

**DRAFT Minutes of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals  
November 17, 2023, Meeting**  
Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Darcy Oishi called the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals (Committee) to order on Friday, November 17, 2023, at 1:30 PM via Zoom Meeting. He introduced himself and provided information to the public on connectivity, Zoom, and call-in instructions.

Members Virtually Present:

Darcy Oishi, Committee Chairperson, HDOA  
Pamela Mizuno, Director of Panaewa Zoo, County of Hawaii, Retired  
Robert Hauff, State Protection Forester, Division of Forestry & Wildlife,  
Hawaii Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR), Ex Officio  
Member Designated Representative  
Thomas Eisen, Planner, Office of Planning & Sustainable Development  
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, Ex Officio  
Member Designated Representative  
Gracelda Simmons, Environmental Management Program Manager, Hawaii  
Department of Health, Ex Officio Member Designated Representative  
Joshua Fisher, (Invasive Species Biologist, U. S. Fish and Wildlife)  
Dr. Samuel Ohu Gon III, Senior Scientist and Cultural Advisor, The Nature  
Conversancy – Hawaii

Members Absent:

Dr. Maria Haws, Professor of Aquaculture, Pacific Aquaculture & Coastal  
Research Center, University of Hawaii at Hilo

Others Present<sup>1</sup>:

Christopher Kishimoto, Entomologist, PQB, HDOA  
Kevin Salvador, IT Specialist, HDOA  
Deborah Safarik, Secretary, PQB, HDOA  
Kacie Yamamoto, Honolulu Star Advertiser  
Kimeona Kane, Waimanalo Neighborhood Board  
Wayne Tanaka, Sierra Club of Hawaii  
Nate Dube, Oahu Invasive Species Committee  
Allen Allison Ph.D., Bishop Museum  
Steven Montgomery, Hawaii Beekeepers Association

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<sup>1</sup> The identification of the public members is based on their sign-in name but are not verified.

Others Virtually Present:

Jonathan Ho, Acting PQB Manager, Acting  
Rodney Young, DLNR  
Dr. Micah Brodsky, Division of Animal Industry, HDOA  
Travis Moon, Deputy Attorney General  
Tara Rojas  
Andre Perez, Koihonua  
Dave Mulinix, Green Peace Hawaii  
Michelle Montgomery, Research Manager, Hawaii Ant Lab  
Christy Martin, Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS)  
Dr. Heather Kihara

II. INTRODUCTION AND COMMENTS

Chairperson Darcy Oishi introduced himself and asked the Committee members to briefly introduce themselves. For those in attendance virtually, he asked that they indicate if anyone is in the room with them. Robert Hauff, Thomas Eisen, Pam Mizuno, Gracelda Simmons, Joshua Fisher, and Sam Gon introduced themselves. All indicated they were alone.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 2, 2023 MEETING

Chairperson Oishi deferred the approval the October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, because they were not presented to the Committee for review.

IV. REQUESTS TO BE REVIEWED BY COMMITTEE

1. Request to: (1) Preliminarily Review the Currently Unlisted Wasp, *Aprostocetus nitens* (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae), for Future Placement on the List of Restricted Animals (Part A) as a Biocontrol Agent of *Quadrastichus erythrinae* (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae), by the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, Plant Pest Control Branch (HDOA-PPC); (2) Provided the Wasp, *Aprostocetus nitens*, is Placed on the List of Restricted Animals (Part A), Allow the Import and Field Release from the HDOA-PPC Insect Containment Facility [Laboratory Quarantine] of the Wasp, *Aprostocetus nitens*, by Permit, for Biocontrol of *Quadrastichus erythrinae* by HDOA-PPC; and (3) Provided the Wasp, *Aprostocetus nitens*, is Placed on the List of Restricted Animals (Part A), Establish Permit Conditions for the Import and Field Release of the Wasp *Aprostocetus nitens* as a Biocontrol Agent of *Quadrastichus erythrinae* by HDOA-PPC.

Prior to the start of this request, Committee Chairperson Darcy Oishi noted that he was the applicant for this request, therefore would be abdicating the role of Committee

Chairperson for this request. He said that Committee Member Rob Hauff would be serving as the Committee Chairperson until the vote is completed for this request.

PQB Entomologist Christopher Kishimoto provided a synopsis of the request.

Committee member Joshua Fisher asked once the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) with an Anticipated Finding of No Significant Impact was first published in 2019, why it took 2-3 years to publish the Final EA with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The applicant, Mr. Darcy Oishi, replied that he needed to get some additional paperwork in order and also needed to start work on the federal EA process. The two processes go hand in hand and a federal permit will not be issued until a state permit has been issued first. Mr. Oishi also said that there was a change in the federal permit application process and system he had to learn it.

Committee member Thomas Eisen asked Mr. Oishi what the timeline was before the *Aprostocetus nitens* would be released for biocontrol. Mr. Oishi said the timeline for field release of *A. nitens* was dependent on two things: (1) the completion of the public hearings that are necessary to get *A. nitens* placed on PQB's List of Restricted Animals, Part A; and (2) the issuance of the federal permit which requires a federal EA and FONSI.

Committee Chairperson Rob Hauff asked Mr. Kishimoto about permit condition nos. 7 through 11 and possibly permit condition no. 12. Those permit conditions address imports but the *A. nitens* that will be released only needed to be carried from HDOA's quarantine facility to its insectary facility next door. Mr. Kishimoto told Mr. Hauff he was correct and PQB decided to include imports of *A. nitens* into the permit conditions in the event more insects needed to be imported.

Committee Chairperson Hauff asked if the Committee had any more questions for Mr. Kishimoto or Mr. Oishi. Hearing none, he asked if there was any testimony from the public.

Hearing no public testimony requests, Chairperson Hauff asked for a motion to recommend approval. Committee member Sam Gon moved to recommend approval as presented. Committee member Gracelda Simmons seconded the motion.

Chairperson Hauff asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he asked each Committee member for their recommendation.

Vote: Approved 6/0 (Hauff, Simmons, Eisen, Mizuno, Gon, and Fisher)

Chairperson Hauff returned the Committee Chairperson duties to Mr. Oishi before the start of the next request.

2. Request to: (1) Allow the Importation of Peacock Bass, *Cichla ocellaris*, a Fish on the List of Conditionally Approved Animals, by Permit, for Public Fishery Restocking, by the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources; and (2) Establish Permit Conditions for the Importation of Peacock Bass, *Cichla ocellaris*, a Fish on the List of Conditionally Approved Animals, by Permit, for Public Fishery Restocking, by the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Mr. Kishimoto presented a synopsis of the request.

Chairperson Oishi asked if there were any questions from the Committee. Committee Member Thomas Eisen asked if an exemption from the requirement for an Environmental Assessment (EA) is still a pending matter. Mr. Kishimoto said it is still a pending matter. Chairperson Oishi asked if pursuing the EA, will the request have to come back to the Committee for the declaration of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Mr. Kishimoto stated it would not, as long that it's done prior to the Board of Agriculture meeting. Mr. Eisen added that since DLNR is the proposing agency, it's their authority and jurisdiction to issue the FONSI or an exemption on any determinations related to the environmental review process. Mr. Kishimoto answered in the affirmative.

Chair Oishi asked conditions 2,17, and 18 require a report on the progeny of the imported fish when they are already conditionally approved, are to be propagated, and the progeny are to be released? He asked if this would require tagging and or sport fisherman to report to DLNR. Mr. Kishimoto said this was not the intent of those conditions. Mr. Oishi asked how the progeny would be distinguished from existing fish already within Lake Wilson. Mr. Kishimoto said the fish cannot be distinguished from existing fish. Chair Oishi asked the applicant, Mr. Rodney Young, DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) if he had any comments on the permit conditions. Mr. Young introduced himself and stated that at the time of submitting this request, there were no plans to do tagging, but if required to do so it will be incorporated within the plans of the project.

Chair Oishi asked if DLNR is aware of the molecular testing and treatments prior to the shipment that are currently proposed in the permit conditions? Mr. Young answered that he was not aware of those requirements. Committee Member Rob Hauff added that the new permit conditions were inserted, especially regarding PCR testing, and asked if that is reasonably feasible and still do the project, or is there another way to ensure that they are disease free? Mr. Young answered that these conditions were added just a week ago and they have not had time to determine actual feasibility. However, he agreed that these are responsible ways of dealing with an imported fish that comes from an unknown source and would still have to work out the feasibility.

Chair Oishi noted that because these are conditionally approved fish, DLNR could theoretically go to an aquarium shop and purchase these fish. Mr. Kishimoto said that could occur. Chair Oishi added that there are existing permit conditions for fish imported under the pet trade. Mr. Kishimoto said these permit conditions are more

restrictive because the intent is to release these into large bodies of water, whereas the intent for live fish for pets is not for release. Mr. Oishi asked if there is anything barring individuals from purchasing 12 individual fish, rearing them, and generating progeny then releasing them into the wild? Per Mr. Kishimoto, no, there is nothing to stop them. Mr. Hauff stated that we are cognizant of mitigating the risk of introducing diseases, but it is a matter of finding the balance of permit conditions that can realistically do that.

Mr. Jonathan Ho, acting Plant Quarantine Branch Manager, said Condition 2 is a standard permit condition and is generally designed for non-release situations. He said once they are released into the environment, a tagging requirement is unreasonable from the standpoint of managing disease risk. Mr. Ho noted that the permit conditions for import of tropical fish for the pet trade, have a “do not release” component built into them. He said that if there are diseases or other parasites, once they are put into the environment, you are not getting them back, so you want to prevent that. He also noted that these provisions were provided by the Division of Animal Industry Veterinarian, Dr. Micah Brodsky.

Mr. Ho suggested Dr. Brodsky to speak on this subject as he is an aquatic veterinarian and on the Advisory Subcommittee. Chair Oishi asked Dr. Brodsky to introduce himself. Dr. Brodsky explained the conditions he proposed were a way to prevent the introduction of diseases to protect the species already present in the proposed release area, and to protect the indigenous fin fish such as the O’opu. He said he would be happy to work with DAR to identify appropriate laboratories and lay out the protocols and methodology for doing quarantine on both ends. He said when many of the species were placed on the conditionally approved list, many of these diseases referenced in the permit conditions had not been discovered. He said PCR was not a commonly used method for disease screening at that time and a lot of diseases present in South Florida and Central America had not yet been discovered in the wild. He said that he reached out to colleagues at the University of Florida and Wildlife Conservation Commission for additional information and expertise in the place where this species is endemic.

Chair Oishi asked if the diseases listed for PCR analysis are present in Hawaii. Dr. Brodsky noted that none are in the State of Hawaii. He said some of the diseases have been identified the United States, Central & South America, Asia, and Australia. He noted said some of the diseases have not been specifically identified in Peacock Bass, but in the family of fishes that are close relatives. Dr. Brodsky said PCR tests are commercially available and can be done at the University of Florida or UC Davis, and there’s a handful of private commercial laboratories available to test. He said he would be happy to work with DAR to facilitate identifying laboratories with appropriate expertise. Chair Oishi asked if there were any questions or comments from the Committee for Dr. Brodsky.

Hearing none, the Chair asked if there were testimonies from the public.

Mr. Kimeona Kane testified in person and said he was against this proposal because freshwater systems are impacted heavily by aquarium trade fish that have been

introduced. He said that although the proposed release site is an artificial body of water, it still connects to other bodies of water and there are no safeguards that will protect the ecosystem surrounding this artificial lake. Mr. Kane also had concerns about the archaic systems for the importation of fish in the aquarium trade that need to be reevaluated. He said that fish similar to this have been shown to eat o'opu. He said this has nothing to do with ecosystem rehabilitation and is only for recreation and that why he is against the proposal. He said that the Committee should be raising awareness of the realities of the ecosystems and that additional research needs to be done to fully understand the impacts.

Dr. Gon asked Mr. Kane if research has been done on the impacts of this fish in Hawaii? Mr. Kane said he was not a researcher, but a volunteer and said his reference was not specifically on this fish but has worked with researchers working in the Palolo Stream and Manoa Stream which showed predation on o'opu by other non-native species. Dr. Gon stated it does make him wonder whether there has been a study of both the distribution of this fish in existing freshwater bodies and its impact on freshwater ecosystems.

Ms. Tara Rojas testified virtually and said she agrees with the previous testifier. She used an example of an introduced aquarium Octocoral that now infests Pearl Harbor to illustrate how this fish could also spread. She said the Navy is now trying to eradicate the spread of this octocoral towards Kapilina and Ewa Beach area. She was worried that other ventures across the state are beginning to move and this could possibly be pandora's box allowing everyone to come over. Ms. Rojas said the permitting of these species should be stopped, especially since they are unnecessary with the dangers they may pose.

Dr. Heather Kihara, DVM, a veterinarian with Hawaii Vet Med as well as Conservation Dogs of Hawaii, testified virtually and asked if there were already these species of fish in the lake? Chair Oishi answered in the affirmative. Dr. Kihara asked for clarification, we are not introducing a new species, correct? Chair Oishi, said yes, correct.

Committee member Fisher asked Mr. Young if these species are established in certain reservoirs on Kauai and Oahu and if it expanding beyond where recreational fishing is occurring? Mr. Young answered those are locations that have been recognized as where it exists, noting they are more specific to lakes and ponds rather than high flowing streams.

Dr. Gon asked if this permit is to restock due to population levels dropping? Mr. Young stated that it is partly that and partly to add genetic diversity.

Dr. Gon asked Mr. Young if there have been studies on potential impacts on native fish or other native product species. Mr. Young stated that he did not have any additional information that he could add.

Chair Oishi asked if there have been any other game fish which have recently had their permit conditions updated. Mr. Kishimoto said a request for Northern Large Mouth Bass be approved by the Board of Agriculture for initial studies as to what impacts they would have if they were released into the reservoir. Chair Oishi if the Largemouth Bass had restrictive conditions too. Per Christopher Kishimoto, no, the Peacock Bass is more restrictive than the previous permit conditions that were passed for a Northern Large Mouth Bass.

Jonathan Ho added a clarifying comment to the prior testimony regarding Octocoral and noted a private individual cannot import any type of coral species into the State. He said the Octocoral are a problem, however importation was likely through the illicit pet trade and was not allowed by the department. He said any importation of that type of species in the pet trade would be confiscated.

Mr. Ho also added, other than the Northern Largemouth Bass species placement and conditions, he was only aware of one other request for importation of game fish release of Rainbow Trout, approximately 5 to 7 years ago, possibly in 2016 or 2017 when it was completed. He said the conditions for Peacock Bass are more stringent in terms of specificity of disease sampling and testing. He said the Northern Largemouth Bass conditions as set by board are somewhat finalized, however there is flexibility to amend the proposed conditions to manage disease screening, quarantine measures in condition number 25. He reiterated what Dr. Brodsky said, that a lot of these diseases were not previously known to science. He said that once conditions are established, a permit can be administratively issued. Mr. Ho said because disease testing is in Dr. Brodsky's wheelhouse, a condition could be created that requires compliance with requirements through chapter 4-20, Hawaii Administrative Rules, for pre- and post-entry disease quarantine requirements, and that would allow Dr. Brodsky to work with DLNR DAR, whose mandate is to do this work. He said Dr. Brodsky could work directly with DAR to do the testing and manage those tests and specific species that they are testing over time. Chair Oishi asked if this was acceptable to Dr. Brodsky, and he answered in the affirmative.

Tara Rojas asked to speak on behalf of Hiwahiwa with this testimony: "Where established they may become invasive in the ecosystem because of their highly predatory behavior, feeding extensively on smaller native fish. Bass can eat prey up to 35% of their body length. The average lifespan is 8 to 10 years. Florida record Peacock caught 9.08 pounds, but fish is up to 12 pounds. Florida and Texas have huge problems with them. Look at the Rois effects on our oceans. Rois have wreaked havoc on our native species in our oceans and are highly predatory and eat our native fishes.

Hearing no other testimony, Chair Oishi made a motion to approve the request with modifications to the permit conditions referencing progeny be clarified so the requirements regarding the progeny are only required until release into the environment occurs and include recommended changes by PQB staff to allow the Division of Animal Industries to manage pre-and post-entry testing evaluation for disease. Committee Member Pam Mizuno seconded.

Dr. Gon said that had this come before the land board, he would have the same sentiment about the introduction of a demonstrably non-native, invasive, predatory species in aquatic systems, albeit on that is already in our systems, but will probably not be supporting the motion.

Hearing no other comments from the Committee, Chair Oishi called for the vote.

Recommend Approval: 4/2/1 (Yes: Hauff, Mizuno, Simmons, Oishi; No: Fisher, Gon; Abstain: Eisen)

Submittal moves forward to the Board with no Committee recommendation.

3. Request for Review and Recommendation on the Proposed Changes to Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 4-72, entitled “Plant and Non-Domestic Animal Quarantine Plant Intrastate Rules” to among other things:
  - A. Implement Plant Quarantine Interim Rule 23-1, Regarding Quarantine Restrictions on the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) and CRB host materials;
  - B. Implement Fees for Inspections and the Processing and Issuance of Permits;
  - C. Include Penalties for Non-Compliance; and
  - D. Make Other Changes for Clarity or Simplification and Other Non-substantive Changes Correcting Grammar, Punctuation, or Typeface.

Chair Oishi asked Dexter Kishida, Deputy to the Chairperson, to come forward. Deputy Kishida requested a withdrawal of this request. He noted that since the posting of this agenda item, additional discussions and clarifications have subsequently occurred on how to best proceed. He said the withdrawal of this item is because the HDOA’s plan is to utilize the version of Chapter 4-72 that was adopted by the Board in February 2023 and will be moving it forward for public hearing. He said HDOA is currently drafting the submittal to the Governor for approval to move to a public hearing. Chair Oishi said that Deputy Kishida’s testimony was breaking up intermittently.

Chair Oishi reiterated that the message is HDOA is withdrawing this submittal, however, as this is part of the agenda, accepting testimony on this item is still required. He noted the Committee received 66 pieces of testimony against approving this request. He began accepting public testimony and limited it to 3 minutes per testifier.

Tara Rojas testified virtually that invasive species needed to be stopped, whether it’s the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB), Little Fire Ants (LFA), or the Hala Scale. She said HDOA must ensure that the environment and ecosystem is put over profit as it wreaks havoc on food sources. She said trees in Makaha are being decimated by CRB. She said CRB is a serious issue especially if they are coming in from bags of soil from stores, and people are not aware until it has matured then comes out of the bag. She wants to ensure that we have rules in place to stop, prevent, and eradicate CRB.



Andre Perez testified virtually that he representing his farm Koihonua located on the shores of Peal Harbor. He said it's a small community-based 5-acre farm and were one of the first community organizations impacted by CRB, noting when CRB broke in the mainstream news it was their farm that was featured. He said they have worked closely with the CRB response team, Chair Oishi, and Dr. Mike Melzer. He said he has a conservation background and worked on Kahoolawe during the bomb clean up as a restoration field supervisor and oversaw the planting of 100,000 native plants and trees, having put a lot of time into environmental work. He said the farm has been significantly impacted by CRB, losing six coconut trees and their Hala also being impacted. He said CRB is also hitting other food supplies alongside coconut trees, with their Hala getting hit hard, along with sugarcane. He implored the Committee to follow through with the original CRB and Little Fire Ant regulations that were approved by the Board on February 28<sup>th</sup>. He said regulations should not be lessened and we need to have robust and rigorous protection for our environment. He said CRB has been showing up on Maui and Hawaii Island and is finding its way into mulch bags at Home Depot. So, with the ability for CRB to move around Hawaii enhanced and increased, it is imperative and critically important that, if necessary, there can be a sales stoppage, and shipments held to protect our environment. He said they have worked closely with Chair Oishi and his team has full access to the farm, with the CRB Taskforce coming on a weekly basis. They have done their our own fundraising to do community outreach, education, and eradication on CRB in their area. He said to reduce the rules that were already approved on February 28<sup>th</sup> would be going backwards, undermining all the important work that has happened.

Dave Mulinix, Green Peace Hawaii testified virtually that he supports what Andre was saying. He said we need to stick to the rules that were passed in February. He didn't support the current proposed amendment to Chapter 4-72, as it would help enable the continued distribution of commercial products that have pests like LFA. He said from personal experience there was a presentation at his neighborhood board about how vicious LFA are, and how people in some areas over in Hawaii Island can't go into their yard. He said they must completely cover themselves because they will be attacked, and LFA can actually blind their pets. He said he volunteers for an organic farmyard garden, and if LFA got established there, it would destroy their business. He said there is a popular hiking trail behind his home and a lot of people go back there, locals and tourists alike. He said LFA have established across the road above the cemetery but if they get across the road, it will destroy one of Hawaii's most important resources, the natural environment, and would affect the ability to things outdoors like enjoying a hike in the forests. He said to stick with the rules approved back in February.

Kimeona Kane testified in person as Chair of the Waimanalo Neighborhood Board. He said they support their written testimony that was submitted, which speaks to continuing to move the original 4-72 revisions and not delaying. At this point in time, we'll stand on that testimony that was submitted. He said personally, there have been impacts in Waimanalo to the agricultural community. He's concerned how the rules may have negated the ability of certain entities like Hawaii Ant Lab and the Oahu Invasive Species

Committee to go and work in partnership with some of these folks. He said some businesses who knowingly sell products that have LFA in them raise a significant concern about how these rules are being delayed and are going to impact the spread of LFA throughout our community. He said we want to be inclusive of those that are working in these businesses as they are part of our community, but negligence does not supersede the way we engage in the care of our community, and it should be a priority for us to address. He thanked Deputy Kishida and his team for taking a good look at everything and support the move forward to the Governor.

Michelle Montgomery testified virtually and said she submitted written testimony and said she appreciated Deputy Kishida's willingness and efforts to withdraw they current draft of the proposed changes and to go forward with public hearings with the version approved in February. She said there were a number of issues with the current draft compared to the original one she could not support, including the omission of on island movement of invasive species, host material versus commodities, and identification of authoritative capacity such as SPRO versus Chief. She said the SPRO would be more like a response office and would not condense authority to a single individual. She appreciated the consideration for all the issues to be able to stop the spread of invasive species in general. She said if that didn't happen, the Hawaii Ant Lab would really not have a way to provide support to the public and tell them that they would be on their own. She said she looked forward to working with everyone to move forward.

Christy Martin testified virtually for CGAPS. She noted Stephanie Easley, CGAPS legal fellow, submitted the written testimony. She said the Legislature provided HDOA with broad statutory authority to take sensible steps to prevent the movement of pests like LFA and CRB in commodities that are available to the public, such as plants in a nursery or bags of mulch, yet HDOA has not yet taken steps to pass a rule to utilize that authority. She said 4-72, HAR is the only chapter that is available to manage and implement that authority. She said this Committee in February 2023 passed a version Chapter 72 that would provide that authority, including the general authority to stop movement of not just LFA in nursery plants, but also any listed pest that is available to the public for sale, such as a bag of infested mulch with CRB larvae or a mulch pile on Kauai that is infested with CRB that a person would like to sell or move. She said the draft that has passed the Committee, the Board of Agriculture, the small Business Regulatory Review Board, and awaits public hearings is the version CGAPS support. She thanked Deputy Kishida for indicating the withdrawal of this particular version. She noted that the draft awaiting public hearing also includes authorities to better manage two-lined spittlebug, Hala Scale, and insects that transmit citrus diseases. She said it is a really important rule set, and a lot of people don't really dig into it and know all the important things that it does. She looked forward to being able to come to a public hearing and testify on that.

Chair Oishi noted that the Committee does not approve or disapprove requests and the Committee's role is to provide a recommendation to the Board of Agriculture. He said the Committee is an Advisory one, with votes constituting technical expertise in our respective fields that are being advanced to the Board of Agriculture for consideration.

Wayne Tanaka, Director, Sierra Club of Hawaii, testified in person. He appreciated the decision to withdraw the proposed restart of the amendments to Chapter 4-72. He thanked the Committee for recommending approval of the earlier version of the rules. He said it's been 8 months since February and lost time needs to be made up. He said LFA is spreading in Oahu and CRB landed on other islands, including Waikoloa on Hawaii Island. He said all tools needed should be available, with an all-hands-on deck approach to stop and hopefully eradicate these problems before it changes life on these islands forever. He said he appreciated that this is just an advisory committee, but noted the Committee's expertise, positions, and words have power. He said the Committee members are experts and would like their help in moving things forward in ways individuals cannot. He noted the Octocorals mentioned earlier, saying the Navy knew about those in 2020 and as far as he knew, didn't say or do anything for two to three years and now it's a big problem, and let us not be like the U.S. Navy. He said it isn't the Navy's job to do invasives, but it's for the HDOA and for this community.

Steven Montgomery, Conservation Hawaii testified in person. He noted he is also the President of Hawaii Beekeepers Association. He thanked the Committee for staying the course and resuming the pathway that was set in February to use the authority HDOA has to take action to contain LFA in particular. He recommended a film story, Invasions, about LFA that was put together a decade ago. He said that film points out that we now have an extraordinary effort that must begin, or we are going to suffer a catastrophe with LFA. He said the window of opportunity for eradication is not a large time zone and it's disappointing that it has taken since February to come to the point where action will be resumed and going to hearings. He said it is important to show up at these hearings and to find common ground and regulations so that we can control this horrible ant.

Chair Oishi asked if there was additional testifiers.

Deputy Kishida said he wanted to thank both the testifiers and the Committee, and looked forward to moving this forward.

## V. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Oishi asked if there were any comments from the Committee. There were none, asked for a motion to adjourn. Committee member Mizuno motioned to adjourn, and Dr. Gon seconded. Dr. Gon said he appreciated that people stayed to testify, even with the withdrawal of the item, it was important enough for people to make their voice be heard.

Chairperson Oishi called for a vote.

Vote: Approved 7/0 (Simmons, Hauff, Eisen, Mizuno, Gon, Fisher, Oishi)

Motion carries.

Chairman Oishi adjourned the Committee meeting at 3:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Safarik  
Secretary, PQB