

DRAFT

Operating Principles for the Big Island Invasive Species Committee

Revised 5/7/99

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC) is a voluntary partnership of private, government and non-profit organizations and individuals united to prevent new invasive pest infestations on the island of Hawaii and to stop newly established pests from spreading. Though the primary focus is prevention and control of incipient pest infestations, BIISC will support appropriate continuing efforts to control, contain or eradicate established pests (e.g. gorse). The group is concerned with all non-native invasive pests threatening agriculture, native ecosystems, industry, human health or the quality of life within Hawaii County.

BIISC strives for effective pest prevention and control through communication, coordinated planning and organizational support when existing capabilities are found to be insufficient. In this way, BIISC serves to coordinate, advise and assist organizations seeking to prioritize and implement effective pest control and prevention measures. BIISC measures success in terms of pest infestations prevented, contained or eradicated.

BIISC strives to avoid the creation of new bureaucratic processes and structures. Whenever possible BIISC will work with existing organizations and agencies to achieve goals. However, when organizational, financial, or other barriers prevent timely and appropriate response to imminent threat (e.g *Miconia calvescens* in the mid-90's) BIISC may take direct action to build local capacity to attack the problem.

BIISC fulfills this purpose through four specific functions:

1. Providing an island-wide forum for discussion of alien species issues. BIISC will work with state and local officials to identify priority pests for prevention, early detection, eradication or containment; and develop management strategies and implementation plans with measurable objectives.
2. Coordination of specific eradication or containment projects through existing agencies and authorities whenever possible. When needed, BIISC will facilitate, organize and administer new programs to increase local capacity to attack pest problems.
3. Formation of ad hoc task groups or hosting workshops or meetings, as needed, to address new or continuing invasive threats.
4. Fostering public awareness of invasive non-native species (incipient and established) through education, outreach, volunteerism, and collaborative efforts. BIISC will provide quality, science based information to the general public (emphasizing school children and teachers), elected officials, media, community leaders, agency representatives and other members of the island community.

BIISC will work with the Coordinating Group for Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) to coordinate local efforts within a statewide framework to help efficiently allocate resources for pest control programs. Coordination will be based on clear and open communication with all branches and agencies of local, state and federal governments.

Membership:

BIISC encourages the participation of any individual or organization interested in protecting our island from the continuing onslaught of known and suspected damaging invasive non-native species. We seek to involve a wide ranging membership that includes, but is not limited to, agricultural and landscape professionals and practitioners, land and resource managers, Chambers of Commerce, agricultural commodity groups, Hawaii Visitors Bureau, Hawaii Farm Bureau, Cattleman's Association, businesses and trade groups. Through a diverse membership we strive to facilitate well reasoned decisions on target priorities and to achieve broad-based support for BIISC goals, objects and programs.

Conduct of Business:

BIISC will only adopt as much formal structure as is needed to effectively conduct business. Consensus based decisions are desired, but may not always be feasible. As BIISC develops and matures, more formalized structure may be needed to facilitate adequate representation and voice of diverse views representing all areas of the Big Island.

Continuing Challenges:

BIISC recognizes several key challenges and will strive to adapt the organization to accommodate the need to:

- Maintain a diverse membership.
- Involve all geographic areas of the island.
- Allow a voice to all members while maintaining a structure that is action oriented.
- Provide for ready access to meetings and information from all island locations.
- Utilize electronic communications (internet, e-mail, etc) for rapid information exchange and easy participation from all areas of the island.
- Utilize integrated pest management principles (IPM) for control efforts with a strong voice in bio-control priorities and application.