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, December 7, 2016

*Disclaimer: These notes are provided as a general guide to discussion points. They have not been reviewed or corrected by the speakers. If you have a question about the information, please contact the speaker or CGAPS (*christym@rocketmail.com *or (808) 722-0995).*

9:00 – 9:10 **Welcome & Introductions:** *Michael Melzer, UH Mānoa CTAHR & 2017 CGAPS Chair*

9:10 – 9:30 **Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death SRP & Summit:** *Rob Hauff, DLNR DOFAW, others*

- The Summit was an opportunity to gather the greater community to hear the current information we know and what we need to learn about this disease. (a summary presentation provided)
- Ceratocystis Species A (South/Central America; appears to be more virulent) and Species B (Asian clade)
- Syngonium (AKA arrowhead, a house plant that we commonly import via Florida. See here for a photo https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Syngonium_podophyllum_a1.jpg) has been documented as having a strain of *Ceratocystis* on it, and is a possible pathway for the arrival of Species A; although the DNA does not exactly match
- Species B is more related to the strain of *Ceratocystis* that arrived with taro, but again no exact DNA match.
- Much more work needs to be done to determine the exact source of these species and other ways (host plants or produce) that can be carriers of new strains of this disease.
- There are some treatments being developed for individual trees, of particular note are fungistatics, a treatment that can reduce the impact of the disease in 'ōhi'a itself—it doesn't prevent or kill the disease, it just keeps the disease from killing the tree. It is not possible to apply fungistatics across the landscape.
- Resistance is also being studied, trying to determine if some varieties or species of 'ōhi'a may be resistant to the disease
- Still looking at all of the ways it is being spread. We see the infection sites above the roots, so it is unlikely that it is entering through the roots. Other similar diseases (and other *Ceratocystis* infections in plane trees) are vectored by beetle frass spread by wind.
- One particular invasive species, *Xyleborinus saxesenii* (an ambrosia beetle) is the most likely candidate involved in boring and frass production. It is still inconclusive the role of the beetle.
- Monitoring of plots show that in some areas, 44% of 'ōhi'a have been lost, with the average being 11% loss/year. Some areas where the disease has been present for a number of years show nearly 100% loss of 'ōhi'a with, "a dearth of 'ōhi'a seedlings."
- DOFAW has been leading a control effort at the edge of the invasion front before it progresses north. DOFAW dropped a number of trees, but found very few beetles. Therefore, we changed to focus on an area that shows a lot of beetle activity and have dropped 100 trees to date. After felling, more beetles came in, which was anticipated, but we are monitoring if the felling of the trees reduced the amount of frass that was vertical and

spreading via wind. Being close to the ground and with the rain, it should reduce that wind dispersal.

- Unfortunately, the discovery of the Laupahoehoe ROD tree is way beyond that area. Help by Dr. Ryan Peroy of UH Hilo and surveys by UAV marked a number of other dead trees. Subsequent sampling and testing have found that only the first tree dies of ROD, making it much more important that we attempt of rapid response on this tree.

9:30 – 9:45 HDOA PQ & PPC (Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle & other): *TBA; Kailee Tam*
CRB: Kailee Tam

- Recent spike in trap hits, but we saw a spike in every region and may be due to weather.
- Hot spots are still Iroquois Point, Pearl City Peninsula, Ewa Beach
- Still mitigating the only known breeding site, which is on Pearl City Peninsula, sifting every 2 weeks and finding larval CRB. Trying to determine how to permanently mitigate risk.
- Base still has the greenwaste mitigation, using the air curtain burner, etc. Only problem has been staffing it. JBPHH can't staff this and the in-vessel composting at the same time (for the stuff that has already been chipped/ground).
- Doing more work with tree trimmers, asking for info on beetle damage, and surveying their cuttings as they trim. We've done a lot of outreach with them and they are all aware and participating.
- Outreach to community associations and the new Kapolei mall since there were some trap hits around the mall.
- Malama Learning Center (Pauline Sato) will be launching her outreach program in Nanakuli.

CRB Research: Mike Melzer

- Trying to identify pathogens that might help
- Working with engineers that could develop acoustic detection techniques (the traps may be an underrepresentation of the population)
- Will begin to test in the lab sonicating the mulch area to mitigate piles for larval stages.

HDOA PQ: Chris Kishimoto

- Wrapping up annual Christmas tree inspection, we treated the same number of containers this year, as last. Oregon experienced a lot warmer weather this year and this may have played a role in the slugs

9:45 – 10:00 DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources & Division of Forestry & Wildlife: *Jules Kuo, DAR; Andrew Porter, CGAPS; Josh Atwood, DOFAW*

DAR: Jules Kuo

- AIS Team is putting out settlement plates (wood panels) looking for wood boring worms, and PVC pipes as substrates to attract and identify the species that are settling in harbors
- Hired a Kupu Intern, she started in early October and has entered Ballast Water Reporting forms and helping the AIST. She, Drew and I attending with the Coast Guard a ballast water boarding of vessels.
- Conducted first in-water biofouling assessment with NOAA, and recommended action for the vessel
- Wrapping the In-Water Cleaning Risk Assessment with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Vessels are cleaning their hulls in the harbor, even though DOT does not allow it (a permit is required, and they have not issued permits for it). So we know it is

occurring, and we must mitigate the risk of it in regards to AIS and from the EPA/Hawai‘i Department of Health’s perspective, the release of copper and other heavy metals from ship hulls.

VIDA: Drew Porter

- Vessel Incidental Discharge Act: federal bill that prevents states from regulating ballast water and biofouling. It was inserted into the National Defense Authorization Act, and we have done a lot of outreach to our Congressional delegates about our concerns. The good news is that the bill went into conference to resolve differences, and the draft coming out of conference did not include VIDA language.
- We expect it to resurface and have much more backing with this new administration and we are working with a network across the nation to strategize work on this.
- With this moving, we are working on updating our State Ballast rule.

10:00 – 10:10 Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council update: *Josh Atwood*

- Lehua rodent control planning underway
- Interagency Biosecurity Plan still in process, a step was added based on public comments: each agency is prioritizing the tasks and needs under their purview. The plan will be finalized by December 11.
- Implementation will include a 2017 legislative package, and we need to meet and discuss process (the items in the plan that don’t require legislative action). There is currently no structure for how we will track progress on this.
- There is new leadership in committees, the Senate side has separated into Water & Land (Sen Rhodes), Ag and Environment (Sen. Gabbard). House side, Rep. Creagan will chair and Rep. DeCoite will be Vice Chair of the Ag committee.
- We need to discuss how we are framing the Interagency Biosecurity Plan and the 30 by 30 goals, the Aloha + Challenge, Sustainable Hawai‘i Initiative, and even the ROD Strategic Action Plan. They are all interrelated, and we are working on messaging.
- Reviving the HISC newsletter, will be bi-monthly.
- Biosecurity and Invasive Species will be a major focus at the 2017 Hawai‘i Conservation Congress
- HISC now has a Facebook page, for us to engage our partners, but also to echo agency posts related to invasive species
- Prepping for HISAW (Hawai‘i Invasive Species Awareness Week). Feb 27-March 3. Looking for nominations and
- New logo for online reporting, Report A Pest will be moved over to 643Pest.org and we will be launched when the online reporting system is ready. It will be a clearing house for any type of invasive species, aquatic/terrestrial.

Springer: we are looking at how to provide data as messages (rather like myth-busting) in preparation for agency work

10:10 – 10:20 USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: *Dorothy Alontaga*

- Just looked up *Syngonium* shipments of plants for planting from foreign ports into Hawai‘i: (since 2005 there have been 44 shipments, mostly from Canada, some from Indonesia, one from Taiwan, one from Thailand). All this info goes to HDOA, and the

recipients/consignees are not sharable. Does the State have a database with information of imports of *Syngonium* from domestic sources?

- We have had the HDOH HIRAC (Hawai‘i Risk Assessment Committee) to discuss mosquito and other issues.
- HDOA PQ's Cheryl Young will be taking Yolisa Ishibashi's job as USDA APHIS PPQ Pest Survey Specialist. Yolisa will be working with Dorothy as State Operations Coordinator.
- Working on a list of arthropods and microbes that are currently not actionable, but that might be harmful to Hawai‘i. From thousands of species down to a few hundreds, we will prioritize this list for those that we will be requesting to be actionable for Hawai‘i.
- For countries wanting market access for their ag product, they can request CONUS only (certain fruits and vegetables are suitable only for import into the Continental US)—CITC found some clementines that were only approved for CONUS.

10:20 – 10:30 DHS Customs & Border Protection: *Jim Kosciuk*

- RIMPAC: this year 45 foreign warships, plus a number of US ships from international ports. We inspected all vessels, regulated garbage from all,
- Mail 8500 mail violations this past year, about average, typical month (sept. 123 seed shipments in violation (usually no phytosanitary cert, internet seed purchases), 43 palm materials 51 pests found, 8 soil shipments that didn't have compliance agreements, 400+ animal products in violation.
- One thing new: foreign flight from Haneda to Kona will mean that we will need to be operating out of Kona. Dec. 21 is the first flight, 3 days a week, so far no cargo. If there is cargo, Kona may be able to process, but others will need to be inspected on Oahu. There is a company that is interested in providing a sterilizer in Kona (previously the garbage would be shipped from Kona to Honolulu to be processed).
- This year, the special operations focused on cargo holds. We found a number of violations. We looked at refers (refrigerated containers) and found a number of pests. Cut flowers, construction equipment,
- Random sampling for passenger processing (25 flights/day, we select certain flights and pull bags to look at what's there to understand risk and better utilize our resources). Our highest risk flight is the island-hopper.
- For every 200,000 containers that come in, we look at 30,000 containers.
- We had 12 containers from Kwajalein and found they were full of trash (DOD reclamation projects, everything the bring, they have to remove). We refused the containers and made the broker move them to Seattle to enter them there.
- We had some mis-entered containers, they were basically sent to the wrong place. They entered in Long Beach, cleared and sent to Hawai‘i, but since they were mis-directed we looked at it again and found some anomalies. We opened it and found two species of snails. We sealed the container and sent it out of Hawai‘i.
- Biologicals: we look at cultures, test tubes, etc.,
- 20,000 airway bills/week, this time of year we get 60,000 airway bills to review and prioritize inspection. Our highest risk commodity is cut flowers (especially in Honolulu from foreign) 100 pest interceptions/month. Every shipment we would do 100% of inspection, but with the increase in shipments we can't always do that. Pre-clearance is only done for some agricultural commodities. We get phytosanitary certificates, but it really doesn't mean anything to us, they have certificates and we know historically to assess risk based on shipper and source.

10:30 – 10:40 Break

10:40 – 10:50 USFWS Ecological Services: *Domingo Cravalho*

- Continuing work on the draft PEIS for Mongoose and Rodent Control: we have a draft scoping report (and section 106 contract out) under review and will be out soon. We are waiting on the draft CIA on the State side. We are about 2 months behind on the timeline. We aimed for May to have the draft out, but I would now say Summer 2017.
- We are also developing a draft EA for the evaluation of efficacy of diphacinone and chlorophacinone for mouse control in conservation areas. Work will be conducted by the USDA National Wildlife Research Center. It should come out in January for public comment.
- On BTS side, Nov 15-17 was the annual BTS Technical Working Group meeting on Guam. BTS Plan has been worked on and we are in the final phase of having that document available.
- The group is moving forward on work on the automated delivery of the toxicant to control BTS over large tracts of snake habitat.
- The group is also looking at increasing BTS awareness in the public on Guam, to enable landscape scale BTS reduction
- USDA APHIS Wildlife Services office on Guam is now separate from Hawai‘i. The director there is Robert “Goose” Gosnell. Craig Clark who was on Guam is now the Hawai‘i State Director.
- Adam Knox (the BTS Rapid Response Coordinator on Guam) is returning to MISC. BTS researcher Bjorn Lardner is also leaving Guam. We are hoping that these two positions will be re-filled before hiring freeze.
- After 6 months with no BTS coordinator on Saipan, we have hired Kevin Donmoyer, who will start in Saipan on January 8. Kevin has worked on Refuges in Hawai‘i and has been on the USFWS Ant Strike Team on Johnston Atoll.
- We are under a continuing resolution until April 2017, but with this new administration there may be a passage of a budget before then. There is a lot of uncertainty, budgets are flat-lined, program support is also in question.

10:50 – 11:10 Little Fire Ants—Maui: *Adam Radford*

- MISC’s role is outreach, and responding to reports, and surveying to delimit. HAL is the control and eradication lead, and HDOA is the regulatory authority and lead agency.
- PQ at airports have not been intercepting LFA outside of Hawai‘i Island.
- Most of the finds were not found by MISC, but by the public.
- Kapalua: HDOA received a report from a resident in the community, they ID’d LFA. We worked with HDOA to do a large delimiting survey (22 people, some from Puu Kukui, Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project, MISC, HDOA), 2,000 samples taken. There were two other species in the area that are look-alikes and require a microscope. 12 acres, control to begin in 2017
- Waihee: we thought this was eradicated in 2009. The protocol was to resurvey a site 3 years after the control regime is complete. Spring 2016 found a population, more found in fall 2016.
- Huelo: Jan 2015 found. Looking positive, knocking back population.

- Nahiku: 170 acres of work (actual infestation maybe 20 acres). Phased work, phase 1 is to control around where they may be easily vectored from. Phase 2 is the rest of the area.
- Challenge is that this area is riddled with drainage. There is no pesticide labeled for use in and around waterways. HAL is working with regulators to get a product labeled for use, hoping for early 2016. Product is labeled for control of mosquito larvae control, but not ants. It is the same ingredients as what is labeled for LFA.
- Shipping pallet dealer on Big Island is infested with LFA and anyone can go in and buy them. Does anyone have an idea how to deal with this?

Dorothy: What about the Counties? Is the county involved with detection, or how are they helping?

Adam: They are our major source of funding for MISC, they provide samples. They aren't so active in the work, but they know that they need to report ants.

11:10 – 11:45 Invasive Species Committees of Hawai'i: *Bill Lucey KISC; Rachel Neville OISC; Adam Radford MISC; Lori Buchanan MoMISC; Springer Kaye BIISC*

MISC: Adam Radford

- Adam Knox! He will help lead the MISC program.
- Abe Vandenberg has moved to coqui control coordinator with us & we are hiring an ant coordinator
- 12 containers of citric acid on order. Crew can go through 10,000 gals/night
- October Spot the Ant, Stop the Ant month, showing of the new LFA movie at the Hui Noeau, presentation of recognition by Councilman Guzman.

BIISC: Springer Kaye

- We will have 4 staff working with ROD to respond; Jimmy Parker will be assisting DOFAW with aerial surveys
- Killed over 100,000 albizia trees, with DOT and HELCO. County is trying to ramp up to do their corridors
- Franny Brewer spoke with Big Island legislators, particularly interested in Plant Pono and the HPWRA. They wanted to talk about automatically adding high risk plants to the Nox Weed list.

KISC: Bill Lucey

- Yesterday we completed the Strategic Planning process. Early Detection botanist now has a database of more than 2000 plants, used the HPWRA and other risk assessments and got 5 or 6 potential new targets. For example, cinnamon just on a single property, a slow-moving invasion, but still impactful.
- We have a lot of little projects that we are trying to prioritize.
- Mongoose: we are near the start of surveying with 600 or 700 tracking tunnels and other methods. We completed the plan last year, but have not been able to implement this comprehensive survey. There have been a number of reports around where we caught them (Kaua'i Lagoon had about 17 phone calls associated with it).
- Rose-ringed parakeets: Funding bill to fund USDA WS has not passed legislature the past two years. We worked with Josh Atwood to have DLNR support the bill this coming session, as last year HDOA did not feel that this issue was under their purview.
- Feral cats: Although not a KISC issue, I thought it would be of interest that the County will be introducing a draft feral cat bill, banning feeding of feral cats on county land, but on the

balance providing info on where you can have cat colonies, all based on balancing the health of native species with the desire to continue to support feral cats in some areas.

OISC: Rachel Neville

- Miconia: in 2013-15 we had a lot of areas that we were not able to survey in time (we try to survey all areas within 3 years). This year, they have done almost all the areas prioritized for survey, with the exception of some private properties and the area around a newly found tree.
- So far, found 12 mature miconia trees, a lot for Oahu, but still less than when we first started (40 found in much fewer acres).
- Arial survey of all priority miconia buffer areas will be completed by end of year
- ROD surveying: OISC has been doing part of the island following up on public reports, we will also be doing ROD surveys aerially twice/year.
- Tibuchina: we thought it was maybe introduced by hikers, but a new find of individuals along the Aiea Ridge Trail, miles away, and now on the Windward side, so we don't know about the Windward pop.
- OANRP found fountain grass plants spread out
- Coqui: 14 frogs caught in 1 night, sprayed twice with citric acid. North Shore, found a site with 24 frogs and that place will be sprayed. They are both nurseries.
- LFA: One nursery (non-commercial) had LFA, OISC and HAL treated. All other monitoring surveys for known and new sites have been negative for LFA.
- Outreach ongoing, lots of presentations for a variety of groups.

11:45 – 11:55 CGAPS and Partner Agency/NGO updates

- Staffing update on Legal fellow; HPWRA/Plant Pono liaison to new projects specialist position

NPS: Darcy Hu

- Park staff captured a mongoose at 8,200 ft., which is 1,200 ft. higher in elevation than previously known to occur.

Springer: We've captured at Hale Pohaku, and that's higher.
Randy: Also at the summit of Haleakala.

11:55 – 12:00 New Business & Announcements

- Proposals for sessions & abstracts for the 2017 Hawai'i Conservation Conference due January 26, 2017

Pau. Mahalo!

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