



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

9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Tuesday, June 14, 2022

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

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Remote participation—Zoom registration must be done prior to meeting. [Click here](#) to register and receive a link to the meeting.

**\*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.**

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### 9:00 - 9:10                      **Welcome and Introductions:** Chair, Adam Radford

- In Attendance: Kailee Lefebvre, Christy Martin, Elizabeth Speith, Rob Hauff, Teya Penniman, Ambyr Mokiao-Lee, Richard Pender, Koki Atcheson, Forest & Kim Starr, Elizabeth Monaghan, Norma Creps, Susan Cordell, Rebecca Chong, Jean Fujikawa, Helmuth Rogg, Evan Miyaki, Joshua Fisher, Erin Bishop, Andrew Porter, Franny Brewer, Keith Weiser, Jadelyn Nakamura, Shahin Ansari, Michael Jordan, Elliott Parsons, Michele Harman, Lori Buchanan, Chuck Chimera, Anthony Ching, Dorothy Alontaga, Janet Ashman, Chelsea Arnott, Adam Radford, Matt Baur, Shaya Honarvar, Tiffani Keanini, David Smith, Kim Fuller

### 9:10 - 9:20                      **HDOA-Plant Industry, PQ, PPC:** Helmuth Rogg

- The Plants and Animals Advisory Committee voted to recommend that the Board of Agriculture approve the mosquito import permit that will be heard at the BOA meeting on June 28. There were 50/50 comments in favor and against. There were comments received about “why are more mosquitoes being brought to HI,” and comments about the use of “GMO mosquitoes.” None of those opposed showed up at the meeting or virtual meeting. Outreach efforts are needed to clarify that the mosquitoes are not GMO.
  - Josh Fisher noticed that many of the oppositional comments were from Hawaii Island and Maui.
  - Teya Penniman commented that biocontrol agents for tibouchina and miconia were also approved by the Advisory Committee, and these are very much needed.
- CRB is still spreading and has been found in Hawaii Kai (public report). The CRB focused Green Waste Compliance Agreement will be approved internally next week and then will move to the BOA for hearing.

### 9:20 – 9:25                      **USDA APHIS:** Dorothy Alontaga

- APHIS PPQ has regulations for items that go from Hawaii to the continental US. The [Hawaii Manual](#) of food lists all of the food items that can be exported from Hawaii. If it is not listed, it is prohibited. This makes it difficult for agriculture producers in Hawaii, particularly for things that are low risk or items

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*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*

where risk can be mitigated. Dorothy is asking for input on food items to be added to the Hawaii Manual to expand the local growers market.

**9:25 – 9:30**                    **DHS Customs & Border Protection:** Rebecca Chong

- HIRAC is the Hawaii Risk Assessment Committee & how we can share certain non-specific information with partners, it is ongoing. Here's some of our 4th quarter operations: Korean mail is back at the mail branch. Sea cargo operations will be looking at exteriors of ships and containers, especially for snails from China. Air cargo will have a "bring child to work" day in August. There will be a USDA pest ID training for new CBP ag inspectors. DHS 7 new ag specialists, 6 of which will be going out to their respective units for work in the next 2 weeks. RIMPAC is coming up soon. 25 vessels will be coming from all over the world and will be creating lots of regulated garbage. DHS will be checking on compliance for this garbage. Garbage must be sealed, not leaking, and steam-sterilized. On cruise ships that have foreign stops, the garbage is considered regulated. Passenger volume is expected to increase over the summer, with Japanese visitors starting to come back. There has been some press about cut flower interceptions (Watanabe Floral was in the news story) for pests found on imported cut flowers. There have been lots of stink bugs and other pests found. Infested flowers are not allowed in, which has led to a lot of calls from legislators, congresspersons, and the press on behalf of the importers. Importers are struggling to find clean flowers for import, but it is a bit strange. Some shipments are clean and some are really infested.

**9:30 - 9:35**                    **DLNR DOFAW:** Rob Hauff

- Headway with recruitments. Chelsea Arnott is the new DLNR DOFAW Invasive Species Coordinator starting July 1, and will be the HISC Coordinator. Legislative season resulted in \$8M of CIP for watershed fencing (from \$4M). \$1.5M addition to HISC, \$500K of which is for Hawaii Ant Lab (the total HISC funding for FY23 is \$7.25M). \$1.7M for ROD. \$1.2 increased to \$3M for fire response and post-fire restoration, which is new. Got funding restored for 30 positions that went unfunded and had been nearly lost, including the Invasive Species Coordinator salary. Recruiting for Maui Protection Forester/Forest Health position, Statewide Survey Forester position. The Watershed Partnership Coordinator position will be starting recruitment soon (Katie [Ersbak] Roth has taken a position with the Commission on Water Resource Management).

**9:35 - 9:40**                    **ROD:** Rob Hauff

- Monthly statewide ROD working group is next week Thursday. Contact Rob to be added to the mailing list. Hawaii Island surveys have shown an uptick in mortality of higher elevation trees. Some of the ROD money from the legislature this year will be used for ungulate removal in fenced areas. ON Kauai, they are finding more of the more virulent variety of ROD. They are using new management and containment strategies to reduce this spread. Research is ongoing, including looking at the relationship with ROD and ungulates and beetles, as well as the UH School of metrology to look at connection between tropical storms and ROD.

- Kailee: The outreach team has been working with students from across the state to designate ohia lehua as the state endemic tree. 4 hearings were held and students participated in all of them. ‘Ōhi‘a will officially be the State Endemic Tree effective July 1, 2022.

**9:40 – 9:45**                      **NPS: Jadelyn Moniz Nakamura**

**From Inventory and Monitoring Program & Haleakala National Park:**

- NPS received significant funding this year to address avian malaria and will be working through partnership agreements to complete compliance, registration, and permitting for a *Wolbachia* incompatible insect technique (IIT) that will suppress the population size of non-native *Culex* mosquitoes in key forest bird habitats of East Maui. Simultaneously, the project will work to develop *Wolbachia* IIT, which acts as a mosquito birth control (see [www.worldmosquitoprogram.org](http://www.worldmosquitoprogram.org) for more information) and has been shown to be effective at reducing wild mosquito populations and associated diseases. This is the first time it is being deployed to suppress wild *Culex* mosquitoes for a conservation purpose.

**From Hawaii Volcanoes National Park**

- The Park is partnering with PCSU to identify propagule source and release sites for *Tectococcus ovatus* at areas with high-density strawberry guava in the park, including the ‘Ōla‘a unit, Thurston unit, and Mauna Loa boundary kīpuka. Release of the scale insect at selected sites will be done using methods recommended by subject matter experts at the US Forest Service.
- The Park will also deploy new herbicides (including imazapyr, trade name Polaris AC Complete) and control methods (including incision point application) on faya tree and Australian tree fern in the Kīlauea summit area to improve efficacy, reduce workloads and improve cost-effectiveness of invasive plant control.

**Pu‘uhonua o Hōnaunau NHP**

- Following the large scale remove of 450 goats from park last year, staff continue to monitor ingress through a section of the park that has yet to be closed off. The Park continues to trap and transfer goats with 31 caught so far this month. They are doing weekly trapping in hopes of staying ahead of the birth rate until they can finally close off the last section of fencing.

**9:45 – 9:50**                      **NAVFAC MCBH: Norma Creps**

- DOD has funding to remove mangrove from 5 acres along the H3 corridor in Kaneohe at Marine Corps Base Hawaii and is working to remove mangrove from 25 acres total. No funding for revegetation of the area yet.

**9:50 - 9:55**                      **DOH mosquitoes/vector monitoring: Grace Simmons (via written update)**

- “The Hawaii Department of Health, Vector Control Branch, has been working with State and Federal partners to secure additional funding to strengthen and maintain its mosquito surveillance and monitoring activities at airports and most notably at seaports. There is also ongoing multi-agency collaboration to acquire the necessary permits to import three separate male mosquito species: *Aedes albopictus*, *Aedes aegypti*, and *Culex quinquefasciatus* to utilize in the *Wolbachia* Land-scape control of mosquitoes for conservation and public health initiatives.”

**9:55 - 10:00**

**CRB: Keith Weiser**

- Increases of CRB recently, with the last 2 months the highest ever in the history of the program. The locations of biggest concern include the North Shore moving over to the Windward side of Oahu. There are only 2 breeding sites found so far on North Shore, but likely more. Full list of Oahu hotspots can be found [here](#). There have been a few CRB found along the windward coast.
- A “fire break” approach is being used, created with treated palm trees and surveys of green waste and compost along the buffer zone.
- Palm treatments in Mililani and Kunia loa area. The palm treatments reduce CRB, but don’t eliminate them.
- To prevent spread to East Oahu and Windward side, implementing green waste and compost rule. Rules on movement, BMPs, and remediation plan for any groups that have CRB in their green waste or compost.
- Early summer is usually the time when there is a spike
- Outreach and BMPs are essential components. Methods such as using the vacuum steam unit and fumigation of infested materials is important. Secondary processing of hot composting is a treatment that works.
- RNAi being looked into by Mike Meltzer (CTAHR)
- Recent trap find on Mt Kaala, which is the highest elevation thus far. The Waianae CRB populations may soon be threatening native Prichardia species. Rob Hauff invites anyone to join a working group to make plans to protect loulu from CRB.

**10:00 - 10:05**

**USFS IPIF: Susan Cordell**

- IPIF is hiring new positions, research social scientist and science communications staff
- PSW research based decision making tool to be used in Hamakua areas.
- Expanded work on ROD including looking at the role of ungulates and genetic resistance.
- Tracy Johnston miconia butterfly and the tibouchina beetle have been approved by committee and will go to the HDOA board for approval.
- Funding for tectococcus delivery systems
- Recent interest from Hirono on the status of HI National forest fund a bill to study relevance of designation for a HI National Forest
- Received funds to support a climate fellow through climate hub. Going through UH Manoa.

**10:05 – 10:20**

**HDOT Statewide Noxious Invasive Pest Program (SNIPP): Richard Pender, SWCA**

- SNIPP funded by HIDOT and USDOT to reduce the establishment and spread of invasive weeds and pests along and in conjunction with DOT Highways construction and maintenance work in Hawaii. It is in Phase 4.
- Surveys are conducted along the roadsides and updated to ARConline and available to the public. The SNIPP website has been updated. Multiple trainings for HDOT maintenance teams. The team is drafting an invasive species control booklet. Presented at the Oahu Weed Workshop and will present at HCC.

- BMPs also include ROD reduction protocols and other pest/weed prevention/control BMPs. Manuals have been made and trainings conducted for the highway crews to be familiar with BMPs. Manuals are publicly available online [here](#) and the Ecological Zones and Native Planting List [here](#).

**10:20 – 10:30**            **Break**

**10:30 – 10:35**            **HISC and Mamalu Poepoe:** Chelsea Arnott

- HISC received an extra \$1.5M but with stipulation on how to spend some of it. Unlike last year, these funds won't have to support the IS coordinator position. Currently reviewing proposals. Resources WG meeting July 28th 8:30-12:30. Virtual or in-person attendance at Kalanimoku Board room. Info for joining will be on HISC website. Starting to draft rules with CGAPS staff and intern relating to HRS 194 for lead agencies having access to private property. There are a lot of funding opportunities right now- America the Beautiful, USFWS Large-scale prevention of IS, DoD grants interested in general IS work and ports of entry biosecurity programs. Chelsea might be in touch for putting together proposals.
- Mamalu Poepoe- Funding received from federal funds from congressional spending- coming from USDA APHIS \$600K, monitoring air and expansion to seaports. Looking to receive additional funding for neighbor island ports. HDOA also received funding to support MP. HDOA looking to take back AHB monitoring for at least a year.

**10:35 – 10:40**            **USFWS:** Joshua Fisher

- Benton Pang's former position, IS team mgr will be open soon. The Infrastructure Bill included funds to prevent Hawaii forest bird extinction, including mosquito work. DOI initiatives are to bolster climate change adaptation and prevention. There's also funding for DOI EDRR framework. Working with partners in Birds, Not Mosquitoes to implement Wolbachia.

**10:40 – 10:45**            **UH Agrosecurity Lab:** Mike Melzer

- Hiring is freeze still in effect at UH, but allowed to travel. Positions are being filled and the Kauai admin. Strategic initiatives are being implemented. Have been approved to put in for positions. PEPS looking for 10 positions. Dean Nicholas Comerford is retiring in a few weeks. Dr. Ania (Anna) Wiczorek interim. Search for replacement later this year. Clean plant program- expanding citrus germplasm. Looking for graduate student in biosecurity- Masters or PhD, we have funding to hire.

**10:45 - 10:50**            **DLNR DAR:** Elizabeth Monaghan for Kim Fuller

- Hiring for positions. Ballast Water and Biofouling team looking to metabarcode arms units. Presented on VIDA at the ICAIS conference. Drafting an EDRR plan for SCTL in HI to monitor and respond if it arrives. Looking to collaborate with experts and locals. AIS team completed snapshot surveys in K bay and \_\_. Received a report of a diamondback terrapin in Ala Wai canal, although we were not able to find it. It's a common pet and even a food.

**10:50 – 10:55**            **BIISC:** Franny Brewer

- Springer Kaye has moved on from BIISC to take a position with USFWS at Hakalau. Plant eradication program- quantifying and analyzing data if we are having impacts to determine whether we should continue. Results show we are having significant impacts. Cotoneaster, Rubber vine, others are very close to eradication.
- Devilweed was first found 2 years ago, doing heavy outreach and reports- 50-60 a month. 3 new detections from the community. Spreading throughout Hilo and Kona.
- Funding to train with Conservation Dogs of Hawaii. Dogs can detect within 50 meters. Even very small plants and in tough terrain. Helped to determine that the buffer zone was inadequate and needed expansion.
- Devilweed is being sold online under a different name. It may be intentionally spread because of its hallucinogenic effects. Hard to say what pathway it is spreading by.

**10:55 – 11:05            MISC: Teya Penniman**

- Adam Radford moved on to TNC. Will be recruiting for position in the next month or so. Abe Vandenberg has also left the program. Fern Duvall is still missed. Marshall Loope was Vice Chair and has now stepped up to be MISC Chair. Bringing on 4 new field staff
- EDRR focusing on Naio thrips, CRB, QLB, Devil weed. Locations: Ports and harbors, Roads, trails, nurseries. ROD reports, snakes, other vertebrates, rose-ringed parakeets and rabbits. Need to clarify messaging- alerts on what we are able to do.
- Focus on invasive ants- Dracula ant found- very rare. Not likely to be invasive. Looking to add to list of species BOLO.
- HBT work resumed, LFA detections are down. BBC premier LFA work in Aug.
- Excited for biocontrol work for Tibochina and Miconia.

**11:05 – 11:10            MoMISC: Lori Buchanan**

- Since April, surveyed over 1,800 acres, working on 14 plant species, coqui, crb, and jellyfish.
- Call for help from plumeria farmer, being devastated by plumeria beetle. Need help with control, otherwise may go out of business. Lori reached out to HDOA and partners for help.

**11:10 – 11:15            OISC: Erin Bishop**

- We submitted 3 HISC proposals earlier this month and are continuing to look for additional Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) funding sources. We hired 2 new Invasive Species Field Associate (ISFA) this month, have a recruitment out for an EDRR technician, and will be posting for 2 more ISFA soon. We are on track to meet our deliverables but have had a lot of weather cancellations the first half of the year for both camping and helicopter operations. We assisted with the helicopter citric drops in Waimanalo with HDOA and DOFAW, but anecdotally HDOA has noted only a "5-10%" reduction in the population. We will continue to brainstorm and address how to deal with that population and seek additional funding. Outreach staff is busy with a number of events, gaining access permission for field operations, and assisting HAL with LFA field ops and logistics for detections. We are also seeking additional LFA control funds. We have a few promising funding opportunities that we are exploring

with a variety of partners but are always looking for more, so please feel free to send along any funding opportunities that you think may fit with OISC. Contact Nate Dube.

**11:15 - 11:20 KISC: Tiffani Keanini**

- Continue to assist HDOA treatment for LFA
- Surveying greenwaste stations and nurseries
- 11 coqui captured from 4 sites.
- Naio thrips survey completed, none detected.
- Miconia 48 acres surveyed 307 immature, 7 mature plants in hot zones.
- Staffing ED plant botanist staff started Eric Lux
- Recruiting for field positions

**11:20 - 11:25 HFBF: Janet Ashman**

- Disappointed that a bill to transfer some DLNR leased lands to HDOA for ag leases didn't pass. There seems to be a lot of concern about some of those pieces, which could be well-managed by permit conditions under HDOA's lease program. Would like to meet with anyone that would like more information.
- Got funding to do outreach on IS. Planning to do 2 articles in Hana Hou Magazine, doing radio and other magazine articles.

**11:25 – 11:35 HISC/CGAPS Strategies Update (Strategy 1: Prevention/EDRR for New Terrestrial Invasions): Christy Martin (for Stephanie Easley)**

- Working on HDOA rules to require treatment for imported firewood due to the many pests that can enter via that pathway. There are no current restrictions. Rules have been drafted and are working with importers to try and get feedback. Next public meeting will be on Wed June 22nd. Reach out to Stephanie or Helmuth to get involved.
- Stephanie did a lot of background research by calling and visiting stores that sell imported firewood. Those were invited, the HFIA (food industry assn) I believe was invited. I sent her the restaurant industry assn contact

**11:35 – 11:40 CGAPS: Christy Martin**

- Plant Protection Act funding to support ISCs to conduct pest ID and prevention outreach to nurseries. Received an extension on grant. Free training will be available to anyone importing plants and we will be requesting CEU's for training. Goals are to become aware of source, BMPs, and reporting info.
- Airport biosecurity display- multi-agency collab (USDA, DLNR, AND HDOA) working to secure a space and collecting content for interactive games and activities.

**11:40 – 11:55 Additional Partner Updates**

- Educational efforts needed to increase knowledge about biocontrol.
- DLNR looking into biocontrol for Christmas berry

- Elliot Parsons- Pacific Regional IS and Climate Change management network (Pacific RISCC) is focusing on the synergistic effects between climate change and invasive species. What impacts, how will they change, what makes it worse, etc. fires, drought. Assessments through Pacific RISCs. Looking for stories, case studies. Please reach out.
- PPA 7721 (formerly Farm bill) is open for submitting suggestions. Goals include outreach, rapid response, pest surveys. Helmuth Rogg is willing to help with collaborating and submitting, if it is a project that meets needs.

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

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