

And From Hawaii Another Observation

By Charles P. Stone

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The Genetics/Management Conference was one of the top three meetings I have ever attended. I especially enjoyed the interaction among the geneticists. The workshop served to bring me up to speed and made me feel more confident about recommending things to management. Several others expressed the same feeling.

I had long conversations with two managers who also felt it was excellent. Their main criticism the last night, was that there should have been more biologists other than geneticists. I was surprised too that more State Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife biologists didn't show up, but unless distribution of the brochures was badly skewed that is not the fault of the organizers.

My one criticism is that not nearly enough was said about preserve size and design with respect to genetics, island biogeography theory, etc. I guess maybe Craig Shaffer will have a workshop to handle that; but it can come none too soon. I really think we're wasting time and effort on tracts that are unmanageable for the long term. Preserve strategy, to me, is one of the most important applications of genetics to management.

I would encourage more efforts of this kind. Please keep them in a workshop

format so people can attend. Whoever decided to do that for NPS people should find out how to do it for other agencies and organizations so more of them can attend.

Congratulations to Dr. Briceland, Chris Schonewald-Cox and the others involved for conceiving and hosting this landmark Conference-Workshop.