CGAPS is a voluntary public-private partnership working to protect Hawai‘i from invasive species.

The CGAPS Steering Committee is comprised of participants from the following agencies and NGOs:

- Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (Plant Pest Control Branch and Plant Quarantine Branch)
- Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources (Division of Aquatic Resources and Division of Forestry and Wildlife)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and U.S. Forest Service)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Customs and Border Protection
- U.S. Geological Survey/Pacific Island Ecosystem Research Center
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- The Nature Conservancy of Hawai‘i
- The Invasive Species Committees of Hawai‘i

The collaboratively-produced CGAPS 10-Point Vision and Action Plan (rev. 2009) outlines the most important issues, with tasks that must be accomplished in the short and long term. Visit www.cgaps.org for more information.

About This Report

This report covers the major initiatives and activities of the CGAPS Statewide Invasive Species Public/Community Relations Coordinator (shortened to PIO) during the 2012 calendar year. Reports are submitted to funding agencies in compliance with grant agreements. Copies of this or past reports are available upon request.
Support

Support and active engagement by agencies and NGOs are two of the most important elements in accomplishing our goals. Likewise, the progress and accomplishments by the CGAPS PIO would not be possible without help.

Mahalo to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation for funding to support the PIO, and to the Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program, Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council, and the U.S. Forest Service for additional support for PIO projects. Funds were administered by the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit (PCSU) of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UH). PCSU also provides much-needed office space.

In-kind support included (but was not limited to):

- Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Branch (HDOA PQ) provided meeting space
- Hawai‘i Biological Information Network (HBIN, formerly the U.S. Geological Survey Pacific Basin Information Node) hosted the CGAPS and Plant Pono websites
- Hawaiian Ecosystems at Risk (HEAR) staff maintained the CGAPS website and administered the listserve
- HBIN and HEAR staff also provided technical council and assistance on projects
- The CGAPS Steering Committee, alternates, and Chairs provided supervision and guidance

Mahalo nui loa for supporting the CGAPS partnership and PIO work!
Goals and Objectives

The primary goal of the CGAPS PIO is to raise the awareness of the public, officials, and special interest groups about invasive species issues and solutions in order to effect a change in perception, actions, or funding for invasive species programs. The CGAPS PIO is also responsible for coordinating the CGAPS partnership and promoting internal communication.

A work plan is produced every 2-3 years based on upcoming project priorities and opportunities, and insights from periodic surveys or other measures of effectiveness. The work plan helps the PIO prioritize projects and time, and it helps the CGAPS Chairs monitor and provide input on direction and progress (Attachment 1).

Outreach objectives in 2012 included completing the Plant Pono website to promote responsible plant choices to reduce the importing, sale and use of invasive plants; working with the plant industry associations to promote Plant Pono and pest reporting; working with partners to promote the passage of beneficial legislation; and completing a statewide awareness survey.

CGAPS PIO Job Description

1. Develop, implement, and maintain outreach programs for CGAPS and related organizations statewide. Identify, budget, and prioritize year-to-year project needs to support education agendas. Provide CGAPS, ISC and HISC media and accomplishment summaries for reports and funding requests, as needed. Provide periodic evaluation of outreach campaigns. 35%

2. Serve as the main public point of contact for invasive species issues. 50%
   • Maintain regular, consistent media exposure for important alien species issues including state and local legislation, rapid response and control actions.
   • Work closely with the media as well as private, county, state, and federal organizations, politicians, key officials and the public, to engender widespread support for invasive species initiatives.
   • Cultivate broad-based relationships among recreationists, horticultural, agriculture, landscape, nursery and animal industries, landowners, and tourism to gain support of alien species initiatives.
   • Make presentations to school, recreation, environmental, and community groups to recruit volunteers for control or restoration projects.
   • Prepare multimedia presentations and press releases on environmental awareness, develop informational pieces for different target audiences (schools, public, and politicians).

3. Coordinate CGAPS meeting logistics and facilitate inreach opportunities to promote engagement in issues. 10%

4. Perform miscellaneous related duties as required. 5%
Outreach to Decisionmakers

One of the most important functions of the PIO is to provide information to decision makers (for examples, see Attachment 2-5). This past year we were largely successful in passing measures identified as needs in our Action Plan, those bills in support of HDOA’s Biosecurity Program, and those that were identified as priorities by the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council.

GM1229 Importer manifest

A pilot project by HDOA PQ showed that a new web interface allowed produce importers to share with HDOA their import orders by commodity, location, flight arrival date and time, and release or hold for inspection the commodities at their consolidation facilities (based on risk assessment data). This accomplishes several things: it frees up airport space, allows food to be kept in temperature-controlled environments, allows PQ inspectors to better allocate their time and effort, and reduces paper flow. The passage of HB1942 CD1 allows moneys in the Pest Inspection, Quarantine, and Eradication Fund to be expended for expansion of the Electronic Importer Manifest Program. Makes an appropriation for the program, effective July 1, 2012. http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2012/bills/GM1229_.PDF

GM1230 Detector dogs

Prior to the budget shortfall and dismantling of the detector dog program in 2009, dogs and handlers were the second line of defense against brown treesnakes in conveyances arriving from Guam, and were also used to spot-check first class mail, freight forwarded packages, and arriving passengers in baggage claim. The CGAPS Action Plan lists the re-instatement of this important program as one of its top tasks. The PIO supported several detector dog measures, with HB 1943 CD1 passing. This bill makes an appropriation to the Department of Agriculture to fund the plant quarantine detector-dog program, and became effective July 1, 2012. http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2012/bills/GM1230_.PDF

GM1246 Possession, transfer or release of deer

Proof that axis deer had been smuggled and illegally introduced to the Big Island resulted in bills that morphed to both ends of the spectrum over the session. Close to the end of the session, SB 3001 changed so much that the version that went into conference would have made it expressly legal to
transport deer interisland. Key legislators fixed the wording and SB SB3001 SD2 HD2 CD1 passed which prohibits the interisland possession, transfer, transport, or release after transport of wild or feral deer and establishes mandatory fines. http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2012/bills/GM1246_.PDF

**GM1251 Emergency rulemaking for peril to natural resources**

DLNR considered declaring axis deer on the Big Island an emergency, which would have allowed immediate rulemaking authority and other advantages. However, there were no provisions in existing law, which provides in the authority in “instances of imminent peril to public health, safety, or morals, or to livestock and poultry health,” but did not include threats to natural resources or the environment. The passage of HB2593 CD1 broadens the conditions under which emergency administrative rules may be adopted to include instances of imminent peril to natural resources. Effective July 1, 2012. http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2012/bills/GM1251_.PDF

Worked with Sen. Gabbard’s staff and HISC staff to plan and host a joint briefing on invasive species for the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment and House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection on January 12, 2012. The briefing was well attended by members of the committees and staffers, and invasive pests brought by HDOA attracted the media. In addition to hosting the joint briefing and introducing SB 3001, Senator Gabbard officially recognized the Invasive Species Committees and Dr. Moshen Ramadan of HDOA for their work in a ceremony on the Senate floor. Plans are underway for another joint hearing in January 2013.

![Image of a group of people]

**2012 Projects: Plant Pono Website**

Addressing the largely unregulated importation and sale of invasive plants is one of the top 10 issues identified in the CGAPS Action Plan. In the absence of adequate laws, outreach and voluntary measures to reduce the introduction and purposeful spread of invasive plants have, and will continue to be, top priorities.

After several years of planning and work, the Plant Pono website (www.
plantpono.org) was launched on Sept. 24. Mix Plate Media was contracted to do the design, layout, and programming, with content generated by the PIO, Heidi Bornhorst, KISC’s outreach specialist (Tiffani Keanini), and the Weed Risk Assessment technicians (Chuck Chimera and Patti Clifford), while HBIN hosts and maintains the site. Volunteers from the Landscape Industry Council of Hawai‘i, Aloha Arborists Association, City and County of Honolulu, Lyon Arboretum, UH Master Gardeners, CTAHR, OISC, Honolulu Board of Water Supply, and others participated in testing and providing feedback a month prior to launch.

The website target audiences are plant industry, botanical garden and arboreta staff that import and promote plants, and the gardening public looking for information on plants. The site provides easy access to information regarding the invasive potential of more than 1,400 plants screened with the Hawai‘i Pacific Weed Risk Assessment (HPWRA), and multiple ways to communicate with the HPWRA screeners. It also provides planting information for non-invasive plants, and examples of invasive ornamentals that are invading and causing harm.

I wrote and secured grants from several sources to complete this website; including the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council, Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry, and U.S. Forest Service. The Forest Service grant is still open to support website promotion and a subcontract to HBIN to add photos to each of the 1,400 plant pages.

Within the first four days of the launch, there were 395 visits, due in large part to an article I wrote for the first Statewide Master Gardeners E-Newsletter (Attachment 6). Between Sept. 24 and December 31, there were 2,868 visits to the website, of which 394 visited more than once. In November, I submitted a second grant request to Kaulunani to add some features to the site, including a way for garden enthusiasts to draft and submit non-invasive plant content for adding content to the site. My plan in 2013 is to offer a Plant Pono T-shirt (using existing Forest Service funds) for every 6 accepted submittals.
In August, I contracted Qmark Research and Polling to conduct a statewide telephone survey on behalf of CGAPS. This project required drafting an RFP and selected a polling company based on proposals, identifying benchmark questions, and formulating new questions to inform current and future projects. I also applied for approval to conduct the survey from the UH Human Studies Program Office of Research Compliance, which was granted. Results from surveys completed in 1996, 2004, 2006, 2007, and 2012 provide a good measure of effectiveness of outreach programs.

![Graph showing data on awareness of terms related to invasive species]

Results show a steady rise in recognition of the terms “alien pest species” (used in 1996), and “invasive species”. More importantly, the percentage of respondents that said invasive species were a “somewhat serious” or “very serious” problem rose steadily from 71% in 2004 to 89% in 2012.

Questions explored the likelihood of reporting different types of pests, and preference for different reporting methods. This information, combined with Pest Hotline data generated from an OISC/City & County of Honolulu-initiated 311 smartphone app for coqui reporting (see Pest Hotline section) will help inform future work diversifying reporting methods and outreach.

![Bar chart showing age-related preferences for different informational sources]

Age-related preferences for different informational sources to learn about invasive and non-invasive plants:

- Very likely-Online video clip
- Very likely-Smartphone App
- Very likely-Printed
- Very likely-Website
Looking strategically at survey results on the types of informational sources survey respondents are very likely to use to learn about plants helps us target our limited outreach dollars. For example, printed materials should be geared towards older adults, while smartphone apps are preferred by the younger generation, and websites are still an important tool to reach the majority.

Several questions were asked about biocontrol in preparation for future projects including control of Himalayan ginger, and the need for a new state biocontrol facility.

More than half of respondents (63%) had heard of the term “biological control” or “biocontrol”, although there is little awareness of successful projects. In addition, 9% of those having heard of the term named mongooses.

A higher percentage (77%) of Hawai‘i island residents are familiar with the term, compared with 67% on Kaua‘i, 64% on Maui, and 59% on O‘ahu. A question earlier in the survey found that 71% of respondents were familiar with the concept of using “natural enemies” to control invasive plants and insects.

There is support for biocontrol and increased funding (35% strongly support; 41% somewhat support). Outreach should focus on shifting marginal supporters to strong supporters, perhaps through raising awareness of past successes, and should incorporate the concept of natural enemies.

Plant Pono baseline questions were also included in the survey, as were two questions asked on behalf of partner organizations (interisland spread of pests and environmental education). All survey results have a margin of error of +/- 4.38 percentage points with a 95% confidence level. See more survey results online at http://www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org/cgaps/pdfs/cgaps2012omnibusreport.pdf.
Public participation is one of the key messages of the vast majority of my presentations and displays. In particular, I promote the Pest Hotline wherever possible, as does HDOA and the ISCs. In 2012, there were a record 2418 calls to the Pest Hotline, compared to 1,578 calls in 2011 and 1,559 in 2010. The vast majority of calls came from O’ahu in September (750) and October (274) in response to the OISC/City & County of Honolulu’s 311 smartphone app and the associated Get Out and Listen (for coqui) media. Although the tremendous response yielded no actual coqui frogs, it did provide some great information about the potential of smartphones and apps. The project also highlights the need to work closely with partners and provide multiple reporting mechanisms and technology that might take some pressure off HDOA staff who answer the hotline.

I also continued to function as the point person for callers reporting dead birds. I screen an average of 3-4 calls each month, most are reports of single birds or what seem like small clusters of 2-3 dead birds, which is below the threshold to trigger a response. I thank the caller and explain the system, then I record the location and contact information in the event that more reports suggest an incident. In 2012 only two calls prompted the collection and transport of specimens, one was in response to 10+ dead and dying feral chickens at the Young Brothers facility on Kaua‘i, where KISC staff provided trained personnel to collect and ship the carcasses for testing. The other was a similar number of dead feral chickens that I responded to at a residence in Ka`a`awa.
As it was a Saturday, Dr. Thierry Work met me to store the cooler of specimens at his lab until HDOA vets were available to receive them on Monday. The lab results of both incidents were negative for diseases of concern.

**Hau`oli Mau Loa Projects**

This year marked the first full year of invasive species prevention projects funded through Hau`oli Mau Loa Foundation’s (HMLF) environmental program. I spent a significant amount of time coordinating parts of the four projects, described below, and was supported by HMLF funds for a portion of the time.

**Database to Support a Request for Federal Assistance**

Phase I of the project to look at existing databases of pests present in Hawai`i and the possibility of applying for federal assistance on pests that are not currently actionable in international imports was conducted by Philip Thomas (www.hear.org webmaster and database contractor). Philip completed the project and the final report was presented to the CGAPS Steering Committee. It was well received and the work conducted is greatly appreciated by the SC. I assisted this project by providing feedback and guidance to Philip, and by coordinating a multi-agency meeting to evaluate findings. Despite the successful completion of phase I, the SC decided not to request funding for phase II at this time based on two fundamental issues. First, many of the most important data sources for Hawai`i are not available in shareable database formats at multiple agencies and institutions (each with their own issues), and second, there remains a lack of staffing capacity to utilize the database or meta-database even if the time and expense is invested to address the shareable data issue. This was a difficult decision to reach, and one that required the engagement of the entire Steering Committee.

**Myrtaceae Rulemaking**

Through the course of this project to support and pass a rule restricting the importation of Myrtaceae into Hawai`i, I found that the timeline for rulemaking kept getting moved back due to capacity issues at HDOA PQ. I requested an extension for the Myrtaceae Rulemaking project through the 501c-3 Hawai`i Agricultural Foundation (HAF), and explored the idea of getting legal help for HDOA. CGAPS Steering Committee member Kate Cullison provided a solution by telling me about DAR’s legal fellow program and setting up a meeting with Denise Antolini, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at UH William S. Richardson School of Law to discuss legal fellows for CGAPS. I explored and gained support for this idea from HDOA PQ, HMLF, and HAF, and worked with HMLF to transfer the remaining Myrtaceae funds (40K) to the UH Foundation to support a 6-month legal fellow.
This groundwork was the catalyst for prioritizing a list of legal issues that could be addressed by fellows, and our 2013 request for additional funding to support 1.5 legal fellows (.5 FTE to extend the Myrtaceae fellow to one year, and a second FTE. Thus, HMLF is funding 2 FTE positions). These positions are being advertised in December 2012/January 2013, and the Myrtaceae rule will become a reality in 2013.

**Air Cargo Import Electronic Manifest Pilot**

This project is being administered by HAF in close cooperation with Carol Okada and Brian Ishii (EKNA consultant), and using Decision Research Corporation (HDOA’s INVICTA database contractor). We met with Matson staff to see a demo and get feedback on the electronic manifest pilot program linking Matson and HDOA PQ. Based on their clear statements of improved efficiency, we moved forward with contacting and meeting with the Hawaiian Airlines cargo manager and IT staff. This project is moving slowly primarily due to the schedules of Hawaiian Airlines staff. I requested an extension for this grant to term at the end of July 2013 and I am waiting for a formal commitment from Hawaiian Airlines that they can and will meet this deadline for completing the pilot project. Decision Research Corporation (DRC) is under contract to coordinate with Hawaiian Airlines. DRC received from Hawaiian their data availability and format, and will be providing a cost estimate to complete the interface between the two computer systems.

**2013 Prevention Projects**

In preparation for our 2013 proposal, I worked with committee members to solicit and select priority projects and submitted a proposal in November. We requested and received funds for the following projects:

- Support for 1.5 FTE legal fellows to work on CGAPS prevention priorities
- Support for contractors to draft a Hawai‘i Plant Health Emergency Plan and conduct a tabletop exercise
- Support for contractor to conduct phase II of the DAR biofouling project and get additional support from Bishop Museum to assist
- CGAPS support via one FTE or two part time Plant Pono assistant/s, two months’ salary for the CGAPS PIO
- Support for Hawai‘i Green Growth (HGG)

Several projects will be conducted through PCSU/UH Office of Research Services (ORS). Therefore, I reformatted these projects into a single ORS proposal and worked with PCSU to submit it through the ORS system to meet the Foundation’s requested deadline for moving funds by the end of 2012. The Legal Fellows project will again be run through UH Foundation, while a part of the biofouling project will be a contract directly to Bishop Museum, and Hawai‘i Green Growth support will be a contract directly to IUCN.
One unanticipated special project in 2012 was prepping for and attending the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Jeju, South Korea as part of a group of Hawai‘i delegates united in an effort to bring the WCC to Hawai‘i in 2016. Although I had participated in planning meetings on occasion over the past two years, I did not commit much time or effort until I was convinced that the benefit to Hawai‘i conservation projects outweighed the cost and effort. With Hau‘oli Mau Loa sponsoring my travel costs, I received approval from the Steering Committee to participate and assist.

I worked with Hawai‘i Conference Center staff and a subcommittee to coordinate the concepts, design, and layout of the five Hawai‘i booths. I approached Susan Middleton for permission to use photos from Remains of a Rainbow and Archipelago, and she graciously provided digital copies of photos that I formatted into a show that looped on one of the digital monitors. For branding, I coordinated a logo design contest on 99designs.com and provided opportunities for interested parties to comment and suggest changes on the 100+ designs that were submitted. The winning logo was used on pins, stickers, brochures and other materials, and can be used or modified if Hawai‘i is chosen to host in 2016. I also coordinated staffing for the booths, installation, and breakdown.

Although I attended some conference sessions, I feel I gained the most by working with our Hawai‘i delegates, many of whom I had not worked directly with in the PIO capacity. I also feel that our efforts and discussions impressed conservation leaders from around the world, and that Hawai‘i conservation projects will surely benefit from these connections whether Hawai‘i hosts the WCC in 2016 or not.
Much of the media attention this year was in response to media requests, with some notable exceptions, including letters to the editor, a ghost written commentary on axis deer, and media attention on the axis deer smuggling hearings. In addition, I participated in 22 outreach events by giving presentations or setting up and staffing interactive learning displays at community events.

1/7 Presentation. Sierra Club Forces for Good Symposium. Overview on invasive species and needs

1/10 Presentation and discussion. Presented an overview of the natural history of Hawai‘i and the problem of invasive species to visiting journalists from the BBC and Canadian Broadcasting Company

1/12 Presentation. Joint Senate Energy and Environment/House Energy and Environmental Protection briefing on invasive species. Overview of invasive species issues and needs

1/18 Commentary submitted: Let’s do what we can to limit impact of pest. Honolulu Star Advertiser (Attachment 7)

1/25 Presentation. Hawai‘i Department of Transportation SNIPP landscape managers and contractors training. Highlight invasive species for reporting and control

1/30 Presentation. Hawai‘i Department of Transportation SNIPP landscape managers and contractors training. Highlight invasive species for reporting and control

2/7 Presentation. Overview of invasive species for Ocean Awareness Training

2/8 Invited guest with Carol Okada on Rep. Barbara Marumoto’s Olelo program, discussing brown treesnakes and the detector dog program http://youtu.be/ xD8Yb7qaaVw . Provided talking points and photos (Attachment 8)

3/9 Presentation. Hawai‘i Pacific University creative writing class. Overview of natural history of Hawai‘i, endangered, and invasive species

3/15 Article submitted: Island Landscaping snake duo. Hawai‘i Landscape. April/May 2012 (Attachment 9)


3/29 Information display. Agriculture Day at the Capitol. Worked with OISC and HISC staff to set up and host interactive displays on invasive species (photo at right)


4/7 Information display. Maui Ag Fest. Partnered with the Maui County Farm Bureau on a booth to educate people about buying local flowers to decrease imports that
carry pests (photo at right)

4/14 Information display. Windward Mall Earthday. Set up and staffed an interactive display on invasive species

4/21 Information display. Honolulu Zoo Earthday. Set up and staffed a display and activities on natural history of Hawai‘i, native and invasive species


4/29 Letter to the editor. Air cargo fee ruling (printed as: Importers should help keep out pests). Honolulu Star Advertiser (Attachment 11)


5/19 Information display. Honolulu Zoo Endangered Species/Military Day. Set up and staffed a display and activities on natural history of Hawai‘i, native and invasive species, and the importance of reporting snake sightings (photo at right)


6/1 Information provided: Thompson, D. Coqui frogs are coming to O‘ahu. Honolulu Magazine. June, 2012 (Attachment 12)

6/10 Commentary submitted. Sustainability and invasive deer don’t mix. Coordinated a response to Big Island sustainable agriculture report in light of axis deer. Provided a draft to Dr. William Steiner to modify and worked with the editor to place the article. Honolulu Star Advertiser (Attachment 13)

6/30 Information display. Hawai‘i Children’s Discovery Center Endangered Species exhibit opening. Set up and staffed an interactive display on native, non-native, and invasive species

7/11 Hosted Olelo program, DLNR Revealed: Episode 3 Protecting Hawai‘i’s Reef from Invasive Seaweed http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxFZ2cDyW9Y

7/27 Overview and testing the Plant Pono website. Invited key members of plant associations and outreach organizations to participate in an overview and testing of the Plant Pono website

8/31 Photo and information provided: Schaefers, A. State aims to bring global event here. Honolulu Star Advertiser
9/6-14 Information display. IUCN World Conservation Congress. Set up and staffed five booths including Hawai‘i Nature + Life promoting Hawai‘i efforts to protect native species and address invasive species
9/10 Moderated Uniting an Ocean of Islands small-group meeting at the IUCN WCC
9/14 Information provided. Daranciang, N. Pilot owes free flight time. Star Advertiser (Attachment 14)
9/30 Letter to the Editor. Illegal moving of deer needs tough penalty. Provided a draft letter to Dr. Cliff Morden for submittal in preparation for sentencing. Honolulu Star Advertiser (Attachment 15)
10/10 Presentation. Marine Option Program class. Presentation on NGOs as an internship/MOP project option using the ISCs, CGAPS and others as examples
10/15 Article submitted: Doing our part to Plant Pono. Hawai‘i Floriculture & Nursery Association Newsletter (Attachment 17)
10/25 Presentation and display. Landscape Industry Council of Hawai‘i Conference and Trade Show. Presented an overview of the new Plant Pono website.; Set up and partially staffed a display on natural history of Hawai‘i and invasive species (Attachment 18)
11/29 Presentation and activity, “What’s in my backyard at KCC.” Partnered with Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance next generation staff and KCC Ecology Club to use smartphones and Project Noah website to document and identify plants at KCC (photo at right). Presentation on natural history of Hawai‘i, native and invasive plants
12/6  Article submitted: Doing our part to Plant Pono. Hawai‘i Landscape. In press, Jan/Feb 2013 (Attachment 19)  
12/11 Mānoa Town Hall Meeting. Answered community questions about coqui frogs at the request of Rep. Choy and Councilwoman Kobayashi. Assisted HDOA staff in voicing needs for prevention, early detection, and reporting

**Attachments**

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<td>Testimony in support of HB1942 HD2</td>
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<td>Testimony in support of HB2593 HD2</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Plant Pono website flyer</td>
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