

## Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) Meeting Notes

Hawaii Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Conference Room

[1849 Auiki St., Honolulu, HI](#)

Wednesday, August 8, 2018; 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

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**Welcome and Introductions;** Chair, Angela Kieran-Vast

**Guam Marine Corps Relocation Program;** Nicole Olmsted

- Took over Angela's position for Marine Corp relocation to Guam; Natural Resources Program Manager for NAVFAC Pacific
- HACCP update: working on new methodology for vegetation monitoring on a base in Guam
  - Old methodology was not providing conclusive results
  - New method uses baseline surveys walked in transects within footprint and along perimeter
  - Point-intercept transects- outward 30 m perpendicular to perimeter in areas where species introductions are most likely to occur: lay-down yards, material storage areas, priority early detection areas adjacent to endangered species recovery habitat
  - Identify and catalogued all species present and classify as native or non-native
- Green waste management. CRB on Guam and working on LFA.
- Rapid response projects
  - Offsetting construction projects we're conducting. Invasive *Mimosa diplotricha* and *Antigonon leptopus* on Guam and secluded to a small portion of the island
  - Goal is eradication

**Navy Environmental & Preventative Medicine;** LT. James Harwood, PhD

- Working with deployed navy on prevention of diseases and exterminating infestations on boats and equipment.
- Do education, inspections, Pacific Arthropod Borne Disease Threat:
  - In Oceania: -Dengue -Malaria -Zika -Chukungunya-Japanese Encephalitis -Ross River Virus -Barmah Forest Virus -Murray Valley Encephalitis -Lymphatic Filariasis
- Mitigating Risk:
  - Quarantine Laws, Inspections, Education, Chemoprophylaxis, Repellants
- NEPMU6 received funding from Pacific Command and preventing likelihood of diseases.
  - Building vector control capabilities with host nations, Mosquito surveillance on Oahu and Kauai, Developing Hawaii mosquito surveillance partnership
- DoD Entomology and Global Health Engagements:
  - Capabilities of the program: Robust pesticide application training, operational pest control experience, equipment rehabilitation, vector surveillance

- The areas where this work happens in Oceania are commonly underdeveloped or lacking
- Working with DLNR and USFWS to look at mosquito distribution on Kauai
- Improving resilience with improving capabilities of a few countries to improve regional resilience to Vector-borne diseases (Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, and Solomon Islands)
  - Train the trainer program November 2015, work with them to establish a program.
    - Making improvements and policy recommendations
    - Pick out the best candidates to be leaders and trainers
      - Fiji program – 2016, see if they can help with SOP’s and improve plans
    - Mosquito Surveillance support: They are just sending information.
    - Took Fijians to Micronesia to do the training over there.
- Mosquito surveillance around Oahu and Kauai and adding Molokai in 2019
  - Looking at modeling with CAL sciences in California
- Developed a surveillance partnership within DOD – All Partners Access Network, put all the surveillance data into one place, DLNR and Mamalu Poepoe
  - What kind of effort to get partners onboard? (Jules) Its voluntary but had some more support with the ZIKA outbreak. Its pretty much personality driven no formal process for signing on.
- Quarterly joint vector control meetings – get an email list out (ACTION)
  - What do you hope to achieve with the modeling? Look at the different environmental conditions – outside my knowledge. Looking at variables and figure out what is significant and make some predictions maybe based on population density. Example tropical storm on big island maybe being to make predictions.
  - Josh – When you go to other islands you have to use the equipment they have right? Yes, we only use what they have unless we can buy stuff and leave it there.
  - When you were in Fiji did you engage with their entomologists? Yes, we engaged mostly with their Department of Health because of time constraints and bureaucracy constraints.
    - Hope DOH people will train other people. Mike Mezler can help facilitate communication between those parties.
  - Working in the opposite pathways – are countries worried about stuff coming into them.
    - Depends on the country like New Zealand that does spray downs and you need a phytosanitary certificate.
  - RIM PAC – they have to provide their own biosecurity and preventative measures. Basically, relying on trust. Quality control is not known

**MCBH Senior Natural Resources Specialist; Lance Bookless (via Angela) – get update from her**

**NAVFAC HI; Kaipo Perez**

- Working under Cory Campora
- Integrated natural resource management plan.
- Working with WMWP,
- NAVY implementing regional biosecurity plan
- Improving ballast water standards

#### Side note from Christy:

- We are focusing on engaging our military partners this meeting, but we open suggestions from the group for other presenters or attendees

#### BREAK

#### HDOA PQ; Jonathan Ho

- At the tail-end of being done with the E-manifest database. Very promising. Its like google in its ability to search. Done late November early December. All data collection all in one place.
- Staffing updates
  - 2 more inspectors on Maui – then Maui will be completely full
  - 4 more positions on Oahu and the rest of the islands are full. Only have 8 positions that are still vacant out of 92
  - Trenton is TAing for Jonathan. (didn't get all this but there are a lot of people filling in for vacant positions bc of retiring or people having to move around)
  - Treyton Nagata is doing horticultural position
- Changes to administration rule
  - dangerous animals. Petition to move water buffalo from a guy on Kauai.
  - Tilapia and house crickets have gone to governor for signatures
  - Myrtaceae rule with Kathryn helping and have a meeting with Governor hopefully sometime in October
    - Permitting for tissue culture and the strain; need to work out these issues
    - Kathryn also helping with restricted plant rules, interisland movement rules

#### Vertebrate Specialist update:

- Snake handling program: PQ regulates non-domesticated animals
  - Take inspectors to Guam so they get comfortable handling the snakes. Expose them to the BTS rapid response training; taken them to Anderson air force base (USFWS in charge of the snake traps in the area).
    - Have traps at HICKAM? Yes, we have 18 traps, plan to install 6 more traps this year. This is just to monitor if there are any snakes coming off planes. They do night spotting 2-3 times per week. Usually find the snakes on the fences on Guam. Annual captures at Anderson is 3,000. Dogs are the last line of defense and only intercept 2-3 snakes which is good.

- HDOA dogs, USDA has their dogs inside customs. CBP: merge happened between CBP and USDA, USDA dogs don't look at foreign arrivals but CBP does but don't look for BTS. Still work with HDOA to look for BTS even though CBP is the first responder
  - Training is geared for rapid response – trained on how to develop a search image and setup grids and collect data for researchers. Focus is getting inspectors comfortable with handling snakes.
  - Next trainings are September then March, training is 2 weeks
  - Not feasible to do a training on Oahu, better on Guam
  - Use captured snakes to train dogs
  - Any other snakes on the horizon? Possibly from FL. Domingo - put together a paper on the threats from snakes by looking at pathways. Send out to group (ACTION)
- Bring 4 live snakes here to train dogs. They'll have transmitters, be male and sterile
- How do traps work? Live mouse in a separate compartment that snake goes into. Still researching better trap ideas.
- What are the most top smuggled animals? Snakes in general or reptiles in general

**HDOA PPQ;** Becky Azama - Biocontrol section, and chemical mechanical controls:

- Staffing update:
  - Lost our noxious weed specialist – Derek and Keevin (Vertebrate Specialist).
  - Aaron from OISC also changed positions.
  - PQ has stepped up and JIM is working with the nurseries.
  - Looking for a noxious weed specialist. Still getting a lot of public samples coming in to check for LFA. Still hiring for entomologist, position says temporary but it's not really temporary. USDA funded position. It's on Oahu.
    - Noxious Weed Specialist is going to be ¾. Not sure because it requires some education. That position is out now.
  - Tech position on BI in chemical/mechanical position.
- Plant pathologist is finding diseases on plants from walking around neighborhoods. African Tulip – powdery mildew and Okra. Damage is pretty new.
  - Where does information go with a NKO? Information goes into USDA lab. Just recently got the confirmation. Determining whether it's on all islands or not, plugs or seeds? If it's something that's damaging to crops we'll put out a pest alert. Does USDA call CABI? CABI can pick it up if it's on a pest alert.
  - Will there be a pest alert if it's not an ag pest? Not sure if there will an alert. Becky will check.
  - Aviary will be re-staffed. Currently working on Queen bee certification so they can ship their bees to mainland and Canada.
  - Mike Mezler: Pacific plant diagnostic network – is funded but no one uses it. Mike is in conversations either to modify so it can be used or to drop it. Trying to get everyone on board to use this database and have them uploading their data. Good to have HDOA in the conversation and using the database.
- Have you heard the Biosecurity initiative meeting? Mike Mezler: Yes, I-naturalist is a good system that a lot of people use. Misidentification can be a huge problem.

- Dorothy: CABI is notorious for saying that it was found. Once information is on the internet it goes all over the place. Bringing up mis published information and placing it on CABI and you get trade issues
- Springer: bounty on long horn beetle. Found on cacao farm. Where does this information go and how to other agencies figured out walk to look out for?
  - Becky: 2009 one sample found until 2013. Since then there hasn't been anything. There have been citizen reports. We don't know where to look for it. Its random on what they've been finding it on. More study needs to happen with this species.
  - Christy: Steering committee meeting topic. Because we have to move.
- Cynthia: we are having introductions all the time and HDOA is performing triage.

#### **DAR:**

##### Justin Goggins; Invasive Marine

- Environmental DNA: with Salvinia project in streams on Kauai all the way up to Na Pali coast. Found in several streams known and unknown. Flooding almost eradicated all of it. KISC, DAR, USFWS are working on treatments.
- Kaneohe have urchin hatcheries, working on fringing reefs and barrier reefs.
- Staffing transitions. Fish tech positions.
- Do you look for other species with EDNA? No. We do take fish clippings and document. Working on a genetic sequencing database.

##### Jules Kuo; Ballast Water and Biofouling

- Hiring a Kupu intern with outreach and communication.
- Harbor monitoring projects.
  - Honolulu harbor and at the mouth of the harbor. 2 ARMS in barbers point and at the mouth of the harbor. Next is Kauai at Nawiliwili. Targeting commercial harbors
- In water cleaning – not currently allowed, ether happening without knowing or boats are really dirty. Reso adopted by HISC and LEG. 3 components:
  - Biofouling regs
  - Test trials on in water cleaning capture systems (vacuum system)
    - National effort. Baltimore test just occurred was successful. No real challenges.
    - moving on to California, then there will be a workshop in HI
    - Christy – Also certifying the water that comes out of that system to get DOH to approve. Goes back into the ocean.
    - We're helping to test existing companies' technologies.

##### **Mamalu Poepoe; Leyla Kaufman**

- Working with the DOH on a mosquito strategic plan. What do we want to have in the document?

- MoMISC will be starting some surveys. No monitoring for mosquitos on that island for a while so can start that work soon.
- Starting the conversations with DOA and the program to get people trained.
- Most interceptions from Oahu.
- We were sending samples to N. Carolina but now can send them here.
- Randy Bartlett: SOH still is lead on the Africanized honey bees, but they have no staff. Talk to your leg.

#### **DLNR, DOFAW, HISC; Randy Bartlett**

- Resources working group meeting last week for FY 19 to submit to council next week.
  - Funded 27 proposals out of 43. Only had 4 million to give out but 7.9 million requested. Most that were funded were only partial funded. Funded 59% of the requested funds. Council will be hopefully approving.

#### **BIISC; Springer Kaye**

- Looking for suggestions for community service projects for Punahou alumni goals.
- Removed albizia from 7 miles of highway and other properties for 1.1 million dollars which is \$50 per tree. Lava took out some of the majority of priority projects for Albizia.
- Mayor Kim started invasive species initiative to address weeds along roadsides. Had a meeting last week. LFA Hui is a citizen led organizing group.
- Working on LFA strategic plan – layout reasonable objectives and plans. Working with student from Vermont school of Law.
- Chuck is now on the island.
- Working on Plant Pono.

#### **MISC; Adam Knox**

- LFA 5 active treatment sites. 8 monitoring sites.
- Coqui frogs – working in strategic places. Moliko gulch. Adding a community liaison specifically for coqui frog.
  - Working with the social marketing techniques.
- Aerial control for pampas grasses effective. Getting harder to find.
- Conures down to 18 out of hundreds. Working with DLNR. Difficult location on sea cliffs.
- Fountain grass – in monitoring phases and just found a patch in Kihei.
- Miconia: HBT in Hana. Working on outlier zones.

#### **MoMISC; Lori (via email)**

- Highlights of that quarter report other than continued work on priority targets were: MoMISC worked with MISC on Maui for Coqui Control and MoMISC controlled a single calling frog in north central Molokai. To add a highlight after that report was significant ATF early detection work By MoMISC with help from Maui DOFAW staff on north central private lands and map is attached as well. Nearly 400 ferns were controlled.

### **OISC; Rachel Neville**

- ROD: submitted 7 samples.
- Chrodo – monitoring site in Kahana but should be able to call eradicated there. Malaekahana infestation. Landowner cooperating.
- Miona - 4 mature trees found in Kalihi and 1 in Nuuanu. Kalihi has thick vegetation so easy to miss trees. Nuuanu doing door to door surveys. Found a mature tree near stream during those surveys. Mostly working on private land.
- Did a mapping flight – fountain grass on Waianae coast, OANRP found in Waianae FR. There's a lot and all on vertical rocky cliffs.
- Staffing – lost LFA, CRB person. Will be recruiting soon. Outreach was featured in DLNR PR FOR ROD.
- Outreach: 6 schools visited for LFA activity. Working with Polynesian voyaging society.

### **DHS Customs & Borders: Rebecca Chong & Joe Giovannini**

- Responsible for taking care of any regulated garbage and working on RIM PAC. 250 – 300 lbs. of regulated garbage which is anything that touches food. Anything that could transmit animal diseases. Whole process on how to quarantine and have Honolulu disposal to come pick up and process it. Have to get rid of the garbage in 2-3 hours.
- June 2020: Festival of the Pacific Arts – big deal with delegates. Showcase indigenous arts and craft. All plant material being used will be grown here. Working closely with USFWS and state to regulate and to watch. Website with a list of agendas and meetings. Reach out to committee and get onto invite list. Invest.HI.gov

### **USDA APHIS; Dorothy Alontaga**

- NAPPRA process. Easy to do and would be great if everyone could help. Plants placed on NAPPRA are prohibited unless a country petition.

### **HDOH; Lincoln Wells (via email)**

- DOH is continuing to do mosquito monitoring at the airports for invasive mosquito species through the Mamalu Poepoe project (no abnormal specimens have been collected in recent months).
- Additionally, as part of this project, DOH will be included in the protocol for the control for Africanized honey bees if they are ever introduced/identified in the state. However, these protocols and the details of our involvement are still being determined by the Mamalu Poepoe collaborators.

### **Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death; Ambyr Mokiao-Lee**

- Hilo premiere of "Saving Ohia" successful. More showing on Hawaii Island throughout August and also airing on cable television during the news. Opportunity for partners on other islands to host their own showings.

- Ohia Love fest coming up at the end of the month
- Christy and Ambyr traveling to Kauai to help draft a communications plan
- Need to update strategic response plan
- Send Dorothy culturally important materials to take to APHIS for Myrtaceae rule (ACTION)

#### **Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle; Kaliee Lefebvre**

- Surveys
  - CRB found in Waimanalo – is this just a one-off? Kapolei Parkway and Waikele community. Protocol to investigate these single detections. First time they actually caught a CRB in the Waimanalo area. Adding 16 more traps.
    - Haven't seen any further damage yet. There are a lot of green waste disposal here and farms that take some free mulch. Don't know if this is just a freak event.
  - Iroquois point still a problem. Had a bug hunt in this community. Planning a bug hunt for Halloween.
  - Not sure how the Kapolei detection got there.
  - Waikele there have been a few that have been found in that area. Lower the risk of spread. Inspection of palms being transported, do not move damaged palms.

#### **USFWS; Benton Pang**

- New Earl Campbell
- Add to listserv (ACTION)

#### **CGPAS Legal Fellow HDOA; Kathryn Stanaway**

- Hired a legal intern to work on compliance with nurseries

**Pau. Mahalo! (CGAPS Steering Committee to follow, 1:00-3:00 p.m.)**

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