



## Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) Meeting Agenda

9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Friday, December 10, 2021

*(this will be remote-participation only, no physical meeting location)*

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**\*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.**

**In attendance: Chris Frohlich, Kailee Lefebvre, Christy Martin, Cas Vanderwoude, Frances Brewer, Adam Radford, Angela Kieran-Vast, Susan Frett, Tiffani Keanini, Rebecca Chong, Becky Azama, David Duffy, Alan Holt, Andrew Porter, Stephanie Easley, Andy Cullison, Kaili Kosaka, Christopher Kishimoto, Chelsea Arnott, Jamie Miller, Anthony Ching, Laura Brewington, Michael Richardson, Chuck Chimera, Jodi Chew, Michael Melzer, Brooke Mahnken, Fern Duvall, Janet Ashman, Erin Bishop, Noni Putnam, Matt Keir, Dorothy Alontaga, Timothy Flynn, Shaya Honarvar, Page Else, Norma Creps, Springer Kaye, Roshan Manandhar, Leyla Kaufman, Nathan Dube, Danielle Frohlich, Koki Atcheson, Keith Weiser, Darcy Oishi, Rian Huizingh, Matt Baur, Elizabeth Monaghan, Robert Hauff, Rachel Neville**

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**9:00 - 9:10**                    **Welcome and Introductions:** *Adam Radford, CGAPS Deputy Chair*

**9:10 - 9:30**                    **Restricted Plant List NAPPRA:** *Rachel Neville (Presentation)*

- NAPPRA (Not Approved Pending Pest Risk Analysis) is the name of the process by which anyone can propose a plant species (plants for planting) be restricted from entry into the U.S. pending a pest risk analysis. Anyone can propose a species!
- With support from Hau`oli Mau Loa Foundation, CGAPS contracted Rachel to draft and submit a list of plants that are a high risk for becoming invasive if imported into Hawaii (the list mostly comes from a previous project to identify a list of high risk plants that should be restricted for domestic and foreign importation into Hawaii).
- Rachel submitted 18 species. Of the proposed 40 species from the previously mentioned project (and proposed with draft rules that the BOA sent to Plants & Animals Subcommittee for state restriction), 8 were widely commercialized in CONUS and 9 were already on the federal nox. weed list or NAPPRA.
- Anything HPWRA'd that is not in CONUS or HI should be submitted, but also we can submit species for NAPPRA that would restrict import only for Hawaii (if it is present and not "under official control" in CONUS).
- Dorothy says this would not affect the foreign importation of properly prepared herbarium specimens.
- USDA is continuing to accept proposals.

**9:30 – 9:50**                    **LFA updates by island:** ISC Managers, HAL, HDOA & others

Hawai'i: There is more work than can be done by the leads, HAL and BIISC, with support from HDOA.

- New sites on the west coast, people still seem surprised when they learn what they are and that they have to control them.
- HAL and BIISC conduct outreach & extension to give the public the information tools to do the work.
- HAL surveys points of entry 4x a year and airports and seaports have regular detections of LFA and treatments. There is no active inspection process for interisland air passengers or most cargo- HAL is working on a plan that might be able to address some of this spread.
- HAL is also the science advisor and ongoing lead for R&D for LFA control tools and methods, used on each island and internationally. They have the EUP for Tango via aerial (helicopter) control of LFA in Nahiku, Maui, among many other projects on LFA and other harmful ants of quarantine concern.
- BIISC reports multiple infestations at schools is an issue- no DOE organization to deal with LFA.

Maui: MISC is the lead for detection and control, with support from HDOA, and with significant R&D help from HAL for some sites.

- Going well & we are building capacity and fully-funded largely by the County of Maui, but also state via HISC.
- 18 infestations or incursions (infested items arriving from Hawaii island, so some were quickly eradicated). 5 sites completely eradicated. 6 sites are being monitored, and there are 7 active sites being treated. Only 1 new site from this year.
- HAL's eradication protocol calls for LFA population monitoring surveys at specific points during the multi-year eradication process, and surveys of all active sites show that LFA numbers at those sites are significantly diminished—the treatments and methods WORK.
- We have a 175-acre treatment area in the active Nakihiu site, by far the largest site (survey results map shown), and here's what successful treatments with helicopter pesticide application looks like.

Oahu: HAL has 2 FTE and a part time staff based on Oahu and are currently the lead, with some survey support from OISC and CGAPS, and with support from HDOA. Outreach is shared between all.

- We currently have 27 active sites total, with 4 new sites detected in 2021. Two sites were reported through the Stop the Ant Month campaign, supported by HISC.
- Started treating 16 sites during COVID. Of those, 11 are in the monitoring stage within months of detection.
- With all the active and monitoring sites (and not including the plan HAL developed in 2014 that calls for the surveying of high-risk nurseries and garden shops on Oahu), we are reaching work capacity now but with sites entering the monitoring stage, it will relieve some of the work. Some of the residents and businesses with infestations have been trained by HAL and are carrying out the treatments, which also helps.
- We are currently focusing on treatment of residential and nursery sites, and following up on ant sample submitted for ID. There was a large increase in submitted samples during October Stop the Ant Month (~100 samples since 10/12)

Kauai: KISC is the lead for Kauai, with support from HDOA.

- We currently have 3 sites, 2 of which are in the monitoring stage. 1 site detected this year in July in an agricultural area and we have been working to treat and continue outreach with Stop the Ant Month and related work.
- There are likely other populations not yet detected given the large ag site infestation in Moloaa.

**9:50 – 10:00 HAL funding outlook & needs: Cas Vanderwoude, Hawaii Ant Lab (Presentation)**

- HAL has a \$500,000 shortfall for FY 2022.
- In past years, HAL has been able to secure grants from HISC and HDOA for operating costs. However, in 2021, the legislature repealed the Food Security special fund which received a percentage of the “barrel tax” which supported a number of programs and cut HDOA general funds at the same time, and so HDOA has had to reduce the funding it has provided to external groups like HAL. HAL had received about half of its core support from HDOA through the Pest Inspection and Eradication fund (from the “cargo fee”), which was on the chopping block but saved in Conference. We do have some funds from the HISC (\$289K awarded by HISC for FY 2022), but the result is that HAL will be running out of funds. If all budget line-items can be moved to salaries (and no operating costs at all), HAL can get through to June.
- The current plan is that we will be reducing staff to .5 FTE in early January but that would allow employees to keep most of their benefits. We would also need to shift our work in all areas to focus only on extension/outreach.
- MISC is looking into how they might be able to incorporate HAL staff into some of their ongoing LFA work which would push the deadline of reducing work hours by 1 month.
- Working with Rep. Lowen who is interested in introducing an appropriation bill for HAL, or through the HISC to focus on LFA and invasive ant R&D, control & extension.

**10:00 – 10:15 LFA discussion**

- LFA was detected in Hawaii on Hawaii island in 1999, but at that time, there were no registered ant baits for organic crops and no registered formulations and methods for applying baits to trees and foliage, it was all granular baits. And because ants are so unique, there need to be specialists to do R&D, and to register these new tools for use. It is thanks to HAL that we can detect, control, and eradicate these ants, and even now, they are working on additional tools for the toolbox.
- HAL can receive private donations through a University of Hawaii Foundation account.
- May have a release of funds from HISC in February. HAL is a priority.
- Engage city council on Oahu. Nate thinks there is interest to support programs but they need to be included in more conversations. Nate will lead the effort to engage the City Council.

**10:15 - 10:25 Break**

**10:25 - 10:35 CRB Response update: Kaili Kosaka, CRB Outreach**

- Increased detections in new areas. Concerned with movement of infested material to new areas in north shore and Waimanalo.
- Ongoing projects:
  - Pesticide injections are showing reduction in population in some areas

- Breeding site treatments- Vacuum steam unit, fumigation, roll-off bin removal, pesticide
- Canines increasing efficiency of finding breeding sites- on avg 1 per week
- Created Educational kits for students
- Working with a newly formed pritchardia protection group over concerns of threat to native palms in Waianae mountain range
- Organizing outreach about interim rule and compliance agreements with HDOA

**10:35 - 11:10**

**CRB greenwaste & compost issues, discussion:** *Darcy Oishi, HDOA PPC; Keith Weiser, CRB Response*

- An Interim Rule to stop spread of CRB was sent to the BOA Subcommittee on Plants and Animals today and it passed and will now be sent to the BOA Chair. It would:
  - Designate O‘ahu as a quarantine area for CRB and allow for other areas to be designated upon discovery of CRB.
  - Restricts the movement of host material inter/intra island
  - Companies must sign on to compliance agreements with HDOA to continue operating
  - CA will have certain requirements in place for the safe transport of host material.
  - Still in development
  - Affected industries: generators (landscapers), transporters, processors
  - 2 week period from announcement (press release) to enactment
  - There will be consequences if not followed.
- The Plants and Animals committee meeting today voted to approve an interim rule of green waste management to prevent spread of CRB. Chair will need to approve the rule before enacted in January.
- Communications packages are being developed and will be shared once it is finalized.
- Tools to improve the efficacy of the CRB trap are needed. Suggestion to apply for SERDP
- There is adequate funding from USDA and JBPHH to maintain efforts. JBPHH has dedicated staff to CRB efforts to implement a green waste management plan
- Starting to pivot from eradication to containment to Oahu.

**11:10 - 11:30**

**Coqui updates by island and discussion:** *ISC Managers, HDOA & others*

- Hawai‘i: Coqui are getting (physically) bigger and they call during the day. Might be because there are no predators. Kohala community is continuing to educate each other. BIISC is still getting a lot of reports.
- Maui: Pleased with progress and funding. Coqui remains a high priority. Maliko Gulch is the location of the highest infestation. Most locations around the island were eradicated. Working on an acoustic monitoring program to identify calls. Could possibly get a forest service special technology development program grant for this work. Coqui occasionally show up on Molokai and Lanai but have no known populations.
- Oahu: HDOA working on treatments at a property in Palolo Valley and one in Waimanalo. OISC will be reinstating some staff to work on coqui.
- Kauai: Large population eradicated in 2012 and since then has been EDRR. 8 new incursions in 2021. Able to intercept. Great community reporting.

**11:30 – 11:40**      **Biocontrol update:** *Rob Hauff (by proxy, tba), DLNR DOFAW*

- HISC & CGAPS 2025 Strategy includes a goal to test at least 8 biocontrol agents
- Agents:
  - Miconia Butterfly- passed EA, release permits from HDOA being processed. Will have controlled releases first before widespread.
  - Tibouchina Beetle- passed EA, waiting on review and permits through HDOA and issuance of a FONSI
  - Christmas Berry Thrips- Draft EA in progress. Close to being published for public comment.
  - Erythrina Gall Wasp Supplementary Biocontrol- Draft EA published
  - Devilweed Gall Fly- Host specificity testing on Hawaiian plant taxa should begin in early 2022
  - Coffee Berry Borer Wasp- Draft EA is in final stages , and close to being published for public comment
- Biocontrol Facilities- New facilities are needed to increase capacity and variety of biocontrol agents that can be tested for the Pacific. Working Group is currently planning for 2 new facilities in Hawai'i. One on Hawai'i island and one on Oahu. Need help messaging for help funding these facilities.
- Early testing for albizia, himalayan ginger, clidemia, etc. check [biocontrolhawaii.org](http://biocontrolhawaii.org) for more info

**11:40 – 11:55**      **Partner updates**

- Janet HFB: Please include HI Tropical Farmers Ken Love in these meetings
- CGAPS:
  - Continuing to teach students about 'Ōhi'a while incorporating a civics lesson to designate 'Ōhi'a Hawaii's State endemic tree in upcoming session.
  - In partnership with HISC, working on a Biosecurity display at HNL DKI airport.
  - Vessel and Incidental Discharge Act- final comments and concerns to be submitted by the end of January.
  - Looking at the emergency declaration process to understand what is needed to declare an emergency for invasive species in HI. CGAPS staff will produce a memo and share.
    - DLNR has pushed for an emergency declaration for ROD and one of the main pushbacks was that there was no end date.

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

- Pacific RISC: Hosting webinars to educate the public about the intersection between invasive species and climate change. The group is looking to re-engage members, energize research, and increase communication and outreach. <https://pi-casc.soest.hawaii.edu/about/pacific-riscc/>
- Adam Radford is CGAPS Chair for 2022. Deputy nominations from a state agency are needed. Send to Christy, Adam, and/or Kailee.

**Note:** To join or leave the CGAPS listserve, click here (<https://bit.ly/2RExLJP>) or, go to the University of Hawaii's listserve webpage and search for the CGAPS List.