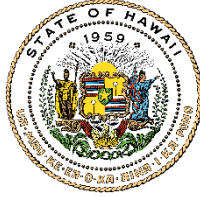


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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY COMMITTEE (ESRC) PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: February 21st, 2025

TIME: 9:00 AM HST

LOCATION: DLNR – DOFAW Main Conference, Kalanimoku Building 1151
Punchbowl St, Room #325., Honolulu, Hawai'i

Online via Zoom; and Livestream via YouTube recorded at
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qm964JI_uVU

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS

Jason Omick
Michelle Bogardus
Lisa Spain
Lindsay Young

Kawika Winter
Karen Courtot
Melissa Price

STAFF

Kelli Yamaguchi—DOFAW
Jesse Adams—DOFAW
Janis Matsunaga—DOFAW

Kinsley McEachern—DOFAW
Danica Swenson—Deputy AG
Will Haines—DOFAW

OTHERS

Rachel Sprague—Pūlama Lāna'i
Diane Sether—USFWS

John Sprague—Pūlama Lāna'i
Lisa Bail—Goodsill/ Pūlama Lāna'i

02.21.2025 09:03/00:01:56

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jason Omick called the meeting to order and asked for everyone present at the meeting to introduce themselves starting with HCP staff, then committee members and other attendees.

He also reminded everyone of the Sunshine Law and asked that all committee members have their cameras on.

02.21.2025 09:09/00:07:31

ITEM 2. REVIEW OF THE SAFE HARBOR AGREEMENT FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ENDANGERED ORANGEBLACK HAWAIIAN DAMSELFLY (*Megalagrion xanthomelas*) TO A CONSERVATION AREA ON THE ISLAND OF LĀNA‘Ī

Rachel Sprague provided comments and an update on incorporating the feedback received in the December 6th, 2024, meeting, during the site visit on January 17th, 2025, and public comments.

02.21.2025 09:12/00:10:51

Questions and Comments from the ESRC Members

Kawika: Well, I'll ask a question. Thank you. So, I'm glad to hear that you folks are considering, or have considered, our comments about increasing genetic diversity instead of increasing genetic bottlenecking. I was trying to find in the document where you discussed about that, I did a word search for genetic diversity, I came up on one hit, but that doesn't quite look like the section that you were just referring to. Sorry, if you could point us to that in the document, so I could take a look before I vote. Also, I guess I was curious about what the outcomes of the working group's discussion on this topic were. May I please get an update on that?

- Rachel: So, the language that was added around using genetically diverse damselfly propagules was added to Appendix A, part five, on page six of eight of the appendix, which is page 55 of the overall agreement. It says the source will be determined in consultation with DLNR, the Service and the Megalagrion Working Group. DLNR will make an effort to use genetically diverse propagules from multiple populations deemed appropriate based on previous population genetic studies.
- Kawika: Okay, thank you. So maybe if we could get some clarification on what the appropriate genetic pools the working group has discussed?
- Will: Yeah, so the last working group meeting was actually in October [2024], so we haven't met since. Though we have had a couple of meetings involving different members of the working group, and we've discussed this. The agreement was to first concentrate on sources from Maui Nui in general, and O'ahu as well, because those are the most imperiled populations due to habitat loss. The Hawai'i Island populations are doing comparatively better, and those are more genetically distant from the historic Lāna'i populations. And so, I think the agreement was to start out sampling from multiple locations on Moloka'i, and then using O'ahu genetics as well—which are probably the most severely bottlenecked populations. Then sourcing from Maui as well. But yeah, concentrating first on Moloka'i. We do have good data from previous sampling on Lāna'i, and we have pretty good genetic data comparing the different islands. And so, the haplotypes that were previously present on Lāna'i were represented on Maui, Moloka'i and O'ahu. So those seem like the logical places to start. And then, you know, if we are not successful, or if those populations blink out, which is always possible, we will source from other islands.

- Kawika: Okay, that's great to hear. Thank you. I was concerned that as well-intentioned as this initiative was going, it might further exacerbate genetic bottlenecks. So, I am glad to hear you folks are trying to intentionally prevent that from happening. Thank you.

Lindsay: Just had a question on predator control, since it's going to be an ungulate fence surrounding it, is predator control happening year-round, or is that going to be sporadic based on the needs of the covered species?

- Rachel: Yeah, that's a good question. So, we have a larger cat trapping grid that extends around the Lāna'i Hale and then some large trap lines around the damselfly area. And we'd be adding some additional traps around the damselfly area as well. The existing trap lines we do run year-round, and they get closed for like two weeks around Christmas because we just don't have anyone to check them. We use that as an opportunity to refresh all the traps. It is not when the Hawaiian petrels are around, and it also tends to be around the time of year when the stilts and coots are not around and are definitely not nesting. We're looking into the potential in the future to put a predator proof fence, or predator exclusion fence around this area. However, that's not part of the safe harbor agreement itself. The rodent control would also be done year-round. We use automatic lure pumps in the A24 that we rebate essentially twice a year, because they run for about six months. And so, this will be an accessible spot, so we'll be able to check them and make sure that they're in operations pretty much continuously.
- Lindsay: Thank you.

Melissa: Since you're waiting for comment, I'll just note that I had most of my questions, or all the questions that I can think of at the moment, answered during the site visit. So, I don't have follow-up questions today. Although some may be sparked by other people's questions. I think, Michelle, your hand was up next.

Michelle: Everyone, thanks so much for taking into account the comments that you received through ESRC and through the Agencies. Appreciate seeing those textual edits in the document. I know that we received one comment through the Fish and Wildlife Service public comment period, but I just wanted to check with DOFAW staff. I didn't hear whether there were any public comments submitted during the State public comment period. It might be good for the ESRC members to hear if there were and what those were.

- Kinsley: Thank you, Michelle. There were no comments received during the public comment period, but we did have one during our public hearing on Lāna'i after the ESRC and public site visit. We did do a presentation, and we received one comment during the meeting, and via zoom. We can pull that up to get the exact quote, but it was to paraphrase it was something along the lines of, we're glad to see that these damselflies are being reintroduced to the island. But if you [would like to see the exact wording] that is also recorded in the Master Public Hearing Report that is part of our meeting materials.
- Michelle: That is plenty Kinsley, thank you.

Karen: Yeah, I also want to thank you for addressing the previous ESRC comments. I wanted to ask a question. And I'm not sure if this is to the Agencies or to Pūlama Lāna'i. I think in here it describes this as, you know, a step towards a self-sustaining population, and is. What is the definition of self-sustaining population? This isn't to voice a concern about the project, but it seems like the way that this is being done is not creating a self-sustaining population,

since there's so much dependence on people to continue maintaining the water supply and its artificial habitat and so I'm just wondering how that's being defined, and if that's the correct characterization of this project.

- Rachel: I think a lot of the locations where *Megalagrion xanthomelas* exists now require some amount of human intervention to manage the water itself. And I was thinking that it was more of that rather than the population requiring continued releases to maintain numbers. But I'll let Will maybe clarify a little bit more.
- Will: I agree. I think that was the meaning of that is that the population itself would persist without additional reintroductions. Yeah, there will continue to need to be, you know, probably vegetation control and maintaining the fences and everything. The population itself should be self, self-sustaining. Does that make sense?
- Karen: So, it's specific to the site and the breeding potential of the species.

Kawika: Since we don't have many Safe Harbor Agreements, do they also do annual reports? I think they do.

- Kinsley: Yes, you are correct.
- Kawika: Could I formally request that in the annual reports that we get include information on which gene pools, specifically the information contained in Appendix A?

02.21.2026 09:22/00:22:56

Questions and Comments from the Public

There were no questions or comments from the public via Zoom, YouTube, or email at this time.

02.21.2026 09:24/00:23:46

Additional Comments from the ESRC Members

Michelle: I would just say a general thank you to Pūlama Lāna'i for engaging in proactive conservation actions and supporting the use of Safe Harbor Agreements to support species recovery. That is something that we certainly love to see and are very grateful to private landowners for engaging in species recovery in this way.

Kawika: I echo those comments. Thank you for being so responsive. And thank you to the working group for seeing this over the line.

02.21.2026 09:25

Kawika Winter discusses process matters with HCP staff, specifically 1) ESRC Committee requests made to applicants/licensees and 2) requests made to the HCP Program especially those regarding guidance for the format and content of annual review presentations.

02.21.2026 09:32/00:30:31

MOTION

Jason: I make a motion to recommend the Board approve this Safe Harbor Agreement.

- Melissa: Second.
- Jason: The motion has been made and seconded. We will now take a vote.
- Motion passes unanimously.

02.21.2026 09:33/00:31:34

ITEM 3. MOTION TO ADJOURN

- Kawika: I motion to adjourn.
- Lisa: Second.
- Motion passes unanimously.

DRAFT