



Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) Meeting Notes

Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, Plant Quarantine Conference Room

1849 Auiki St., Honolulu, HI

Friday; September 20, 2019; 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Remote participation: <https://zoom.us/j/276009223>

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Meeting ID: 276 009 223

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/276009223>

9:00 - 9:10

Welcome and Introductions: Chair, Mark Fox

Attendees: Christy Martin (CGAPS), Lara Reynolds (CGAPS), Drew Porter (CGAPS), Stephanie Easley (CGAPS), Mark Fox (TNC), Ambyr Mokiao-Lee (ROD), Josh Atwood (HISC), Randy Bartlett (HISC), Genevieve Devine (DLNR-DAR), Kevin Hoffman (HDOA), Trenton Yasui (HDOA), Will Leon Guerrero (HDOA), Noni Putnam (HDOA), Jonathan Kam (HDOA), Kent Dumlao (HDOA), Rebecca Chong (CBP), Erin Bishop (OISC), Adam Radford (MISC), Mike Melzer (UH-CTAHR), Lincoln Wells (HDOH), Mike Richardson (USFWS), Josh Fisher (USFWS), Jodi Chew (USFS), Dorothy Alontaga (USDA), Kylee Wideman (DOFAW), Kristen Rex (USAF), Valentina Alvarez (UH Biology).

9:10 - 9:20

HDOA-Plant Quarantine: Trenton Yasui

- Jonathan Ho will be back on Monday. He's been with the Ag Leadership program. Hired Airports supervisor, Craig _____. He vacates a position, so we'll fill that. We lost 5 and hired 3 inspectors. We're hiring 5 right now, we are on track to hire a total of 6 by the end of this year. One canine position is open. We allocated another inspector to Kona.
- Land vert person is vacant, Noe is filling that position.
- BOA 4-70 Myrtaceae rule passed. Mahalo to Lance Sakaino. Kent Dumlao did outreach and training at YB in Kawaihae and Hilo. Investigation: we recently found a few felony violation animal species both prohibited and restricted as the result of a police investigation. AG is
- Couple of snake reports on neighbor islands. Illegal coral and shrimp import investigation. Notified by a car dealership of snails on the vehicles, milk snails. A different dealership reported ladybugs, it was a species know on Oahu, but not others. Found an additional 12 vehicles, returned to mainland or treated. Recently hired a Hilo supervisor for interisland movement, he is doing a great job, dedicated to inspection at YB. They are finding a lot of movement of pests in non-ag commodities/conveyances.
- Working on new database, hope to wrap testing by mid-Oct, hope to go live by end of 2019. New system will allow for application and better data entry, reports.
- Coqui for Aug. had 8 responses on Oahu, we've been doing night surveys focusing on 4 areas, doing some spraying and captures. Town and Windward side sites. On Maui working with MISC we are working with a nursery to control coqui.

Q: Mahalo to HDOA for all the work on the Myrtaceae rule, a lot of work. Has Gov signed it yet?

A: No, but it was delivered a few days ago.

Q: Airport supervisor position? Can you tell me about that?

A: They supervise all the work at the airports, they monitor inspections, coordinate work, etc.

9:20 – 9:30

HDOA-Plant Pest Control: Kevin Hoffman (Darcy is at the Iolani Palace honeybee situation)

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- LFA on Oahu, there are currently 8 sites that we are either treating or delimiting.
- Hawaii now has a new fruit fly, orig. from Med, CA in 1999, established in N. Mexico, now firmly established on Maui and Big Island, it only attacks olives. We are working on surveying throughout the state.

9:30 – 9:40

Pearl Harbor-Wake Island Biosecurity Efficacy Project: Kristen Rex (USAF Pacific Fleet)

- Preparing to repave out airfield and we would need to have a ton of aggregate imported, so we got in touch with the lead inspector at PPQ and used their treatment manual, but I had an eye opening conversation and I found that I was looking at the wrong chapter for the source of our aggregate (Canada), which had a very specific treatment requirement. It was just surprising, we tried hard to go above and beyond with our contracting language to require biosecurity protocols, but unfortunately there was no treatment recommendations, so it will be coming in without any treatment. It will be going to a remote island in the Pacific.
- Each shipping container had biosecurity protocols, and the staging area had protocols too. Teamed with USGS to conduct the assessment
- S to do efficacy assessments, which I'm reporting now
- We had a 4-step approach, pre-barge movement, containers, post movement. We used a variety of monitoring tools to assess what was moving around before the containers were loaded, we saw a number of things on the cams and caught in the traps.
- 28 out of 30 of the shipping containers had at least 1 live animal captured inside before the containers were packed with cargo (e.g. they were empty but with creatures)
- Packed containers with monitoring tools/traps.
- 25 of 30 shipping containers had holes 1 mm in diameter or larger; 5 of 30 containers were sent back to the vendor due to lack of sea worthiness.
- 23 of 25 containers had at least __ live animals collected when looked at post-movement.
- 131 species identified, 8,481 individuals.

Q: Was the barge treated?

A: No, the barge was inspected, and the trapping. Monitoring on barge

Q: So, no inspection or monitoring of the hull of the barge to look at biofouling?

A: No, our current biosecurity protocols do not include that. We would like to do that.

Q: are you exempt from the permit required for the monument?

A: no

Q: Will this report being coming out publicly?

A: Yes, I'm not sure where, but we will share with CGAPS, it should be available on ResearchGate and on the USGS sites.

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9:40 – 9:45

DHS Customs & Border Protection: Rebecca Chong

- Recently joined Festival of the Pacific meeting with the island delegates, we each had biosecurity presentations and how to safely import for the festival in 2020. Benton Pang has been coordinating with FestPac, and the local organizers Vicky Holt Takamine and Mapuana DeSilva.
- We are getting ready for RimPac which will happen at exactly the same time as the festival, and so with 27 FestPac nations represented plus all those nations supporting RimPac, it will be a high volume of work.
- We opened a compliance agreement site with FedEx to set aside high-risk items for the inspectors to go to and inspect.
- Recent interceptions, a bunch of wood boring insects, snails, a couple different species of ants.
- Last year I was at the Seattle West Coast Agriculture meeting, fed/state meeting where we shared highlights of what we do at different ports, we did a presentation on military household goods inspections, it is a high-risk pathway which was new—it had previously been considered a low risk pathway. Over the years, we have done a series of meetings with defense logistics offices to show them what we have done, what we find, and now we think we have taught them because our spot monitoring has revealed much lower numbers of pests.
- Last week we hired a new Ag specialist, we are getting additional new staff in the coming months, we are hiring.

Q: Interceptions of Cerambicids?

A: It was on wood packing of stone tiles.

Q: For FestPac and RimPac do you get reinforcements from elsewhere?

A: We might be able to get TDY, but it is on our dime, but we may be able to do this. As it gets closer, we may want to consider writing up the request...maybe they'll pay for it.

Q: When movement is free, it doesn't cost them anything, so everything gets packed in the container, regardless of how clean.

A: Yes, we see everything, plants in soil, tons of stuff that would otherwise get thrown out.

Q: We can coordinate correspondence if desired from leadership, we can help. Just let us know if you would like to do that and it wouldn't cause backlash.

A: Thank you!

9:45 – 9:50

USDA APHIS: Dorothy Alontaga

- USDA APHIS PPQ makes the regulations for fruits, veggies, and the types of things CBP regulates. We inspect seeds, plants, and propagative materials. We also make the regulations, so I thought I'd share how feds regulate
- In foreign commerce, it could be all sorts of things, tiles, containers, packing, and agriculture. We don't regulate tiles, but we inspect for pests, and we can stop it if we find an actual pest. If a pest is known

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to occur in the US and it isn't under a control or eradication program, it is likely not to be actionable (unfair trade practice). We have a process that the pests that are on the US continent but not in HI, sometimes those pests are actionable only for Hawai'i. It isn't perfect. If a state has a regulation for something from a foreign source, Fed regulations preempt Hawai'i regulation. Everyone can participate in commenting on rules, but the comments that make a difference, is that you can point out what pests that could arrive on the commodity and how it isn't mitigated by the proposed measures. You have to comment to be able to influence the regulation. Once the rule is set, you can't change it.

- USDA can also regulate domestic, but states have a lot of leeway to act where the feds have not acted.
- Register as a stakeholder to get these notifications to monitor when draft rules go out for comment. It isn't a lot of emails.

9:50 – 9:55 **USFWS:** Josh Fisher

- Ramik minibars for rodent control label has been renewed, but you need your label to be reviewed by USFWS, so contact us if you need to renew. This was the first conservation use of the minibars so HDOA wanted that extra level review.
- USFWS hosted a mongoose biosecurity forum at the Capitol to discuss how we can do biosecurity for the two non-infested islands, Kaua'i and Lāna'i. We will need to circle back and do an after-action report for next steps.
- Nov. 20, 21 is the BTS meeting on Saipan, emerging technology for BTS control. MJ will be sending out information.

Q: I though because it was an SLN for conservation use of minibars, it would require USFWS compliance review?

A: I am not sure, I can check.

9:55 – 10:00 **CRB Response:** Kailee Lefebvre

- Last night we had a media story on KHON2 showing the training program for detector dogs searching for CRB. We are two months in, but the dogs passed their tests so far. In the field they have been able to find CRB larvae in very cryptic sites within a few minutes.
- Vacuum steam sterilization unit should be arriving soon, we need to still work on how to power the unit, but it would help us a lot with getting rid of infested material.
- An EA is up for public comment on USDA site, to comment on all the CRB treatment methods. Open until Oct. 15.
- HI Farm Bureau is helping us to do outreach on Maui, Maui fair will be /CRB outreach, with virtual reality goggles to look at CRB sites, and the issue.

10:00 – 10:10 **BREAK**

10:10 – 10:20 **DLNR-Division of Aquatic Resources:** Andrew Porter, Genevieve Devine

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- VIDA Update: Reorganization of clean water act, seeks to set single national standards and regulation for 27 different types of incidental discharge, including ballast water and in-water cleaning of vessel hulls. VIDA allows vessels to clean hulls in harbors. VIDA has a large section on ballast water, but no details at all on in-water cleaning of vessel biofouling.
- EPA has two years to come up with standards at least as stringent as the VGP, updated every 5 years. Once EPA has their standards, the USCG has two years to enact rules for how they will regulate (co-regulate, the states are allowed to co-enforce whatever the feds set).
- What now? We are now almost a year into the timeline. EPA must consult with the states, the fed consultation consisted of two webinars that were not explicit and they will not be replying to any of the comments submitted.
- Worked with WGA to make comments, US Coral Reef Task Force All-Islands Committee, and Pacific Coast region states.
- Now we are in a period of “technical consultation”, Sept. 10 webinar call, but they did not answer questions or really ask for input. We are still trying to engage.
- No official notice of rulemaking yet, but we expect it by end of year or early next.
- Working regionally to see if we can get an understanding of draft standard and regulation so that we can comment on it and help develop it.
- One remaining question (beyond what’s in the proposed rule), is whether or not biofouling itself (the presence of, not the removal of) is regulated under VIDA. It makes more sense to regulate this regionally due to the growth rates of species in different regions, and the operational profile of vessels.
- In-water cleaning issue: we recommend in-water cleaning be allowed for microfouling, but when there is a percentage of growth on the hull, it should be in-water cleaning with capture and treatment of the effluent, but this is a new area for the federal government, so EPA and USCG really need our help.
- CGAPS Legal Analysis is at the AG’s for review.

Q: States have “declared” that biofouling is not a discharge, what does this mean?

A: Our regional and individual state communication is what I mean.

Genevieve Devine: Ballast Water Risk Analysis

- We are trying to prove or show that the ballast water discharge standard isn’t reducing risk. We don’t verify (using testing of ballast water and assessing compliance/risk), we use microscopes to look at epifluorescence of remaining organisms, but we are testing the use of a rapid assessment tool to look for the ATP from cells.
- We set up a ballast water risk analysis to look at vessel profiles via their reporting forms

10:20 – 10:30 DLNR-DOFAW-Hawai'i Invasive Species Council: Josh Atwood

- Wrapping busy month, working on FY20 budget, passed by the Council. We’re working on strategic planning with CGAPS and we will be conducting a second phase to tailor the priorities to HISC.
- We are working on an invasive species status report for an international publication for Wiley.

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- For Māmalu Poepoe, we are in the final year of a 5-year project, but we are starting to talk to DOT to discuss it's efficacy and what happens next.
- We will be doing some new things including video projects since several of the staff did 'Ōlelo (Community Media) training. We're looking at doing video projects on biosecurity to make the info more accessible for all.
- We are at the point of checking with the HISC agencies to ask what their 2020 legislative asks are.
- We are also participating in the Fed/State planning process for Pacific Regional Biocontrol facilities
- A crew on Lehua saw a rat and so we are looking at that.
- We are also working on how we change how pests are dealt with...counties contract with vendors to take feral animals and when that changes, you can have a change in what they do. Some will not take trapped mongooses—people are not allowed to release them, so they will need to figure out a way to deal with those.

10:30 – 10:40 DLNR-Division of Forestry & Wildlife: Rob Hauff

- Hired invasive species techs on Hawai'i and Kaua'i islands, will work at least part time on ROD.
- ROD working group is working on a new 5-year Strategic Response Plan, incl. what we've learned, what we need to learn and do. We will be taking a more long-term look.
- Last week USFS Sheri Smith was in Hawaii looking at beetle treatment options because they are in the wood. We will probably be applying for SLNs for what we find that works.
- Myrtaceae rule NAPPRA application: they submitted the petition and will be updating us as it moves forward and it gets published as a draft rule. They want a conference call to update everyone on it, I'll work with Lance, Dorothy, etc. to schedule.

10:40 – 10:50 BIISC: Springer Kaye (*via email*) (none available)

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

- Found ROD, huliolia the less aggressive one. The report was taken by a MISC staff June 19; within 2 days, we had voucher collection, sent to ARS, got additional samples and again confirmed. Burned the one infected tree in an ornamental setting on July 4. DLNR had their regularly scheduled heli-surveys the following couple of weeks, and no additional samples found.
- Waihe'e resident reported stinging ants, MISC surveyed. Along Waihe'e river, so surveyed the length of the mile+ to the ocean. We think the site is 4-5 acres. 14th detection since 2009, 2nd this year. We and HAL believe the ants have been there for the last 3-5 years. One treatment done, 7 to go. Shout out to HDOA, they were with us from the start helping to get resident support for survey and control. We are doing direct mailers to everyone on the postal route to notify and invite to Oct. 9 meeting. Reaching out to communities and meeting them there is very important.
- Moloka'i—Lori Buchannan was sponsored to attend the Indigenous Biosecurity conference in NZ.

11:00 – 11:10 OISC: Erin Bishop for Rachel Neville

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- **ROD:** 2 detections of *Ceratocystis huliohia* found: one above Pearl City in a forested area of the Ko'olau and one on the windward side of the Ko'olau at a residence in Hau'ula. Both trees have been felled; the one above Pearl City was tarped and the one in Hau'ula was sliced into cookies and sent to Lisa Keith's lab for further analysis.
- OISC brought Timo Sullivan from the UH Hilo Spatial Analysis Lab to train everyone on their technique for surveying with a camera mounted on the helicopter using a delimiting area around the two positive detections. Next week, OISC staff will be learning how to process the resulting imagery.
- OISC is conducting aerial surveys and will follow up with ground sampling. After the first detection, DLNR issued a press release which resulted in a lot of dead tree reports. OISC plus other agencies turned in 40 samples in one month. We did not issue a press release after the second detection. We may after more of the delimitation around the detections is completed and we've taken more samples.
- Had a showing of the "Saving 'Ōhi'a" at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden, and will have two more showings at Foster BG and Wahiawa BG.
- **Miconia:** 3,454 acres of aerial surveys and 1,587 acres of ground surveys. Only 2 mature trees found and 87 immature trees. One mature tree was found in Kalihi and the other in Waiāhole. The one in Waiāhole pushed the buffer out quite a bit.
- **Naio Thrips:** Removed 328 infected naio trees. Started removal around Diamond Head. Still working on some and receiving reports of new detections. To date, have not received reports of infestation in natural areas. DOFAW is providing replacement plants to homeowners that have infected naio or will give up their healthy landscaped naio for another plant. Because thrips take such a long time to kill a naio plant and they disperse so easily, landscaped naio will be a harbor for the thrips and provide a jumping off point to natural areas like Ka'ena Point and the Kaiwi Shoreline. Those are the areas we are trying to protect.
- **Tibouchina herbacea:** Continuing with surveys and control at Poamoho, in the leeward core, there have been fewer than 15 mature plants each year, which is pretty good for an herbaceous-type plant like Tibouchina. However, the immature plants have been about 900 each year.
- **Devil Weed: *Chromolaena odorata*:** OISC took Rep. Sean Quinlan and Sen. Gil Riviere to see our *Chromolaena* sites on the N. Shore after a social media controversy erupted over the Army's aerial spraying of *Chromolaena* at Kahuku Training Area. An OISC volunteer found *Chromolaena* in Hau'ula which is a new watershed for it. OISC also started a new volunteer project to have volunteers help with finding and removing *Chromolaena* from the Pūpūkea-Paumalu State Park Reserve hiking area.
- **Pampas grass:** Army personnel found a flowering *Cortaderia selloana* along the road to Mt. Ka'ala. We don't know of pampas grass in the area that could have been a source, so how it got there is a mystery. The flower has been cut off, OISC will remove the rest of the plant and will conduct delimiting surveys at some point in the future.
- **Outreach:** 6,678 people reached. Participated in a radio interview, attended 5 events, spoke to 4 community garden groups about Little Fire Ant, and presented at schools and businesses. Distributed LFA kits at Master Gardener booth at the Windward Mall's farmers market.

Q: What is the consensus on how quickly the tree can die once it has the pathogen?

A: Although not really indicative of what happens in nature, in the lab it can be several months for the more aggressive lukuohia.

11:10 – 11:20

KISC: Tiffani Keanini (*via email*)

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- Coqui: in 2019, 12 coqui frogs caught at 6 different locations. Citric acid treatment at new Kapahi population site has been successful with no coqui frogs detected since January 2019. Monitoring will continue.
- LFA: Surveys of the infestation site continue; treatment continues on the remaining hotspot with the last positive detection in March 2019.
- ROD: KISC continues to work in collaboration with DOFAW on ROD detections island-wide. 5 positive locations of *C. huihiohia* and 3 positive locations of *C. lukuohia*. KISC is part of the rapid response effort to delimit the surrounding areas and develop a management strategy. Recent partnership efforts with help from BIISC and Hawaii Island DOFAW resulted in 47 remote trees sampled and 9 trees felled at multiple locations island-wide. We are currently awaiting results from this partnership sampling effort.
- Miconia: April 2019, 1 mature Miconia was detected about 400m from the edge of current infestation buffer. The new infestation buffer has expanded from 6,610 acres to 7,704 acres. Over 780 immature plants have been controlled in the expanded buffer area.

11:20 – 11:30 **CGAPS:** Christy Martin

Welcome to Stephanie Easley!

11:30 – 11:55 Other partner updates

Jodi Chew USFS: For those of you that work with State and Private forest group, Sheri Hazelhurst is on sabbatical for the next year, Chris Fisher is our new temporary state coordinator, but he is the deputy, so we have placed Miranda Hutton in the deputy director position, so now we need to temp fill Miranda's position.

Lincoln Wells: I'm the new public health entomologist, lead the training and research office for HDOH, I had previously working on the epidemiology side. We are continuing the mosquito monitoring program statewide, with Māmalu Poepoe.

Valentina Alvarez: PhD student at UH Manoa in zoology. I'd like my applied PhD dissertation to be applied research and development for management use. I focus primarily on herps. I'm open to other things. I'm interested in data on animals that come in either from foreign, or domestic, I'd love to look at that. Please contact me so that I can work with you to come up with a useful project.

Kristen Rex: our project focused on animals, but we have all the dust and other materials that we collected and we recently got funding to look at the seeds, etc. USGS will begin doing that work.

Mike Melzer: Dr. Janice Uchida and her husband Ray Uchida retired in August. Kelvin Sewake also retired and CTAHR is searching for a new Extension Administrator. Dean Comerford is acting administrator in addition to being Dean. New disease infecting kale, first for HI and probably US as well. We have a vacuum steam sterilizer and I and a student will be developing user SOPs for use for partners and commodities.

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Kim Fuller: I was recently hired to be the AIS Coordinator, we will be hiring 3 techs for the team, I'm now participating on the Regional AIS. Caribbean corkscrew anemone (widespread, 2km sq, rubble substrate), but working with Dr. Thierry Work to test control strategies, heat treatment and pastes.

Q: How did this get here?

A: Three vectors bring things get here: ballast, biofouling, and released, either purposefully or illegally.

Rebecca Chong: I have a small group of girls working on their silver award for Girl Scouts, I am offering a little free labor 2-3 hours on the weekend that they can help with.

11:55 – 12:00

New Business and Announcements

****Steering Committee meeting to follow (1:00pm – 4:00pm)****