



**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, November 16, 2011*

This CGAPS meeting will focus on agency/NGO updates.

9 – 9:10 **Welcome, Introductions:** *Carol Okada, HDOA PQ & CGAPS Chair*

9:10 – 9:20 **HDOA Plant Quarantine:** *Carol Okada*

- Mahalo for everyone's help on the Congressional field hearing in October. When we first started the discussion with the Senator's office, it became very apparent that Hawai'i does things differently, and Hawai'i can be a model for changes across the nation. We will be working with Senator Akaka to USDOT regarding
- ATA Lawsuit, case continued to February 2012. This is the 6th delay.
- Bills passed last year have really helped move things forward in identifying and planning for joint inspection facilities at harbors and airports statewide.
- Harbors deputy called, and he has requested that HDOA work with them on a statewide harbors biosecurity plan.
- We just got Gov's approval to work on a pilot project with UH to work with nurseries to identify pests that could move interisland/export, devise strategies to clean, and implement biosecurity measures to keep it out of the transportation system. This will also help show the cost and utility of this type of biosecurity at the production site.

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

- Honolulu we issue 300-500 ag-related mail violations/month. We are looking at purchases online for CITES items, seeds and other things
- Military household goods from Okinawa and Japan have been pretty dirty. DOD logistics people are doing a better job getting the word out. The monitoring we're doing has shown an improvement.
- DHS CBP has an agreement with USDA to enforce their regulations. Next year, we are doing an interagency port review. USDA will come in and examine how effective we are. They do this every four years.
- Garbage compliance continues to be a pathway. Anything arriving from foreign, we regulate for USDA.
- Nothing really significant, but we are still seeing snails from the Mediterranean, plant diseases and other insects arriving. It really holds true that the more you look, the more you find.

Q: APEC and RIMPAC impacts?

A: We clear APEC arrivals just like everything else. We work with their protocol officers to make sure they know that they cannot bring in certain items. We usually get good compliance. They like to bring their customary foods, but they give it up, if it is not allowed. For RIMPAC, we staff up because of the number of countries and vessels involved. We work with Pearl Harbor on planning, we inspect all the arrivals.

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

CGAPS Steering Committee: Dorothy Alontaga, USDA APHIS; Earl Campbell, USFWS; Daniel Clark, 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

- A couple of mis-statements I've heard in the past couple weeks that I would like to clear up. When PPQ finds a species and cannot id it down to species, we key it down as far as it can go. If that genus has plant pests in it and we have reason to believe it could be damaging, we would take action on the commodity. When federal inspectors only act on a short pest lists—this isn't true. When I look up the pests we've taken action on (mites and diseases alone), there were over 8,000. No nation can have a comprehensive pest list, in part because there are new pests emerging all the time. *Phytopthera ramorum* is one of them.
- The NAPPRA list: there are a category of plants that will not be admitted for import unless a plant risk assessment is done on them. We are populating that list and it is one of the things you folks can help on. Al Tasker has offered to take a look at our preliminary list of pests, he will walk us through and tell us whether or not something has a good chance and what needs to be done to make the case.

9:40 – 9:50 HDOA Plant Pest Control: Neil Reimer or Darcy Oishi

Neil: Update on bioscontrol.

- We don't have as many projects going as we used to, due to budgets. Erythrina gall wasp biocontrol is working well, but we are still concerned that the trees are having a difficult time producing seeds. We have a second insect in containment that we may decide to release.
- Nettle caterpillar control is very good. High presence of the natural enemy this year.
- Brazillian scale received a FONSI, published in OEQC Nov 8. We have the ability to release, but we have decided to wait the 30 day period when the public could file an objection.
- Moshen Ramadan will be going to Africa in December to look for pests of fireweed, fountain grass, and small hive beetle.

Darcy: Ant program update.

- Hawai'i Ant Lab has been gaining momentum since the hiring of two technicians to assist Cas. We have been working on delivery systems, incl. a modified grease gun, modified fire extinguisher, and other tools to apply bait matrices into trees and cliffs.
- We are gearing up for an eradication effort on Kaua'i that will include work on a cliff, trees, and an area that is traversed by the public.
- Maui LFA population continues to be monitored and appears to be absent.
- Held an ant workshop in Hilo to learn more about ants, including LFA, and discuss ant outreach to improve the chances of early detection and to reduce the spread.
- About a week and a half ago, LFA were detected in a greenwaste facility, by the coconut rhinoceros beetle control team. As part of our Pacific ant program, Cas will be going to Guam to help guide their future efforts. We will be persuing more funds to continue.

Q: Will your deliver techniques be approved to forestry use or will they just be around communities?

A: They are not registered for use yet. We have been on an Experimental Use Permit. EPA and HDOA Pesticides have been helpful. We are looking at trying to register some pesticides via Special Local Needs and a Section 3 label for general use. It will be initially for forestry and wildlife areas. We will need to register pesticides for use in crops, too.

Q: What about riparian areas, and multiple species such as tropical fire ants? Additionally, are you looking at organic control measures?

A: We just don't have enough money or time to work on as many things we need to be doing. We also don't have the capacity to do research on the pesticides that work best on each

species, and we don't have the ability to develop delivery methods, and register products. We have been focusing on the LFA issue and we are maxed out.

Q: Any indication where the Guam population came from?

A: LFA reproduces colonally, and very much along trade routes. I don't know if we will have funds to do a genetic analysis.

Q: Is anyone working on getting people to survey for and report ants?

A: This is one of the things the Ant Lab has been working on. We have a good website (www.littlefireants.com) which has really helped. The workshop was the start of a statewide strategic plan.

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

- Since the last CGAPS meeting, HISC met on Aug 18 to pass FY12 budget and to discuss statutory and rule changes. Met again in Sept to discuss moving forward changes
- HRS 91 changes (emergency declaration conditions) will add environmental damage to the list of conditions under which an emergency can be declared.
- Codify the functions of the council, and the lay out the process for fulfilling the mandate to list the invasive species in Hawai i.
- DLNR is updating 124 rules, Injurious Wildlife, new tier added "Introduced Wildlife", cannot move or release Introduced Wildlife, introduced last week at BLNR meeting. Will be going to internal review next, then public meetings.
- HISC EPWG meeting yesterday. Spent some time discussing axis deer and how the HISC EPWG can assist.
- Looking at another HISC meeting before the Legislature opens.
- Also looking at having a HISC meeting after the session on Maui to look at Maui issues including the axis deer.
- Met with Major-General Wong and he said we can use their satellite imagery. Contact me to get in touch with them.

10:00 – 10:10 DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources: Jono Blodgett

- We were just able to hire a new ballast and hull fouling, will start in December. She is the senior policy officer with Australian Dept of Ag and Forestry doing this work in Australia. She comes to us very well connected and able to hit the ground running.
- Kāne ohe Bay work continues. We transplanted 5,000 urchins onto a holding reef, will transplant them to newly cleared reefs soon. Have had two broods, working on a diatom issue that has caused problems. We continue to have urchins go missing, no culprits, but reports of people collecting urchins. We're working with the neighborhood association, Paepae o He oia, and others, but we need to step up the community outreach.

10:10 – 10:20 DLNR DOFAW: Paul Conry, Emma Yuen

Watershed Initiative: The Rain Follows the Forest: A plan to replenish Hawai i's source of water.

- This initiative was rolled out by the Governor and has the full support of Chair Aila and the department. One of the major foundations for the initiative is to protect the forest from invasive species.
- Without securing the water needs of today and into the long term, we are not meeting the needs of the State. Water is critical and invasive species management is integral in protecting water.
- We will need to work together to accomplish this initiative.

(PowerPoint presentation: plan and factsheet are available at Hawaii.gov/dlnr)

- Indicators: long term decline in rainfalls, stream flows in decline, declines in water well levels. Forests can increase water capture by up to 30%.
- The goal is to double the acreage protected over the next 10 years. It took 40 years to fence just 10% of priority areas. Need to eliminate invasive hooved animals from priority watershed areas; remove or contain invasive plants from priority 1 and 2 areas; prevent introductions and spread of invasive plants (including supporting the use and development of biocontrol to widespread pests); increase awareness and support of watershed protection; increase smart planning/management of water and watershed resources by other agencies.
- Need to identify a dedicated funding source/s. Will work with the legislature to start.
- Did some polling to look at public awareness and support. There is support for doing this

Q: What is your measure of success for “double the areas protected”

A: This is a 10 year goal, we need to increase the number of acres fenced and actively managed.

Q: The idea of expanding watershed protection is great. I am also really happy to see biocontrol support, it should be a major component. It is the only answer to the invasive plant program.

A: Kudos to HDOA for taking the next step on strawberry guava biocontrol. Another thing we need to work on is to work closer together with all of our communities in conservation to have a coordinated approach to manage and protect our water supply. Managing the water from the tops of the mountain into the ocean, you’ll see DLNR move in a much more coordinated fashion to protect our resources.

Q: Is there a budget available?

A: We are developing a budget and plan. We will need help from the conservation community to feed into the needs assessment and budget. \$11 million is our target, we now need to back it up with a planning/needs assessment for each island. Appendix 1 and 2 in the plan provide a look at fencing and control costs on a per-acre area, per year (\$11 million/yr)

Q: Will this change access to these areas?

A: We like to say, two legs OK, four legs bad. There are always access opportunities, gates, step overs, and traditional gathering rights. Public hunting will be given first access, but we need to support the complete removal of animals from these priority watershed areas.

Q: Last Dec. there was a drop in federal funding. Does this replace this?

A: We are stepping up with State support. We will continue to look for match, and we will have much more available for match. It is time for us to step up.

Q: Are there any invasive plants identified that are particular risks to watersheds that we don’t have now?

A: The Weed Risk Assessment provides us with a tool to identify these. However, we already have some very damaging plants that are proven bad for the watershed, like strawberry guava.

This presentation/overview will be shared with the HISC. We are asking for everyone’s support to elevate this as a priority.

10:20 – 1030 Legislative Initiatives: Mark Fox

- HDOA: Hosted House Finance Committee here. May have a bill introduced regarding manifests, requiring electronic manifests.
- Teya: Hosted House Finance Committee on Maui to look at miconia
- Christy: Planning a Mauka to Makai invasive species briefing for Environment committees in January.

- Inga: Will be working with Mark and others to see if we can find common ground on snaring and feral cat issues. Continuing to work with HDOA Pesticides on ovocontrol registration for doves.
- Paul: We will be working on pieces of legislation to fund the watershed initiative.

10:30 – 10:40 BREAK

10:40 – 10:50 USDA APHIS Wildlife Services: *Mike Pitzler*

(not present)

10:50 – 11:00 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: *Domingo Cravalho, Joshua Fisher*

Josh: Internal USFWS business

- We finally finished our 5-year strategic plan for USFWS. If anyone wants to review it, let me know.
- We are reviewing FY12 funding proposals, and I don't have a timeline for replies.

Domingo: BTS

- USDA Aphis was not able to extend funding for Wildlife Services, DOD and DOI funding secured for part of FY12, but not the last quarter. They are required to complete a review for these funds to help evaluate the program
- Did a review of the CNMI program and have some recommendations for improvement, to include a 90% inspection rate of air arrivals. Due to austerity measures, they are not working before/after hours and on Fridays. Flights continue to come and go, so they are trying to come up with some solutions
- BTS working group meeting Dec. 6-8 at the Federal Building. Two days on interdiction and control issues, research, and the third day will be on funding. Hoping to add a field trip.
- Planning a trip in late November for DLNR (Josh Atwood) and HDOA (Chair Kokubun and Carol Okada) to go to Guam and CNMI to look at BTS work and issues

Tony Palermo: law enforcement issues

- National attention from the Subcommittee meeting (George Phocas testified) resulted in Lacey Act discussions. Also resulted in increased involvement and partnering
- The majority of mail violations is SE Asian mail, including anything from insects, wood products, elephant tusks. If you have any specific pests that we might encounter from this area, please let me know so that I can inform and train my inspectors.

11:00 – 11:20 ISCs: *Rachel Neville, OISC; Keren Gunderson, KISC; Teya Penniman, MISC; Lori Buchanan MoMISC; Jan Schipper, BIISC*

Rachel Neville: OISC

- Pampas treated in cliffs above Haiku. Just found it on a golf course that has a large hedge of it in their landscaping. We will work with them to get this source pop removed.
- Frogs: Frogs continue to show up in Waimanalo, now being reported in untended vegetation at the foot of the mountain. We are responding with HDOA.
- Working with Lyon Arboretum to remove their *Piper aduncum* (false awa) display. Conducting delimiting surveys. Has a long seed bank. They are also very supportive of deaccessioning other species that have been rated high risk with the WRA. We applied for funding for us to assist their three staff in doing this.

Keren Gunderson: KISC

- Delimiting surveys on plants identified in 2010 by the Oahu Early Detection survey crew.
- Monitoring the one wildland coqui population on Kauaï. Haven't heard a call in 7 months, although we continue to apprehend frogs arriving.
- Rob Hauff came and assisted us in surveys in the GMA.
- Continue to assist HDOA in the Kalihiwai LFA site. We also assisted in conducting nursery and garden shop surveys for LFA (and nettle caterpillars, thrips).
- Continue to have good community support from the nearby associations and the Mayor.
- Worked with NTBG to deaccession the only *Macaranga mapp* on Kauaï.

Teya Penniman: MISC

- Still surveying for LFA; conducting public outreach
- Miconia work continues, just hosted Cal Hirai in Hana to film miconia for a program
- Pampas grass aerial work winding down for the season. Aerial access and on-the ground remote area work in East Maui has been good, but having a difficult time in West Maui due to a lack of flat terrain for camping/crew stationing.
- Coqui work ongoing in Maliko.
- Developing and testing invasive species module for Ho'ike curriculum.
- Field crew is resurveying for veiled chameleons, none found since 2008.
- Biocontrol and miconia: we spend a lot of money controlling miconia on Maui, facing a decrease in funding. There was a session on biocontrol at the miconia conference on Maui. Kudos to Tracy and Darcy for pulling off the international biocontrol conference in Sept. Robert Barretto at those conferences reported on a nematode that shows great promise (also works on *Clidemia*). Identified roadblocks, including a need for a new state facility. For not very much money, we could really move forward.

Lori Buchanan: MoMISC year in review

- Still at 0 recurrence for fountain grass, pampas grass, arrundo.
- We helped with upside down jellyfish, and haven't found any since.
- Over 500 mature tree daisies controlled (*Montanoa* sp)
- Captured 1 coqui frog in E Molokai: fourth interception. Was still in a truck that had been shipped from Hilo (a couple months ago!). The community called it in.
- Took Sept. to do an island-wide survey for LFA—still not present. However, we have a few new island records of ants.
- About to start aerial surveys for miconia. Resurvey of priority areas for early detection. It is not known to be present. Contracted work on hyperspectral and priority areas.

11:20 – 11:25 CGAPS: Christy Martin

Focused on coordinating the CGAPS partnership, primarily in coordinating a joint statement of needs for the congressional hearing. Meeting with issues we highlighted

11:25 – 11:40 Other Partner Agency updates

Jane Beachy, Oahu Army Natural Resource Program: We had two weeds show up on Army lands: *Chromolaena odorata* and *Miscanthus floridulus* in Kahuku, in an area where the Army trains and where there is a motocross track. Both on State Nox weeds list, both new records for the state, both scored high on the HPWRA. Working with OISC to delimit and control. It is also possible that they made it to Hawaiï on military vehicles from Guam, where they are present in large numbers. We haven't been able to survey other motocross

tracks. We did outreach to the motocross users, they were very supportive and interested in helping. They posted the flyer on their website, too.

Jodi Chew, US Forest Service: In early November, we had the Society of American Foresters meet here. Everyone did a great job showing the special needs that Hawai'i has. It really helps USFS understand.

Ken Warner: The Pacific Safeguard Initiative: My job is to work offshore to reduce pest risks. I've got data on pests, commodity trade, and working on getting trade routes for a good picture of risk. I'm beginning to see a picture of the pest risk to Hawai'i and other US territories. How do we work with other countries to get them to address pests that pose a risk to us? Working with other agencies to find funding for trainings and workshops.

11:40 – 11:55 Update on the Micronesian Biosecurity Plan: Phillip Andreozzi, NISC; Joel Helm, NAFAC

Joel: Navy technical representative on this contract

- Phase I: Smithsonian is working on marine section (warship movement data has not yet been received, may be able to submit in January) USDA is working on a terrestrial section, including mosquitoes (complete and turned in), USGS working on aquatic (draft complete and submitted). May be able to complete by March 2012. My job has been to collect comments on these sections and reconcile with what has been done. My SOW includes the identification of risks, prevention, and treatment measures development of a budget for prevention and mitigation, for Pacific islands and Hawaii. Phil is compiling into one cohesive doc, which I am recommending that the plan be an INRAMP. This will then be turned over for Phase II.
- Phase II is the award of a contract to UOG to do the implementation plan. There was a kick-off meeting. They are doing a work plan, and in that they will identify peer-reviews.

Q: Is Hawai'i included in the plan beyond being a source?

A: Retrograde materials/equipment leaving Guam bound for Hawai'i is covered in the Plan, as is things like household goods leaving Guam, bound for Hawai'i.

Q: There seems to be a lack of baseline data (and expertise) on Guam on species present.

A: Part of the plan includes a gap analysis. This would be identified and provided to UOG to include in the implementation plan.

Q: There are a number of pests that are in Asia, like the Asian honeybee that would have impacts here and way beyond. We should profile some key risks to worldwide threats.

A: This is a worldwide biosecurity plan. To a certain degree, we need to put a limit on things to consider. I will follow up to see if this is adequately covered & will follow up with you.

The purpose of the MBP is to highlight the gap, not necessarily come up with the funding and actions for each (for example, who and how will Home Depot shipments be handled?)

Jane: We are very interested in participating with UOG.

Joel: Great. I'll follow up with you to get your contact information to the UOG.

Following the meetings between Japan and US. It was agreed that the timeline was pushed back. There is a slower pace, but not necessarily a timeline published for it.

For any of you that want to participate in the review, you must work with UOG (we are only able to approve or deny reviewers that they select). There is no compliance requirement to

require collecting public comments. However, we will be posting on a website, the docs once completed, for anyone to review and provide comments.

11:55 – 12:00 New Business & Announcements

- Weed Science Society of America, February 6-9, 2012, Hilton Waikoloa
- Pacific Entomology Conference, February 22-23, 2012, Outrigger Waikiki

Next meeting:

Tuesday February 21, 2012