



**Aloha Arborist Association
Monthly Meeting
September 21st, 2022 6:30pm**

In attendance: Justin Barrios, Tylor Schwarze, Will Loomis, Rich Downs, Leila Nagatani (Biologist with the Fish & wildlife) , Angela Liu, Sophia Colella?, Cory Kawabata, Dudley Hulbert, Desiree Page, Carol Kwan, Tiana Bolosan (Forestry & Wildlife on the State side)

Quorum: Yes, 7 board members present.

1. Call to Order and approval of August draft meeting minutes.

- 6:36 PM
- August minutes approved by all.
- Ok to approve minutes by omission.

2. Welcome Guests

a. Guest speaker- (30 to 45 minutes)

- i. Cory Kawabata (Special Agent) - US FWS MBTA enforcement policies and procedures as they relate to White Tern breeding activity in trees.
 - Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
 - Enforcement has changed. Prior to 2017 Incidental take was prohibited. (killed, moved, picked up, etc.)
 - From approximately 2017 through 2019, US FWS was ordered by the US executive branch to stop investigating and prosecuting incidental take.
 - 2021- back to enforcing incidental take for Migratory birds
 - MBTA law has strict liability standard. No previous knowledge of the birds being protected required. If you accidentally harm them, you can be charged.
 - Follow guidelines for best management practices if guidelines are not followed charges may apply
 - The letter of the law is that it is considered take under the MBTA law.
 - With larger industries- they get a take permit. The company has to get biological assessments from ecological services offices & a third party to minimize the take. Must report on the birds.
 - Link for guidelines is on the AAA website.

https://alohaarborist.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/MOK-Tree-Care-Guidelines-2019_07.pdf

- MBTA law cannot stop work from happening. They will document what is happening & follow up with a criminal investigation. Company, property owner may incur fines and misdemeanor charges.
- There is no way to prevent the action from happening, action will be enforced once it occurs.
- US FWS- will show up and look for a property owner, property manager, or company owner and inform them that they will be liable for each bird that is harmed and will be fined up to \$15,000 per bird. They cannot stop work, just informing them of the law.
- Angela asked- Does DLNR ever use outside Arborist to help investigate take?
- There are very few instances where a tree cannot wait for a Tern to fledge. If there is a critical immediate need, a permit would need to be secured to take the terns. The course of action would be determined by DLNR supervisors.
- Tiana Bolosan tiana.r.bolosan@hawaii.gov (808)492-9398

ii. Rich Downs- Hui Manu-o-Kū

- Coordinator for Hui Manu-o- Kū.
- Calls comes into Hotline, and Hui Manu-o- Kū will come out to educate. Focus on what can be done, and less on what cannot be done.
- The perception was that tree trimming and tree trimmers are the primary threat to the terns. That is not the case, after the tree has been trimmed the tree is now safer for the chicks and the terns will migrate to the trees that were trimmed.
- Barn owls, cats, & falcons (in Waikiki), are the greatest predators to the white terns.
- Be aware that they are present and observant of the birds' actions.
- Breeding is now happening year-round.
- Commonly, property owners are not aware of the best management practices.
- Desiree suggested that this would be a great category for a Kaulunani grant. For property management companies, property owners, and company owners, etc. **PUT ON AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING?.**
- White Terns are easier to find at night with a flashlight.

- Rich offered his services to evaluate a tree prior to work to survey for terns (what he can see from the grounds)
- The Hui occasionally needs assistance with reuniting chicks to their nest. Looking for volunteer arborist to do this. They will provide the training.
Contact richdowns@gmail.com (808)379-7555 if interested.

3. Committee and Officer Reports

a. Jamboree

i. Insurance

- Approximately \$350-\$385
- Event will not be held without insurance.

ii. Will board members be volunteering?

- Yes, Desiree, Tylor, Sophia, Justin, & possibly Dudley

iii. Budget (approx \$4000)-

iv. Other updates

- Need to lift canopy & dead wood 3 Monkeypod trees
- Final walk thru @ Venue needed
- Justin needs to select the photos; Desiree will throw together a solid colored shirt.
- Needs to logos for sponsors. Need to get it to Desiree by tomorrow, 9/22/2022
- Possibly missed the deadline for shirts, need to get it in ASAP
- Approx. 12-15 a shirt + shipping.
- Vectored file is preferred.
- This is an AAA event, entry fee of \$100 per competitor.
- Need to make a PayPal button for cash donations.
- Not doing all 5 events, 2 work climbs, throwball, and AR
- Will possibly need to create a scoring program. Essential to keep it an easy format to follow.
- Angela suggested to use of waivers. AAA will use them.
- Send out event notification & sign up thru Mailchimp

b. Training

c. Treasure reports.

- Paypal \$4,386. 60
- Checking account \$17, 361.40

4. Unfinished Business and General Orders

5. New Business

a. Reimburse Bobby Burritt approx \$1,500. He also would like the AR dummy back. Justin B. has updates.

- Justin Donahue has the dummy. Bobby needs to be informed about the whereabouts of this dummy & he can contact J. Donahue for it.
- Carol is requesting an email from Bobby the reimbursement amount of \$1,500. There needs to be a paper trail, so the non-profit does not get in trouble.
- Justin B. will buy AAA dummy, have it shipped to Big Island. Someone from AAA will bring it back to Oahu for storage. AAA will reimburse Justin B. for dummy.

b. Hui Manu-o-Kū to expand the roster of tree workers.

i. Can we send out an email to our Subscribers?-

- Send out email to Subscribers & social media. **TO DO**

ii. Can AAA assist in other ways as well?

6. Announcements

- In person meeting for November at the Lyons Arboretum. – **ADD TO AGENDA**
- Apply for CEU's for guest speakers.
- Brainstorm ideas for February mass training events send out as survey. 4 different ideas. -**ADD TO OCTOBERS AGENDA**

7. Pest of the Month/ Tree of the Month

Meeting adjourned: 8:20PM

Join us for our next monthly meeting!

October 19th at 6:30pm via Zoom

