



## 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, May 8, 2013

#### 9:00 – 9:10 **Welcome & Introductions:** *Teya Penniman, MISC & 2013 CGAPS Chair*

- Mahalo to Teya for serving as the 2013 Chair! Jodi Chew will be the 2014 Chair.
- On a sad note, longtime CGAPS participant and Bishop Museum biologist Lu Elderedge passed. We have a card going around if folks would like to sign.
- Teya proposed that the Chair position be a two year position. We will be discussing with the Steering Committee.
- 2013 HMLF Projects that have staff/contractors present at the meeting today (the Biofoul project is also a 2013 funded project, but the contractors are not present today):
  - Crafting and Testing a Plant Health Emergency Plan:* Each state is requested to have a Plant Health Emergency Plan that could be used as a framework for multi-agency emergency response to pests of plants. This project will use contractors Lloyd Loope, and Andi Shluker (coordinator for the 2003 Hawai'i Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan) to work with the lead agencies on crafting the plan. We have also contracted John Roberts to plan and conduct a tabletop that would help test the draft plan, and help work through some of the questions. The tabletop should happen around October, with the final plan submitted by the end of 2013.
  - Legal Fellow program:* A number of the legal questions and issues that continue to arise, including the federal preemption issue and even the lack of capacity to move forward with rulemaking on things like the Myrtaceae restriction. To try to address some of these needs, we have partnered with Denise Antolini of the William S Richardson School of Law at UH Mānoa to start a legal fellows program on invasive species. Melissa Miyashiro is working with HDOA on state rulemaking for the Myrtaceae restriction, and will also work on supporting the case for equal federal protection. Our second fellow, Jarrett Keohokalole will be starting full time in late August, after he passes the bar.
  - Weed Risk Assessment & Plant Pono liaison:* We are extremely limited in our ability to address the importation, sale and use of invasive plants, despite the availability of the Hawai'i-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment System and the HISC-funded Weed Risk Assessment screener, and the USFS/Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry-funded Plant Pono website for accessing information. Therefore, we have hired Amanda Skelton to help conduct outreach to nursery and landscape industry.
- Mahalo to each of our new staff and contractors, and most of all to HMLF for supporting these initiatives!

#### 9:10 – 9:20 **2013 Legislature:** *Summaries from Agencies & Discussion*

*Josh Atwood (HISC, DLNR)*

- Interesting session with a lot of bills dying, including the Conveyance Tax increase on properties over \$2 mil (despite the low impact on the public).
- The Legislature is providing significant funding in the overall FY14 State budget for watersheds and invasive species. In particular, DOFAW's budget includes the following:

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*CGAPS Steering Committee: Dorothy Alontaga, USDA APHIS; Joshua Atwood, HISC; Earl Campbell, USFWS; Jodi Chew, USDA FS; Kate Cullison, DLNR DAR; Mark Fox, TNCH; Maria Gallo, UH CTAHR; Bryan Harry, Emeritus; Roger Imoto, DLNR DOFAW; James Kosciuk, DHS CBP; Lloyd Loope, Emeritus; Darcy Oishi, HDOA PPC; Carol Okada, HDOA PQ; Teya Penniman, MISC; Neil Reimer, HDOA PI*

- \$7.195M special fund spending ceiling for the NAR Fund. This is the money that DLNR is authorized to spend from its existing share of the conveyance tax revenue on NAR Fund authorized programs, including the NARS, Forest Reserves, WPs, and YCC.
- \$3.4M special fund spending ceiling for DOFAW's Native Resources and Fire Protection Program (this includes authorization for DOFAW to spend up to \$3M of these funds for HISC programs).
- \$5.0M CIP bond revenue for the watershed initiative, which can be used for fencing. (Separately, \$1.5M in FY14 and \$2M in FY15 was provided for the Manuka NAR fence.)
- \$3.5M general funds for the watershed initiative.
- \$750K general funds for HISC programs.
- DOFAW lost one Forestry position, 5 invasive species temporary positions were not approved to be transitioned to permanent positions.
- Resolution for HISC to come up with a comprehensive plan for dealing with albezia.

*Darcy Oishi HDOA*

- Albezia reso is interesting because there is no action required (no report to legislature), but we are being asked to look at biocontrol. This might be difficult, as we would need a containment facility that could hold albezia trees (which are much larger than the containment facility).
- PPC: requested 16 positions on Barrel Tax, but we ended up with 10 on the General Fund. Prioritized 4 for apiary program, rest to re-staff rapid response capacity on neighbor islands. Unable to fill until January 2014. Given this, we may not have anyone onboard until FY2015.

Kim: Are you folks working with the folks at Anahola where they are proposing to remove albezia?

Darcy: No

*Keevin Minami HDOA PQ*

- We have 4 positions for the detector dog program, now moved to G Funds.
- 9 inspector positions on Maui were moved to General Funds.
- At one point in the session, we were going to lose 24 positions (vacant from RIF, retirements, etc.), some supervisory. We ended up losing 6 inspector positions.

*Neil Reimer HDOA PI*

- We are making it a priority to fill vacant positions, we filled the Inspector 6 Position (Domingo's old position), Amy Takahashi has taken it.
- Tomorrow we will be hiring Maui port supervisor positions.
- We received \$ for CBB (\$800K total for R&D, mitigation & control). We will probably issue RFPs for parts. One requirement will be a 1:1 match, imposed by the legislature.

**9:20 – 9:30 U.S. Customs & Border Protection: Jim Kosciuk**

- (Jim provided copies of some recent Enforcement Alerts) Assistant Commissioner of CBP has a briefing each morning on these. They send these alerts nationwide. When I receive, I forward it out to folks that might be interested. It is an additional tool for inspectors to keep watch on trends and target certain conveyances, from certain ports.

- Sea cargo volume hasn't picked up much, we are down to 15,000 containers/year from international sources. We haven't lost staff, so we can look at a higher percentage of items. We examined 78 containers last month, found issues with 38 of those.
- Air cargo: the volume of incoming flights is increasing, so we are seeing volumes similar to 8-10 years ago. 314 inspections of air cargo. Of these, we only found issues with 10 of the shipments. Cut flowers are the highest risk import (highest volume, highest number of pests). 16 cases of mail with an actionable pest found, so the entire shipment was rejected.
- Air cargo had 175 pest interceptions from plant materials and 300+ lbs of quarantine/animal products that is prohibited. New pathways with new routes, so we are always trying to adjust. Looking closer at passenger manifests. We look at origin of passenger, not origin of flight.
- Mail branch continues to be a pathway. We are the smallest branch in the Nation. The volume that comes through Honolulu is Pacific rim, including Pacific islands (we don't get Europe, Africa, etc.). Just for April, we issued 640 mail violations, of those 757 QMIs (quarantine materials intercepted; 1 or 20 pcs =1 interception), avian interceptions are high and particularly important with bird flu on the rise in Asia. 171 QMIs for swine products, 88 plant products (handicrafts made of prohibited plant materials, etc). 18 shipments of plant materials inspected, 12 soil shipments inspected. We look at the permit, open it up, if anything is wrong, it gets destroyed. 19 phytosanitary certificates reviewed, found 1 shipment of propagative material that was a permit violation (destroyed), 4 parcels referred to HDOA, 35 plant material shipments rejected, 31 propagative materials destroyed. 31 interceptions of insect pests.
- If you want to get on the national alert list, send Jim an email and he will add you to the list (interesting snapshot of what is found across the nation).

**9:30 – 9:40 USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: Dorothy Alontaga**

- CGAPS is always interested in communication between agencies, NGOS. Here's a recent event: UH CTAHR staff discovered an NKO (not known to occur) Capsicum virus during a CAPs survey, reported to USDA, and HDOA PPC responded and destroyed the vine it was found on. Hats off to Barry and his group, HDOA.

Teya: It would be great to get more details so that we can share this accomplishment.

- There is an automated online APHIS Registry--please sign up for this notification system so that you know when to comment on rule changes, etc.
- New rules posted for Plants for Planting (Q 37). Q 37 is being reorganized, partly to streamline rulemaking, but part of that is that they are going to take a list of plants for planting that are prohibited, and they are proposing to place the list under NAPPRA. Normally, plants are prohibited due to one disease or pest, moving it to a risk assessment would allow us to look at the variety of pests that could enter on it.

Neil: It also allows HDOA to comment on specific concerns to Hawai'i, even if it is de listed for the mainland. We've had a very good track record of having our concerns taken into account.

- NAPPRA listing for invasive plants: when the proposal comes out to list an invasive plant, it is open for comment. Note that even though a plant may be present in the US and there is no official control program, they shouldn't be on the list for weediness. Having official lists for Hawai'i is important for keeping or listing of invasive plants on the NAPPRA list for HI.

**9:40 – 10:00 HDOA Plant Industry Division:** *Neil Reimer, Carol Okada, Darcy Oishi*  
*Darcy Oishi for PPC*

- *Capsicum chlorosis* virus was discovered as part of the CAPS survey. One side of the vine showed symptoms but did not test positive for the virus, the other side did. Will be looking at survey techniques and how we might be able to better spot things like this. It took two staff a whole day to autoclave the plant material. Vectored by thrips.
- Mahalo to Keren and Joe for KISC help in working with HDOA to use Tango to treat the LFA. Provant treatments have now been started. We have seen a significant reduction in LFA. Have not started cliff treatment.
- LFA in Kona coffee area, there is one site and spreading. Kailua-Kona has 12 infestations. One of which appears to have a higher density than sites in Hilo. Greenwaste movement is suspect.
- Pathology facility is down right now. All projects in quarantine have been shut down. Received \$1 mil in CIP to replace the air system. We have Phoenix valves (!). Should be finished by the end of the month. Will take another three months to test containment and get back up and running.
- Biocontrol: working with Tracy on prioritizing and will get back to the broader community for feedback and planning. Request for CIP for planning a new facility died.
- Maile pilau control: we should be ready for permit and EA write-ups by end of the year.
- Fireweed control: we still have 4 possible species in containment. *Secusio* released, widely distributed on Big Island and Maui by working primarily with ranchers (building containment cages to maximize field population establishment) and UH (mass rearing).
- *Tectococcus*: we are looking at additional sites for release.
- Gorse seed moth: Communicating with NZ experts on EA and release prep
- Christmas berry: Host testing plants in FL by Greg Wheeler proceeding, despite slow release of HISC funds.

**10:00 – 10:10 DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources:** *Kate Cullison*

- Supersucker staff received G funds
- Sonia is in Australia attending a biofoul conferece
- AAOTF workshop in February, work proceeding on the biofoul risk assessment project.
- Most of the time she has spent has been responding to tsunami debris. Scott Godwin has helped with training to help ID species.

**10:10 – 10:20 DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife:** *Rob Hauff*

- A couple years ago at the urging of CGAPS, DOFAW requested a Pathway Risk Assessment for pests that could impact 13 important native plant hosts. There have been a number of people working hard on this, and it is almost complete. We will be assembling a committee of reviewers and folks to ensure that the document is useful
- USFS passthrough: they still haven't provided funding advice. It should be anyday, and I would like to try to move them as soon as we do know, to make sure we avoid the increase in overhead at UH.

Josh A: Still working on updates to Chapter 124, Injurious Wildlife. There is still time to provide public comments, so check with Josh A or on the DLNR website

Josh A: We are moving forward to hiring someone to work on small mammal issues. They will be working on the PEIS on Rodent control for conservation. Working on recruitment

that should move forward in the next month. The PEIS will be a general document on how to plan for rodent control projects in conservation areas

Cynthia: Watershed proposals will be later this summer.

**10:20 – 10:30 Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council:** *Joshua Atwood*

- Next HISC meeting will be June 4, 1-4 p.m. at the Capitol, room 325.
- HISC has a new website, <http://hisc.hawaii.gov>.
- FY14 we won't know the amount of discretionary funds we will be allowed to spend, that won't be available until closer to July.
- We have a new proposal focus and guidelines, so please go to the website to review.
- HISC Planner is in the hiring process. They will be working on the HISC strategic plan, and they will be the lead on species-specific topics like albezia.
- Jackie has been working on helping CGAPS and HISC communicate federal/state issues with our Congressional delegation. They have been really good meetings with HISC co-chairs, Ford from HDOT, Vernnon and Dorothy/Stuart, Loyal and Earl. Our first set of meetings were last week with Sen. Schatz, and Rep. Gabbard. They went really well. Rep. Hanabusa at the end of the month. We will be working on scheduling Sen. Hirono.
- HISAW was a good success, for the awards we had 7 legislators to help us on a busy caucus day. We are going to try to do this again next year. Palau is going to plan a similar event for their islands.

**10:30 – 10:45 Break**

**10:45 – 10:55 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:** *Earl Campbell*

- Our office reorganization: Ecol Service office has reorganized how it addresses issues and staffing. We need to do better on the ground. We will have a geographic side (island area based Oahu/Kaua‘i Am Samoa will be Dan Clark; Jess Newton will be working with BI/Maui issues). Domingo, Josh and Brand are working on invasive species still.
- Sequestration: Re-filling positions will be slow. We are all getting a 6.7 or 8% cut this year. USFWS took a hit, although the PIFWO was luckier than other regions. A few years back, we had approx \$6 mil for grants. Two years ago it was 4.5. This year it will be 2.5 million. About 1.2 is spent on captive endangered species that need long term holding (PEP, snails, SDZ). Left over is 1.3 as discretionary funds, we have commitments to ISCs, Watershed Partnerships, other endangered species programs, Marianas T&E. We need to look at different strategies for funding. ISCs and CGAPS will be much less. Will require match. It looks like it will get even worse, with virtually no money for programs other than the captive endangered species programs. The refuge system will

Tony: Enforcement will be impacted, it looks like 8% cuts. We work on fee basis to keep inspections going, so we are a little bit better off, but there will be changes.

- With reduced training for military and budgets, the funds to maintain army natural resources program. They will have impacts to staff. NOAA staff will also be cut. How do we keep key things going until these federal issues are addressed in DC. Consultations will be reinitiated, etc.

**10:55 – 11:20 Invasive Species Committees:**

*Julia Parish, OISC*

- Introduce new Fiscal associate: Alyssa Kimura (from Catholic Charities) is the new OISC fiscal associate. OISC awarded an HTA grant (Rachel and Mary applied).
- Miconia on a cliff behind Lyon had mature trees. We treated it two weeks ago aerially.
- Completed delimiting surveys of *Delairea odorata*, 4 acres.
- Conducting fountain grass surveys in Waianaes. Private property population is larger than thought, with mature individuals, adjoining Makua Valley. OANRP assisted.
- *Rubus discolor* in the back of Palolo: we've had a difficult time due to recalcitrant landowners. Just did, no mature found.
- Early detection has found a slew of possible new targets, first detections in the state.

*Keren Gundersen, KISC*

- We respond to coqui reports that are passed along by HDOA. They are greenhouse frogs. Kudos to PQ for all the prevention work this quarter, it has been working!
- April mongoose sightings were low, as in previous years. Looking at one more trip for the mongoose detection dog...he is getting old.
- Miconia control ongoing, only keiki being found.
- One early detection species, season vine (*Cissus verticulata*), has no effective treatment method. Have tried a number of techniques, working with James Leary.

*Teya Penniman, MISC*

- The recent storm that hit Maliko Gulch and sent a wall of water downstream took a house out. It also took out the citric spray pipes. Most has been reconstructed with a lot of work and additional money. It also spread the frogs to new areas.
- 4 Americorp volunteers will assist this summer. Our last holdout in the area heard about our 13 acre success in Honopo and is now onboard.
- Working with James Leary on efficacy study. How good are we at finding plants? We find about 60-70% on the first visit. How many visits does it take to find 90%+ plants?
- With reduced funding, the miconia core has become a good pr site. Huge trees, lots of flowers and fruit. We must put a lot of effort into biocontrol. Hundreds of acres, lots of trees. We are only working on outliers.
- 2008 was the last veiled chameleon sitting. Working on a paper with our partners
- HISAW MISC did a radio campaign to have people look for LFA. Lots of donations for prizes, but we ran out of time. The radio station took it over and did it on their own, and they did a great job.
- Lāna'i found a coqui frog, they are interested in talking more w/ folks about these issues. Kevin: We will be going to Lāna'i, so will get in touch with your contacts there

*Lori Buchanan MoMISC*

- Thank you to Cynthia for coming over and helping us conduct a survey for naio thrips (none found). We should develop a rapid response plan for Moloka'i and Oahu.
- MoMISC is working with Penny Levin and the Taro Task Force folks to do an apple snail plan for Moloka'i.
- Fireweed response plan is needed. We've only had 100 or so historic points, but our ranchers are requesting it. They do ship in cattle from BI, so they are onboard. Trying to do more early detection surveys. Becky of HDOA PPC is helping.

- Ongoing target species work like rubbervine, bo tree, tumbleweed, albezia, pampas grass, fountain grass, ATF, most are eradicated with surveys ongoing for new recruits.
- Still work with folks and our one nursery for voluntary compliance for inspecting coqui and LFA. Big surge in importing fruit frees from BI. Takes us ¼ of our time to inspect the nursery property and these imports. Shipments to nursery 4x per month.

Keevin: We can talk with the folks on BI to try to do a better job.

Lori: They say that the nursery has been complying, but that the frogs jump on in the staging or shipping process.

Keevin: We might have to look and see if this is the case.

- Caught a coqui on a truck that had been shipped from Hilo, and in roofing material, too.
- No aerial surveys for miconia due to lack of funds and prioritization of coqui and LFA.

*BIISC (email update; Springer Kaye unable to attend, update via email pasted below)*

- When I started in Feb, 2013, there was 6 weeks of payroll money on the books. Thanks to all our partners who have stepped up to make sure BIISC keeps its doors open. More than 90% of the budget shortfall has been met. There will still be some reductions in staff.
- Key management goals for the next quarter include finalizing a five year strategic plan, developing relationships with the county, and improving our percentage of field work
- The three Vertebrate crew members trained in brown tree snake response, coqui control, and invasive animal response, have all found employment with DOFAW. This leaves BIISC without the ability to do vert work (non deer), including snake response. Snake response is not among their new DOFAW job duties—they are willing to assist as volunteers if able. We encourage a look at island-by-island snake response to ensure adequate coverage.
- Due to lack of budget and staff, BIISC is unable to control the coqui pop at the Hilo Airport
- BIISC continues to receive regular feral rabbit reports island wide, and is working to develop a more targeted information campaign through pet stores.
- The deer team spent most of April in Kohala, responding to repeated reports, meeting with land owners and conducting ground surveys for deer sign using the FLIR. They have detected NO deer or deer sign in Kohala, and were able to gather a high level of support and cooperation from ranchers out there. They are now returning to Ka`u, the only confirmed deer location on the island, where conditions are rapidly drying up, which improves the team's ability to detect deer in thick brush, and lure them to open areas with water.
- The team is spending up to 25% of their time training partner staff in use of the FLIR and aerial assisted hunting. They were on Maui and Molokai last month, and will be training with the Mauna Kea Forest Restoration project at the end of May, and the Hawaii Association of Watershed Partnerships in June. Technology transfer and information sharing are key goals for the program.
- Helicopter hours are about halfway finished, and are also being used by TNC, Mauna Kea Forest Restoration, various ungulate control programs on Maui and Molokai, and the BIISC plant crew.
- BIISC continues to work on seven rapid response targets, and key locations of two widespread species. We are averaging one week each month in staff work exchange projects—the crew is camping with the Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance as we speak, and MKWA staff will join BIISC in wax myrtle sweeps later this summer. The exchanges make big work projects more fun and less daunting, gets us into areas we can't regularly survey, and we always learn a lot from one another.

- Miconia on the Big Island is now estimated to cover 145,000 acres, or an area half the size of Kauai. The previous strategy of maintaining a 40 mile long buffer, preventing its spread to the North, South, and mauka areas, is not feasible with current staff or funding. BIISC is meeting with its committee members to discuss what viable strategy might remain for ground control in East Hawaii. Forest Solutions is continuing to hold the line in S. Kona, where they describe the infestation as “do-able” and BIISC has established contact to coordinate renewed effort in that key agricultural area.
- The Big Island community leaders let it be known in the legislature this year that the time has come to do something about albizia. While albizia is certainly not a rapid response or eradication target, BIISC sees a clear responsibility to participate in public outreach and training eager community groups to control the trees safely and appropriately. BIISC is working with three funders to expand or develop small albizia control and mapping projects, and will participate in a stakeholders meeting planned for late May. Albizia is likely to feature prominently in BIISC communications in coming years.

### **11:20 – 11:40 Other Partner Agency Updates**

*Kim Evans HDOT:* Will be doing a Lāna‘i master plan update, so maybe you folks want to be on the committee, Sect. 7 consultation has been elevated, and there will be a good time for updates.

*Melissa Miyashiro, CGAPS Fellow:* Just in sponge mode trying to take in the issues and wrap my head around federal preemption issues

*Janet Ashman, MCFB:* There is a big push from anti-GMO and anti-pesticide right now, and they are getting a lot of traction at the legislature. LRB is supposed to take a look outside of Hawai‘i to see what other states are doing on non-restricted use pesticides. Also passed is the requirement of HDOA to list restricted use pesticide user information

*Barry Brennan, CTAHR:* Our new dean has approved 4 position. One will be an Agrosecurity Coordinator.

*Dave Duffy, PCSU:* 20 years ago, UH agreed to have an overhead of 6%. The new VC and Dean are requesting an increase to 10% for state funds, 20% for Fed. The Dean was holding 700K of project proposals, so I had to cave. The tentative agreement is 2% this year, 2% next, to start July 1. There is a regime change (and some regents are changing July 1), and I am hoping that this is an important opportunity. This is the worst timing, and I am worried that some projects will not survive. The CESU will be protected, in fact, the rate will be lower. One difference is that the other projects get support from the University to operate. PCSU does not.

### **11:40 – 11:50 CGAPS: Christy Martin**

(update provided at intro to new staff at meeting start)

Website: We lost our ability to make quick updates or changes to our website as part of the loss of funding for HEAR. We are looking at transitioning our site to a WordPress site this summer, along with the ISCs.

### **11:50 – 12:00 New Business & Announcements**

- Kudos to HDOA for recent media highlighting invasive species issues.
- CGAPS Steering Committee to follow, 12:15-3:00

**Next meeting:**

**TBA, will work with Jodi, new 2014 CGAPS Chair.**