



Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) Meeting Notes

Hawai'i Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Conference Room
1849 Auiki St., Honolulu, HI

9:00 am – 12:00 pm Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Disclaimer: *These notes are provided by CGAPS as an unofficial record of meeting topics wherever possible. They have not been reviewed or approved by the participating individuals or agencies. We urge you to contact and verify information directly with the source.*

9:00 – 9:10 **Welcome & Introductions:** *Domingo Cravalho, USFWS & 2016 CGAPS Chair*

9:10 – 9:45 **Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death update and discussion:** *Rob Hauff, DLNR DOFAW*

- Last month we hosted Ceratocystis expert Tom Harrington (Iowa State) and Phil Cannon (USFS). Ending with a seminar on what's known about the Ceratocystis complex. Those notes will be made available.
- One of the things that came up is 5600 ft elevation forest (Hilo Forest Reserve) we thought that feral cattle were spreading it. It turns out that beetles spreading frass is probably spreading it (spore is sticky, and needs to stick to sawdust to be dispersed by wind. It is showing up in tree crotches, leading to the idea that beetle frass is important. We do have an entomologist at UH and now a second one on the ground and we are going to start monitoring (or looking for beetle frass and Ceratocystis DNA). We are going to do a limited tree removal experiment, to do treatment and monitoring, including a frass and insect monitoring project. Planning for third week of April. Still working on validating whether or not frass is vectoring it.
- In conjunction to this treatment, we will be hosting a tree sampling workshop, looking at getting a few people from each island to learn how to cut up trees, take samples, and recognize samples. Looking at getting a person from DOFAW, ISC, and WP from each island. Looking at getting dedicated gear for the workshop. Will do more, but hti siwll be the start.
- Philip is working on flight surveys for early detection. He is taking the lead on aerial ED surveys statewide, working with each WP and ISC.
- As a reminder, we don't know for sure what and how this disease is spreading, even soil, but we are working on these questions.
- ROD appropriation bills have been heard, at least one is moving. Please let me know if you would like hearing notification. One of the main messages is that this isn't going away, and the funding request isn't a one-shot deal. We will need years of funding to address the impacts of the fungus.

Springer: At the Hilo space, it looks like it was set up for a ROD boot cleaning space. Is this the case?

Jonathan: All the airports are working on things. We are looking at shifting staff to Hilo for the departure time.

John Carl: Folks were talking about maybe putting out a kahea to help at the airport to talk with people and help HDOA?

Rachel: Will there be a decontamination training for when we do cut up trees? The sawdust is everywhere.

CGAPS Steering Committee: Dorothy Alontaga, USDA APHIS; Joshua Atwood, HISC; Earl Campbell, USFWS; Jodi Chew, USDA FS; Brian Neilson, DLNR DAR; Mark Fox, TNCH; Michael Melzer, UH CTAHR; Bryan Harry, Emeritus; Lisa Hadway, DLNR DOFAW; James Kosciuk, DHS CBP; Teya Penniman, MISC; Neil Reimer, HDOA PI

Rob: We will be working on rapid response plans, and in other areas that have used things like tree skirts, etc. that we need to better provide.

9:45 – 10:15 Invasive Species Committees of Hawai‘i: *Bill Lucey KISC; Rachel Neville OISC; Teya Penniman MISC; Lori Buchanan MoMISC; Springer Kaye BIISC S*

OISC (Rachel Neville)

- Since November, OISC crew removed 47 mature, 171 immature miconia
- Got 5 coqui frogs (all in the same location)
- As part of the Oahu LFA interagency work, the large gunpowder tree that is harboring the remaining LFA on the Waimanlo ag lot was treated by HECO arborist Steve Connolly— Mahalo to HECO for the help!
- OISC treated/removed 11,327 plants devilweed plants. Mahalo to MCBH who assisted with sprayer parts.
- We’ve done lots of outreach to teachers, classes, and at events.

BIISC (Springer Kaye)

- We are close to eradicating Barbados gooseberry
- Putting together an LFA community training program with 1 year of support to the community, similar to how we are doing the Albizia Assassins program. Delivering info from HAL in pulses throughout the year, working with Stanford on CBSM measuring engagement and success on outreach (12 communities). For example, in the Naalehu area treatment for LFA (2 patches), the area where people were calling for treatment was done well, the one where it isn’t impacting people is where we have had less success.
- The deer team is spending more time on Maui, working with landowners on control ideas.
- New fiscal assistant hired at BIISC, also have two field tech positions open.

(Read from MISC and MoMISC e-updates; no KISC update available)

10:15 – 10:30 CRB Update: *Darcy Oishi*

- Still getting CRB in traps in JBPHH, Ewa and Nanakuli, with few breeding spots being found.
- Working closely with UH on several projects. New trap design with light control with apps in the works.
- UH has also developed better solar panels that are app controlled, but that makes it more attractive for people.
- Loss of Federal funds has put the future of this put this program in jeopardy. HISC funds will help keep the project afloat, but the level of funding received will only staff 45% of the current response crew. If we are continuing this program, that isn’t adequate. We are shifting funding for research (UH) and response based on potential alternate funding sources. End of year FY 16 HISC funds are available to CRB
- Pop genetic work is ongoing with UH’s Dan Rubinoff collecting foreign samples, including native range. This may help us better understand the source.

10:30 – 10:40 Break

10:40 – 10:50 HDOA PQ & PPC updates + Legislative update: *Jonathan Ho, PQ; Neil Reimer*

Plant Quarantine (Jonathan Ho)

- Trenton put out a ROD Travel Alert at airports. We were trying to get a PA announcement played, but DOT did not approve.
- Working with Hawaiian to see if we can get them to distribute ROD Alert to passengers. Island Air does not fly to the Big Island, but they are doing it.
- Kunia Orchid Show outreach last weekend
- We have ROD rule changes & Myrtaceae rule in the works.
- Did not get scheduled for Georgia detector dog training until Fall, so that delays a bit our detector dog re-start. The training is to focus only on snakes.

Earl: USFWS also works with DOT, and we can work with HDOA on requesting ROD information more prominently (beyond posted info) in airports.

Rob: DLNR was approached by HT Harvey, they work with dog teams to ID Sudden Oak Death and could potentially cross-train. I sent it on to the science team. I will forward to HDOA.

Darcy: NZ implemented dogs for kauri dieback, but they are having a difficult time disinfecting dogs to keep them from spreading.

Keevin: The dogs need to meet govt. certification standards for this work. They would need to meet this.

Neil: Once that program is up and running (snake detector dogs, primarily BTS), we will look at other dogs and targets. CRB and LFA are other options.

Keevin: We are doing trapping and surveys on Hickam. 12 traps set up, beginning of March. Traps outside the fencelines (in most parts, 3-4 traps where they do Guam cargo). Next going to Base Exchange and other high-priority areas. Problem is getting and supplying live mice to supply the traps. Using rodent chow instead of bait blocks. Also, we send some inspectors to Guam for snake training to learn how to handle/look for/kill snakes. Adam Knox, USDA WS, and helped us, 5 nights searching, etc. Guam Guard also joined us for training. We want to do another training in June.

Neil: Making the training mandatory for all inspectors.

Neil: with ROD, we will have an issue with the soil come before Plants and Animals. The recommendation going to next BOA meeting will be to continue the soil portion of the quarantine. BOA meeting next Tuesday (29th).

Neil PPC: LFA collaborative effort, the last known outpost with live LFA in Waimanalo being treated, will continue Mililani Mauka surveys. HAL staff on Oahu continuing, HDOA will continue funding via contract.

-Biosecurity Plan contract for multi-agency plan. Awarded to HT Harvey, they will need to try to wrap the majority by September. They are doing some background work, but they will be having public sector agency meetings April 14, by invite to the agencies, then in May, they will go to stakeholder meetings, Oahu May 10 and Hilo May 11 to gain input from stakeholders. Public meetings in June and July.

Joshua: We will send dates to Christy for inclusion in these notes). This is a higher level strategic 5-10 year plan with timeline. If the work runs past Sept., that's OK, but we want the framework and implementation matrix to be available for the legislature and State agencies biennium budget request in Sept.

Earl: What is the time input expected for agency staff so we can better plan? And what type of input will you need?

Josh: The model that will be used is that they will assign homework in advance of the meeting and staff will be required to share it.

Neil: Legislative initiatives for HDOA. We have had some initiatives that have been killed by some key committees. Some of the initiatives that have been moving on the House side, is a reso for a complete audit of HDOA PQ branch (formerly a bill, now a reso). Bill to move PQ to HDOT. HB 1700 budget includes a proposal to eliminate 23 positions from Plant Industry Division. Passed the House, now working with the Senate to try to retain. We are actively recruiting for 10 of these (include PQ inspectors on Maui, PPC staff on Kaua'i and Hilo, and dog handlers), and we think we can probably make the argument to retain. Others are open positions that are so important that people are TAing into those positions because they are so important. We are writing justifications why it is so important to retain these, too.

Janet: I think we are talking mostly about a single person that is influencing things. Do you think talking with them is going to make a difference?

Neil: I would say there are a few, and one is a different fiscal ideology, to across the board cut open positions in all state agencies. They don't understand why this policy has a huge negative impact, that outweighs the benefit of "saving money". We have to educate legislators on why this is not a good policy for us. We need to work with legislators before it gets to hearing time.

Earl: I think we need to put together a story of the numbers of positions lost to agencies in key programs over the years and that's why these policies don't work.

Janet: I think in many cases, it is not a cross-the-board policy, it is personal. It isn't HDOA's fault that these positions aren't filled.

Katie: Is Rep. Luke understanding or sympathetic to ag or invasive species issues? We have not seen it for DLNR or forest issues.

Janet: I think there is a real disconnect between people and our "activist" issues and agriculture in Hawai'i. For example, on Maui, we are having a battle between people wanting to return all the water to streams. For central Maui, if we hope to keep that a little green with agriculture, we need to make sure that a little is retained.

10:50 – 11:00 DHS Customs & Border Protection: *Rebecca Chong*

- Asst. commissioner and head of CBP is visiting. RIMPAC coming up, last one was 2014. We collect more than 100,000 tons of regulated garbage (steam sterilized at JBPHH). We are sending a representative to the San Diego meeting to learn more about the exercises so we can plan accordingly. June-Aug is the exercise. Planning special operation for RIMPAC.
- New rule that increases personal exemption, \$200-800, we expect more people to be bringing items in baggage, will be doing risk assessment
- Ag Spec has a new do, 4 canine teams at the airport, one at the mail facility. Trained on citrus, plants, meat.
- Seaport operation: Op cruise control, we board cruise ships & are doing a more intense inspection of passengers for regulated items. Passengers can be a few hundred to a few thousands. We can't inspect everyone, but we know their embark location and route so we can adjust accordingly. We monitor at loading (Longbeach, typically). Some are world travelers and those we inspect more carefully. Try to have at least 4 in the morning when they disembark.

Q: Can you describe the steam sterilizer?

A: They have two steam sterilizers (the contractor). Also, this takes airplane interception garbage, and rejected commodities, too. All contractor-based, under compliance agreement.

11:00 – 11:10 USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: Dorothy Alontaga

- Article from Island Conservation in response to a NY Times article, saying that invasive species are by definition, harmful. Highlights the need for conservation folks to work closer with the regulatory and trade folks. If the conservation concepts and regulatory concepts can be better aligned, or reframe the goal using concepts that are already bought-into by sides. Need to work together to find the next generation of regulatory initiatives. IUCN WCC is an opportunity to engage and have this discussion.

Christy: Are there people that you can recommend that we ask to participate in such a conversation in conjunction with WCC?

Dorothy: I think the IPPC folks already participate in IUCN, and they should host a discussion.

Earl: If we need to figure out how to make things work, it will be in the state Biosecurity planning effort. Otherwise, at the IUCN level, participation and focus is limited.

11:10 – 11:20 DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources & Division of Forestry & Wildlife:

Brian Neilson, Julie (Jules) Kuo, DAR; Josh Atwood, Rob Hauff, DOFAW

DAR AIS (Brian Neilson)

- Last report we had been seeing a decline in alien algae in K-bay. Amount of algae is still way down, but we are trying to ramp up sea urchins.
- Just did Oahu harbor sampling for settlement on panels, sent all inverts for ID, sent to GenBanks for reference.
- Japan Tsunami debris response monitoring ongoing. 79 species identified, alive on debris thus far.
- Just completed an aerial survey of all the main islands, looking at the hot spots to continue monitoring for AIS. Along with that, we have high-res imagery coastal area data available.

Ballast and Hullfouling (Jules Kuo)

- Ballast overview (larval species, photo sheet). Biofouling overview. For ballast, we have federal and state rules for ballast water management. We don't have a baseline for what might be existing in ballast water, so we don't know the risk.
- For biofouling, we don't have rules, but we are gathering the risk assessment data for the development of BMPs and eventual rulemaking to enforce.
- Re-forming an alien aquatic organism task force. Need input on what is existing and where we need to go on these?

DOFAW (Josh Atwood)

- Dave Smith is our new DOFAW Administrator, so now hiring Oahu Branch Manager position. Sheri Mann accepted Kaua'i branch manager position, so we will be recruiting for that position. 52 vacancies currently. 70 vacancies at the beginning of the year.
- PEIS for Rodent and Mongoose control. Talk story sessions conducted statewide, comment period ends April 7, 2016, then the next opportunity will be on the draft PEIS, aiming for May 2017 to avoid conflicts with HI legislative session commitments from a variety of folks. Comments need to be in writing (regulations.gov or removeratsstorehawaii.org).

11:20 – 11:30 Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council + Legislative update: *Joshua Atwood*

- Last meeting in Dec., reso on Biosecurity Planning process to have all agencies engaged and involved.
- Staff working on FY17 funding proposal guidelines. Looking at ways to improve the process and reporting. Working with Sam Aruch, to improve time frame tracking and metrics reporting.
- ReportAPest will be rebranded as 643PEST.org. Elizabeth Speith and HISC staff will be continuing work on this and will develop a training program.
- Mamalu Poe Poe (interagency airport monitoring for pests like mosquitoes, coqui, LFA, etc.). Funding agreement using FAA funds and position advertised (closes today, but will be extended to increase pool of applicants).
- Video PSA contest from students was a great addition to HISC HISAW. Available on HISC site and YouTube channel.
- Legislature: Between bills & resos, there were 40+, now only 10 alive, all stemming from legislators. Tomorrow is second lateral (anything that hasn't made it to final committee will die). Still a bill alive to restore vector control positions (thanks to dengue), and 600K for ROD (HB 2675), rosering parakeets, LFA treatment coupon, and some other bills alive. Aloha + bills will also die tomorrow, albizia funding, rat lungworm funding, etc. HB 1050 resurrected from last year, requiring state to treat state lands abutting ag areas that are being treated for LFA.

11:30 – 11:40 USFWS Ecological Services: *Earl Campbell*

- I really appreciate hearing updates from folks. CGAPS meetings are really valuable. There has been significant advances in the past few years, thank you
- Craig Clark is now USDA Wildlife Services director for the region.
- Rob “Goose” Gosnal is now USDA WS BTS director on Guam. 65 people on Guam, working.
- Thanks to all those that provided support on the rodent & mongoose PEIS, Christy and Pat in particular.
- In future meetings, we would like to give a better overview of projects on mosquitoes and predator control, etc.

11:40 – 11:55 CGAPS and Partner Agency/NGO Updates

- This will be Kevin Richardson's last meeting. He has accepted a new position as Deputy AG for Education. Mahalo for your work, Kevin!

11:55 – 12:00 New Business & Announcements

- Sept. 2-10 2016: IUCN World Conservation Congress (Sept. 2-5 Forum; Sept. 6-10 Members Assembly; pre-and post-excursions, events)

Pau. Mahalo!

(CGAPS Steering Committee to follow, 1:00-3:00 p.m.)