

MEMORANDUM

FROM: David Case

TO: KCFA Board

DATE: February 16, 2014

CBB TASK FORCE REPORT

The CBB Task Force Board held its annual meeting on February 5, 2014 at the CTAHR Kainaliu Conference Room with *ex officio* members from PBARC and CTAHR attending by Polycom video conferencing. About 12 members of the public attended and put quite a few questions to the Task Force Board centering mainly on Task Force plans for wider distribution of *B. bassiana* and the sources of Task Force funding. The Task Force Board also reviewed a draft of IRS Form 1024 to request a letter ruling on the Task Force's 501(c)(5) tax exempt status. See Copy of the Form 1024 2013-2015 Budget & Balance Sheet and the attached Budget Detail.

The bulk of the Task Force's current funding is the \$200,00 HDOA CBB Control Contract 13 administered through an Agency Agreement between the Task Force and Sustainable Hawaii Agriculture Council (SHAC). The rest of Task Force Revenue is \$3,500 per year in dues of \$500 from each Task Force member. The dues are the only source of funds for Task Force administrative expenses such as filing fees, insurance, legal advice and accounting. Also noted in the Budget Detail is the \$242,000 expended through 2013 under the Hawaii Coffee Association's (HCA) USDA TASC Grant administered through SHAC for which HCA had delegated supervision to the Task Force.

Rob Curtis, from HDOA, also advised the Task Force that the funds had been released and he hoped to have RFPs released by the end of February for the \$250K in research funds and \$300K in CBB mitigation funds the Legislature appropriated last year. It likely would be June before the funds were actually awarded to the successful applicant. SHAC is also applying for two \$400K USDA grants, which looks more favorable now the Farm Bill has passed. Additional federal funding may also become available under Rep. Tulsi Gabbard's "Coffee Plant Health Initiative" that was included in the recently enacted Farm Bill, although with no specific funding allocated to it. The Task Force also discussed the status of HB1514, Nicole Lowen's \$3 million HDOA appropriation bill. The House Agriculture Committee recently passed the bill and it is pending a hearing in House Finance.

The Task Force also considered a motion to approve Resolution 01-2014 to amend the bylaws to substitute the Kona County Farm Bureau (KFB) on the Task Force Board for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Chris Manfredi, a member of the Task Force Board and the new HFBF President, advised that HFBF now wanted to retain its seat. I proposed an amendment to the main motion to seat both HFBF and KFB. The amendment received four of the five votes needed to amend the bylaws and the main motion was defeated 0 to 5 against. I abstained.

Election of Officers was the final order of business. The four current officers (Wayne Katayama, President; Jim Wayman, Vice-President; David Bateman, Treasurer and David Case, Secretary) were nominated and elected by unanimous consent.

The big question for the Task Force and also raised by the audience is how to expand the mitigation, education and research components to other areas in the Kona District as well as Ka'u and even Hilo with existing and potential future funds from both HDOA and USDA. The Task Force Board is planning a Strategy Meeting with its scientific advisors in Hilo in early March to consider the best options to determine the widest feasible distribution of *B. bassiana* to farmers in Hawaii County during the 2014 season to obtain the maximum possible "Kill and Contain" effect given existing administrative capacities and projected funding.

HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED REPORT

KONA CHAPTER

The HFUU Kona Chapter held its 2014 annual meeting and locavore potluck January 23rd at the Tropical Edibles Nursery. About 30 people attended, several of who joined the Union. Kurt Schweickhard and Hazel Beck were re-elected to the Chapter Board as well as new board members, Doug Pittman and Greg Smith. The new Chapter Board held its first meeting at the Buddha's Cup farm. Steve Sakala was elected Chapter President, John Giblin, Jr. and Greg Smith were elected co-Vice-Presidents. Kurt Schweickhard and Hazel Beck were re-elected Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

HFUU STATE BOARD

Steve Sakala is now the Kona member of the HFUU State Board. There is a possibility that I might be appointed to fill the newly created Emeritus position on the State Board. Kurt Schweickhard has also been appointed to the State Board Finance Committee. HFUU is sponsoring a statewide fundraiser and silent auction March 1st at the Market Fresh Bistro, Makawao, Maui. Tickets are \$160 per person. See attached flyer and menu. As of February 14 there were only 33 seats left!