



Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS)

Meeting Agenda

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Friday, March 27, 2026

Videoconference only, please use this [link to register](#) and receive a Zoom link to join.

COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

These notes are not minutes and have not been verified by the speakers or agencies. Please follow up with the speakers if you have any questions.

Attendees: Christy Martin, Dexter Kishida, Ambyr Miyake, Rob Hauff, Norma Creps, Craig Gorsuch, Janet Ashman, Ciara Helms, Craig Clouet, Andrew Porter, Stephanie Easley, Franny Brewer, MJ Mazurek, Robbie Snyder, Jorge Renteria, Tiffani Keanini, Stacey Torigoe, Matt Baur, Kim Rogers, Liat Portner, Rebecca Chong, Elliott Parsons, Chuck Chimera, Michael Melzer, Keith Weiser, Adam Radford, Danielle Frolich, Jean Fujikawa, Jeremy Gooding, Laura Brewington, Nate Dube

9:00 – 9:10 Welcome and Introductions: Dexter Kishida, 2026 CGAPS Chair

9:10 – 9:20 Hawaii Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity: Craig Clouet

- Continue to work on Biosecurity website. We are going to include some metrics on inspections so people can get some idea on what we do and how we do it. Trying to get more information out to the public. Started our data sharing on CRB. Working with DLNR on coqui frogs and LFA. DLNR has been sharing data with HDAB and it has been helpful. BTS training continues our efforts and we are heading to Guam for the training. The Lydgate snake skin shedding on Kauai has been monitored by HDAB.

9:20 – 9:30 U.S. Customs & Border Protection: Rebecca Chong

- Port of Honolulu: Joint operation with HDAB with mail products. Australian mail has been coming through but nothing was found. In Jan 2026, had interception of snails in a shipment of marble from Italy. Have been finding citrus cankers from Asia. Air and cargo operations: did a joint operation with HDAB and USFWS. Looked at a total of 59 shipments and found shells and given to FWS for further direction. Air cargo: will be finding more cut flowers during the month of May for mothers day. Found some insects and had to send them back. Express consignment: chicken floss, pork floss, ramen, etc. Across all of our pathways, we continue packing materials that lack stamping regulations and therefore have been giving fines for not having these stamps. We have started regulating these because the regulations went into effect about 10 years ago but we are only now enforcing them.

9:30 – 9:40 USDA APHIS: Cheryl Young

- Not in attendance

9:40 – 9:50 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: MJ Mazurek

- HISC \$\$ for HACCP training processing, Leyla Kaufman lead, will be scheduling on main HI islands after July. Thanks to Pat Chee for assistance to process \$\$
- DNA analysis of snake skins found on Kauai coordination by Troy Levinson w/USGS. Please CC Troy and MJ on any snake sightings in Hawaii as well as contacting official local reps – pest hotline at DAB, Jessica Miura/Wil.
- LFA treatments continue at PJKK. Mike Richardson lead. Next treatment 21 April 9AM-12PM. Happy to have folks join in the treatments. Thanks to HAL
- Gearing up for CNMI Biosecurity Forum April 6-10 (fingers crossed travel is approved) sponsored by Office of Insular Affairs, 3 training tracts offered: Policy, Border, Post Border. FWS team training/presentations: LFA EDS training, ant identification, BTS biosecurity training. Presentations: Marianas Biosecurity gap analysis, Hot Spot LFA EDS project overview, CNMI BTS biosecurity program overview, HI POEM.

- Recent BTS sighting 19 February Saipan resulted, credibility ranking 4 (scale 1-10) in USGS deploying small rapid response team (partial rapid response measure), surveys conducted to determine if a population is present (team does not implement eradication if population found). Ongoing for at least a few more weeks.
- Mariana Islands Conservation Strategy/FWS IS Team leading Biosecurity Gap Analysis, created biosecurity BMPs checklist and contrasting to evidence. Results expected July. Huge effort.
- Fed funding, we have a budget. Unclear still when funds for on the ground ESA projects will be available (Section 6, State of the Birds etc.).

9:50 – 10:00 Hawaii Department of Transportation: Dexter Kishida

- Reaching out past the normal partners and reached out to HWMO to manage the CRB movement in Kona. Planning to take on some LFA treatments. Will have to spend some time reassessing the movement of invasive species in our purview.

10:00 – 10:10 DLNR DAR: Jesse Boord, Lizzy Monaghan

- Unomia: since December, to date we surveyed 143 acres so far, in support of US Navy, working outside of where their contractors are working at Pearl Harbor.
- ToBo Lab and DAR collected water in the harbor channel for eDNA work for detection of Unomia.
- Kaneohe Bay, had a report and detection of *Capnella spicata* (Kenyan tree coral) near Coconut island pier. Used the hot water treatment unit designed by USGS NWHC's Thierry Work to control the colony.
- Additionally, found more *Montipora foliosa* colonies in K-Bay.
- Majano anemones: we received a Governor's emergency proclamation to be able to control these anemones. The proclamation is only good for 60 days. We placed signs near the infestation and continue to do outreach to the communities. Any questions please contact: Kate.y.gonzalez@hawaii.gov

10:10 – 10:20 DLNR DOFAW: Dave Smith, Rob Hauff

- We have made an offer to an individual for the HISC coordinator, but awaiting word from DHRD before announcing. We are still hoping for a start date in April but hope to make an announcement next week.
- Legislative issues: received the Green Fee projects budget sheets from WAM and unfortunately, the invasive species and forest restoration projects are not included. We had \$2 M for HISC projects, \$500K for LFA on Maui, and some reforestation, and all of them got cut. One bill that is still alive is HB1601 which would correct Act 236 and send the FY27 HISC funds to be administered by DLNR and not HDAB, since HISC does not shift to DAB until January 2030.
- The Governor did not release HISC FY26 funds until February (the funding allocation was finalized last July). That's why HISC POs were not on time this year and projects are still waiting for their funds. We are getting it now. If you have not received your money yet from HISC, please reach out to Pat Chee and Rob Hauff.
- Kathryn Stanaway has been working on updates HAR Chapter 124 has some new added animals to the chapter.

10:20 – 10:30 Hawaii Invasive Species Council: Chuck Chimera

- WRA: updating the Plant Pono website. On Monday, April 13th there is an MOU meeting so keep an eye out for that from Jack Reef. The CTAHR Invasive Species Meeting will be held on Aug. 11 and 12 on Kauai. 643-PEST hotline is still going. A 643-PEST dashboard is up and running.
<https://dashboard.beta.643pest.org/General>
- May is HISAM month and we will start the meetings soon.
- HISC Leg Tracking page: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/2026-legislative-session/>

10:30 – 10:40 Break

10:40 – 10:45 U.S. Navy JBPHH: Nicole Olmsted

- Continuing to do long-term monitoring of Unomia. Trying to get divers into the waters and will cite the

Governor's emergency proclamation.

10:45 – 10:50 DoD: Norma Creps (see slides here)

- Invasive Mangrove Removal on MCBH, Kaneohe Bay. The project began in 2022. Removal of all plants and trash in a 15 acre zone. The vegetation that was there was housing houseless individuals and providing habitats for cattle egrets. Now we are seeing more shorebirds and stilts using the site now. The first biosecurity plan for MCBH states that no CRB has been detected on MCBH and Bellows. LFA was conducted at Bellows with no LFA detected. With the rains we will need to reassess the sites. OISC found LFA at Kaimalino site near MCBH. US Army Garrison Hawaii is currently utilizing REPI funding to support albizia control in Honouliuli area. Control efforts initiated in March 2026. The Assistant Secretary signed an Intergovernmental Support Agreement with UHM. The Biosecurity facility is going through and will be in Wahiawa. Fully staffed at the moment. Funding invasive predator control and avian monitoring at the Kokee Air Force Station on Kauai. Predator control is occurring at the installation and targets owls and rats. In total 17 cats, 2 barn owls, and over 500 rodents have been captured due to capture efforts.

10:50 – 10:55 National Park Service: Stacey Torigoe

- Mitigating risk of wildfires. Haleakala NP is still closed due to down powerlines. HAVO is now open. We are finally seeing some funding coming through. On LFA, we are doing our best to keep it out of the park. Just found LFA by steam vents and am trying to mitigate it now. We are looking at getting a bio-char machine to help mitigate CRB on the west side of Hawaii. If other partners want to partner on getting the machine, please let us know. Assisting American Samoa to help with IS issues there. I will be teaching a class on fireline resource advisor courses at HAVO on May 18 and 19, 2026. If you have any questions: Stacey_torigoe@nps.gov

10:55 – 11:00 USDA Forest Service: Jeremy Gooding

- Received funding for our LSR programs. Sending out letters to the states for core funds relating to forest stewardship and forest health programs. In the next few weeks, we may see information about the agency reorganization plans.

11:00 – 11:05 University of Hawaii Agrosecurity Lab: Mike Melzer

- Agrosecurity Lab (PEPS Dept): Interviews for Associate Dean of Extension next week. In our department we had some recruitments, but the positions got swept. The only one that made it through was the weed scientist position. Within the Lab itself, we are bringing in a CRB expert who is a PhD student, we also brought in 2 outreach folks for CRB on Kauai (Sabrina Day/Kaitlin Oki). Cooperative Ag Pest Surveys: Guam meeting is April 2, 2026 and the Hawaii planning meeting will be in Hawaii in either May or June. Continuing palm commodity surveys are winding down. Wrapped up the seed potato certification (Dec 30-Feb.10). Collecting virus isolates for CRB biocontrol. Got samples from American Samoa which was received on March 6. Will be processing the samples soon. We want to see if American Samoa has any different isolates than Hawaii. UH has a giving day and we are one of the 4 highlighted projects, so help us by donating. We are up to about \$23k in this account for our fundraisers. We have isolates from American Samoa and Palau, next is from Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Cambodia. Act 236 funds for CRB were received on Jan 26 which was March 18 but we will try to see if we can roll it over. It only gave us 1.5 months to spend it and we haven't spent it yet, oops.

11:05 – 11:10 CRB Team: Keith Weiser

- We are having some efforts putting out traps and chemical distribution. That is if HDAB is okay with that. We did have a burst of finds near the airport. Most of it is on base and abandoned housing. Only 4 finds at the HNL airport so far. On Oahu: K-9 surveys at the airport and Wheeler and Schofield as well as Waimanalo. Act 236 funds are helping us to increase our efforts on Kauai. For Maui: working on county CRB plan. The MOU is between HDAB, DLNR, and UH, but now Maui County is working on their own. There is a rewrite of the CRB communications plan by the end of the calendar year.

11:10 – 11:15 KISC: Tiffani Keanini

- Miconia: 8 mature and several hundred immature trees found this year. We are having problems with reaching the mature trees. LFA: 27 sites total, one new one this year. 29 surveys complete. We have about 38 acres treated. A commercial nursery is now in the monitoring phase. CRB: KISC has hired a CRB technician to focus outreach and education to the communities. They will be starting in April. Coqui frogs: 41 frogs controlled at 5 different locations. Ramie Moth: detected on Kauai in Dec 2025. Multiple moths have been reported on the east and north shore. CTAHR came out to train and do surveys and found more Ramie moths on the east and north side. ROD: using splat verb to treat priority areas.

11:15 – 11:20 BIISC: Franny Brewer

- CRB: 307 adults, 295 larval CRB, and over 300 traps. The numbers fluctuate with hovering over different locations on the dashboard. Interagency efforts coming up in April. HDOT is sponsoring collection of greenwaste for Kona Palisades subdivision. Last Tuesday, HDAB put in an interim rule to help reduce the risk of CRB through movement of greenwaste. September 23-24 for the CRB symposium.
- <https://uhm.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/375bb1cb2cd74596b23dc4a20419f210>
- New detection of a ropey (Hiptage benghalensis?) vine plant and is widespread on Oahu. This finding is in the Hookena property in South Kona. The homeowner just purchased the property recently and previously worked for OISC and recognized the invasive vine. We will do some EDRR on this plant. Also getting out the word to the community.
- One new population of devil weed. We are controlling over 22,000 devil weed plants.
- We are hiring a new invertebrate outreach position, 2 new field crew positions, another outreach position, etc.

11:20 – 11:25 MISC: Jorge Renteria

- Staffing: experience issues for recruitment. We recruited a new employee in February for the admin assistant position. Just lost 4 field crew. Actively recruiting to hire 7 people.
- Preparing for our county audit during the 2nd week of April.
- Leaking to the MISC office at the Old Hilo High damaged some things.
- We have a crew member that got their drone license
- FY27 budget from the county will remain the same, which is good.
- Plant work: we have been controlling and containing the main species, Miconia and Pampas grass. Aerial operations have not been so successful because of the weather. We normally use HBT control.
- LFA; working on known infestations. Control has been delayed due to weather conditions. We need to assess the status of LFA after the big storms. The K-9 detector dogs have been helpful.
- Coqui frog: containment and working with the community in Maliko gulch. Dealing with satellite communities and giving resources to the local communities so they can help us with the work.
- Suspect plants have been sampled and are now being identified.
- CRB: 40 panel traps is what MISC is in charge of. We are working to prepare the staff for the case if CRB is detected on Maui.
- Outreach: important and MISC and participated in educational events and presentations. We finalized our 2025 impact report. Here is MISC's impact report link: https://mauiinvasive.org/reports/#flipbook-df_369148/5/

11:25 – 11:30 MoMISC: Lori Buchanan

- Not present

11:35 – 11:40 OISC: Nate Dube

- 2026 started off hectic. Approved to use a helicopter that is sound and we have been working on catching up with heli ops from 2025.
- Finishing up some aerial imagery through Aloha Aina Drones.
- LFA: cycling through the Koolaupoko region and working with HDAB closely. Trying to get more sights into treatment. Still using drones in Waihee and Lanikai for treatments.
- Coqui: continuing to spray in Kuliouou. All properties are private property and continue to do outreach in

these regions. Robbie has been leading the Waimanalo sites.

- ROD: responding to calls from residents.
- Priority weeds: Miconia buffer expansion. Difficult terrain. Devil weed treatment in Kahana valley. In Makaha we do early detection for BWS.
- Ports of entry: trap checks are going good
- Funding: waiting on HISC FY26. REPI and ? funds are currently in place. Waiting on STAG money for tibuchina. Got NIFWP funding solidified through the end of year.
- Staffing: looking to hire field crew members. All positions are posted on social media.
- Outreach: continue to community and school presentations. Volunteer efforts for devil weed is ongoing but cancelled for this weekend due to the weather.

11:40 – 11:45 CGAPS: Christy Martin, Stephanie Easley, Drew Porter, Ambyr Miyake

Stephanie Easley: Invasive Species Legislative Update Notes March 27, 2026

- [HB 1601](#) – Provides the Act 236 (2025) additional HISC funding for FY 26-27 to DLNR, instead of DAB. Passed out of the House and Senate Agriculture/Water & Land Committees. Currently waiting to be scheduled for a Ways and Means Committee hearing.
- [HB 1929](#) – Requires a biosecurity plan for Molokai by July 2027, to prevent the spread of invasive species present in the State and not yet found on Molokai (examples: CRB, LFA, Coqui, ROD, and Miconia). Authorizes the sale of bonds to fund a DAB inspection facility on Molokai. Appropriates funds to establish full-time positions for inspectors on Molokai and to develop the Molokai biosecurity plan. Passed out of the House and the Senate Agriculture Committee, which added an amendment that creates a Molokai Biosecurity Advisory Board to advise DAB on the Molokai Biosecurity Plan. Waiting to be scheduled by the Ways and Means Committee.
- [HB 1931](#) – Noxious Weed reform bill. Establishes a State Noxious Weed Coordinator and updates the process for designating and managing noxious weeds statewide. Creates an annual process to update the State noxious weed list that is driven by recommendations submitted by the public. Passed out of the House and the Senate Agriculture Committee, which added an appropriation of funds for the Noxious Weed Coordinator. Waiting to be scheduled by the Judiciary/Ways and Means Committees.
- [HB 2139](#) - Queensland Long Horned Beetle (QLB) funding bill. Provides funding to University of Hawaii to study effective treatment methods for QLB. Passed out of the House and the Senate Education Committee. Waiting to be scheduled by the Ways and Means Committee.
- [SB 2174](#) – Authorizes DAB to quarantine a business or other area known or reasonably suspected to be infested with a pest, in violation of chapter 150A or its regulations. The bill also clearly authorizes DAB to make rules , including interim rules, regulating the intrastate movement of any article, not just “flora and fauna.” Passed out of the Senate and the House Agriculture Committee. Waiting to be scheduled by the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee.
- [SB 2321](#) – Establishes a 2-year pilot program to address the two-lined spittlebug (TLSB). Requires DAB to develop a TLSB management plan, conduct a cost/benefit study of control methods, conduct outreach, provide support for rancher mitigation efforts, including reimbursement, and submit 2 reports to the Leg – prior to 2027 and 2028 Legislative sessions - on the pilot program. It appropriates funds for the pilot program. Passed out of the Senate and sent to the House Agriculture Committee. Waiting to be scheduled by the Finance Committee.
- [SB 2489](#) – Ag leases bill – requires agricultural leases that are made or modified by DAB to have a provision allowing access to survey for or control an invasive species after notice. Authorizes DAB to require a lessee to control an invasive species on the leased land. Authorizes DAB to terminate the lease for refusal or violation. Passed out of the Senate and the House Agriculture Committee. Waiting to be scheduled by the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee.
- [HCR 60](#)– Establishes a working group to create a framework for labeling plants at the point of sale with information regarding their invasiveness. Passed House Agriculture Committee with amendments. Waiting to be scheduled by the Finance Committee and then move on to the Senate.
- [SB 2885](#) – CRB greenwaste management bill. Beginning in 2027, establishes mandatory handling and

storage rules for commercial and residential CRB host material to reduce the spread of CRB within infested zones and to prevent spread into non-infested zones. Only applies to islands with a confirmed CRB infestation. Does not include any funding to carry out the bill. Passed out of the Senate. SB 2885 was deferred by the House Agriculture Committee so the bill is dead.

Andrew Porter: Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) in 2018 preempts the state from having more stringent rules compared to national standards. Those discharges include ballast water and biofouling (and in-water cleaning of hulls with microfouling). The EPA completed their rulemaking for discharge standards, and now the US Coast Guard is developing their regulations. Once finalized, VIDA regulations may be enforced by states, or co-enforced by states and US Coast Guard. The funding shutdown impacts US Coast Guard since it is under DHS, and they were supposed to have a meeting with states for entering into an MOU with the Coast Guard, but we have no idea what that means, so we are on hold. However, we will need to better understand where the USCG is going with their regulations, meet with industry, and likely work with legislators to introduce and pass a bill so the state laws mirror federal regulations.

- Ambyr Miyake:
- Christy Martin: Mason Russo put together a site visit to Brisbane, Australia to see their National RIFA Eradication Program, attended by Dexter, Mason, Jarett Lau, Chris Rosario (Guam), and Chris Heron (PI for CEMML Guam work), and me. Great lessons learned that we hope to share out, perhaps at the Kauai meeting and also via a HISC Brown Bag. We are also going to update the RIFA response plan for Hawaii.
- One fun project right now is that we are working to put in a marine invasive species display at the Bishop Museum and will be near the Hokulea exhibit and will be finished in May 2026.

11:45 – 12:00 Additional Partner Updates & Announcements

- KMWP: Fighting many invasive species in the Koolau's. We are growing our team and hiring at the moment. Multiple grant applications are in progress. Working with new contracts Kamehameha schools and BWS. We are working on getting a seed cooler that will be installed in the next month. Working with DOFAW and Lyon Arboretum on this.
- Pacific RIISC: Here are updates from Pacific RISCC in case we run out of time, don't forget the April 6 deadline for NAISMA Conference abstracts! <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IXH3uFA16rEAcI-VXEKwgp5NqYwEHAT-FCWPA1Mh8uY/edit?usp=sharing>
- Working on a CRB symposium. Funding for the coordinator position went through so that is amazing.
- Submitted for a post-doc for Hawaii to work on plants
- HFB: A broad impact on local food production because of the storms. Lost of livestock, shelters, and food production. We need to worry about the spreading of weeds and parasites and diseases. Currently participating in the current legislative session. Ag Day at the Capitol went well and thanks for your support.
- Matt Baur: Here in Washington DC talking to our congressional delegation.
- Rob Hauff: There's a DAB Plants and Animals Advisory Committee meeting 4/2 at 9:00 to consider permit conditions for the import of bison for commercial meat production

12:00 End. Mahalo!

Next meeting is Thursday, June 4th, 2026.

Note: To join or leave the CGAPS listserve, click here (<https://bit.ly/2RExLJP>).