



Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) Meeting Agenda

9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Friday, April 16, 2021

(this will be remote-participation only, no physical meeting location)

***These notes are uncorrected by speakers and participants—they represent a sense of the meeting and information shared. Readers and users are urged to verify data or information with the speaker.**

9:00 - 9:10 **Welcome and Introductions:** Chair, Benton Pang

9:10 - 9:20 **HDOA-Plant Industry, PQ, PPC:** Becky Azama

The dept is focusing on Coffee leaf rust- Surveys continue on all islands, but so far Kauai, Lanai, and Molokai have no positive results. There are restrictions in place for movement of coffee and coffee parts. Dept approved expanded restrictions in Jan. PQ- Zebra mussels in moss balls being imported and HDOA is ready to respond to reports.

9:20 – 9:30 **DHS Customs & Border Protection:** Rebecca Chong

Compared to last year: Passenger #'s down 66% for intl travel aircraft. Cargo air includes produce and cut flowers- down 70%. Mail increased 47%. Sea cargo increased 34%. There is an increase in staff during periods of increased activity.

9:30 – 9:35 **USDA APHIS:** Dorothy Alontaga

NAPPRA still taking suggestions. 3rd round hasn't been completed yet (Myrtaceae Rule included). [Anyone want more protection for a specific species- make a submission through the USDA APHIS website.](#)

9:35 - 9:40 **Restricted Plant List NAPPRA:** Rachel Neville

Working off of the list that Shahin created. Sent in 10 species and received acknowledgment of submission but nothing since. Finding species that are not already found in the US is difficult. Sometimes it is at a botanical garden. Several species on the list have been submitted by someone else and were already accepted. Others were already on a national nox weed list so Rachel can submit other species instead, maybe Miconia sp., or Tibochina sp.? [Taking suggestions of species that are Not in the US and Not in HI. Email Rachel at \[ohia.forest@gmail.com\]\(mailto:ohia.forest@gmail.com\)](#) . Chuck- it's challenging to prove negative presence, is there an acceptable amount of documentation to prove it's not present? Rachel asked if there's a criteria and USDA didn't answer. There's a database that says whether it's present. She's also been using [GBIF](#). They ask for a description of it's presence. If there's 4 plants in a botanical garden that might be acceptable. **Fern- has anyone ever compared the cities list and the genera?**

9:40 – 9:50 **DLNR-DAR AIS, DOFAW:** Natalie Dunn; Rob Hauff

DAR- Anuenue hatcheries- the most urchins ever were planted this year. Zebra mussels being found on moss balls (these are illegal to import) and sales are being monitored in stores. The AIS team developed an Aquatic

CGAPS Steering Committee: Dorothy Alontaga, USDA APHIS; Chelsea Arnott, HISC; Becky Azama, HDOA; Jodi Chew, USDA FS; Rebecca Chong, DHS CBP; Mark Fox, Emeritus; Bryan Harry, Emeritus; Alan Holt, Emeritus; Angela Kieran-Vast, NAVFAC; Michael Melzer, UH CTAHR; Brian Neilson, DLNR DAR; Benton Pang, USFWS; Adam Radford, MISC; David Smith, DLNR DOFAW

Species Invasiveness Screening Kit (AS-ISK) question guidance SOP and began a UH student pilot study to validate the tool for Hawaii. Developing the risk screening process aids the AIS team in management of species of concern. Stony coral tissue disease studies ongoing. AIS team was also cut Aquatic Biologist III and two Fishery Technicians.

To participate in the Aquatic Biosecurity Working group: Chelsea Arnott <chelsea.l.arnott@hawaii.gov>, next meeting Monday, 26 April 2021 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM(GMT-10:00) Hawaii

DOFAW- Staffing changes- Josh Atwood is now in Info and Edu position. Chelsea Arnott is now the point person for HISC. In the current bill being considered at leg there is funding for Josh's old position (IS coordinator). Trail Manager has left. Bill Stormont has been filling in. Irene Sprecker (Forestry) is leaving. Other positions are in jeopardy this leg session. Received a line item for ROD and DOFAW had CIP request for fencing. Emma- \$4 M/year requested. The house version cut fences on HI island where it's most needed. Senate version did have that \$\$ included. [Encouraging the leg to take the senate version](#). Pat- making an official announcement about the eradication of rats on lehua island! Pat is also running out of funding for his position.

9:50 – 9:55 **USFS:** Jodi Chew

Jodi will be stepping into the discussions for the biocontrol facilities. Susan- supporting climate change reef project and received funding for ROD genetic resistance work and the relationship between ungulates and fencing.

9:55 - 10:00 **TNC:** Anthony Ching

[Anthony has a background with congressional delegation and can provide assistance there. Says Biden's infrastructure plan may be a source of funding.](#)

10:00 - 10:05 **DoD NavFac Pacific:** Norma Creps

Fenced off Makaha Ridge region of PMRF. Ant surveys at breeding sites on military installations. Working to use hydrogel baits. Researcher is looking at effects of baits. Conducted surveys of Yellow faced bees and picture-winged flies. Control of Naio thrips.

10:05 - 10:10 **DOH:** Lincoln Wells

Working mostly on COVID response, ento and other staff helping out as well. Through Mamalu Poepoe received large CO2 tanks for traps. Lost 2 inspector positions. Lack of travel has slowed down detections. Only a few travel imported cases since COVID. Air and sea port monitoring will continue, as well as along coasts and outer island monitoring. Long term would like to continue these projects including researching seasonality and other source reduction actions like outreach. Using mathematical models to figure out risk and plans of action for future introductions.

Fern- Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project is collecting mosquitoes in CO2 traps to determine mosquito distributions - it provides another way to surveil for invasive and other mosquitoes too.

10:10 - 10:15 **UH:** Mike Melzer

New plant disease on Brassica- reported 30-50% decrease in yield. Disease on Hibiscus, causes defoliation- UH can conduct testing. Disease on Taro- working on diagnostics to detect if introduced from PNG or Solomon Islands. Mike can be found by looking up the Agrosecurity Lab at UH. Michael Melzer <melzer@hawaii.edu>

10:15 – 10:25 **LFA on Oahu:** Becky Azama/Chris Frohlich

Map of LFA infestations on Oahu. They are all fairly manageable. Kailua (8 properties), Manoa (result from Stop the Ant Month outreach efforts), Mililani Mauka (one of the first sites on Oahu), and Waimanalo. Nursery spread is the primary vector. Check your plants for ants! On Oahu, at this point, it could be on any material (road, construction, nursery, etc).

As a general notice: there is a cliff coming because of the passage of HB1299 SD1, which will repeal Section 150A-4.5, the Pest Inspection, Quarantine, and Eradication Special Fund, a mechanism that funded nearly half of the 90 Plant Quarantine inspectors and a variety of important invasive species programs. For example, the Hawaii Ant Lab (HAL) receives most of its core funding from HDOA through this mechanism. In FY 20, it funded HAL for: \$378,835 for core work \$189,111 for HAL Oahu work (this supports 2 FTE and 2 very part time people, the ONLY staff focused on LFA on Oahu. HDOA doesn't have anyone/civil service positions to do this work) \$60,361 for research into control techniques

Lori- I will contact Puu honua o Waimanalo (Bumpy Kanahale) to see if they have LFA and want to learn. Chris- Get in touch with our extension program through littlefireant.com- we lead a monthly zoom on treatment techniques. [On O'ahu, please get them in touch with HAL- we need to know where ants are and outline populations to make sure we treat the whole infestation](#)

Lori-LFA is so destructive we cannot become complacent. [HAL and OISC I will help by contacting the Native Hawaiian Community leadership to work with point people. Do we need more bodies now to curb this tide?](#) Teya- There obviously needs to be some major action to keep the funding for HDOA and HAL. Please let me know how I can help. Christy-YES. We provided some numbers for support for immediate work on Oahu \$220K for two staff (likely one with HAL, the other with OISC to focus on LFA). However, my earlier note regarding HDOA's Pest Inspection Quarantine and Eradication fund being repealed means that HAL will lose nearly \$500K in support funds next year.

10:25 – 10:30 **USFWS:** Benton Pang/Joshua Fisher

[Christy- Josh, can you help me make a new decision support tree?](#) Lori- good question Christy...need to update emergency contacts...action item?

Teya- For Maui, if someone turns in a dead seabird with something odd (e.g., not obviously related to a road, windmill, or overhead lines), it goes to Thierry Werk.
https://www.usgs.gov/staff-profiles/thierry-m-work?qt-staff_profile_science_products=0#qt-staff_profile_science_products

10:30 – 10:35 **Break**

10:35 – 10:40 **CRB:** Koki Atcheson/Kaili Kosaka

Outlier trap detections in Pupukeya, Kaneohe, and Waimanalo, and Makua. Systemic pesticide injections in palms preliminary results show that about 20 beetles caught in area (pre-treatment) and about 5 beetles (post-treatment). Moving toward contracted greenwaste removal. Manually removing beetles. Looking to contract work out and working with contractors to train them on removal. Canine training is going well. There are 2 canine handlers that are receiving more training. There's a position open for a handler that closes 4/20/21 and is posted on RCUH.com

https://hcmweb.rcuh.com/psc/hcmprd_exapp/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_APP_SCHJOB.GBL?FOCUS=Applicant& OR hirenethawaii.com and search for 221156

10:40 – 10:45 **NPS:** Jadelyn Moniz-Nakamura

From Pacific Islands Inventory and Monitoring Program: Some NPS monitoring work continues to be hampered by pandemic, but we will complete invasive plant transects, plant community plots, and forest bird surveys for Hawai'i Volcanoes in 2021-22. These protocols rotate around parks every five years; Kalaupapa and Haleakalā will occur in 2022-24. It remains uncertain if annual stream animal, coral reef, or marine fish surveys will occur in 2021.

From Haleakala National Park: The park is looking to create a Pine Management working group with DOFAW. The park is interested in collaborating with park partners to address the ongoing pine problem on East Maui. For decades the park has been controlling pines inside the park boundaries as many populations outside of the park go nearly unchecked, (among other things) these continue to convert natural areas to pine forests and increase the risk of fire.

From Hawaii Volcanoes National Park: David Benitez has taken a position as the Safety Officer at Hawaii Volcanoes. Mark Wasser, I&M GIS Specialist will be detailing into the Ecologist position for 120 days.

10:45 – 10:50 **ROD:** Rob Hauff

Research results: Dr. Tom Harrington's work looking at genetics of outbreaks. Outbreaks have a distinct fingerprint to them. ROD happens from events. Ryan Perroy's monitoring on Hawaii Island and Kauai. Showing trends that at onset of infestation it ramps up in terms of infection but it continues to ramp up and not taper off. This indicates that there is secondary infection in sites.

Restoration group: All researchers formed another group called the restoration group. They are looking at whether or not seedlings die from ROD. Results are showing that seedlings are not dying from ROD but rather ungulates and overgrowth of invasive species.

On Oahu, another huihiohia tree was found. Outreach team did a series of workshops training individuals on the latest science and communications. The legislature added about \$1M in the budget for ROD. We have not gotten an appropriation for ROD for the last 2 years. This will help to support ROD work across the state. We have continued success for ROD funding.

10:50– 11:00 **Maui Nui ISCs (MISC & MoMISC):** Adam Radford

Support from Maui County Council seems strong. Hopefully about \$2.46M or more. No new LFA sites. Few Coqui management sites. Bad weather eradicated some species because of the complete change in landscape.

No new ROD detections. Naio Thrip surveys occurred last qtr, and haven't been detected on Maui. No detections of Mamalu Poepoe targets. Forest and Kim Starr get a lot of inquiries through their flickr account <https://www.flickr.com/groups/hawaiiplantid/> <https://www.flickr.com/groups/hawaii-insect-id/>. Virtual trainings for eco tours have been greatly increasing in participation 110 in last class.

Lori- continue to have 0 detections for LFA, CRB and coqui.

11:00 – 11:05 **OISC:** Nate Dube

Chromolaena- working with motorcross association here on Oahu. Working with riders to get involved with management. Multi-agency effort to catch coqui- there were 51 caught in Waimanalo. 6th Huliohia detection on Oahu at Pauoa trail- we mobilized quickly and felled and sent over samples to the lab. 10,000 reached through outreach efforts. Assisting HAL with monitoring for LFA. 39 mi of trails across 8 trails surveyed through citizen science program. HBT temporarily approved (Adam Knox doing paperwork for departments or partners to get it through(aknox@hawaii.edu)). [Christy- The folks at Lord Howe Island are very interested in HBT. I'll get Hank and Sue Bower in touch with Adam K.](#) Participated in climate adaptation course and apply it to miconia control. Several populations of plants in Koolaus being treated with spray ball instead of HBT. Weather has been troublesome for efforts. New Tibouchina plants in areas of Koolaus. KMWP taking the lead on those treatments.

11:05 – 11:10 **KISC:** Tiffani Keanini

EDRR responded to coqui reports- caught 2 frogs with HDOA. LFA 2nd site being controlled. Completed high risk site surveys, 0 detections. Secured funding for CBB and coffee leaf rust monitoring with backyard growers. Continuing ROD monitoring, aerial surveys with DOFAW. 6 trees positive for lukuohia in Koke`e. Studying new techniques for felling trees because they are in high risk areas. Working with ROD science team to do beetle studies. An early detection botanist brought on staff doing species assessments. Studies are being done on long thorn kiawe native seed distribution and studying the regeneration rates of such plants.

11:10 – 11:15 **BIISC:** Springer Kaye

Chromolaena detection in Hilo. First time it has been detected on Hawaii island. The site is at the motorcross track here in Hilo which is not surprising knowing that it is found on the motorcross track on Oahu. Pulled 500 plants. Thanks to USFWS for outreach materials. Finex weed detection and digitalis (foxborn? Spp). [We are going through a weed assessment and have our work accepted at HCC this year. We are interested in collaborating with others on that.](#)

Janet- Does California have regulations on the e-bikes? Do we want to consider legislative action for 2022?
Benton- Not sure, I will have to ask. Its something I've seen in the last 1-2 years really take off due to compactness and strength of the batteries.

11:15 – 11:20 **Watershed Partnerships:** Emma Yuen

11:20 – 11:25 **HFBF:** Janet Ashman

Concerned about budget cuts and abolishment for department funds. There is a push to deregulate composting operations at leg. Submitted testimony about the spread of IS through compost. Counties fought back on this. [Janet would like to see a working group on this issue maybe if anyone from this group would like to start it.](#) Need to make sure **HCCD** is funded to ensure proper resource conservation on ag lands. Act 90- law 18 yrs ago hasn't been implemented fully till this day (land leases moving over to from DLNR to HDOA). ashman.janet@gmail.com Re regulation of green waste, it's under the DOH Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch. §11-58.1-41

11:25 – 11:30 Mamalu Poe Poe: Leyla Kaufman

SOP for mosquito control at airports. Working on moving things to a web and app service. Funds channeled through CTAHR. Work being done on trapping and action thresholds. Got DOH CO2 tanks for management efforts. Drafted a contract for DOT. Just started the swarm season on Oahu. From now on we will be doing weekly checks at airports for Africanized Honeybees. We are working on materials and messaging (sentiment for saving bees). Putting sensors in swarming traps. Starting conversations with DOT in Hilo about LFA and mosquitoes. Economic analysis: Donna Lee preparing a final report and will publish findings. The benefit cost ratio for the state is high.

11:30 – 11:35 HISC: Leyla Kaufman

Josh officially left IS Coordinator position. Legislature approved using DLNR operational funds to support the position. This means we'll be using HISC funds to the support the position this year. Still not sure what the budget is for HISC funding. Not sure if we are getting the extra \$1M in addition to the \$4.75M. HISC assisting with HDOA response efforts to new coqui population in Waimanalo. Briefing legislators on rapid response efforts for coqui and LFA on Oahu.

You can find the HISAM videos here: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/2021hisam/>

11:35 – 11:40 CGAPS: Christy Martin

-CGAPS Staff Projects (Stephanie Easley, Drew Porter--legal fellows; Kailee Lefebvre--CGAPS Planner; Ambyr Mokiao-Lee--ROD Statewide Outreach; Christy Martin--Program Coordinator)

Stephanie continued to assist the Prevention Working Group on Strategies 1 & 2 (Prevention, EDRR & interisland spread), primarily focusing on reviewing and revising HAR chapters 67 and 68 (Nox Seed and Nox Weed rules) with Becky Azama and a subcommittee.

Drew Porter is continuing work to support DAR and other HI agencies during the VIDA rulemaking process in support of Strategy 3 (Aquatic Biosecurity). The EPA has delayed publishing of their final discharge standards related to ballast water and the in-water cleaning of vessels, and is instead going to meet with states on concerns and how they might be addressed.

The Fellows have completed interviews for summer interns and we hope to introduce them and their projects soon.

Kailee returned from maternity leave March 1 & picked up planning and organizing projects including internal Strategy goals 9 (Strong CGAPS Network) and 10 (Stable Funding & Staffing). Her big project was planning and writing her first grant, HCF's CHANGE grant.

Christy spent some time monitoring and engaging legislators on bills and priority topics, and staff from congressional and agency offices on priorities in Strategy 1, 2, 3, and 5 (Pacific Regional Biocontrol). One fun project was a biocontrol explainer video (see <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/info/biocontrol/>). [For those groups \(or individuals!\) with a social media presence, we have a media toolkit to share and use](#), and we will be launching the video the last week of April.

11:40 – 11:55 Additional Partner Updates

11:55 – 12:00 New Business and Announcements

Last note: We have set meeting dates for CGAPS General Meetings: General Meeting

Friday 4/16 9a-12noon

Friday 6/18 9a-12noon

Friday 9/17 9a-12noon

Friday 12/10 9a-12noon

Chuck Chimera- [Sign up for NAISMA's free webinars in May.](#)

Pat Chee- Whats going on with Landscape scale control WG? Christy- Surveyed folks working on these projects, they want to meet so will be getting something together soon. Priority of this group is to identify new tools.

Note: To join or leave the CGAPS listserve, click here (<https://bit.ly/2RExLJP>) or, go to the University of Hawai'i's listserve webpage and search for the CGAPS List.