency at any time, upon no less than one hundred eighty (180) calendar days' prior written notice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed as of the day and year first above written.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

By \_\_\_\_\_  
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
Chairperson, Department of Land and Natural Resources

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

By \_\_\_\_\_  
FORD FUCHIGAMI  
Acting Director, Department of Transportation