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## **PREVENTING FUTURE INVASIVE PLANT INTRODUCTIONS WITH A STATE RESTRICTED PLANT LIST**

What if we knew about Miconia's invasive impacts elsewhere and had been able to restrict it from importation and sale in Hawai'i? Today, we have the knowledge and tools to better predict a plant's potential to be invasive before it arrives, but we don't have the regulatory mechanisms in place to keep them out...until now. The Coordinating Group on Alien Plant Species (CGAPS) has been working to develop a State Restricted Plant List and set of rules that would reduce the risk of future invasive plant introductions for Hawai'i.

Historically, Hawaii's geographic isolation limited the number of plants that were able to arrive and establish. Since Western contact 237 years ago, more than 8,000 species of plants have been introduced to the islands. The majority of these have been either beneficial or at least benign. However, of those plants that became invasive to Hawaii's natural areas, the majority (>80%) were intentionally introduced.

Current Federal and State noxious seed and weed rules regulate about 200 species of plants, half of which are already present in Hawai'i, yet these lists largely do not include new plant species that are highly likely to be invasive if they were imported, or those invasive plants that are present, but in very small numbers.



Miconia is considered one of the worst weeds to Pacific Islands. Invasive Species Committees on each island work to contain and eradicate Miconia from Hawaii's wet-forests. Photo credit: OISC.

There is a need for a policy mechanism to address this issue and a solution exists with the Hawai'i Revised Statute (HRS) § 150A-6.1. This statute authorizes HDOA to maintain a list of restricted plants that are not allowed to be imported into the state except by permit. At the moment, there are no rules on how to implement this policy or list of restricted plant species. Over the last few years CGAPS has worked at addressing these gaps.

With funding from Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation, CGAPS contracted Shahin Ansari (PhD botanist & former HPWRA screener) to develop a science based approach for identifying plants that are considered "offshore" (not yet in Hawai'i) and incipient (present in limited numbers or islands), that are in the horticultural, forestry or biofuel trade (and therefore have the potential to be imported into Hawai'i), and that are considered high risk when screened with the Hawai'i Pacific Weed Risk Assessment (HPWRA). To start, noxious weed and invasive plant lists collected from each U.S. state and various countries formed a starting list of over 1,000 plants. This list was filtered through the criteria above and the result is 33 species of plants being proposed for restricted importation.

Opportunity for plant industries to provide feedback continues to be an important part of the process. The proposed restricted plant list was presented to island-based plant groups and at statewide forums like the LICH conference. At this year's LICH conference, Chelsea Arnott and Christy Martin from CGAPS, and Shahin Ansari

from H.T. Harvey and Associates, provided an update on what's been done over the last year and what are the next steps. A summary of the proposed draft rules was included in the update. A recorded version of the presentation is also available on the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council's website <https://youtu.be/HT44Yt3VS28>. The presentation was part of the HISC Brown Bag series.



Christy Martin (CGAPS) presenting an update on the Restricted Plant project at this year's LICH conference. Photo credit: CGAPS

Moving forward, the next step is to petition the Board of Agriculture (BOA) to enter into rule-making. The petition package includes the proposed draft rules and list of 33 plant species that gets submitted to the BOA thirty days prior to their scheduled meeting. Petitioning the BOA is one of the most transparent ways

to enter into rule-making because of the public process that allows written and oral testimony to be submitted. Agendas for the BOA meetings can be viewed here along with information on how to submit testimony:

<http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/chair/boa/board-of-agriculture-meetings/>.

Anyone of the 33 species of plants listed below could be the next Miconia and with the Restricted Plant Rules and List we can be proactive in preventing the introduction of new invasive plants into Hawai'i.

Plants Proposed for Restriction			
Barleria prionitis	15	Gunnera manicata	8
Berberis buxifolia	7.5	Kennedia rubicunda	8
Bomarea multiflora	10	Lachenalia reflexa	7
Brachiaria paspaloides/ Urochloa glumaris	15	Melianthus comosus	8
Brillantaisia lamium	16	Moraea ochroleuca	9
Calicotome spinosa	8.5	Nymphoides geminata	12
Carex flagellifera	6	Nypa fruticans*	9
Cassinia arcuata	7	Onopordum acaulon L.	10
Cecropia schreberiana	9	Opuntia robusta	8
Cereus hildmannianus	11	Pelargonium alchemilloides	7.5
Chrysanthemoides monilifera	15	Plectranthus ciliatus	8
Clematis flammula	8	Psoralea pinnata	9
Cotoneaster glaucophyllus	12	Rhamnus alaternus	2
Cotoneaster salicifolius	9	Rhododendron ponticum	14
Festuca gautieri	13	Rubus alceifolius	28
Glossostigma diandrum	8	Senecio angulatus	7
		Senecio glastifolius	8.5

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