

D R A F T
Emergency Environmental Workforce
Action Plan for West Hawaii

Who: Fifty to 100 laid-off hotel workers.

What: Invasive species & mosquito control.

When: For 3 months, beginning sometime in November.

Where: Staging at Old Kona Airport. Work at various sites throughout West Hawaii.

How: Projects, Transportation, Equipment, Training & Supervision, and Identification (see below).

I. Projects

A) Isolate the spread of dengue fever

1. Canvass neighborhoods where dengue cases have been confirmed, hand out brochures (improve the DOH brochure), make contacts
2. Identify areas where water-containing junk poses a threat
3. Organize collection, hauling and disposal of water-containing junk
4. Workers will have to protect themselves from mosquitoes

B) Eradicate invasive plants

1. Solicit suggestions from BIISC members.
 - a. Identify projects that can use large groups of workers.
 - b. Ideally these are on-going projects and not new start-ups.
 - c. Nice if work doesn't involve equipment, pesticides or dangerous tools.
2. Some initial suggestions:
 - a. Manuka, Puuhuluhulu (DOFAW) German ivy?
 - b. Puuwaawaa (Dryland Forest Working Group) Fountain grass/silk oak?
 - c. South Kona (NRCS) *Clidemia*?

- d. Hookena (BIISC) *Jasminum flumanense*?
 - e. Puako (BIISC) Rubber vine?
 - f. Wood Valley (DLNR) *Bocconia*?
 - g. Waimea (Fireweed Working Group) Fireweed?
 - h. Honaunau (BIISC) Cat's claw creeper?
 - i. Honaunau, Kaloko, Kawaihae (NPS) on-going projects?
3. Next BIISC meeting in early November (Duane Nelson will announce) – try to have the details worked out prior to meeting!

C) Reduce coqui frog populations

1. There are 50 hotline calls about coqui frogs in West Hawaii that need follow-up, mainly on private land (also consider Kohala resorts that have frogs?)
2. Make press announcements and hold community meetings
3. Identify sites that have few frogs, highest priority is adjacent to mauka forest
4. Work after sundown with flashlights to hand capture frogs
5. Work can be done during the day in greenhouses and nurseries

D) Longer term projects

1. Think about a few small projects where one or two people might be assigned to them. We may have some really good people. Mosquito surveys or fire ant surveys might fit. We are seeing if we can't stretch a few of the positions so they are more than three months, by stringing them together for the same individuals.

II. Transportation

A) Parking/Staging – identify an appropriate place to stage a workforce of 50-100 people. Suggestions: Old Kona Airport, Yano Hall?

B) Busses – see if one of the tour companies can give us a good deal on the use of a bus & driver for 3 months to transport the workers. School busses? Busses will only work out if worksites are accessible and if very large groups are going to the same place.

C) Vans – rent from local companies, borrow from someone? Will need if the group splits up into smaller teams going to different sites. Better accessibility to mauka sites.

D) Trucks – rent from local companies, borrow from cooperators. Will need flatbeds for hauling old water-containing junk to the dump (tires, buckets, flower pots, etc.).

III. Equipment

A) Work clothes – workers will need to wear long pants, shirts, long-sleeved shirts, boots, rain gear (?), hats and sunglasses. How much of this are we willing to provide?

B) Tools – no machetes. Need depends upon the projects. Frogs: flashlights, headlamps, disposable gloves. Plants: hand tools.

C) Protective gear – leather gloves, PPE if using pesticides, etc.

D) Pesticides & applicators – depends upon the projects

IV. Training & Supervision

A) BIISC intends to hire one Rapid Response Team Leader along with a crew of up to four Field Workers (with supervisory capacity) for West Hawaii operations. Identify a group of supervisors from the pool of workers who could be responsible for groups of 8-10 people each and paid a bit more. Hire them a week early and give them an extra layer of training.

B) Additional supervisors may be available from agencies on whose land we work.

C) Safety will be the number one priority.

1. The jobs might be hazardous, depending on the workers' abilities.
2. PCSU should organize basic training plan that covers safety in the field and personnel issues.
3. The workers will be given instructions on how to accomplish the jobs safely.
4. Supervisors will be responsible for the safety of the workers.

- D) Ensure that the workers are being effective at their jobs.
1. Bi-monthly review and assessment reports will be required.

V. Identification

RCUH needs to issue identification cards to all individuals to reduce the opportunity for imposters to pose as workers.

Issuing everyone brightly colored t-shirts with a BIISC logo would help, but might be cost prohibitive. Still, it wouldn't hurt to go ahead and develop a BIISC logo design as soon as possible.