Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS)

Public Information Officer

Annual Report

January 1 — December 31, 2013

Submitted to:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Pacific Islands Office
National Park Service-Pacific West Region
Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation
University of Hawai‘i-Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit
CGAPS Steering Committee
C

GAPS 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 is provided to funding agencies in compliance with grant agreements. It was compiled and submitted by Christy Martin, the CGAPS Statewide Invasive Species Public/Community Relations Coordinator (shortened to PIO), to provide a summary of the major initiatives and activities during the 2013 calendar year.

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Many people worked together to support CGAPS, its staff, goals, and objectives. The CGAPS Steering Committee provided the framework and direction for the PIO, and participants served as agency/NGO points of contact and information resources. The 2013 CGAPS Chair Jodi Chew, Chair Emeritus Teya Penniman, and Deputy Chair Rob Hauff provided supervision for the PIO and leadership for the partnership and its collaborative projects. As participation in CGAPS is voluntary, participation and commitment from individuals and agencies is our greatest asset.

Mahalo to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council, and Hau‘oli Mau Loa Foundation for funding to support the PIO and CGAPS projects, and to the Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program 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), who also provided office space for the PIO.

In-kind support is also appreciated. Mahalo to HDOA, USFWS, DLNR, and TNCH for providing meeting spaces. DLNR DOFAW and HDOA also provided office space for the legal fellows, and PCSU provided office space for the PIO. The Kaua‘i Invasive Species Committee provided administrative support for the Plant Pono/HPWRA Liaison, and Kaua‘i Nursery and Landscaping provided partial travel and conference attendance support. Hawai‘i Biological Information Network (HBIN, formerly the U.S. Geological Survey Pacific Basin Information Node) hosted and maintained the CGAPS and Plant Pono websites and HBIN staff provided technical council and assistance on multiple projects.

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

With the loss of a CGAPS Coordinator in 2009, the CGAPS PIO took on the responsibility of coordinating the partnership and progress on the Action Plan, in addition to existing duties of raising public awareness about invasive species. Each year since, there has been an increasing shift in job duties away from public outreach, towards project management. At the end of 2013, PIO Position Description was modified to better reflect the combined job, although the true division of duties may be closer to 35% outreach/media related duties, and 60% grant/planning/project management.

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**Goal #1:** To educate public officials, special interest groups, and the general public about invasive species in order to effect a change in perception, actions, or funding for invasive species issues.

- Objective A: Organize and/or participate in outreach opportunities to legislators and public officials
- Objective B: Provide guidance to the landscape and nursery industry on invasive species issues to reduce the importation and spread of invasive ornamental plants and plant pests
- Objective C: Conduct outreach activities, provide information and materials for priority target audiences, and the general public
- Objective D: Plan and conduct measures of effectiveness at appropriate intervals

Success in reaching this goal will be seen by the introduction or passage of bills, resolutions, or other mechanisms to aid in prevention or control; an increase in funding for invasive species programs in the State; a change in the actions of people in regards to invasive species; or a change in public awareness or perception of the issue.

**Goal #2:** Develop plans and projects to support CGAPS and its priority projects, prepare grants and reports, and manage projects, personnel, and contractors in meeting project goals.

- Objective A: Work with the Steering Committee and partners to identify priorities and projects; secure funding or partners to support implementation
- Objective B: Organize and manage priority projects from inception to final reports

Success in reaching this goal will be seen in funding for CGAPS and its priority projects, and in progress and accomplishments summarized in the annual PIO report.
**Goal #3:** Coordinate the CGAPS partnership and Steering Committee, and assist partner agencies in accomplishing the goals and objectives described in the 2009 CGAPS Vision and Action Plan.

- **Objective A:** Organize and hold quarterly CGAPS meetings and ad hoc Steering Committee meetings
- **Objective B:** Engage participants and potential new partners in CGAPS meetings or initiatives
- **Objective C:** Participate in regional invasive species coordination efforts where practical and necessary

Success in reaching this goal will be seen in participation in quarterly CGAPS meetings, Steering Committee meetings, discussions, and engagement in initiatives on local and regional invasive species programs.

**Goal 1-A: Policymaker Outreach**

Senator Gabbard, Chair of Energy and Environment, and Vice Chair Russell Rudderman again hosted a legislative briefing on invasive species, and CGAPS provided the introduction.

CGAPS also worked with Senator Gabbard’s staff on several issues over the course of the session, and provided information and photos for presentations given by Senator Gabbard.

In support of the strawberry guava biocontrol project, CGAPS and HISC partnered to help HDOA, DLNR, and the US Forest Service with planning for a 2014 statewide release (Attachment 1). HISC staff organized the date and schedule, and staff from each entity participated in briefing Senators Gabbard and Rudderman at the Big Island release sites (photos above and right). This briefing was a good opportunity to touch on multiple issues, including the fact that Hawaii’s Restricted Plant and Noxious Weed rules do not adequately protect the state from new invasive plants. There was agreement from all agency representatives and both Senators that this is of the utmost importance, and that they are ready to help.
Due to shifts in the 2013 legislature, less time was spent advocating for biosecurity bills and new funding mechanisms. Instead, CGAPS and HISC staff opted to take advantage of favorable factors to partner and promote federal-state invasive species issues. In February, the CGAPS PIO drafted a federal-state issues briefing document which was presented by the PIO and Steering Committee members Carol Okada and Mark Fox to HISC Co-Chairs Aila and Kokubun, and Phil Andreozzi of the National Invasive Species Council.

In April, the issues were discussed in detail at a larger meeting with Chairs Kokubun and Aila, Vernon Harrington, State Director of USDA APHIS; Loyal Merhoff, Field Supervisor of the Pacific Islands Fish & Wildlife Service Office, US Fish & Wildlife Service; and Ford Fuchigami, Deputy Director of the Hawai‘i Department of Transportation. CGAPS Steering Committee members and staff from HISC and CGAPS were present to provide support and background. A joint policy briefing document was produced and each of the agency directors participated in a series of meetings over the course of the spring and summer, briefing Senator Schatz, Representative Hanabusa, Representative Gabbard (photo above) and the Governor’s policy director (Attachment 2).

A coalition of partners including CGAPS, HISC staff, TNC, Oahu Invasive Species Committee, Maui Invasive Species Committee, and Maui County’s Environmental Coordinator briefed Mayor Caldwell’s cabinet and staff for the first time to raise county awareness and support (photo above).

In December, CGAPS Legal Fellows Melissa Miyashiro and Jarrett Keohokalole, and the PIO worked with House Agriculture Chair Rep. Jessica Wooley to arrange a meeting to discuss invasive species concerns, and plan for an invasive species panel at the Food Security Summit in January.
Goal 1-B: Outreach to Landscape & Nursery Industry

At the request of Chris Dacus, Landscape Industry Council of Hawai‘i (LICH) president, I again participated as a member of the LICH Board of Directors. The 2013 LICH initiatives are great examples of the changes that are possible with supportive leadership. One such initiative was the new plant initiative, in the end dubbed “Project Greenway”. This started as a LICH idea last year to bring new ornamental plants to the attention of landscape architects. Historically, there has been a separation between landscape architects, who design based on color, shape, size and other design attributes (some have a list of known plants that they use, without regard to weediness or other factors), nursery growers who grow the plants specified by the architects for landscape installations, and the landscape crews that are responsible for the long-term care of plants.

As LICH reached out to nurseries to enter “new” plants in the show, one of the requirements was that the nursery had to have the plant screened with the HPWRA, and no plants that received a high-risk designation were allowed in the show. Nurseries called to learn about the HPWRA and the Plant Pono website, which was the most important aspect of this project, but it was also fun to work together to put the show on, for a sold-out crowd of 200, including nurserymen, Invasive Species Committee staff (top photo, Jimmy Parker, BIISC Early Detection; left photo in the plants Danielle Frohlich and Alex Lau with OISC Early Detection; second from right Amanda Skelton with CGAPS) landscape architects, and even the Governor.

CGAPS also participated in the annual Green Industry Conference and Tradeshow. This year’s theme was native Hawaiian plants in the landscape, and it attracted the largest crowd in recent memory. As part of the conference, LICH created its own Sustainability awards for landscape design. One award was the Plant Pono award, which we gave to the Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry program for their early and ongoing support of the Weed Risk Assessment and the Plant Pono project.
Partnered with outreach staff at OISC, KISC, and HISC, Hawai‘i Biological Information Network, and Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance Next Gen staff to organize and hold a 1-week long Hawai‘i Bioblitz activity on the Project Noah website, as a statewide activity for the first Hawai‘i Invasive Species Awareness Week. The Project Noah website is an established website with tens of thousands of users worldwide, which allows anyone to post photos of species and the online community will identify it, many times providing additional information. This activity was selected as a way to help the interested public learn about species around them; to look at the utility of the tool which is similar to the Report-A-Pest online reporting pilot project that HBIN developed; and to engage a greater community of people with species identification skills that may be willing to assist when Report-A-Pest is implemented on a statewide basis.

To accomplish this, more than 30 species specialists were engaged to serve as Hawai‘i-based “identification facilitators,” who monitored the Hawai‘i Bioblitz page and provided identifications and information regarding their native, non-native, or invasive status in Hawai‘i. During the week, there were 340 species photos from across the state were posted on the site, all of them identified within a day (sometimes within a few minutes). A follow-up survey of ID facilitators was provided to HBIN for Report-A-Pest.

CGAPS also partnered with OISC for outreach at Windward Mall’s popular Earth Day (photo left) and Cub Scout Pack 49 to do a booth on endangered and invasive species for Children and Youth.
Day. CGAPS provided display materials and information, and worked alongside the Scouts to educate them, their parents, and the public.

A 2013 grant from the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council funded Master Farmer workshops organized by the Oahu Resource Conservation & Development Council (Oahu RC&D). The CGAPS PIO participated with the Oahu RC&D Executive Director in a radio program about the workshops and issues, and presented the Plant Pono website and HPWRA to participants at one of the workshops. Participating in events like this highlights the value of partnering with others to reach new audiences. The sold-out workshop was filled with sustainability leaders, neighborhood board members, and teachers that are willing and able to help spread the word.

As part of an ongoing relationship with the Master Gardeners, CGAPS participated with an information display, Scavenger Hunt activity, and presentation at the 2nd Saturday event at the Pearl City Urban Garden Center. One attendee was a sustainability coordinator for Kaimuki Middle School, and this contact resulted in a partnership to consult on some raised garden beds, and to present to classes about invasive species. Other outreach activities are listed at the end of this report.

Goal 1-D: Pest Reporting

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. Although the Pest Hotline works as intended on Kaua‘i, ISC staff from Maui, Oahu, and the Big Island continue to hear complaints. With the recent change in leadership at HDOA PQ, these issues are expected to be resolved.
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.

**Goal 2-A: Grants**

In 2000, many of the agencies that participated in CGAPS each chipped in $5K to hire its first staff. Since then, funding has shifted between agencies with changes in the economy, with the USFWS supporting the bulk of salary support since 2009. In 2012, the Steering Committee agreed that having a paid coordinator was a priority, although most funds are still acquired through a competitive grant process.

![2013 Grants](image)

**Goal 2-A & B: Hau‘oli Mau Loa Foundation Projects**

This year we were able to close out two projects that received no-cost extensions from past years, while moving forward with four new projects for 2013.

**Air Cargo Import Electronic Manifest Pilot (2011)**

This project, administered by the Hawai‘i Agriculture Foundation as the fiscal sponsor, is nearly complete. Decision Research Corporation (DRC) was contracted to work with HDOA Plant Quarantine (PQ) to modify the ship cargo and importer electronic manifest programs to work for air cargo. After a year of delays and communication
issues, the CGAPS Steering Committee secured the assistance of HDOA administrators to get this and other projects back on track. In June 2013, DRC began working with Hawaiian Airlines on data transfer issues. At this time, DRC learned that while each airline has its own data input systems for air cargo, they all export their manifests to an air cargo data service called IATA, who standardizes the data for sharing between airlines. Although the IATA service is by subscription fee and we cannot request the data directly, subscriber airlines can re-export their own standardized manifest data to us for our use. This addresses the concern of different and incompatible data systems (and the associated high cost of “data smoothing”) from each new airlines.

The second extension for this project was granted through September 30. The system went live on this date, although file issues during real time manifest testing required Hawaiian Airlines to fix issues from their end, and the testing process was restarted. The next step is to train the PQ inspectors, followed by a few weeks of use and any fixes that are needed. After a reasonable amount of use, Hawaiian Airlines and PQ staff will be asked to complete time and resource surveys. Although the grant has termed, DRC will continue to work on this project until the terms of the contract are complete.

The project was briefly presented at the Board of Agriculture in August, and in more detail at the Hawaii’i Air Cargo Association meeting in September, where it received positive comments and requests for follow-up presentations. The Air Cargo Association also asked for more clarity from HDOA on how this tool, the planned Honolulu International Airport inspection facility, and inspections services will be run so that they may better plan for the changes. These requests were passed along to HDOA.

On December 19, the system was presented to HDOA PQ managers, Mark Fox, and me. The consensus was that while the system did allow for release of items that were clearly not produce, it lacks the detailed itemization that could make a big difference to inspectors in their current set-up. These forms are still attached in hard copy to each container, but because the web system was modified from an existing Matson pilot system, therefore there was no mechanism to incorporate it. However, the interim HDOA PQ manager, relayed progress on internal planning, which, once implemented with the electronic manifest system, would be a huge leap forward for biosecurity at Honolulu International Airport.

Myrtaceae Rulemaking (2011; transferred to UH Foundation 2012)

Funds remaining in the HAF account for Myrtaceae rulemaking were transferred to UH Foundation in September, 2012 as part of a new partnership between CGAPS and the William S. Richardson School of Law through Associate Dean Antolini. Funds supported 6-months salary and fringe for a legal fellow to provide legal support for
HDOA and their AG in rulemaking to restrict the importation of myrtle family plants. Funds secured for the 2013 calendar year allowed us to add to these funds and advertise for two FTEs.

The Myrtaceae legal fellow position was advertised in February and four candidates were interviewed in March, with the hiring committee selecting Melissa Miyashiro. Melissa started on April 29 and participated in several briefing meetings to learn about the issue and state and federal issues. In June, she completed and submitted the draft of rule and subcommittee report to HDOA to send to AG's office for approval. After several months of delay and inconsistent messages, this project was elevated to HDOA administrators for clarity, direction, and assistance. Deputy Enright assisted by working with the AG’s office to prioritize review, and will continue to make it clear that this rule is a priority for the department and the State.

Funds for this project termed at the end of 2013. However, Melissa has received funding for 2014 and intends to continue with the rulemaking process once the AG returns it.

Support for 1.5 FTE legal fellows to work on CGAPS prevention priorities (2013)

In addition to the above work to hire the Myrtaceae fellow (supplemented by 2013 funds), CGAPS worked with Dean Antolini and the Law School staff to advertise for the second legal fellow position. The hiring committee interviewed four candidates and selected Jarrett Keohokalole in April. For both legal fellows, I provided orientations and general invasive species issue overviews. I also purchased laptops and software, set them up, created and printed business cards, and took care of other details necessary prior to their start dates. I met or talked with the legal fellows regularly as the co-coordinator (with Associate Dean Denise Antolini), and assisted with planning direction, project prioritization, and other duties.
Support for contractors to draft a Hawai‘i Plant Health Emergency Response Plan (PERHP) and conduct a tabletop exercise (2013)

This project was run through the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit. Therefore, I worked with PCSU staff to create the scope of work and justification for the PHERP contractors Lloyd Loope and Andi Shluker, and John Roberts, the tabletop facilitator, and acted as a liaison to make sure that these projects could start as soon as possible after the award. We received the approval to move ahead in March. I worked with the contractors weekly to coordinate meetings and input into the planning of the PHERP document and tabletop.

As a process, the PHERP went through multiple drafts, and each one was reviewed and commented on by my key agencies and additional partners. In addition, planning for the tabletop exercise required an added level of interagency/NGO communication and cooperation. Through this process, we have been able to incorporate added response capacity through State Civil Defense and Honolulu City & County Emergency Management. The After Action Report also highlights some necessary internal work that we will prioritize for 2014 (Attachment 3).

Support for contractor to conduct phase II of the DAR biofouling project and get additional support from Bishop Museum to assist with biofoul organism identification (2013)

CGAPS provided administrative support for this project, which is being coordinated by Sonia Gorgula, the DAR Ballast and Hull Fouling Coordinator. In February the Sonia organized and held a two-day meeting for the Alien Aquatic Organism Task Force (AAOTF; a group comprised of shipping industry representatives and resource managers) to plan the self-assessment forms and outline the proposed hull surveys. At that time, there seemed to be support for the project. However, as the project progressed, it became clear that the intended hull surveys would not be approved for the major shipping companies Matson and Horizon.

Other issues compounded this resistance, including the implementation of EPA’s Clean Water Act National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) rules by each state Department of Health. As this issue and the state’s outdated ballast
rules came into question, CGAPS prioritized this issue for legal help by Jarrett. Jarrett and I met with Hawai‘i Department of Health to discuss their role in monitoring harbors and state waters for invasive species, as they relate to ballast and biofouling or hull cleaning in state waters. HDOH representatives were helpful in clarifying what the currently do, and further that they are in the process of creating a state for vessels to comply with the issuance of Vessel General Permits, as Jarrett identified this as the mechanism by which we can gain compliance.

As with several projects this year, we have had to change course based on external factors. I assisted by requesting a change in the scope of work and timeline for this project from our funders, and by working with the contractor and PCSU staff to revise the contract. The new product for this project will be documentation of the issue and risk to Hawai‘i, the need for rulemaking and the appropriate statutes or rules necessary to accomplish protection.

CGAPS support via one FTE to assist with Plant Pono/HPWRA outreach and two months’ salary for the CGAPS PIO (2013)

This project started with the hiring process, which took several months before our top candidate was approved and started in May. I revised an existing RCUH position description in January and worked with PCSU staff to advertise and identify candidates to interview. The interviews were conducted by Chris Dacus, Landscape Industry Council of Hawai‘i president and me, and Amanda Skelton was selected for her extensive knowledge of the nursery industry, experience with the HPWRA from a user standpoint, and her approach to outreach.

Amanda is duty-stationed on Kaua‘i, as she continues to be a resource for the Kaua‘i Native Plant Society, Kokee Resource Conservation Program, and Kaua‘i Nursery and Landscaping, and she travels to neighbor islands to work on partnership projects to conduct outreach on the HPWRA and Plant Pono. As her supervisor, we check in regularly with each other to ensure progress on the goals for this position.
Goal 2-A & B: 2014 Hau‘oli Mau Loa Foundation Projects

The CGAPS 2014 Prevention Projects proposal to Hau‘oli Mau Loa Foundation was submitted in November and approved in December, 2013. The proposed projects include strategic planning for 2014, continued support for 2013 initiatives, and other initiatives, some of which will span two or more years.

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**Media, Outreach Presentations, Workshops & Events**

There was a decrease in direct media coordination in 2013, due in part to other PIOs efforts to keep the media informed. However, by partnering with others, CGAPS participated in 23 outreach events, one more than in 2012.

1/11 Presentation. Senate Legislative Briefing: Overview on invasive species issues

1/12 Article: Fujimori, L. State must fight invasive species now to minimize future costs, groups say. Honolulu Star Advertiser. 1/12/13. Provided information

2/7 Presentation and discussion. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Partners: CGAPS Action Plan progress


2/22 Presentation and discussion. Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance Board: CGAPS Action Plan progress
3/28 Outreach display. Agriculture Day at the Capitol
4/20 Outreach display. Windward Mall Earth Day
4/24 Outreach display. Schofield Earth Day
4/27 Outreach display. Ft. Shafter Earth Day
6/4 Invited guest on All Things Marine radio program (photo previous page)
6/5 Invited guest on Hawai‘i’s Tomorrow radio program
6/14 Outreach display. LICH Project Greenway: Plant Pono & HPWRA (photo right)
7/11 Presentation and discussion. Oahu RC&D Master Farmer Workshop: Plant Pono & HPWRA
8/27 Presentation. Board of Agriculture: Electronic air cargo manifest pilot project
9/10 Presentation and discussion: Hawai‘i Air Cargo Carriers Association meeting: Electronic air cargo manifest pilot project
9/14 Presentation & outreach display. Pearl City Urban Garden Center 2nd Saturday: Plant Pono & HPWRA
9/20 Presentation. Mayor Caldwell cabinet briefing: Invasive species issues
10/5 Outreach display. Children & Youth Day: Partnered with Boy Scout troop on invasive species/native species display (photo previous page)
10/10 Outreach display. LICH Green Industry Conference & Tradeshow: Plant Pono & HPWRA
10/16 Presentation. UH Marine Option Program class: Invasive species partnerships & potential student projects
10/23 Presentation & discussion. Kaimuki Middle School: Natural history of Hawai‘i, native and invasive species
11/18 Presentation & discussion. UH Tropical Landscape Practices class: Plant Pono, HPWRA, and best practices for pest prevention
12/9 Invited guest on Hawai‘i’s Tomorrow radio program
12/10 Presentation & discussion: UH Resource Management and Conservation in Hawai‘i class: Conservation as a people problem
12/20 Presentation & discussion. Kaimuki Middle School 7th graders: Natural history of Hawai‘i, native and invasive species

Attachments

1. Control of Strawberry Guava
2. CGAPS & HISC Federal Policy Briefing
3. Executive Summary of the Hawai‘i PHERP Tabletop After Action Report