



## Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS)

### Meeting Notes

Hawai'i Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Conference Room  
1849 Auiki St., Honolulu, HI

9:00 am – 12:00 pm Wednesday, October 8, 2014

**9:00 – 9:10**      **Welcome & Introductions:** *Rob Hauff, DLNR DOFAW & 2014 CGAPS Chair*

**9:10 – 9:20**      **Little Fire Ant Response Update:** *Derek Arakaki for Oahu; Teya Penniman for Maui*

#### Oahu:

- In Waimanalo we just completed the 4th treatment with HDOA, HAL and OISC. We have been using Tango for trees, baits (Siesta and Pro bait) alternating. HDOA Pesticides branch found pesticide residues in the stream, but they were not the products we were using (residual Amdro component, in miniscule parts per billion).
- We found queens wandering around, which is good, they are not getting fed. Going to treat until April 2015 in Waimanalo and will conduct a large survey.
- Mililani Mauka second treatment, we are monitoring with the help of residents, and the results are looking good. They are difficult to find, which is good. We will continue to treat until May (I think) 2015, then do massive surveying.
- If anything changes, we will modify the plan (extend the treatment area or time period). We will not be treating the waterway; it does not appear to be necessary at this time, but we will keep monitoring and change if needed.

Teya: Is there any interest in exploring a legislative fix to protect state workers who are working on an approved management plan for one of these species?

Derek: I think this will come up again in Hana.

Janet: Is this an NPDES issue, or what was going on with Pesticides? NPDES doesn't regulate runoff.

Derek: It was not NPDES, it was off label use. They were claiming that if pesticides entered the water, yet it got there, it was "applied to water" even if by mistake.

Emily: There have been 91 of nearly 200 nurseries that have been surveyed.

Christy: HAL is trying to emergency hire 2 people on Oahu to work through this list.

Rob: I think we need to learn more about the issue, so I will follow up with Pesticides branch.

#### Maui:

- The Hana Miconia crew was surveying in Nahiku (the first hotspot for Miconia on Maui). They were all stung. They collected samples and it was confirmed to be LFA.
- We know and have relationships with all the landowners, and they are fairly suspicious of new people, but it is also very rough terrain, jungle overlaying a lava. The vegetation is very thick. The survey vial came back so thick with ants, it looked like it was full of soil.
- The initial delimitation they have found what they think is the east and west limit of the infestation, but not mauka Makai. Landowners have been noticing ants for perhaps 2+ years. It is rather old.
- We are in the initial stages, we will be bringing all the relevant partners to see the site and plan that response together. HDOA has done a great job getting the press out. Mahalo.

Rob: There is an exemption with NPDES that we can apply for, we will be looking at this.

Derek: There are some open areas with water, so this will be important.

Joshua A: Adam did say that there were ants on the highway, and that there is a pullout, but that it isn't frequently used.

Teya: The infestation here is very low, but it is a concern, we need to address sites that could be vectors.

**9:20 – 9:30 Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response: *Randy Bartlett***  
**(CRB training powerpoint)**

Rob: 80K for the air curtain burner, 16K for shipping. If they are burning constantly, they could have gone through all the material in 2 days. It is very quick. We cannot do straight mulch, but there is a lot of debris, tree branches, etc that we burn with it.

Josh F: It appears that the panel traps are really effective, do you agree?

Rob: they are OK, but not great. If we had a better lure, and if they wouldn't swing in the wind they would be better.

Julia: Have all the Hawaiian Earth Product sites been surveyed?

Rob: I believe so, they have been very cooperative.

Bill: Outreach has really been effective, we received several calls to report damage on Kauai.

Rob: As far as outreach goes, we will be hiring a dedicated outreach person.

**9:30 – 9:40 USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: *Dorothy Alontaga***

- USDA APHIS PPQ has been doing FRESTMP program that allows states that want to keep out a particular pest (even though it is no longer actionable for the US), the states can petition USDA to evaluate and if successful, that particular pest (if arriving on commodities at a port of entry) would take action on it. Hawaii has some pest concerns that are NKO on the US. A process that is connected to FRESTMP is looking at pests that are present across the US, they are working with the National Plant Board to forward these concerns to the states to see if they might be concerned. Neil Reimer is our NPB representative.
- USDA Farm Bill is now open for suggestions; states wanting to start into the FRESTMP program, can apply.
- The other initiative being looked at is the way regulations are made—the current rulemaking process can take years. If the commodity request meet certain criteria, the amount of time can be cut—USDA is looking at this process and trying to make it the only process (notice-based process). Because Hawaii is offshore, Hawaii has a similar process.

Rob H: Has Hawaii used the FRESTMP? The funding is for planning or risk assessments, or ?

Dorothy: It just became available, we could start now. FRESTMP has a process for petitioning, including surveys, so that might be something.

**9:40 – 9:50 DHS Customs & Border Protection: *Jim Kosciuk unable to attend***

**9:50 – 10:00 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: *Domingo Cravalho***

- PIFWO organizational changes
- **Loyal Mehrhoff** retired effective 1 October
- Acting positions, due to vacancies or other position changes:
  - Acting Field Supervisor – **Douglas Krofta** (Chief, Branch of Endangered Species Listing Program in D.C.) for the next 60 days
  - Acting Deputy Field Supervisor of Geographic Operations – **Earl Campbell**, also PIFWO's Advance Leadership Development Program candidate who will be on a 30-day detail from

24 November to 23 December as the Manager of the St. Croix Wetland Management District and Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Management Refuge in Wisconsin. His detail ALDP cohort “acting” in his position is **Tom Kerr** who will report to Hawaii on 24 November

- Acting Mariana Island Team Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor – **Rachel Rounds** (based in Honolulu)
- Acting Invasive Species Chief – **Domingo Cravalho**
- New positions filled in the office:
  - Conservation and Restoration Chief – **Greg Koob**
  - Hawaii and Maui Nui Island Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor – **Michelle Bogardus**
  - Oahu, Kauai, Northwestern Hawaiian, and American Samoa Island Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor – **Aaron Nadig**
- Closed recruitment for vacant positions to be filled by the **end of 2014**:
  - Deputy Field Supervisor of Geographic Operations
  - Mariana Islands Team Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor
- There are several other vacancies that need to be processed for approval to fill or in the process for recruitment

#### PIFWO notable activities and future events

- Although the Guam Military build-up has slowed quite considerably, projects related to the build-up continue to be reviewed (i.e., road, transportation and utilities improvements), military readiness and training opportunities, as well as other DoD installation projects → *vacant positions in the Marianas as well as the programmatic side of PIFWO has added an increase in workload, thus stretching our capacity thinner, and resulting in an extension of time needed to complete the reviews.*
- 3 September 2014, a live female BTS, just over a meter in length, was captured in a surveillance trap at the seaport in Songsong, Rota in the CNMI. A total of 46 traps were situated along the seaport fence-line with the snake found in a trap at a section of the fence where POV's were normally staged after arrival from Guam. It is unclear of any recent commercial vessel arrivals from Guam at the seaport, but it was reported that two private boats did arrive at the seaport the week prior to the find. The snake is believed to be a recent arrival due to its poor body condition even with the rich prey abundance in the area. A necropsy was performed with no contents found in its stomach. A response was initiated by CNMI DLNR DFW, USGS, and USFWS, which included nightly searches of the area conducted by BTS rapid response trained personnel and the deployment of an additional 200 traps. No further sightings or finds have been reported. Night searches will continue until 20 October with only trap surveillance being maintained for an additional 30 days and end on 20 November.
- The 2014 fall meeting of the BTS Technical Working Group will take place in Guam on 19 and 20 November at the Top O' the Mar, Nimitz Hill, Asan, Guam. Various Federal, State, and Territorial agencies and non-government organizations will preside over the two-day event that will consist of presentations including research findings, agency updates, mitigation efforts, operational challenges and successes, or risk analysis models.

Dorothy: Are there snake traps in use on Oahu?

Domingo: HDOA has received funding support to do this since 2009 to initiate trap surveillance and re-initiate the detector dog program, but I do not believe they are doing this.

Tony Palermo: Office of Law Enforcement program, we have 3 vacancies including the supervisor (George Phocas), we are expecting the release of that position. We are also down

one special agent. Brian Landry is our only special agent currently. For the wildlife inspection program (we are a fee-based program for importing wildlife, alive or dead) we also have vacancies. Jim Kosciuk (CBP) chairs the HIRAC, we meet quarterly to discuss new and emerging threats to the region. We need to close the space between us and DOD.

**10:00 – 10:10 DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources: *Sonia Gorgula***

- Bryan Nielson is the new AIS Coordinator, DAR is hiring 6 permanent staff to work on AIS.
- The team will continue to work on the invasive algae in Kaneohe. We are seeing good results where seaweed removed 2 years ago is being kept from overgrowing the reef by the native collector urchins that are being placed there.
- The AIST is assisting with the coral bleaching event; will be back on invasives shortly.
- Through HMLF grant, we have collected 104 forms self-assessing hull husbandry status; the data is being sent to Smithsonian to analyze. We also have several hull fouling samples in at Bishop Museum to identify; they will forward information to Smithsonian to add to the risk assessment.
- Held a marine biosecurity forum last week, we have the presentations that we can share with you. This agency has spent over 10 years conducting risk assessments on biofouling and has recently put in place regulations that will be enacted in 4 years.
- Chairing Western Regional ANS panel. We are working on a regional approach to address biofouling and in-water cleaning.
- Contacted by a researcher from University of Notre Dame to collect port water samples to do e-DNA trials.

**10:10 – 10:20 Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council: *Joshua Atwood***

- HISC meeting 1 p.m. Oct 28, room 325 at the State Capitol
- Will be talking about resolutions, including requesting LRB to revisit the Filling the Gaps study; will be talking about pest detection at airports, Micronesian biosecurity, Report a Pest
- HISC funds: this is the first year we have had G funds, so it is a learning thing for me. We are at the final hurdle and we hope to encumber all of the funds at once.
- We will be looking for about 6 million to keep what we built in 2014 (two sources, 750 general from biennium budget; 5 mil in a special appropriation via the joint priority package—would like to request that in 2015 we get it in the base biennium budget to avoid the delay in funds delivery).
- DOFAW Wildlife Program: Our manager has left the position and will be readvertised. Also, seabird biologist and games coordinator being recruited.
- Three chapters of admin rules going to board. One game bird and game mammals (Oct meeting) and non-game wildlife rules in Nov (the last is updates to injurious wildlife rules, release of non-native wildlife in the state).

**10:20 – 10:30 DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife: *Rob Hauff***

- DOFAW, PCSU, USFS working on a joint report for a mainland audience focusing on the threats to pacific forests. Will be available online, will print some hard copies and a summary. Contracted Rachel Neville to write.

**10:30 – 10:40 Break**

## 10:40 – 11:10 Invasive Species Committees of Hawai‘i

### *Oahu Invasive Species Committee: Julia Parish*

- Since June we started aerial surveys again (unable to do surveys Jan-June), Annual goal for aerial survey is 2200 acres. We have already surveyed 2300 acres. The two companies we are using are fantastic. Our ground acres surveyed have been 400 acres, we found one mature tree in Kalihi.
- Started work on *Tibuchina herbaceae*, collaborative effort between Koolau Mountain Watershed Partnership, NAR and OISC.
- Cape Ivy: One known infestation on Oahu in Makiki, the one known Waianae location has been difficult—it has not been responding to chemical control. We still don't know how to kill this plant. Please tell us how to kill it! On Maui, this plant has received some control from the fireweed biocontrol
- August did BTS rapid response training. Also saw devilweed (*Chromolaena odorata*) everywhere despite biocontrol. On Oahu, it is much worse than we thought. We found close to 2000 plants in Kahana Valley alone.
- For fireweed, we've been collaborating with First Wind and Kamehameha Schools at the only known area, will be doing more extensive surveys.
- New fountain grass populations in Waianae range. There was a person growing fountain grass in his back yard. He allowed removal, but keiki are popping up.
- Lai Rd. (Palolo)
- Pampas grass surveys (aerial) in Heeia watershed did not find plants, but not confident in this survey; also still present on two golf courses)
- Assisting HDOA on CRB and LFA work. Re-initiated early detection naio thrips survey.
- Since last meeting we hired 5 new field staff (some filling vacant positions).
- OISC captured a coqui in a nursery last night. They continue to arrive.

### *Kaua‘i Invasive Species Committee: Bill Lucey*

- We have a new chair, the DOFAW botanist Adam Williams (mahalo!)
- Rosering parakeet has entered j-curve and the complaints are extending to the fruit growers. Have not yet decided to enter this project, but we had a meeting on the topic. Population is estimated at 6,000. Worry is that they will be spreading weed seeds. Will be doing crop studies and carbon signature analysis to identify food sources (County funds)
- Mongoose: USFWS stepping up, will be having Brand Phillips come over to work with Michelle and us on analyzing our methods
- LFA: whole crew certified (Mahalo Climb Aloha!) to rappel on the cliffs area where the known site is. We will also be really turning on the outreach on LFA. Will be treating for next 13 months.
- Amanda Skelton will be co-housed with KISC, she has a great connection with the nurseries.
- Long thorn kiawe: the last known seed bearing population is a visual barrier that will be removed. NRCS has directed funding for each island (first time), we got invasive species added as a grant qualifier, and we are hoping to get that money.
- Looking at Coffee berry borer response, we are preparing for the arrival, working with Kauai Coffee to make the ICS plan.
- Miconia going well, no new mature plants.

- Three new positions: early detection botanist (open now), an outreach specialist (Tiffani is doing more admin with some outreach, but need someone focused on outreach), and another crew person.

*Maui Invasive Species Committee: Teya Penniman*

- Miconia: HBT process working well, good decline in areas. Still working on paperwork for nematode work for Dr. Robert Barretto in Brazil
- Coqui work in Maliko being supported by HTA funds, but they are being diverted. Need longer term resources to be able to adequately address.
- LFA: received grants supporting the start of LFA sniffer dogs in Hawaii. Also working to get the revised LFA video on the air in Nov.
- Also working on HTA grant on interisland biosecurity.
- Following up on parakeets: we are seeing more problems with lovebirds. Mitred conure work is going well, down to 20, from perhaps 200.

*Moloka'i-Maui Invasive Species Committee: Lori Buchanan*

- Increased staff capacity by adding one full time field associate and one field associate emergency hire during this quarter.
- Completed over 7,000 acres for early detection of miconia with none detected.
- Controlled/treated all known long thorn kiawe trees from Kaupoa, west Molokai till Laau Point, west Molokai.
- MoMISC quarterly meeting Aug. 14, 2014
- Surveyed over 9,382 acres for pest species including early detection survey, control and monitoring of 19 plant species: mule's foot fern, arundo, quailbush, cat's claw, pampas grass, rubber vine, Australian tree fern, albizia, bo tree, woodrose, tree daisy, gooseberry, long thorn kiawe, mangrove, rose, tumbleweed, fireweed and palm grass. 4 plant pest: BBTV, hala scale, coconut rhinoceros beetle and red palm weevil, and 3 vertebrates: LFA, rabbit, and coqui.
- Increased early detection surveys for fireweed and controlled 489 plants.
- Collected first confirmed report of hala scale on Molokai.
- MoMISC had 130 contributed hours and 51 volunteer hours

*Springer Kaye, Big Island Invasive Species Committee (no report available)*

**11:10 – 11:20 HSUS Petition to BOA Petition: Inga Gibson**

- It is not explicitly illegal to import wild animals. HSUS submitted a petition to the BOA to move some dangerous wild animals from the restricted list to the prohibited list. Although many of these animals are on the restricted list, they can apply to HDOA to allow import. Many of the importers have had numerous animal wildlife violations and humane violations; in addition, they pose a public health risk and animal health risk issues. There are no comprehensive (or adequate) ways to assess or assure compliance. This is not going to impact legitimate institutes, such as UH, primate sanctuaries that are federally regulated, the Honolulu Zoo, or other similar facilities. Submitted petition on Friday, they must post it 10 days in advance of any meeting, so possibly October or November BOA meeting.
- In addition to Hawaii, I am now covering the American Pacific (American Samoa, Guam, CNMI, etc.). We are going to really start working on outreach on spay/neuter programs.
- Next Tuesday in Kihei, we will be presenting on cat/wildlife research in Kanaha.

## **11:20 – 11:40 Other Partner Agency Updates**

*NPS, Darcy Hu (via email)*

- Hawai'i Volcanoes NP is still in the midst of constructing a 5+mi long cat barrier fence at higher elevations on Mauna Loa to protect nesting 'Ua'u (Hawaiian Petrels). Park staff recently hosted a brief visit from two individuals from Grupo de Ecología and Conservación de Islas (GECI), a Mexican NGO dedicated to island restoration. GECI was visiting the state to investigate fence designs to exclude feral cats from seabird nesting habitat on Guadalupe Island. Although the Guadalupe Storm-petrel is feared extinct, there is some hope that the species will reappear if cats can be excluded from nesting areas on the island.
- Recent natural resource funding proposals (competing for internal NPS funds) reflected the following park invasive spp priorities: Rats (Hawaii Volcanoes), pampas grass (Haleakala), guinea grass (Hawaii Volcanoes), LFA (War in the Pacific on Guam), ungulates (Haleakala & Kalaupapa), native & introduced snails (National Park of American Samoa), invasive fish (Pu'uuhonua O Honaunau).

*Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation, Janet Ashman*

- Activists are going to move for a pesticide free Hawaii, they do not seem to understand why we "choose" to use them. The Center for Food Safety has opened up an office here, not science-based, but they have gotten some response in the counties.

## **11:40 – 11:50 CGAPS: Christy Martin, Amanda Skelton, Rachael Wade**

- Besides providing gap-filling outreach capacity for the CRB and LFA responses, I am continuing with HMLF projects, including CGAPS Strategic Planning with our contractors Kim Burnett and Makena Coffman, will be complete by end of this year.
- Amanda is working with our website and database contractor to complete changes to the Plant Pono website. We are adding functionality and transitioning it to CMS so we can update ourselves.
- Amanda is also continuing to meet with plant industry groups and businesses and is assisting Shahin Ansari, our contractor who is drafting a list of high risk "offshore and incipient" invasive plants. That project was slated to be completed by end of this year, but we will be requesting an extension—storms and emergencies have made it difficult to engage the Big Island industry groups.
- Working with the law school to transition our CGAPS legal fellows to RCUH (they were faculty positions)

*Marine Risk Assessment Tool, Rachael Wade*

- Supported by HMLF as a graduate assistant with Dr. Alison Sherwood and Dr Curt Daehler, I am making progress in this project to transition a Caribbean-based marine species risk assessment tool to a Hawai'i-based too.
- I've met with most of the experts identified by project advisors and have looked at several existing tools. I presented at the recent HCA meeting (to get more input and to start planting the seeds for a regional testing workshop that could be held in conjunction with the 2016 HCC), and am ready to move on to the next phase of the project.

## **11:50 – 12:00 New Business & Announcements**

- Oct. 27-29 Biocontrol meeting (Western chapter of an international biocontrol meeting, organized by UH)
- Nov. 19-20 BTS Working Group meeting on Guam
- Oct. 28 HISC meeting, 2-5 pm.

**(CGAPS Steering Committee to follow, 12-3:00 p.m.)**