



**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, Monday, August 1, 2011*

This CGAPS meeting will focus on agency/NGO updates and budget issues

9 – 9:10 **Welcome, Introductions:** *Teya Penniman, MISC & CGAPS Deputy Chair*

9:10 – 9:20 **HDOA Plant Quarantine/Special Projects:** *Brian Ishii for Carol Okada*

- HB1568 signed into law, Act 202, requires DOT to coordinate biosecurity facilities at airports. Requires Harbors division to work with HDOA to construct at harbors. Harbors Div has already identified and set aside space at some harbors, including
- USDA Farm Bill: project with Bishop Museum to do DNA barcoding of insects, to ID faster, ID stages that are not easily identified. Also a project with the nurseries to make their products cleaner, will work with Arnold Hara and CTAHR to do this.
- Hauoli Mau Loa: Myrtaceae project funding will look at the eucalyptus that can be grown/supplied locally, will help when the import restriction is in place.

Q: Can you tell me more about the nursery project?

A: Looking at a systems approach for nurseries to keep cleaner nurseries, disinfection. Only for potted plants at this time.

9:20 – 9:30 **USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service:** *Dorothy Alontaga*

- We are looking at regulating domestic wood pallets, we already regulate from foreign. We have decided not to do so, that states will need to regulate interstate movement of wood packing./pallets
- Someone put together a test a special needs request related to RIFA, and I will share the packet (it is really good) so that we can copy it for other species
- Q37 plants for planting are the highest risk commodities from foreign sources. Unfortunately, incoming plants used to be treated by methyl bromide. Working on new regulations that would identify plants that are so laden with high risk pests (or are high risk for being invasive themselves), that APHIS would regulate. This category has gone through the final rule, with two lists that are posted for public comment (weedy plants, plants that are pest hosts). These lists are posted online, you do not need to supply the risk data, you are suggesting a list of plants that you would like to propose for a risk assessment. Sept 26 is the deadline for comments, I will send Christy the link for posting, along with some procedures.
- Also, please note that even if you were previously subscribed to the USDA APHIS announcement list, you need to sign up again.
- Stuart Stein is new in our office and will be taking over the Guam biosecurity work.

Q: How did APHIS come up with these initial lists?

A: I don't know how these lists were formed.

Q: Is it possible to get special consideration for things that have always been Ok for importation?

A: I think you should get that in writing that you would like to request it especially for Hawai'i. Put specific reasons for HI, why it should be different from the continental US. 1993 Forestry report actually had 'ōhi'a rust as a concern, there are other diseases that might

*CGAPS Steering Committee: Dorothy Alontaga, USDA APHIS; Earl Campbell, USFWS;
Paul Conry, DLNR DOFAW; Mark Fox, TNCH; James Kosciuk, DHS CBP;
Lloyd Loope, USGS PIERC; Rachel Neville, OISC; Carol Okada, HDOA PQ;
Teya Penniman, MISC; Neil Reimer, HDOA PPC; Lyle Wong, HDOA PI*

9:30 – 9:40 U.S. Customs & Border Protection: *Jim Kosciuk*

- Interagency collaboration is one of our tasks on the CGAPS Action Plan. We do regular interagency training workshops that is really helping us find many more pathogens in grass materials that we hadn't found before.
- Started looking at bird seed from small time importers, we're doing sampling on plant seeds, bacteria, pathogens.
- Looking at more empty containers, finding hitchhiking seeds, using a vacuum. We are monitoring for risk.
- We are also looking at transiting plant materials (looking to see if it has necessary permits).
- We finally got to hold a collaborative meeting with NOAA, USFWS, Coast Guard, others, to meet about the entire archipelago, movement of things. One problem is the Midway is "outside" of the U.S., so anything coming out of Midway, we treat as foreign, yet there is free movement of items between NWHI. Considered "interstate" in other cases. We discussed risks, permit issues, more.

Q: Did you discuss biosecurity from the MHI to NWHI?

A: No, that is more the refuge issue, and NOAA and other agencies have good biosecurity protocols. I think we will need to summarize and form a plan with formal procedures and requirements.

- We're going to look at ship dunnage soon.

9:40 – 9:50 USDA APHIS Wildlife Services: *Mike Pitzler*

- In 1999, Senator Inouye put forward an earmark to fund a Honolulu office with 65 employees for projects here and in Guam. There are another 65 employees funded via earmarks on Guam. With the earmark ban, funding is no longer. APHIS funded the remainder of this fiscal year. Oct. 1, 2011, we have no funding here or on Guam.
- There was an MOA signed between all agencies that work on BTS. Any money that transferred between agencies is not charged overhead. Now, as of Oct, 1, we will need to charge for all of our work, and for overhead for all funds transferred to us for work. Instead of matching the earmark with federal dollars, we will not be able to do this, we will be the only federal office/agency that receives no federal dollars. If DOD decides they do not want to pay overhead for our work, we will not be able to do this, we will not be able to keep our office open. DOD and OIA will each need to decide if and how they will do this work. I hope that everything will work out and we will be able to continue.

Q: Because you were on an earmark basis, there is not continuing resolution.

A: We were set up as a fee-for-service. I can enter into cooperative service agreements to fund the actual inspectors, using those federal dollars as match, but it does not support the management office.

Q: Is there anything CGAPS can do?

A: At this point, no. Secretary of Interior and Secretary of Defense need to work it out.

9:50 – 10:00 Hawai'i Invasive Species Council: *Joshua Atwood*

- HISC has new members with the Abercrombie administration. New designees for agency members as well. Seem engaged. Had council meeting to convene the new HISC in June. Had two submittals to identify pressing issues as examples of how the HISC can engage and participate. Meeting also focused on administrative functioning of the HISC.

- Working groups met and came up with a balanced budget with projects that will be put before the HISC on August ____ (2.65 million dollars in requests, and we had 1.8 million available, \$1.4 in NARF Special funds, \$400K in Legacy Land funds). Real need to identify additional funding sources.

Q: When you folks were talking about vector control and mosquitoes, did you talk about impending NPDES issue?

A: No, not at the HISC meeting and a subsequent meeting. Will talk more with Janet about this issue.

10:00 – 10:10 DLNR DOFAW: Rob Hauff

- DOFAW IS coordinator position has still not been approved by the Gov. We will still keep working on it.
- Working on Forest Service on coming up with a Forest Pest Risk Assessment for HI. Lloyd, Domingo, Carol, others. Struggling with a lack of data, but hope to move forward and have it completed by 2012. Looking at the risk to 13 important native species, looking at pests that threaten the species.

10:10 – 10:20 DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources: Kate Cullison

- In response to Kāneʻohe Bay restoration work, have convened an advisory group to look at long term research, methods and goals. 268K NOAA grant awarded to start. Need 50,000 native sea urchins that will be needed to start working on some of the larger reefs. Don't have that sort of capacity at the hatchery. Have a research coordinator.
- Ballast water/Hull fouling vacant since 2009. Interviews this Friday.
- Working to train team on freshwater eradication methods. Have no chemical tools available for use, none are approved.
- Will meet with NELHA facility folks to see if they have an active biosecurity plan in place.

10:20 – 10:30 BREAK

10:30 – 10:40 HDOA Plant Pest Control: Darcy Oishi

- Have an ant team and bee team. Bee program also had earmark funding. Had to work quick with PCSU to get funding into place before it was lost.
- Act 200 was voluntary beekeeper registration and creation (but not funding) of positions.
- Recently discovered small hive beetle on Maui and Molokaʻi, island wide on Oahu and Hawaiʻi Island. Earmark funding for bees was only for varroa mite, so we don't have much funding to address beetle control. Looking at chemical control. Looking at biocontrol as well.
- Will be sending Moshen to Africa for fountain grass, small hive beetle, fireweed. Will try to do another trip in spring.
- APHIS concerned about fireweed biocontrol impacts on sunflowers. Nettle caterpillar biocontrol well established in release areas, have grant money to continue monitoring. Gall wasp biocontrol will be presented at HCC. Continuing to do work on a backup biocontrol to aid in the gall wasp control.
- Strawberry guava biocontrol waiting on HDOA Chair signature.

Q: Strategy for fountain grass control? Seed eaters?

A: Will take whatever we can get. We'll evaluate any good candidates. No history of success worldwide, but hope to find something.

- Coffee berry borer detected in Ka‘u, expanded its range. APHIS has really helped with surveys and monitoring. Will be working with HDOA PQ, there is an interim quarantine around infestation area, and a second one around Hawai‘i Island.
 - Have no budget, so we don’t know when Maui and Kona entomologist positions will be filled.
- Q: Whenever there is a new introduction of pests, to get an interim rule out, you need to survey whether or not is present on other islands. CAPs surveys assist in this?
- A: Yes, this and other survey work (ISCs, and Cas’ for ant and other species). If it is a species that we do not have coverage for, we would need to launch a baseline/delimiting survey. Once we hear about possible pests, like red palm mite, coconut rhinoceros beetle, red palm beetle, these have been added to the CAPS list.
- Miconia biocontrol needs some collaborative work, was part of our HISC grant. HDOA does a lot of the insect collections, USFS works on the insects, HDOA handles pathogens.

10:40 – 10:50 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Josh Fisher

- Capacity to control widespread pests (CGAPS Action Plan item): Rodent control for conservation, funding allocated. For more information, visit www.removeatsrestorehawaii.org
- \$199K to ISCs for FY11; new call for proposals for FY12 was just announced, must meet the objectives of the USFWS strategic plan.

10:50 – 11:15 ISCs:

Rachel Neville, OISC:

- *Chormolaena odorata* found on Army land, partnering with HDOA and OANRP to do surveys. Population is really big. Is on State Nox weed list, considered “next clidemia” by folks on Guam. Part of the pop is on Kahuku Motocross track, which is used by Army on weekends. Had a meeting with motocross and they are super-supportive and want to help. Once we have a better picture of where it is, we’ll solicit more help.
- Coqui have kept us busy, they keep showing up. We worked with HDOA to make a waterproof flyer for nurseries on BMPs.
- Met with new Lyon Arboretum collection manager Mashuri Waite, he has also formed a list of species that they will remove from collections.
- Did a 6 month report on miconia: we are on track for ground and air surveys. Found only one mature tree, seedlings beneath. 398 immature trees removed, all within buffers of formerly removed mature trees.

Keren Gundersen, KISC:

- Ramped up mongoose response with tracking tunnels, traps, outreach
- Early detection roadside surveys complete, will work on prioritizing
- No calls heard from natural area population—HDOA weedwacked recalcitrant property, none heard for months
- Herbicide ballistic technology used for aerial miconia control because miconia pops up above hau and uluhe and there is just 6 months to fruit.
- Outreach methods
- Last week met with conservation professionals around the Pacific. Looking at how to identify targets.

Teya Penniman, MISC:

- Had SCA crew from NPS work with us on miconia.
- Pampas grass work on Maui via air and remote camp work

- Single calls continue to be received and recovered. Maliko Gulch work is going well, ran out of citric acid, had to get from neighbor islands. Keren Beard's project is looking at efficacy of techniques for coqui control.
- Adam Radford will present at HCC, Brooke Mahnkin will do a veiled chameleon report
- Frog reports on Moloka'i has resulted in Lori working with the new Moloka'i nursery to survey whenever there are new shipments. She also requests HPWRA scores from screeners on plants of concern.
- Artist Patrick Doherty came to Maui and will be doing a sculpture at Hui Noeau, with outreach.
- Looking at planning a multi-stakeholder facilitated meeting to look at interisland movement of species using Peter Adler. HDOA is really moving to address this, doing blitz surveys, and working with nurseries.

Jan Schipper, BIISC:

- BIISC has plant and animal teams. Working on surveying for axis deer, chinchilla (reports), other species. Last week had a meeting with Sen Kahele, Paul Conry, Carol Okada and Gov Abercrombie to discuss loopholes. Two weeks ago, two helicopters were seen dropping off two bucks and three does on private land in N Kohala. Gov. Abercrombie is very supportive of addressing. No control to date, but in training for 20 people to track, shoot, etc.
- Still working on *Rauvofia*, have done delimiting surveys, working on control.
- Working with Kamehameha leasehold office to contact and get permission for private property access to control miconia.
- Working on human health and safety issues surrounding albezia, as treefall would block evacuation and hospital access. Community issue, working at the request of county.
- Islandwide survey of the coastline, we know where they are, could easily eradicate if not for permits and compliance issues. .7 acres should be easy to eradicate, but the compliance measures may stop us.
- 4 year islandwide roadside surveys, after that, will do prioritization and target list.
- Challenge is linking outreach capacity and biggest bang for the buck to accomplish change.

11:15 – 11:25 CGAPS: *Christy Martin*

- Have worked primarily on assisting DOFAW with IS Coordinator work, and HISC processes
- Hauoli Mau Loa project administration

11:25 – 11:40 Other Partner Agency updates

Sky Harrison, PBIN: PBIN has worked a lot on invasive species (and conservation) data management projects. We develop, plan, host, maintain, update these databases & web portals. New ISC reporting web portal and database just online. However, USGS reorganized and was defunded to 0. FY 11, was told to shut down. Existing contracts to NPS, USFWS have kept us on, our doors open. I will try to transition these services and products to a state-based entity. If we receive funding, we will function under PCSU. Submitted a HISC proposal, but received only partial funding—However, we will need funding for the entire program, and I will be looking for it. Oct. 1, we need to start shutting down the sites. We will need funds to bridge this period, and there will need to be funds in the pot by the end of this calendar year. If adequate funds are not found, we will all need to talk about each of the databases and where things will go, who will maintain.

Janet Ashman, Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation: Still no movement on Oct. 31 deadline to have new rules in place for pesticide use in and around water. If nothing happens at the Federal level, we will not be able to work in or around water starting Nov 1.

Jody Chou, US Forest Service: ‘Ōhi‘a rust presentation by Phil Cannon at the HCC. Looking into securing a spot for a Hawai‘i representative at an international conference later this fall.

James Leary, UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources: Pesticide registration work (24c registrations) on application of new tools. Working with PCSU for SOPs for safety using herbicide ballistic technology.

Inga Gibson, Humane Society of United States

Amnesty Program strengthening—we found that one of the factors that reduces the number of surrendered animals is the fear that they will not be placed in good “homes” will work with HDOA, Christy on ideas. Will hold another meeting on safe cats campaign meeting & projects. Have been working with BIISC on most humane control of deer. Also working on Kona donkey population, trap and place in good homes.

11:40 – 11:55 Update on Ants: Cas Vanderwoode & Hawai‘i Ant Lab

Michelle Montgomery, Brent Sheehan (ant lab staff)

- Base-funded by HISC in past years, supplemented by HISC in 2012, leveraged additional funds, mostly federal dollars
- In July 2011, 40 calls/emails per day, 10 walk-ins with ants to ID, 334 visitors to www.littlefireants.com.
- Develop ways for industry and residents to manage LFA, we test existing products, protocols, develop new management tools.
- Eradicate LFA from Maui, Kaua‘i, minimize spread of LFA in Kona, training program for plant vendors at farmers markets, detection surveys at points of entry on the Big Island, develop and promote BMPs for HI exporting nurseries. Will also start on documenting and proving the LFA/animal corneal clouding relationship.
- DNA work followed colonial lines and found that HI’s pop came via Cuba, through FL, to HI. Shipping services and protectorate relationships show up in the DNA results.

11:55 – 12:00 New Business & Announcements

- Joint American Phytopathological Society/International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences meeting, Honolulu, Aug. 6-10, 2011.
- International Symposium on the Biological Control of Weeds, Waikoloa Beach Marriott, Sept. 11-16, 2011
- Society of American Foresters, Honolulu, Nov. 2-6, 2011 (another ‘ōhi‘a rust presentation, special symposium on Pacific issues; poster abstracts taken through Sept.; USDA APHIS presentation of identifying offshore pests and keeping them out)
- The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, Hilton Waikoloa, Nov. 5-10, 2011
- Feb. 6-9 Weed Science Society meeting in Waikoloa
- Feb 22-23 Pacific Entomology Conference at Outrigger Waikiki
- American Horticulture Society meeting in Waikoloa in Sept.
- Humane/Wildlife conflict training conflict.

Next meeting: Wednesday, Nov 16