



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

*Hawai'i Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Conference Room  
1849 Auiki St., Honolulu, HI*

*9:00 am – 12:00 pm Tuesday, March 18, 2014*

*Note: these meeting notes summarize the discussion topics; they have not been corrected or "approved as minutes".*

**9:00 – 9:10**      **Welcome & Introductions:** *Rob Hauff, DLNR DOFAW Forest Health Coordinator & 2014 CGAPS Deputy Chair*

**9:10 – 9:20**      **HTA Grant Project on LFA movement:** *Teya Penniman*

- Arose from Maui Conservation Alliance, request to HTA, funded for this calendar year. Wanted to put together a white paper on interisland biosecurity and what could be done. Received the notice of award mid December, planned LFA movie premiere Dec-January, LFA found moving late December.
- Hope it will answer some of the questions that continue to arise in meetings and from legislators: what are the ants moving in, what are our authorities, what is needed, how can we address, how can we best help Hawai'i Island, etc. Whatever recommendations result from this process will only be as good as the involvement and support we receive.
- We already know a lot about the biology and ecology, interisland movement (identified potential vulnerabilities in current sys), federal, state, county roles (resource protection, jurisdiction, HI ant lab), impacts (assessment of risks to native species, etc; translate economic risk assessment from Hawai'i Island to statewide), current status.
- Pathway analysis: What do we know & what don't we know?
- Type of pathways: horticulture (propagative, non-propagative), vehicles, equipment, household moves, employee rotations (natural resources, firefighting, other), mode of transport (air, sea), volume.
- Quarantine & EDRR: What are our current capacities, needs and gaps in regulatory and response system.
- Stakeholders: Groups and processes.
- Options: Voluntary (BMPs, codes, voluntary certification), regulatory options (quarantine, penalties, treatment requirements, mandatory certification).
- Participate: help provide relevant data, participate in surveys, support multi-stakeholder forum in the fall, provide comments, suggestions, critical reviews.
- We are also working to bring the folks in that have and train dogs for LFA detection in May. Please participate, we are hoping to have these folks meet with many of you.

**9:20 – 9:30**      **Plant Industry Update, CRB, LFA:** *Darcy Oishi*

- Crossover & council of revenues: our asks have been revised downward. For HDOA we are not getting some positions and we are being asked to cut positions (1 in PPC, 7 in PQ (existing, vacant positions, to support existing needs). We need to assess our mandates and mission, and the ability to address any interisland biosecurity. If we do not maintain certain positions, we will not be able to continue night positions at HIA.

---

*CGAPS Steering Committee: Dorothy Alontaga, USDA APHIS; Joshua Atwood, HISC; Earl Campbell, USFWS; Jodi Chew, USDA FS; Kate Cullison, DLNR DAR; Mark Fox, TNCH; Maria Gallo, UH CTAHR; Bryan Harry, Emeritus; Roger Imoto, DLNR DOFAW; James Kosciuk, DHS CBP; Lloyd Loope, Emeritus; Darcy Oishi, HDOA PPC; Carol Okada, HDOA PQ; Teya Penniman, MISC; Neil Reimer, HDOA PI*

- HDOA had a 7 mil ask for CRB, LFA and capitol improvement projects for neighbor island inspection. That has been reduced to 0. This is the supplemental budget request. We have other funding moving through other bills, but we have no idea what that will look like.
- CRB has switched to local control. USDA IC management teams left March 7. This impacts the number of people we can put in the field. OISC and DOFAW has provided consistent support, thank you very much.
- Known breeding sites are still within JBPHH. Most recent Par 3 mulch pile is undergoing steam sterilization. In vessel composting reaches 170 degrees. With fans is 195, so had to turn off the fans.
- On the bad side, we have had more detections off base in panel traps. We are trying to determine where they are coming from.
- Funding for USDA (2.4 mil to continue ops through fed fiscal years, requires match, unknown if it is 1:1 cash, or in-kind, retro, or what). Gov & National Guard has committed National Guard to provide assistance. CRB response headquarters will be moving to Triple FFF for our use, donated by Harbors.
- Our estimates are that we need 12 million to deal with this pest, we will not be getting near this amount.
- Will be briefing Gov
- Michelle: How much is the military providing; are they providing people to help check traps?
- Darcy: They have been engaged with the high level work that we need help with like dealing with the mulch, constructing traps, etc. The level of assistance we have received has been exemplary.
- The two mile buffer zone set up extends outside the base, and those are difficult to deal with. We don't have the capacity to properly delimit the population. We need better coverage, and the National Guard will help us achieve this.
- Josh F: have you seen a reduction or increase in the beetles detected in the traps?
- Darcy: We are still finding beetles near the mitigated golf course mulch pile, and we are continuing to put out more traps, so it is difficult to tell.
- Josh F: Because it has been found at the airport, are we getting enough coverage at the port, as a potential place that can really vector beetles.
- Darcy: We are not doing enough. But it is difficult to tell, because we don't know efficacy of lure, the light, the lure + the light, what recheck intervals we need for mulch piles. For example: we surveyed the Par 3 pile a month ago and didn't find them. We did a month later. We would know much better if we had the dogs, but there is no word on whether we will get the dogs.
- Domingo: What are your personnel needs:
- Darcy: If we had a set schedule of people, we could plan and determine how many are needed. There are so many tasks (downed traps to reset, trap checking, steam sterilization, mulch pile surveys, tree surveys, and the IC positions, etc). Every day we need to be doing all but the steam work.
- Rob Hauff has been doing a great job as the liaison

**Little Fire Ant Response:** *Darcy Oishi*

- This is a PPC project. A joint project through IC. It isn't where we want it to be, but we have some partners trained to survey, ID whether it is LFA or not (we don't have the capacity and we lost some to PQ).
- The current situation on Oahu is that there are 10 known sites, they are undergoing control, we are monitoring them. We need to broaden them because materials still arrive from infested areas (and the type of materials they are moving in). We are developing standardized protocols to survey for LFA at ports, we have been working with Young Brothers who has stopped all movement of hapuu (living and logs) unless they have been inspected.
- We are not happy with the speed at which things are moving (or not moving), but we are running at 15% under staff.
- We have a great network of partners that we are working with. We are developing outreach materials.
- Maui is a very different situation because it appears that not as much infested material has arrived. The joint response with MISC is working out quite well. We need more reports from the public. The number of calls to the Pest Hotline and other numbers has been much less than even CRB.
- Josh A: How many public reports?
- Darcy: Probably close to 20. None confirmed LFA. We are also having a difficult time getting people to survey.
- Michelle: Have any of the stores taken any proactive measures to communicate with their customers?
- Darcy: No. We can add that to our communications toolbox. Our focus with the stores has been tracing the movement of logs.
- Teya: There has been a lot more calls to the Maui numbers, but these have just stopped.
- Teya: For positions being lost
- Darcy Hu: So you need to reduce by another 20% from existing?
- Darcy: Correct. We were asking for 4 PPC, 10 for Pesticides, PQ 0--but no reductions. We have an incredible number of unfilled vacancies (mix of reasons, including hiring freeze, retirements, etc.; we are trying to fill vacancies as quickly as we can, including 4 dog handler positions). In some areas there is flexibility but Plant Industry is being asked to identify its fair portion of cuts. PQ is in the process of its new strategic plan, which we will be moving forward with requesting next year as part of the biennium budget.
- Teya: Thank you so much for sharing all that, Darcy!

**9:40 – 9:50 DHS Customs & Border Protection: *Jim Kosciuk***

- Sea cargo from HNL—Island Movers is
- Replacing one of our canines, will be getting a new dog.
- Upcoming RIMPAC: Generates hundreds of pounds of garbage, USDA Vet will be coming and we will be working together to train contractors and military. Garbage can be significant, as it contains
- Oil tankers anchor offshore and water taxis bring in crew (about 1 mile offshore) for Barbers Pt., have found that they were bringing garbage.
- Training to Coast Guard, as they get new people in rotation to assist.
- Sea Port: we've been looking at cruise ships a little closer, dunnage, plants, fruit, etc.

- Over 2 months found some pests in ceramic tiles from Italy, logs for carving, foodstuff from Japan, ceramic items. 8,418 seizures in foreign bags, 4,000 plant seizures, 1730 animal product seizures, 249 pest interception.
- 1044 seizures by canine teams. 189 animal product seizures, 148 pest interceptions.
- Barge from Wake Island for military cleanup, pulled by barge, stopped for refueling. Didn't have a transit permit, so we forced the barge to anchor offshore. They just came in again, but they had all the permits.

**9:50 – 10:00 USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: *Dorothy Alontaga***

- Federal Nox Weeds: the funding for action on Fed Nox Weeds was pulled. For enforcement of Fed Nox Weeds, it falls to the state to do this. The list of Fed Nox Weeds and State Nox Weeds: if you compare the list, they don't match very well. If you want to keep the domestic route of Fed Nox Weeds out, might want to consider adding. If a Fed Nox Weed is arriving from a foreign pathway, we are funded to take action. However, if it is one of those plants that are in a few states and it is an interstate movement, we are not necessary funded to regulate because the funding comes from different pots. There is a gap in federal support for domestic pathways of Fed listed Nox Weeds.
- Keevin: In order to add the plants, we would need to do a rule amendment. We have a list of them at the ports and we notify feds if they are found. These plants are not on our Restricted Plant list, which is where they would need to be.

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

- New Administrator for DOFAW: Lisa Hadway, formerly Big Island Branch manager.
- Recently moved forward with releasing *Tectococcus* on Oahu, raising the scale at DOFAW nurseries. If you are interested in being a release site, contact me.
- Working with Tracy Johnson to get paperwork done for Tub urv biocontrol beetle.

**10:10 – 10:20 Hawai'i Invasive Species Council: *Joshua Atwood***

- HISAW Invasive Species Awareness Week: Mahalo for all the support and help. We had 5 media stories generated and lots of
- Moving forward with online Report A Pest tool with planning consultation meetings with agencies this summer
- Jesse Souki is now the Deputy Director for DLNR
- Emily is assisting with LFA as the Liaison; moving forward with the Mamalu Poe Poe airport program
- Randy Bartlett will be starting as HISC Interagency Coordinator next month. He will be co-supervised by Darcy and Josh A.
- Out of 34 bills on IS, 18 are still alive. The budget bill that Darcy mentioned also zeroed out the \$1 mil for HISC. The other appropriation still lists \$5 mil.
- A couple of topic specific bills mostly relate to HDOA, one is LFA related, which died, but they may rearrange some of the needs to other bills. SB 2347 allows HDOA to establish quarantine areas for any/multiple pests, designates Hawai'i Island as a quarantine area for certificate program for interisland/within island movement + civil penalties.
- Resos introduced relating to 'ōhi'a rust rules, etc.

**10:20 – 10:30 DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources:** *Sonia Gorgula, Kate Cullison, Jono Blodgett*

- Resurveying all of Kāneʻohe Bay for spread of invasive seaweeds, hoping to outplant 120,000 urchins this year (did 93,000 last year). Their entire team is awaiting transition from RCUH to civil service positions. Put in a bid for implementing the Resources Management Plan, one position would have been to focus on monitoring and rapid response, it was not approved. Our whole division is being restructured. Part of this will include an aquatic invasive species program, at least one position will be civil service on invasive species.
- Prevention: Just created a small group to help set directions for what to work on, to make sure that there is a good interaction on goals, etc.
- Biofouling: Started issuing formal letters to gain response to surveys for assessing biofoul risk.
- Western Regional Panel (19 states) chairing their coastal committee for last few months. Working on an invasive tunicate workshop (we have round 30 that are non-native, they spread easily, they are costly to industry and the environment). Request to Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force for a regional risk assessment for likely future invasions.
- There was a reporting email set up while I was gone, will talk with Report a Pest; also have a new DAR Invasive Species website: will send info to Christy to distribute.
- Tsunami debris still arriving. Most recent one was 6 or 7 different potential AIS on a vessel that had gone aground on a reef, potentially scraping pests onto the reef. Wood coming ashore has wood-boring organisms.

**10:30 – 10:40 Break**

**10:40 – 11:10 Invasive Species Committees of Hawaiʻi**

*Julia Parish, Oahu Invasive Species Committee*

- Two new hires: Erin Bishop, Outreach; Americorps Derek F (sorry, didn't catch last name!)
- List of priority plant targets; animal pest targets; nearing the time for reevaluation of targets
- Last year miconia: 2,886 acres needed in initial buffer to survey, we are behind. 2,000 ground survey acres covered, but we are behind in nearly 3,000 acres for miconia (this pushes back the resurvey goal of covering known miconia area and buffer every three years to keep new plants from reaching maturity and producing seeds).
- -Still haven't conducted even baseline surveys in highest priority survey areas by ground or by air. This year, we would need to survey 3,774 ground, 2,839 by air. Haven't surveyed by air because the one approved vendor is sick and will probably not return. We are working on identifying a new vendor and getting them approved. This is affecting our capacity to meet grants.
- Late 1990s miconia planted at Wahiawa Botanical Garden has yielded no miconia for years, but recently a mature one was discovered and removed.
- Devil weed: we keep finding more. Last year over 11,000 plants found, 1,123 acres surveyed. This year we plan to conduct resurveys, but new evidence shows that it matures within three months.
- Fireweed found on Oahu again. Report yielded 7 mature plants, 101 immature plants at First Wind site on the North Shore. Could have moved in materials, staff gear, gravel, construction company on their equipment (moved from Kona). Do any of these companies have decontamination protocols, do they know? The biologists that work for the company monitoring the site were pulling it, but they did not know to report. HDOA has been a great

partner in this, they've followed up with the construction company, will work on an outreach plan for the wind farm.

- OISC has been asked to help with *Tibuchina herbacea*, has since spread down through a gulch over several acres
- OISC partnering to help HDOA on LFA surveys and response. We've been trained, will be assisting.
- OISC helping HDOA on CRB response, contributing 305 hours of work time.
- Dorothy: What do you think is the source of the devil weed?
- Michelle: Guam (unverified). Sites are used by military and the weed is widespread on Guam.
- USFWS is moving forward with supporting genetic testing for the sources.

#### ***Keren Gundersen, Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee***

- Hiring process is underway for Keren's replacement. Will conduct interviews within a couple weeks, but most of the candidates are not local, so any selected candidate would not start for at least a month.

#### ***Teya Penniman, Maui Invasive Species Committee***

- LFA surveys, premiere, video has 9300 views. Lots of outreach to groups, most of crew pulled to conduct surveys now going back to regular work. Forest and Kim working on SNIPP grant to survey highways.
- Looking to ramp up coqui work in Maliko this summer
- Vert pest conference in Waikoloa, presented on conure pop down to about 18.
- Randy has been on Maui for the past 20 year and has been pivotal on the island for conservation—Mahalo & best of luck in your new position as HISC Liaison
- Looking at doing radio collaring axis does to determine movement and reproduction
- Nematode biocontrol partnership with Dr. Robert Barretto. They are doing host range studies, will be able to provide info to HDOA.

#### ***Lori Buchanan Moloka'i-Maui Invasive Species Committee***

- MoMISC received a report that a boat had arrived with multiple birds, they discovered a number of birds in a cage that had been wild-caught
- 2007 survey found glory bush, now surveyed
- Rubbervine surveys

#### ***Springer Kaye, Big Island Invasive Species Committee***

- Arundo donax biomass farm: On January 17 we were alerted to a plan to grow "Nile Fiber" a registered trade name for *Arundo donax* (Giant Reed) on the Hamakua Coast. The entrepreneurial website <http://www.treefreebiomassolutions.com/> listed every imaginable potential use for a fiber plant, but little evidence of the ability to manage a farm business--it is headed by a board of directors hailing from the entertainment industry. We were able to track it down to a lease lot owned by a large private landowner on the island, who agreed to monitor for now.
- The issue: This is a small, apparently inexperienced business venture, receiving federal grants to grow and develop biomass, fiber, and chemical products from a recognized invasive species in the state. While we know that Arundo was, regrettably, approved by the USDA as a biomass

stock plant, we also know it will be a big problem on the Hamakua Coast. There is a statistically good chance the venture will fail, and the lot will be abandoned, bulldozed by the next farm lessee, and spread by root mass to other farm lots on the Hamakua Coast, or into nearby Waipio Valley, impacting protected historic and modern taro production areas.

- We expect that biomass venture capitalism will increase in the next few years.
- *Are there any processes in place through CGAPS partners to increase oversight and restrict these types of biomass ventures to species that have been screened by the HPWRA?*
- *Alternatively, would it be worthwhile to pursue concurrence from the USDA that, due to the aggressive growth characteristics of plants selected for biomass plantations, that a statement of support be required from the state or local government entity tasked with managing invasive species, before any biomass development grant be awarded.*
- *Some states have added a \$1 million eradication bond before issuing required permits for growing new biomass products.*
- *Arundo donax is called a noxious weed on a number of fact sheets in Hawaii, but doesn't appear to be on the HDOA noxious weed list. Has it been added to the list?*
- **Deer in Shipping Containers?** There are repeated claims from hunters that deer have been routinely shipped from Maui to the Big Island in shipping containers along with cattle or horses sent over for rodeo competitions. We have little evidence that this is the case, in fact, the only confirmed deer sightings have been in the vicinity of the known 2009 helicopter drop-off, but it is a concern.
- *I'd like to ask whether these livestock containers are likely to be inspected by any entity, and what it would take to ensure that they are inspected before pick up or before shipping.*
- Darcy: Animal Industry division issues a permit for movement of livestock, but we don't know what that entails. State Vet. Dr. Foppoli just retired, there is another filling in.

#### **11:10 – 11:20 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Earl Campbell**

- 9 species of snakes proposed for listing, only 4 have been listed, but now USFWS is being sued by the pet industry for adding even these.
- USFWS is facing vacancies: we lost Keith Swindle, Elvin, and now George Phocas. Now we have 1 agent in the Pacific Ecoregion. Wildlife inspector section is solid, but we have no real forecast for when George's position could/will be filled.
- For any airport or wildlife issues, contact Tony directly at 861-8526. You can also forward other issues, and Tony will move it up to his supervisor.
- Geographic side, Hawai'i/Maui Nui, Mariana Team Leader, NWHI/Oahu all vacant. Not sure when we might be able to move forward with filling. We have a series of "acting" to fill in for these positions.
- BTS planning document is nearly complete. Awaiting edits from technical working group, then will make it available to CGAPS for review.
- Discretionary funding for 2014-2015 projects. Looking at categories such as moving the conservation needle, game changing innovations, landscape level controls, creating efficiencies. Priorities are preventing imminent extinction, manage/restore priority areas, reduce decline of listed species, benefit native species not at risk.
- Very limited funding. ISCs should work on project proposals, due April 16, work with Josh Fisher. Will need to float those proposals with the geographic teams, and the proposals need to support their work.

- Sonia's position was funded through State and ANS management funding. It was going to be cut this year, but it was reinstated (\$25K), a separate pot from this.
- USGS just hired the new BTS Rapid Response coordinator, will begin training in June, July, it is Adam.

**11:20 – 11:30 National Park Service: Darcy Hu**

- CRB brochure developed by Valor in the Pacific for inreach to parks staff.
- Half my job is facilitating the function of HI-PI CESU. Federal members work cooperatively with non-federal members on ecosystem projects. Non-federal members include Bishop Museum, UH Mānoa, UH Hilo, Island Conservation, and more. Coming up for a 5 year renewal in July. This would be our second renewal, if it is approved. This is not a grant program, but it is a mechanism that we help fund CGAPS with. We try to make it a painless procedure. Overhead is capped at 17.5%. NPS is having difficulty in getting discretionary office budget to CGAPS support. We will now have to go to each head of park to chip in.

**11:30 – 11:45 Other Partner Agency Updates**

-Add CTAHR to update list.

**11:45 – 11:50 CGAPS: Christy Martin**

- Transitioning CGAPS website, updating info & moving to WordPress
- Focusing on LFA outreach
- Starting all remaining HMLF projects: contract to Shahin to compile a list of offshore (or very incipient) invasive plants; starting 2 year project with Alison Sherwood and Curt Daehler to host a graduate assistant to transition a marine invasive risk assessment system from Caribbean system to Hawai'i-specific.

**11:50 – 12:00 New Business & Announcements**

- EMAPI (Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions) conference Sept. 20-24, 2015, Sheraton Waikoloa. <http://www.emapi2015.hawaii-conference.com/>.
- 2015 Hawaiian Entomology Conference (date not decided yet)

**Next General Meeting:** Thursday, June 19, 9-noon at HDOA Plant Quarantine Conference Room.

**(CGAPS Steering Committee to follow, 1:00-4:00)**