Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) Meeting Agenda
9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Friday, June 25, 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 legislative wrap: Becky Azama

Managing Coffee leaf rust and Coffee Berry Borer. Waiting for the Governor to sign bills so we can start work. Also waiting for 2-lined spittle bug. Meeting with CGAPS in early July to discuss how CGAPS can help.

9:20 – 9:25 NAVFAC Joint Region Marianas: Angela Kieran-Vast

Updates from Steve Mosier: Data from past 7 months. There haven’t been breeding structures detected. For Anderson AFB, 400+ trees, 79 tree stumps, 20 tree logs.

9:25 – 9:30 USDA APHIS current issues/opportunities: Dorothy Alontaga

The myrtaceae rule will be effective on July 2nd. The rule includes cut flowers from domestic sources as well! Plants coming through will be rerouted or destroyed. Most ships come from the mainland US then to Hawaii. HDOA now has rules in place to stop importation.

9:35 - 9:40 DOH mosquitoes/vector monitoring: Lincoln Wells
A lot of staff is on temporary COVID assignments. Since A. aegypti was caught in Maui in 2017 that has been the last catch. Working with UH on updates and trying to import alien mosquitos.

**9:40 – 9:45**

**DHS Customs & Border Protection activities in previous Qtr:** Rebecca Chong

Overview for 3rd quarter: For air cargo, did a joint operation with HDOA looking at cruciferous veggies. Didn’t find anything actionable. Great experience to work with HDOA inspectors and entomologists. Tried to do it with sea cargo but we haven’t had any fresh cargo come in to inspect. For airports, no quarantine material coming in due to low volume of travelers compared to years prior. Great joint work between agencies.

We did have a shipment of mosquito eggs from a medical school that did not have correct permits. We used 922CFR? for import vectors?

**9:45 – 9:55**

**DLNR-DAR AIS, DOFAW:** Natalie Dunn; Rob Hauff


DOFAW: DLNR lost 12 positions that were eliminated by the legislature. Kept 3 key positions (including IS Coordinator position). Still waiting to get a waiver on hiring freeze, maybe at the beginning of fiscal year then we will hire for IS coordinator position. We did get $4 million for CIP fencing. Received $1 million for ROD response that came through the American Rescue Act. Will not have access to ROD funds in the 1st quarter. ROD funds go through 2024.

There was a detection of a new species (bronze bug) in forest lands by the Army. Trying to determine potential impact to native forests.

**9:55 - 10:00**

**USFS:** Susan Cordell

We are undergoing the development of a new charter. We are doing workforce planning and hoping to get a new plant pathologist position. We will be hiring a new quarantine officer to work with Tracy Johnson. Continuing to work on ROD (Flint’s group) with ungulates. Got funding to develop decision support tools that include fire, carbon and biomass, and ? Per Jodi Chew: Tree identification tool for the Pacific (workshop on July 8th?) is coming out.
**10:00 - 10:10**  
**LFA/Hawai’i Ant Lab funding, updates:** Cas Vanderwoude

Current strategy is not sustainable without substantial increase in resources. Need to manage public expectations for treatments. Ramp up extension and training capacity. In 2014, LFA was first detected in Hapuu logs from Big Island and found in Waimanalo and Mililani Mauka nurseries. In 2015, 2 staff were hired from DOFAW and a search and destroy operation began. In 2015, we had 5 sites (1 active and 4 monitoring). In 2019, there were 9 new sites detected. Overall, there have been over 160,000 vials examined on Oahu. If we can deploy 20,000 vials/year at 10 active sites max we would be all out of time. As of 2021, we have 24 known sites on Oahu and this is similar to how we were doing on Hawaii Island. We should be looking at BIISC’s community based program for Oahu to develop. We cannot treat all the sites on our own and now we need the community to be involved.

A gradual pivot from providing training, extension materials and outreach. In 2021, we should assist businesses to set up their own response via management plans prepared by HAL. Continue surveys of high risk sites. Continue treatment of sites when in the best interest of the public.

Current funds go through March 2022 but our funds come from HDOA from the Cargo fee and all of that funding just got absorbed into the General funds so we are concerned about future funding. We only have money for salaries. We applied for HISC funds and we will see if they would like to fund us.

*We should have a “status of LFA on each island” meeting*

**10:10 - 10:15**  
**Hawaii Pacific Weed Risk Assessment:** Chuck Chimera

WRA highlights from 2020-2021: 2176 species screened to date (968 high risk, 883 low risk, and 325 evaluate). 46 assessments in 2021. Plants can be found at plantpono.org. Some assessments were done for landscaping industry. Pacific Islands Selectree from CalPoly is a Tree ID for trees in urban settings for Hawaii and Pacific Islands. It incorporates weed risk assessment results. Completed 6 assessments this year for Invasive Species Committees.

Amendments to Hawaii County tax law. The amendment added 2 other categories of forests that encourage people to use natives. It uses WRA results to not use invasives and use natives instead.

BOLO: [https://plantpono.org/hpwra/vernonanthura-polyanthes/](https://plantpono.org/hpwra/vernonanthura-polyanthes/)

**10:15 – 10:25**  
**USFWS:** Benton Pang/Joshua Fisher

Dr. Earl Campbell is coming back to Hawaii. He starts July 5th.
10:25 – 10:30  **UH Agrosecurity Lab: Mike Melzer**

Our hiring freeze is starting to dissipate. We are able to hire soon. From agrosecurity lab, continuing cabbage work. The same pathogens we found have been found in China and disease is most severe here in Hawaii. Doing taro diagnostics from other pacific regions. Working with local growers looking at resistant coffee for our experiments.

10:30 – 10:35  **Break**

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

Current detections have been highest this month so far. Recent detections on map. Doing systemic palm treatment in Pearl City peninsula and Oahu Urban Garden Center. We do have some large containers at OUGC where we will be storing infected materials for fumigation. Working on HCC presentations.

10:40 – 10:45  **ROD: Rob Hauff**

Continuing detections on Kauai, particularly in Kokee. In the process of getting an experimental use permit to try pesticides and repellents. Working with Marc Hughes to try methods of beetle suppression. On Oahu, we have sporadic detections. The latest 2 on Oahu were in Tantulus. Working with HECO to install boot brush stations. Still no detections on Maui. Hawaii Island continues to see areas filling in. HAVO is doing a lot of research and management. The science team met recently and discussed soil and ungulates. Flint’s group is looking at soil and we are trying to determine movement through soils. DLNR did receive about $1mil from Americans Recovery Act, the governor needs to sign and release. There will be 2 ROD sessions at HCC.
**10:45 – 10:50 Noxious Weed List:** Stephanie Easley

Chapter 67 and 68 of HRS. Ch 67 is about seed rules. Ch 68 is noxious weed rules and has list of all noxious species. These 2 chapters were adopted in 1981 and amended in 1992 and needs updating. HDOA has to provide services related to the seeds (ex. germination tests, counting seeds, etc). HDOA can collect a $5 fee for processing which is not much.

Started task group at EDRR/prevention WG. Meeting since fall. Came out with an outline for noxious weed rules and Dion Dizon and I will be writing this up and hope to have a draft done by July 4th. We hope to have revised rules by end of year.

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

On the county side of things, the mayor has signed our funding for 2.4 million. We have been doing Nahiku (150 acres) treatments and surveys for LFA and deployed 2500 vials. We only found LFA in 1 vial which means our helicopter treatments have been working.

Coqui: focus is on outlier populations and new infestations. We had a 300 gallon sprayer stolen and put a post on FB and someone reported it so it was recovered. Continuing CBSM work. Our social media campaign is working and most of our reports are from the public.

MoMISC: worked on 6 priority species, including 1 aquatic species (jellyfish). Working with Mamalu Poepoe on airport biosecurity efforts.

**11:00 – 11:05 OISC: Nate Dube**

Reduction of funds. We found out last week that they will be retracting our funding for 2022. That translates to 3-4 staff reduction. The biggest species will impact miconia. Finding miconia in summit areas and higher and higher elevation. These funds will impact this work. We have been working with HAL and only can loan them our outreach staff. Tibouchina work will be reduced. Hopefully with the release of ROD funds we can make up for ROD work with those and HISC funds.

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

EDRR: working on collaborative efforts. Coqui frogs - 2 detections (1 of which was a community report). LFA - finished Kalihiwai site and have not detected LFA since 2019. Mid-treatment surveys in Kilauea detected no LFA as well. CBB - detected in 2020, secured county funding for response and following all the IMP’s from Hawaii Island. ROD - continuing to detect in native areas in Kokee. There are only 7 trees at the moment and working with HDOA for an EUP to use repellents and insecticides. Hopefully we will be able to begin that work in August. We have been continuing control of other species. Working with Mamalu Poepoe.

**11:10 – 11:15 BIISC: Springer Kaye**
Detected Chromolaena odorata in Hilo. Doing a lot of outreach. 2-lined spittlebug is spreading and has affected over 175,000 acres of pasture land. Predicted to have a huge impact to the ranching industry. Queensland Longhorn Beetle is hitting kukui, hibiscus, croton, avocado, lilikoi, gunpowder and is spreading fast. 2-lined spittle bug and QLB has no mitigation or cure. LFA - is in every district across the island. Doing a lot of social ecology using CBSM to develop a community outreach program. Albizia - doing a lot of work with albizia and plugging away at the strategic plan for Puna. Conducting a lot of outreach online and have our workshops and documentary online.

11:15 – 11:20

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

We appreciate all the work all of you do. Ag is greatly affected by all of your efforts.

11:25 – 11:30  
**HISC:** Chelsea Arnott

Meetings with MISC on how to develop a system to treat a really remote site in Waimanalo for coqui’s. Great collaboration. Jonathan Ho, Rep Marten, and I will be doing a site visit today.

HISC FY 2022 was due on June 7th. We just sent evaluations out to resources WG. The Resources WG will be subject to sunshine law and will be a little more work on HISC end. The meeting will be on August 10th from 9am - 4:30pm. We did get the 5.7 million in funds and is subject to fees (HISC support budget, DLNR, etc). We have to support Josh’s position through HISC funds.

Council meeting approved planning of biocontrol facilities in Hawaii.

11:30 – 11:35  
**HISC/CGAPS Strategies Update** (Strategy 5: Pacific Regional Biocontrol Facility)

Construct and operate biocontrol facilities in Hawaii.

**Key Actions**

1. **Build a broad coalition** to support the building and long-term maintenance of the Pacific Regional Biocontrol & Containment Center.

2. **Develop a feasibility assessment** for raising capacity for a new Pacific Regional Biocontrol and Containment Center for Congressional delegates and agency use.

3. **Identify and secure lines of potential funding, site and designs for a climate-resilient containment facility** to house the Pacific Regional Biocontrol Center that can test potential classic biocontrol organisms across the different taxonomic groups. ([link to Obj 6](#))

4. **Explore feasibility of an emergency containment facility on Hawaii island.**

5. **Maintain and develop new regional and international partnerships to strengthen regional biocontrol capacity and success of exploration missions.**
Working with Secretary ?. We did some work on #5 on organizing regional partners and will be conducting a meeting this fall. Doing work on building public support.

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

Research into process for declaring an emergency on invasive species. It can be done at federal, county and state level. We have our team working on this. We are working with Mindy Wilkinson (ex HISC manager) for coordinating this.

EDRR work with nurseries is from some recent funding. This funding is for outreach specialists with ISC’s to do this work.

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

NAPPRA (Rachel’s work): We got confirmation from USDA-APHIS that:

We can request species for NAPPRA just for Hawaii if they are on the continental U.S. but not in Hawaii.

Species can be eligible for NAPPRA if they are under control in Hawaii--and control can mean being a target species for an ISC, not just regulated by HDOA rules.

Since Shahin looked at species that are mainly at risk of being introduced to Hawaii for ornamental purposes, I thought it might be useful to look at species at risk of being introduced for erosion control or agroforestry. This is after I read a 2019 curriculum produced in part by World Agroforestry that recommended planting gorse, Ailanthus altissima and other invasive species in Lesotho in order to restore degraded lands.

Christy also suggested to look at medicinal plants. I’ve cross referenced a list that Chuck made for me with the all the species that have already been assessed as high risk but are not in Hawaii with a list of the top 100 recommended agroforestry species and CABI’s list of invasives.

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

Ant forum: First week of August. Operational meeting, what do we need, funding, etc.

HCC is end of July. Register soon.

**NPS: Jadelyn Moniz-Nakamura/Melia Lane-Kamahele**

**From Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park:**

Park staff in partnership with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, the Hawaii Ant Lab, and the Kohanaiki Private Club Community continue to work to address the little fire ant infestation along the park’s northern
boundary. Now in Phase III Treatment (year three), the original infestation area has been reduced from 12 acres to less than two, and although early successes have been achieved, new ant populations have recently been detected moving east along the boundary. The park staff will address this and continue with efforts to work towards eradication. Other cultural landscape rehabilitation projects throughout the park are moving forward, with emphasis on the removal of nonnative invasive vegetation to restore coastal dryland habitats, two Hawaiian fishponds and associated wetlands, and help stabilize and preserve historic properties.

Kaloko-Honokōhau NHP staff are also working with two USGS research groups (Florida and Hawaii) to plan field-testing the laboratory results of three methods of eradicating invasive fish (tilapia and guppies) from selected anchialine pools with CFT Legumine (rotenone), the traditional fish stunning plant, `auhuhu, Tephrosia purpurea, and CO2 gas. The team is currently concluding consultation with the USFWS and permitting requirements with the State of Hawaii.

From Pacific Islands Inventory and Monitoring Program:
NPS monitoring work and field data collection is almost entirely back online (aside from American Samoa, which remains closed to travel). Stream and marine surveys are restarting in June 2021 in a variety of Pacific island parks, invasive plant transects and plant community plots are being read in Hawai`i Volcanoes during 2021-22, and forest bird surveys have been completed for Hawai`i Volcanoes and will move to Haleakalā in 2022. The network remains involved in a variety of scientific and management efforts to implement the landscape control of mosquitoes as quickly as possible in and around Haleakalā National Park.

From Hawai`i Volcanoes National Park:
Mark Wasser has started 120 day detail into Ecologist position. Three years following the Keauhou fire, work continues to control populations of banana poka. This species has proved to be especially challenging to eliminate utilizing both ground and air operations. Six years following completion of the 650-acre cat proof exclosure, the fence remains in good condition despite harsh environmental conditions. New recruitment of `ua`u is evident inside the fence with no cat detections.

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.