



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 Monday, November 6, 2017

**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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Meeting ID: 147 135 829

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9:00 – 9:10 **Welcome & Introductions:** *Joshua Atwood, DLNR DOFAW/2018 CGAPS Chair*

9:10 – 9:30 **Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death update:** *Bill Stormont*

- Flights earlier this year found ROD trees in Kohala, 40 miles away from nearest ROD trees. Quickly worked with Kohala Watershed Partnership to survey the area and found more trees.
 - We are approaching management knowing that the frass from ambrosia beetles in most areas, but the area in N Kohala is 32-3600 elevation, the beetles are found in lower elevation and the non-native trees appear to be a major host, which raises the amount of beetles and-while still anecdotal, it appears to be a factor.
 - So last week BIISC felled trees that tested positive, particularly around cattle that may be able to wound trees and spread the pathogen, sprayed with insecticide bifenthrin to keep beetles down. Landowner has been very responsive and accommodating.
 - ARS has been analyzing samples, we also have help from Dr. Tom Harrington in how to attack this from a management standpoint. We are looking for more funds for him.
 - Also working with Dr. Jenny Jezwik, inoculating trees with the pathogen to see how quickly the tree goes down, A can kill a tree within month.
 - The ROD Squad with USFS is putting in monitoring 36m diameter plots everywhere ROD has come in.
 - Contracting a company called Dudec to help us synthesize data. A lot of outreach going on, outreach events, boot wash stations on trailheads, etc.
- Q how confident are you in the 40 mile gap?

CGAPS Steering Committee: *Dorothy Alontaga, USDA APHIS; Joshua Atwood, HISC; Jodi Chew, USDA FS; Domingo Cravalho, USFWS; Mark Fox, TNCH; Bryan Harry, Emeritus; Rob Hauff, DLNR DOFAW; Springer Kaye, BIISC; James Kosciuk, DHS CBP; John McHugh, HDOA PI; Michael Melzer, UH CTAHR; Brian Neilson, DLNR DAR*

A The expanse between is very dry and we are fairly confident it did not hopscotch through this area. From the east has C. species B. There has been a lot of sampling done of what appear to be symptomatic, but have tested negative.

Q Whats coming in behind the ohia?

A Where we have felled trees, the stumps are regrowing, so we are keeping our eyes on those. The USFS plots are to look at this. If we had unlimited resources, we would be considering planting, but at this time, we cant work in the areas hit hardest when we have to try to keep up with the front. The SRP has a section on this. The outreach folks also are looking at this, particularly for plantings, etc. Finding funds for this is also important, so BIISC is also looking at incorporating this into Plant Pono.

9:30 – 9:40 HDOA PQ: Jonathan Ho
(emailed report)

9:40 – 9:50 DHS Customs & Border Protection: James Kosciuk

- FY runs Oct 1- Sept. 30.
- Passenger baggage 19,000 seizures, canines 3500 seizures. Probably 60% plant materials, 40 animal products, well over 1000 pest interceptions. Could have got more if we did 100% of inspection. 12,000 lbs of commodities
- Mail branch is high risk because of a lot of violations, 8500 violations. 60% plant, 40% animal products. When you look at other ports of entry, they get very few animal violations, more plants. At mail branch, we have a canine and 100% of incoming foreign parcels get screened by the canine team.
- Cargo—Air cargo several hundred pest and multiple plant pathogens on highest risk commodity, cut flowers/lei flowers. Most vendors are very good and compliant, but there are some new suppliers and shippers. We have records of growers and locations.
- Sea cargo is relatively low volume, 30,000 containers/year. New mega cargo ships can carry about that many. 1 ship every other week comes in from foreign. In a typical month, 10-15 pest interceptions, some that have to be exported because of the type of pests found.
- RIMPAC upcoming, incl. MCBH, and Barking Sands. We always collect garbage and steam sterilize. Most come from foreign vessels, from all over the world.
- Kona flights JAL and Hawaiian 7 days a week, we have a steam sterilizer there that can handle small amounts, but commercial flights will need to be done by a contractor
- Kapalama new terminal. Meetings with stevedores and HDOT, there may be space for all agencies, but still working on it.
- Occasionally we get tested on biologicals—petri dishes, samples, etc. We look for permits from CDC, HDOA, USDA, USFWS, all agencies to vet the sample. We have access to our own spectrophotometer to test samples. We can also take samples and send them to our mainland lab. If owner cant ID it and we need to send it for analysis, we hold it until it is cleared.

Q HDOA dogs do mail?

A Keevin the source of funds and type of dogs means that the dogs are only trained for BTS. We do go into the post office, but to use a dog in there, we would need other things. It is also first class, protected from inspection.

A When USDA does inspection on mail, they woud need to get a search warrant. We did an MOA so that agencies could work there, but it fell through.

A For pre-departure mail to mainland, we do have someone that takes the warrants to the federal judge when something suspicious needs inspection. The things that people smuggle are worth the trouble to get the warrants

9:50 – 10:00 USDA APHIS: *Dorothy Alontaga.*

- In talking about ohia and ambrosia beetles, we've noticed that people sending in seeds, they may look fine from the outside, but our inspectors are cutting into them and finding beetles inside. They may be small lots, but every day to the same person, which is trying to bypass the inspection regulation. Seeds are becoming a bigger pathway for pests.
- If a country wants to send things to the US, they can pay to have pre-inspected, but that's mostly fruits, not plants for planting. There is also an offshore extension service to work with growers on reducing pest risk. We also have phytosanitary certificates and we work with other countries to assess and manage risk. We also do pathway risk analysis before allowing commodities to enter into US for trade. Now happening more on plants for planting, as these are higher risk (this is the NAPPRA process). Every time a fruit, vegetable, or plant is going to be pest risk assessed, it goes out for public comment, and the type of comments that make a difference is information on pests in the source area that are of concern to the US).

Action: Dorothy will send Christy the link to register for the notification service for public comments

Discussion: Right now, a lot of the fruits and vegetables that come in, the default is to make the foreign commodities is to prequest CONUS only, which makes this a good idea from a pest risk viewpoint. Currently, foreign import produce goes to CONUS for entry, then to HI. Would it be better to have the pest risk done in the event of an emergency?

10:00 – 10:10 DLNR DOFAW: *Rob Hauff, Josh Atwood*

- Focused on hiring before the legislative season starts so that we don't get the positions cut. In the process of hiring a statewide trail manager, also running a State & Community forester position, a new position.
- HDOA moving on Myrtaceae import rule, helping with that. Also we took samples from some large defoliation areas and sent them to a lab in Idaho, no results yet. Oahu defoliation not expanding, not sure about other areas on Molokai and Maui.
- Lehua Restoration Plan Initial post-rodent eradication tests not back yet, but no signs of rats. Also took samples from the pilot whales, just because people have jumped to a connection—due to amount of pellets, concentration of active ingredient in the pellets, how the whales feed and more, we do not expect to find a connection, but we are doing it. Also doing additional testing on samples, incl. fish.

10:10 – 10:20 DLNR DAR: *Brian Neilson, Jules Kuo, Andrew Porter*

VIDA on the move again, we have a draft that we are looking at and will provide comments on.

10:20 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 10:40 Hawaii Army National Guard Biosecurity: *Kristine Barker*

- 11 installations across 5 islands (6 endangered sp at least), quite a few invasive species.
- ROD, LFA, coqui, Aedes, miconia, fountain grass, CRB, etc.

- ROD issues—alcohol and bleach are hazardous, thus our bases cant even buy it for decontamination. We have put down gravel and do wash-downs and try to find a way to comply. 6 acres of dirt roads.
- LFA we survey quarterly
- Budgeted funds for Vegetation Communities Planning
- Trying to obtain imagery to assess how long ROD has been in our installation.
- Contract with BIISC and KISC to manage some plants, USDA WS to manage pigs
- Considering doing boot scrub stations

Note: There is a hospital grade Lysol that may not be considered a hazardous material.

Keevin: Steramist using hydrogen peroxide—website

Action We will get you the blueprints for the boot stations

USFWS: *Josh Fisher*

- Internal policy to do Region 1 Invasive Species Prevention review to see how we can best help in prevention efforts. We usually support our partners who do this work, but this is looking at how we can coordinate more within our office, like HASSOP and SOPs for preventing invasive species movement by/through USFWS work.

10:40 – 10:50 Moloka‘i-Maui Invasive Species Committee: *Lori Buchanan*

- Still 3 full time staff, one part time outreach. Doing our priority pest work, and now doing some DOFAW work.
- Glad to hear about HIARNG efforts, I wondered what happens on your side
- NISC/Secretariat project working with native Hawaiian communities and tribes to work on invasive species, calls for a coordinator in DC to work with us on specific invasive species issues. It is a draft paper currently, would set up a protocol and process on what feds would have to do to engage with these communities, almost like a 106 process. Prevention, management, both.
- Thanks Leyla for coming over to train us on how to help had the seed training from

10:50 – 11:00 O‘ahu Invasive Species Committee: *Rachel Neville* (via email)

- 29 immature miconia, 2 in Makiki, others in Kalihi.
- *Chromolaena odorata*, one found roadside and significant because it was pretty far away from known pops. Sent letters to homeowners to notify
- LFA treated 5 nurseries on Oahu—these are tiny pops, single pot sort of things
- Pampas surveyed in wild, not seen, so only remaining is in cultivation
- Oct. Spot the Ant, Stop the Ant month

11:00 – 11:10 Kaua‘i Invasive Species Committee: *Tiffani Keanini*

(not present)

11:10 – 11:20 Maui Invasive Species Committee: *Adam Radford*

- Dr. Fern Duvall is MISC Chair pro tempore.
- Our Hana baseyard retrofit to incl. bunkhouse now complete. HISC funds supported this work
- Last round of pampas aerial surveys this week. Good weather for surveys this season

- Did staff training with Leyla, now transitioning to implementation
- We connected Norine with funding to survey Maui sites for slugs and the rat lungworm pathogen
- We also are seeing movement of coqui on vehicles from infested areas.

Keevin The YB security guard pays attention and calls in reports at all hours of the night when he hears the frogs. Its been very helpful

11:20 – 11:30 Big Island Invasive Species Committee: Springer Kaye

- Hiring a new field crew leader for the ROD Team, need to have Ceratocystis listed as a pest to ensure that if and when , we might need to deal with it quickly on private property probably more importantly for neighbor islands
- Nearing end of funds and project to clear albizia from at least priority major roadways
- Stop the Ant month, 13 trainings, also working with LFA Hui where people could bring in ants to have them IDd on site. A number of our community groups (30 groups) are nearing 1 year control mark and there has been a significant reductions this product for the ROD beetle work. However, it is just killing the workers, not the queens.
- BI game advisory commission will be advocating some bills, one that would reclassify game animals as a resource for preservation. The possible up side is that these animals may get more management attention than they currently do. There are also some down sides

Action: Springer will look it up and send to Christy to distribute

11:30 – 11:35 HISC: Josh Atwood

- All POs for UH projects have been finalized by DLNR and should be available soon
- May have a HISC meeting early January, focus will be on biofouling
- Went to CA Invasive Plant Council to share HI info, they will be looking into trying to transition their council into statute
- Export of nursery goods from HI to CA were discussed. The plant inspection program concern is the self-certification, as they are finding LFA and coqui. Shipment gets destroyed, certification is suspended.

11:35 – 11:40 NPS: Ryan Monello

- Monitoring for LFA, not in park yet, have found them on vehicles
- Increasing concern on goat pops in and around W Hawaii parks

11:40 – 11:45 CGAPS: Christy Martin, Chelsea Arnott

11:45 – 12:00 Partner updates, New Business & Announcements

USFS Jodi Chew

- LFA in Yap (HISC will cover Cas V's time, Yap will cover travel), and CRB is in Rota

CRB: Kailee Tam

- One year anniversary since last CRB found in Nanakuli. Hitting breeding site in Pearl City hard, haven't found new breeding sites but still getting trap hits in areas like Iroquois Pt., Ewa Beach, etc.

- Working with Home Depot in Pearl City to get outreach materials in, including a working trap.
- PCSU Director position open, *Christy will post to the group*
- Dec. 5-7, 2017: Pac. Entomology Conference & HI Botanical Forum, Hilton Waikiki Beach

Pau. Mahalo! (CGAPS Steering Committee to follow, 1:00-3:00 p.m.)