



Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) Meeting Notes

Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, Plant Quarantine Conference Room
[1849 Auiki St., Honolulu, HI](#)

Friday, October 5, 2018; 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

9:00 - 9:10 **Welcome and Introductions:** Chair, Angela Kieran-Vast

9:10 - 9:20 **Natural Resources Support Biosecurity Program:** Kristen Rex

- Presentation on current project working on Wake Island Barge Biosecurity Efficacy Study conducted in May 2018. The PACFAC Regional Support Center updated their biosecurity management plan for Wake Island in 2015 to assess biosecurity program requirements, look for vulnerabilities or discrepancies in the program, confirm that current tools are effective, and update the plan based on this information.
- Large amounts of cargo coming into the port.
- Each shipping container is required to be equipped with rodent trap, no pest strip, stick trap, and have a third-party pest inspection
- Before the containers arrived, a grid of pest traps was setup around the docks, along with monitoring devices in the staging area
- Intensive monitoring and inspections began once containers arrived
- Survey results are expected sometime in early 2019 and this will be made available for the public
- Working the USDA San Diego on identification of invertebrates.
- There will be a published study for public use
- Young Bothers only sends their shipping containers throughout the Pacific and within the Hawaiian Islands. The containers were in bad shape and some were so bad that they had to be sent back.

9:20 – 9:30 **O`ahu Army Natural Resource Program, Biologist:** Paul Smith

- Cleaning Stations getting installed across Army lands
- Having trouble getting military to use wash stations to wash down their vehicles after training in certain areas that have invasive species. Vehicles that were being sent the mainland failed an inspection. OANRP led a meeting that took military personnel to the wash stations to clean their vehicles and emphasize why they failed the inspection because of vehicle contamination.
- OANRP staff monitoring specific areas for any new pest introductions
- Current partnership with OISC on Chrodo at Kahuku, monitoring for any new detections at Schofield, Fort Derussy, etc...
- Outreach efforts to over 4,000 soldiers – preventing fire and preventing weed spread. Talking about cleaning vehicles and equipment. Better public relations and actual see the natural resource work. Get a lot of input from soldiers. 360 volunteer hrs/mo.
- Predator control program with rat grids and aerial bait drops
- There is an annual report that OANRP puts together.

9:30 – 9:40 **DLNR-Division of Aquatic Resources:** Justin Goggins

- Working with Malama Moanalua and using the Supersucker to remove invasive algae from Moanalua Bay.
- Working with Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation on various vector issues.
- Partnering with national and international agencies to clean a maritime vessel that is being moved to Scotland.
- Presenting work of DAR at a conference in Seattle.

9:40 - 9:50 **DLNR-Division of Aquatic Resources:** Jules Kuo; Andrew Porter



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- Andrew Porter - VIDA, Vessel Incidental Discharge Act – new version from Hirono's office. Some exciting amendments to the bill. Empty Ballast – this is good because sediment can accumulate and carry IAS. Remaining problem areas are fishing vessels are exempt under 35 feet. Drew is working on a summary and letter to address the problem areas.
- Jules Kuo – A resolution passed at the legislature last session that addresses in-water cleaning and more specifically calls on the various State departments involved to work together on addressing vessel hull-fouling. There is still a need to create State biofouling rules. Jules and Christy will attend a testing of in-water cleaning capture technology in California at the end of the month – Hopefully Hawaii will happen in the Spring. May instead test grooming systems.

9:50 – 10:00 **BREAK**

10:00 – 10:10 **DLNR-Division of Forestry & Wildlife:** Rob Hauff

- Assisting HDOA with new Biocontrol agents. Kailee is helping with the EA process for each of the biocontrol agents being proposed.

10:10 – 10:20 **DLNR-DOFAW-Hawai'i Invasive Species Council:** Josh Atwood

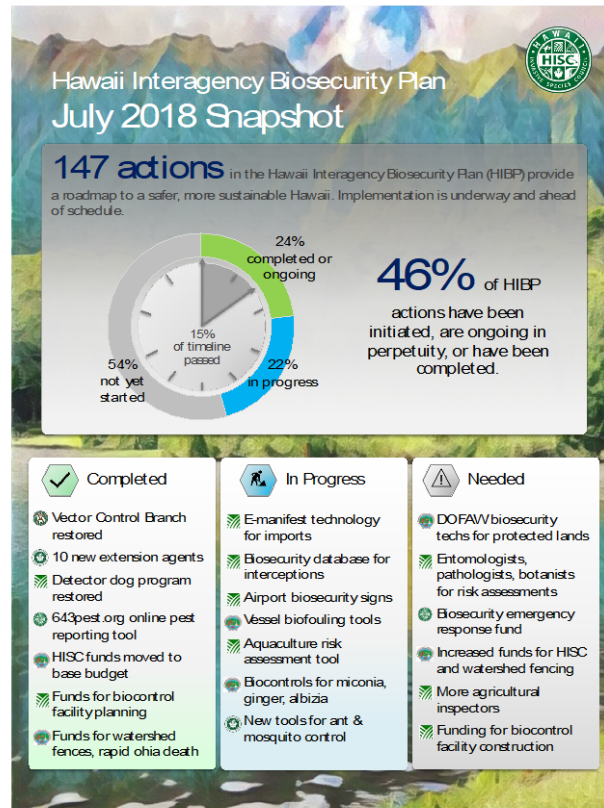
- Governor Ige launched the WGA initiative: Data initiative and meetings across the US. Josh will resend link for people who didn't get the registration for the Kona meeting.
- Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan (HIBP) – HISC is working on legislative requests based on the HIBP. Increasing capacity at DOFAW and HDOA – funding for staff. HIBP addresses capacity gaps for state agencies and partners. 147 action items in the plan. 46% progress on completion of the plan but only on those action items that don't require funding. Asking legislature for funding this year. Example of one-pager Executive report below...



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- Leyla Kauffman, Mamalu Poepoe (Update from HISC): continuing work on Standard Operating Procedures for mosquito monitoring throughout the State. Working with partners to develop Africanized Honey Bee response plan. KISC is setup for swarm bee processing. New mosquito traps in Hilo – wonder if this will enhance efficiency of trapping.

10:20 – 10:30 DHS Customs & Borders: Rebecca Chong

- Continued planning for the Pacific Festival of the Arts

10:30 – 10:40 USDA APHIS: Dorothy Alontaga

- Encouraging partners to use and submit species to NAPPRA. *Phyllactinia* noxious (fungus) black sock – spreading throughout the Pacific. It can move on items that are plants – boxes, packages. This would be a good candidate for NAPPRA.

10:40 – 11:00 NAVFAC HI-Natural Resource Specialist: Craig Gorsuch

- Working on different wetland projects. Recently held a large event for Public Land's Day at Pia Reef.
- Contact information for Craig: C.gorsuck@navy.mil
- Ongoing restoration project at Barking Sands, Kauai to remove Kiawe and outplant natives based on what was there historically. Also a Picture wing fly restoration project.
- Corrina Carnes (NAVY NR) – working on BTS trappings and CRB project. Both willing to present at next CGAPS meeting.



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11:00 – 11:10

USFWS: Benton Pang

- Introducing Mike Richardson who is an entomologist for USFWS. He has worked in Hawaii in the past and familiar with a lot of the people already.
- Benton is really working on how to bring partners together. The sharing of information is important and wants to figure out ways to continue those discussions.
- Kevin Donmyer was in HI last month and presented his work through a webinar link on Brown Treesnake in Saipan.

11:10 – 11:20

Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death: Rob Hauff and Ambyr Mokiao-Lee

- Science team meeting was yesterday. Dr. Harrington working on genetic finger printing for lukuohia and has been able to distinguish between different infestations on Hawaii Island. Both strains are pretty homogenous so think that they are more recent introductions. Genetic analysis is being done on both species.
- Keith's lab went out to boot cleaning stations on Hawaii Island and were able to isolate both species from soil samples collected and that 2 of the samples were still viable. Need to come up with better boot brush system – better system for addressing this issue. Develop messaging with Outreach group on the boot brush results. Trying to keep the disease contained to the tree and not having the beetles spread it.
- Looking for effective pesticides – need to make sure there are no nontarget impacts.
- Need an experimental use permit with a category 9 – looking for someone with that (for research). M. Mezler and Christy can provide some UH names.
- Conservation X Ohia Challenge is looking for innovative ideas to detect or control ROD. Have to have a team member from US. Science symposium sometime in January.
- DLNR is hiring a new data manager for the project.
- There are still surviving trees not sure why – preliminary results from inoculated ohia show that some varieties may be more tolerant. But still looking and if resistant varieties can be made.
- Lance DaSilva is working on a boot brush system for Waihee Ridge trail and wants to install on all trails.
 - Adam - Challenge system for engineers. That's becoming a good way to fundraise.
- Host kits for the documentary are being put together and should be getting sent out to people that were interested in showing the Ohia documentary to their community.
- Biosanitation trainings will be happening over the next few months across the state. These trainings are put on for Tour operators to educate them about ROD, invasive species in general and decontamination.
 - Adam - Delivery drivers drive with the doors open till late at night. Found coqui frogs. Might want to open training up to drivers.

11:20 – 11:30

Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle: Keith Weiser

- Pearl City and Iriquois Point are still major hotspots and continue to be monitored. Good green waste management is happening on the military bases but hard to control and manage in the public spaces.
- Testing a biocontrol that is a fungus, but need to find another breeding site to test biocontrol on.
- Using salt treatment for breeding sites is looking effective.
- Outreach – working with new construction site in Ewa. Working with tree trimmers across the islands. New situation reports – internal and version that can be used for the public.
- Found a beetle in Kunia and Waimanalo. Did recon and only found single CRB. Have additional traps in all those areas.
- HISC bi monthly newsletter – looking at making a CRB only newsletter.



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- Still issues with managing Mulch piles? – Green waste management plans are in place like on base. Hickam – those places are clean of mulch. But places like Iriqouis don't have any jurisdiction so people can have mulch piles. Lack of regulatory authority so can't regulate green waste in public areas.
- Any testing on Pitchardia? Loulu definitely gets attacked – almost as much as coconut but not as many across the island. Adam - Maui has had a couple of reports for CRB which were all negative.

11:30 – 11:35

MISC: Adam Radford

- LFA: Maliko gulch has a huge LFA infestation. Focusing control on places where people can move and spread LFA. Working with HAL and MISC. Altasin? – got a permit to use this pesticide that can be used near waterways and by air. Other populations are looking good but haven't been able to get this large population. Working on a growth inhibitor and using this gel bait through an aerial system. Hopefully will be able to start the trial with this bait in the area with the LFA.
- Messaging changing for MISC – not able to do rapid response for some species like coqui in Maliko or Miconia on the east side. Hired a position to help with implementing community management. Goal of the position is to figure out how to support communities that can work on control themselves.
- Fountain grass was looking like it was pretty minimal in previously infested areas. South slope of Haleakala had fountain grass, 3500 plants have been controlled. On DHHL land. No trail nearby. Good collaborative effort.
- Committee process is laying out resources, problem, etc... and taking it to members and getting their opinion of what to do.

11:35 – 11:40

MoMISC: Lori Buchanan (via MISC)

- ATF and mules foot fern have some high numbers and will work with the committee on if this is still good MoMISC species. Not really eradicable at the current numbers.
- Had a coqui frog that was caught.
- Had an introduction of bunchy top in a shipment to westside. Brand new plant that someone had shipped in. There are no nurseries, so people ship straight to their houses. This is a problem for biosecurity. Bunchy top can also infect Heleconia and more ginger-like species - Mezler
- Assessing their capabilities to work with certain species. Molokai needs to reassess with their committee.

11:45 – 11:50

OISC: Rachel Neville

- **ROD:** Completed island wide survey for ROD. One suspicious spot was found in northern Koolau's, scheduling to go check it out. Submitted 4 samples, none positive
- **Chromolaena:** Worked in Aiea and at KTA. One additional plant found in Makaha by WMWP. Either our crew missed it or sprouted after they left.
- **Miconia:** Surveyed 693 ground acres and 1072 aerial acres over nine watersheds for miconia. One mature plant and two mature removed from Manoa, 89 immature from Maunawili.
- **Fountain grass:** Met with DOFAW and ANRP decided to try and treat fountain grass that is spreading up northern cliffs of Waianae Kai.
- The **Himalayan blackberry** in Palolo is down to only 5 plants.
- **Staff:** Waiting for RCUH to approve my recommendation for an EDRR Tech. This person will be in charge of coqui frogs, LFA, CRB and ROD. This is a replacement for the OISC Biological Technician position that was held by Aaron Works, he resigned to go work for DOFAW.
- **Outreach:** Erin and August are giving a class that the attendees can get professional development credits for at the LICH conference about deciding when and how to use herbicide. She also participated in a DOD pesticide re-



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certification training, which is great because we get to get our message of clean equipment and don't spread invasive species to a landscaping audience.

- Erin came up with an “how to ID a plant” curriculum for a girl scout troop and had it available at last year's Hawaii Association of Science Teachers event and when she went back this year, a non-profit was using it as part of their education program.
- Erin is getting non-profits to integrate LFA testing into their regular activities for Spot the Ant Stop the Ant: 808 cleanups has a project with Blanche Pope elementary school in Waimanalo and they will do an LFA test during the cleanup, Papa Hana Kualoa in Heeia (Heiau restoration and stream restoration area) will be testing their sites during their volunteer days, Waimanalo after school program C&C will test Waimanalo community park, Nature Center during fall break science camp, Kailua STEAM camp testing during fall break, And 2 regular LFA classroom activities are scheduled for this month. Also for Stop the Ant Spot the Ant, doing bug hunt with CRB response on the 20th, and going to the Zoo's Halloween event at the end of the month. The event is focusing on invasive species.

11:50 – 11:55 **CGAPS:** Christy Martin & Chelsea Arnott

- Helping HDOA on moving forward with the Myrtaceae Rule. Next step is the Small Business Regulatory Review Board meeting for October 17th. Checking with J. Ho if it made it on the agenda. We'll ask people to help support. Putting together suggested talking points.
- Series of focus groups for each of the islands took place in September to look at people's attitudes regarding the use of novel techniques to address mosquito populations for native bird populations. Currently reviewing the results from Ward Research.
- CGAPS staff and Shahin Ansari presented their progress on the Restricted Plant List and Rules at the HISC Brown Bag and also will be presenting at the LICH conference. The presentation provides an update to partners and plant industry members of the proposed list and draft rules. The next step is to submit a petition package to the Board of Agriculture to have a public hearing and begin the public process for rule-making.

Other partner updates

- M. Mezler from UH CTAHR, pathologist and agent for horticulture. An urban entomologist was hired. CTAHR secured funding for 10 Extension agent positions – edible crops, animal science. Getting the search committees together. M. Mezler will provide a list of them all.

11:55 – 12:00 **New Business and Announcements**
