

Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) Meeting Notes 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Friday, December 15, 2023

(Hybrid participation on zoom or at the Hawaii State Capitol 415 S Beretania St., Honolulu, HI 96813 room 016)

Attendees In-person: Christy Martin (CGAPS), Kailee Lefebvre (CGAPS), Chelsea Arnott (HISC), Cheryl Young (USDA), Norma Creps (NAVFAC Pacific), Dexter Kishida (HDOA), Joshua Fisher (USFWS), Andrew Porter (CGAPS)

On Zoom: Rebecca Chong (CBP), Stephanie Easley (CGAPS), Mark Fox (NOAA), Danielle Frohlich (SWCA), Michelle Montgomery (HAL), Jack Reef (HISC), Jessica Winchester (ANRPO), Kimo Rogala (MCBH), Elizabeth Monaghan (DAR), Kimberly Kahaleua (DLNR), Elliott Parsons (Pacific RISCC), Keith Weiser (CRB), Sanna Matheny (CRB), Teya Penniman (MISC), Adam Radford, Netty Leviticus, Rep. Hussey Burdick staff, Josiah Marquez (HDOA), Franny Brewer (BIISC), George Hooker, Ellison Montgomery (DLNR KUPU), Erin Bishop (OISC), Chuck Chimera (HISC), Janet Ashman (HFBH), Tiffany Keanini (KISC), Mike Melzer (UH), Arisa Barcinas (CRB), Kevin Lino (DoD), Michelle Harman (HBWS)

*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. **ACTION ITEMS ARE IN BLUE

9:00 – 9:10 Welcome and Introductions: David Smith, Chair

9:10 – 9:20 HDOA-Plant Industry, PQ, PPC: Dexter Kishida

- Still looking for a location for HAL- please let HDOA and Michelle know if any leads on \$\$ or location
- CH 72- Plan to post a public notice any day now for a hearing in mid-Jan
- Finalizing a draft for an interim rule for stopping movement of infested produce- will go live in Jan. If you are on the P&A committee please leave spaces open for the meeting.
- Regarding civil and criminal penalties- continuing to figure out what and how to implement while supporting industry and the public.
- Josiah Marquez- Plant pathology program- Building a diagnostic lab. Expanding as a resource to the
 public. Working on pest detection in garden stores and training on risk assessments for inspectors.
 Helping the dept. to spot diseases.
- So far processed 60 samples from PQ, including 40 samples from one grower (average total 20-60/year) about 90 samples from the public.
- There has been a statewide decrease in capacity for plant pathology across the state. We need to increase this capacity.

9:20 – 9:25 DLNR DOFAW: Chelsea Arnott

 Dept requests: Fire suppression, post-recovery \$18 M- asked for a lot of positions but didn't make it through. Asked for an increase for HISC that didn't make it into Gov's budget. Submitted a specific request for HAL for \$1M but was cut to \$500K.

9:25 – 9:30 DAR: Elizabeth Monaghan

- Capacity- Lost Kim fuller to the DAR fish team. Her position is filled temporarily by Jesse Boord. Filled 3 Fishery Technician IV positions on the civil service side. Hiring an additional contract fisheries technician. Hiring a rapid response coordinator position early next year Thanks REPI!
- Prevention- VIDA supplemental notice released in October submitted comments from Dawn Chang this week which will be available in the docket. Continue to participate in the USCRTF coral disease working group and subgroups, talked on the proposed draft SCTLD emergency rules at the USCRTF meeting in St Thomas. Recreational vessel hull fouling surveys a project lead by our coordinator position Sarah Tom. Conducting surveys of levels of hull fouling and knowledge about hull fouling/invasive species at recreational harbors around the state. Have surveyed 7 harbors on Oahu, 385 recreational vessels, and 12 personal interviews. Next will be requesting access to private harbors and travelling to major harbors on neighbor islands. Participated in reviewing biosecurity measures related to the Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project, as well as their proposed 2024 Operations. Began developing a sub-group to discuss Chondria tumulosa desiccation trials. Toured H-Power waste disposal facilities to better understand the biosecurity risks associated with the disposal of nets that may have been exposed to Chondria tumulosa.
- Rapid Response- Assessed the footprint of a non-native coral (Montipora foliosa) in Kaneohe Bay. Plans
 are set to remove the coral at the beginning of 2024 Q1. Morphological ID was performed by Doug
 Fenner. Conducted emergency surveys for the downed plane off the runway of the Kaneohe Marine
 Corps Base.
- Monitoring/Control- Set up the 'super sucker' to soon be implemented in invasive algae manual removal efforts on some reefs that have shown regrowth of Eucheuma/Kappaphycusin Kaneohe Bay. Conducted land-based training and test for restarting next year. Finished bi-annual Waikiki SNAPs survey for monitoring invasive algae growth. Began urchin caging studies with Malama Maunalua. Outplanted ~12,000 urchins to Kāne'ohe bay
- Outreach- Creating outreach for dive shops to recognize coral disease and report to DAR, also guidance
 on how to prevent coral disease spread. Created outreach material highlighting the importance of
 proper aquatic pet disposal that will be dispersed online and to pet stores following Unomia & other
 species issues in Pearl Harbor.
- CGAPS met with DLNR to work on interim rules to prevent arrival of SCTLD from Caribbean area. Hope
 to have a draft to present in January. Look out for public hearings for ballast water and biofouling.
- Second stony coral likely an aquarium release or planting- will follow up which is more likely. We need
 to educate and provide more resources for amnesty programs. HDOA thinking of promoting an
 "amnesty week"
 - Montipora foliosa the species has been placed in four sites on the reef which appears intentional. The site was surveyed following the previous introductions so it occurred sometime in the last 3 years

9:30 – 9:35 DHS Customs & Border Protection: Rebecca Chong

- Operation No Holiday Pest CBP and PQB inspected 111 containers containing 55,055 Christmas trees over 4 Sundays (Nov. 5, 12, 19, and 26). Most of the interceptions consisted of spiders with a small amount of miscellaneous insects. No really interesting things were found. All containers passed inspection (first time in 11 years)-
- Pest Training USDA Plant Inspection Station provided refresher pest training for the CBP Agriculture Specialists.

9:35 – 9:40 HISC: Chelsea Arnott

- Jack Reef will be doing 2024 legislative tracking on the HISC website.
- Funding survey being sent out- HISC tracking the \$\$ funding IS work across the state.
- HAL need for base yard has gone all the way up to Gov's office. One of best options is Komohana center in Hilo. Also looking at DLNR land and modular unit costs.
- HISC meeting Dec 19 at 1p- legislative updates from depts and policy updates, and presentation from Kevin Lino, and Clay Trauernicht about reso on wildfire. Testimony welcome for items on the agenda as well as other priorities NOT on the agenda.
- 643PEST- 516 reports from Oahu mostly CRB. Have a dashboard on the website tracking reports being made
- HISC website will be hosting HI's worst invasive grasses education. ecologically damaging or fire-inducing. May be controversial since some species are used as forage but will be a good source and point for conversation. Info supported by HWRA and Kevin Faccenda's surveys

9:40 – 9:45 Ports of Entry monitoring program (Mamalu Poepoe): Chelsea Arnott

• Leyla helping with distributing camera traps for CRB on other islands. Moved out of pilot phase, now funded by HISC and a congressionally directed spending through USDA APHIS. Expansion of program to harbors and adding Japanese beetle as a pest. Looking for more funding including REPI.

9:45 – 9:55 DoD AIS in Pearl Harbor: Kevin Lino

- Pulse coral (Unomia stolonifera)- The worst AIS in Pearl Harbor- detected in 2020 currently covers over 80 acres. Popular aquarium trade species. Believed to be an aquarium dump. A few other species as well. Fast reproducing coral that is currently being removed manually. Can move in soft sediment. Team just completed first effort, will report numbers at a later date. Also testing smothering- which removes all oxygen under covering but this method would also kill everything else that is under it.
- DAR has created a flyer for distribution and Bishop Museum website: https://www.bishopmuseum.org/hawaiiais/
- Other species: Capnella, Hammer coral, Goldspotted angelfish, Pneumonia, Corallimorph all found recently and believed to be aquarium releases around the same time. Currently monitoring.
- Looking at the current spread, these species have likely been here for a long time- maybe since 2015.
 Haven't seen spread outside PH- might be some kind of hydrographic systems working in our favor.
 Looking to do more surveys in the area. Not concerned with hammer coral but are concerned with the Corallimorph. Unomia is the biggest threat.

Next year CGAPS and partners will be working on pushing outreach on AIS.

9:55 – 10:00 MCBH & ANRPO: Norma Creps and Jessica Winchester

- LFA surveys were negative. CRB was detected at MCB Kaneohe Bay 12/14. Will survey Bellows area for LFA every 6 mo. Will start surveying for other IS regularly in the future. HAL is looking to put in a SERDP proposal which can be used to fund surveys on base.
- Jessica: REPI good news coming in January! Also for OLDCC proposal. Leyla Kaufman looking to deploy a
 portable EDNA technology for detection in shipping containers between Hawaii and Oahu. Will look at
 detecting particular species LFA, Culex q, QLB, CRB

10:00 – 10:05 ROD:

NPS:

USFS:

10:05 – 10:15 HAL: Michelle Montgomery michelle.montgomery@littlefireants.com

Continued spread across the state

- Increasing reports from Oahu. Oahu staff includes 1 full time staff and 1.5 staff which can
 manage about 8 sites. We have over 50 sites with the vast majority left unmanaged. Starting a
 community project and will provide training. Working with PCO's for those who cannot be
 trained by staff. Passed off 2 sites to a pest control company
- Kauai: 5 active sites. Original site going into eradication. 2 large unmanaged sites.
- Hawaii: Layoffs in Hilo and reduced hours to 75% beginning January.
- HAL has 50% of funding needed to maintain status quo. REPI funding would go towards OISC. HISC will discuss with OISC how to support HAL in the interim.

10:15 - 10:30 Break

10:30 – 10:40 CRB: Keith Weiser

Recent Developments

o CRB found on Hawaii Island and Maui

Oahu

- Palm Treatments:
 - Currently injecting palms around ports
 - Treatments within the 2,500 ft buffer of Honolulu Airport ongoing
- Palm surveys
 - o Changes to our palm survey procedures to reflect that of international CRB damage scales
- Trapping
 - o Completed trap removals for an even distribution of traps across the island
 - Low density (4 per sq mile)-most of O'ahu
 - Medium density properties that prepare material for shipment off island
 - High density ports
 - Ongoing light trapping experiments testing multiple wavelengths of light
- Outreach

- Statewide communication plan with partners
- Resources for neighboring islands
- Reporting:
 - Oahu public don't need to report but can still reach out for guidance on treatments, BMP's, and ID help
 - Other islands report all signs of CRB to 643pest.org

Other Islands

- CRB Response assisting partners in surveys, trapping, data collection and outreach
- Will schedule regular visits to all positive islands in 2024
- Trapping
 - 221 traps deployed on other islands
 - 31 camera traps
 - Community traps (managed by respective island's ISCs)
- Hawaii Island
 - Larvae found at private residency in Waikoloa, public report to CRB Response (October)
 - Treatment of positive breeding site by HDOA
 - CRB Response Sent traps (normal and camera), initial palm damage survey,
 - USDA deployed camera traps
- Maui
 - Larvae found in dead tree in Kihei, reported to MISC (November)
 - CRB Response: Sent traps, sent netting, reviewing damage reports
- Kauai
 - o Treatment by HDOA and Dr. Dan Jenkins (UH) at Wailua Golf Course

10:40 – 10:45 USFWS: Josh Fisher

- Two positions advertised for PIFWO Inv. Team; BTS Coordinator and a general Invasive Species Coordinator position were posted and interviews scheduled.
- Guam Rail Captive Rearing Facility: PIFWO biologist recently worked w/ Guam DOA and Biosecurity Division for 6 day treatment; 3 DOA and Forestry properties were infested with LFA. Contained rail captive breeding and kingfisher facilities. High abundance of LFA. After 3 day treatment, reduction of 95% on property. Identified possibilities of why previous treatments were unsuccessful (insufficient bait coverage, weather, Typhoon, veg management). HAL recommends more aggressive treatment schedule, 3-4 weeks to eradicate heavy infestations in challenging environment. Recommend better vegetation management. Challenges remain: Veg control, 8month LFA treatment (once a month), Indefinite LFA Maintenance for asset protection. Things to come if Hawaii lets LFA go rampant.
- Funding Opportunities: 2024 PIFWO Discretionary Funding requests (Recovery Implementation,
 Coastals Program, State of the Birds, etc.) have supported a range of invasive species projects; normally
 require a connection towards protecting/recovery of T+E species. 1 page proposals to be submitted by
 March 1, 2024 to PIFWO Biologists. Similar timeline for other rfps like the annual Aquatic Nuisance
 Species State Management Plan funding which is available to the State. Better picture after Fed Budget
 Passed in Feb.
- The Department of the Interior (DOI), through investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL),
 has been working to identify, enhance, and collaborate on early detection, rapid response (EDRR)
 activities, build new tools, and support coordinated processes. The purpose of the EDRR Framework is
 to find and eradicate invasive species new to the United States or those demonstrating secondary

- spread by coordinating across partner agencies and investing in innovative approaches for surveillance, data integration, and response capabilities. There are several projects advancing thru various bureau's within DOI; (eDNA tool development, marker development (2024), Rapid Response Fund, etc) . several RFPs have gone out, with likely see additional in FY24.
- Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species with an additional \$1 million envisioned each year 2024 through 2026 as part of advancing a National Early Detection andRapid Response Framework. FWS posted F24AS00175- Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species to request proposals that support the rapid response to a new species introduction within freshwater, estuarine, or marine waters of the United States, including the U.S. territories. This is the second cycle of the fund request for proposals.
- Will accept proposals on a rolling basis, or until the Rapid Response Fund is depleted. The deadline for proposals is July 15, 2024. proposals will be evaluated and awarded on a quarterly basis (as funds allow) follow the timeline below:
- -Proposals submitted from November 15 January 15 will be evaluated with an anticipated award date of March 1.
- -Proposals submitted from January 16 April 15 will be evaluated with an anticipated award date of June 1.
- -Proposals submitted from April 16 July 15 will be evaluated with an anticipated award date of September 1.

General information about the Fund and a list of Frequently Asked Questions can be found HERE

- There will be a NOFO for Eradication Fund for Invasive Species projects. This is separate from the Rapid Response ANS Fund, up to \$3m. A NOFO will be issued in February at the earliest for this fund.
- Reminder: DOI Invasive Species Management Funding guide (9/2022 version 1) can be accessed: https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/doi-funding-guide-for-invasive-species-issued-september-2022 __0.pdf for more information.

10:45 – 10:55 FestPac: Christy Martin

• Held every 4 years. This year will be in HI in June. When held in Guam, there were pest incursions. We do not have fumigation services in HI. The other option will be confiscate and destroy which will not be good for these countries. We are looking at options to fumigate through HDOA and support from HDOT. Funding and contracting is needed. Working with the voyaging community- potentially up to 4 canoes being shipped and trying to get pre-treatment and BMPs. There will also be ships sailing to HI. Trying to look into locally sourcing pest-free material on island. We also need to make sure they are leaving pest-free as well. HDOA looking to provide pre-departure treatment as well but this will not be out of HDOA funding.

10:55 – 11:00 BIISC: Franny Brewer

- Plant Pono- wreath making workshop was popular and sold out. Trying not to use Ohia. Xmas tree
 workshop (alternative tree, local, or plastic). Hala Festival in May- attempt to turn around negative
 feelings about Hala. Beginning outreach with realtors focusing on planting better plants and being
 ambassadors.
- Early Detection with Kevin Faccenda for species not known to occur being identified by Bishop Museum
- BIISC encourages public to report anything new and becoming plant identifiers
- Giant burmese Honeysuckle is the newest difficult target- no good tools for eradication.
- CRB detected in Waikoloa Oct 10. Manu (CRB detection dog) working on island, doing well. Outreach and trapping increasing across Hawaii island. Partnering with agencies.
- BIISC lost lease on baseyard. Have a backup but looking for a new baseyard.

11:00 – 11:05 MISC: Teya Penniman

- Coconut rhinoceros beetle: Maui joined the unwanted CRB club in November. The first detection occurred on November 21st. The next day MISC deployed all field staff to conduct surveys around the site, using 1/4 mile buffer zones, mini-management zones, and GPS units to document the palm species, location, and status of all trees surveyed, while also recording the presence of any potential CRB host materials. Staff continued to expand those surveys as more trees with palm damage were detected. To date, no other sites have been confirmed as positive CRB; however, as of December 12th, 111 of the 26,177 palms surveyed showed damage that could be CRB-related. MISC has been working with HDOA, CRB Response, HISC, the 643Pest program, the Mayor's Office and Maui HDOA. MISC held a meeting to update all partners on our efforts and detections and to share thoughts about the best path forward. We provided an update to the County Council yesterday Thursday afternoon and participated in meeting on establishing an ICS for CRB on Maui yesterday. We strongly support a statewide meeting to identify best survey and control practices, clarify roles and responsibilities, assess needs and resources, and outline communication strategies. MISC greatly appreciates all the work that has been and continues to be done. We want to work collaboratively with all involved.
- Little fire ants: In October, MISC completed the latest comprehensive survey of the Nahiku LFA infestation. Over a three-week period, staff deployed a total of 4,763 vials across the 175-acre treatment zone, using a 14-meter hexagonal grid system to ensure systemic coverage. Approximately 77% of the vials had no ants; of the 23% that contained ant, exactly zero of them had any LFA. The last treatment was in February 2023. MISC will continue surveying the site for five years. Staff continue working at 6 active sites; 4 sites are in a monitoring phase (no LFA currently detected). LFA have been eradicated from 7 sites. The LFA team currently has 6 staff.
- Coqui frogs: MISC recently expanded the community coqui program by adding another community liaison position. There are currently nine community groups working to eradicate coqui from their neighborhoods. MISC is working to fill coqui positions as some temp hires have moved other positions with MISC or went on to other jobs.
- Plants: The Hana team continues to work on miconia in East Maui. MISC has resumed miconia HBT
 operations in areas of East Maui, while pampas grass aerial operations focused on West Maui, where
 flights covered more than 6,000 acres and controlled more than 2,000 plants using a long-line and
 spray ball. MISC continues to participate in discussions about developing a paintball option for
 Imazypyr, which could be used for pampas grass.

• Outreach and education: The annual Malama i ka Aina award honored Becky Lau at the Arbor Day event at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. Becky is a longtime native plant advocate and weed warrior. Little fire ant outreach was the outreach focus during October as part of Stop the Ant Month. We promoted the story of little fire ants in Nahiku. CRB outreach has been a major focus, while continuing to work in the schools using the Hoike curriculum. Redesigning the Hoike website and will be completed at by the end of the year. The new website features search tools to help teachers find lessons that align to classroom standards.

11:05 – 11:10 MoMISC: Lori Buchanan

 MoMISC is working on Early Detection for CRB, LFA and Coqui as well. We continue to monitor our standing target species. To date, MoMISC has not detected any CRB, LFA or recent Coqui (years).

11:10 – 11:15 OISC: Nate Dube

- Staffing- OISC losing our EDRR technician who was getting trained as the LFA/coqui lead, will be trying to rehire ASAP
- Restructuring a bit in 2024- Adding a community liaison to help with LFA/coqui community response (outreach/planning position) Adding a field ops manager, long overdue
- Will be hiring a ton in 2024- Entry level field positions (field associates), Field Crew Leaders, and Field Supervisors. OISC staff to almost double
- Outreach- Wrapping up some expected outcomes into early next year due to delayed 2023 account openings. Busy with LFA outreach, ant identification, town-halls/legislative meetings, and helping HAL coordinate community responses
- Field- Citric pipeline for coqui on hold due to ROE restrictions from DHHL and personnel now that EDRR tech is leaving. Will look to contract out remaining pipeline construction (will be working on this with HISC) Wrapping up some expected outcomes into early next year due to delayed 2023 account openings
- Misc.- Working with partners to find auxiliary baseyard for LFA/coqui staff. Short term until we find a long-term solution. OISC Committee meeting postponed to first quarter of 2024. Nate Dube will be in field more in early part of 2024 to help with expected outcomes and reduced field capacity, will return any calls/emails as soon as I can. Call/text is best for time-sensitive issues

11:15 – 11:20 KISC: Tiffani Keanini

- Plants- Miconia: 1128 acres of Miconia aerial surveys, 262 acres of ground survey with 5 mature and 3,052 immature Miconia plants detected and controlled. Focused on Plant Early Detection Program and Management sites in the last 2 phases of management extirpated (5 year surveys) and long term monitoring (no mature plants found for 2+ years). Due to the increase in pest response necessity on Kauai and our limited capacity this last year we have shifted our fieldwork focus on pest response. Good news is we recently filled our Pest Response Tech position to help increase our capacity across our projects.
- Pests- LFA: KISC LFA work has focused on responding to new suspect reports (2 new sites detected since) As reported in the HAL updated - Current status on Kauai: 7 sites: 1 will be officially eradicated next year, 1 monitoring, 5 active sites (1 in treatment, 3 in response planning, 2 need delimiting)

- CRB: Status reported in the CRB Response Update Of note: new detection on North Shore and still finding (as of last week) dead beetles on the ground from the Wailua treatments in October. Kauai has a need to develop an island-wide LFA management strategy as well as a CRB management strategy with partner's role, responsibilities, mandates, and capacity clearly defined. To be able to effectively move forward with responses to these pests management plans need to be developed for each site defining the appropriate methods and approach for each site.
- Coqui: KISC has controlled 81 frogs in 7 locations in 2023
- ROD: Continuing island wide DMSM surveys working towards sampling the priority suspects w/ DOFAW/KRCP/KISC. No notable new detection areas recently.
- Naio Thrips: Completed the surveys for potential Myoporum thrips (Klambothrips myopori) at the KISC Naio monitoring locations (cultivated) as defined in the Naio Thrips plan with no thrips detected.

11:20 – 11:30 HISC/CGAPS Strategies Update (Strategy 6: Increased & Diversified Funding for Invasive Species Priorities)

- Partners increasing communications with county council members. Trying to work directly with each county to increase funding. Encourage county members' participation in HISC meetings.
- REPI program has been a great new line of funding

11:30 – 11:40 CGAPS: Christy Martin

- Ambyr- Hosting wreath-making workshops emphasizing Ohia-free. Will be coordinating ROD Science symposium and a ROD strategic planning meeting (Aug timeframe)
- Christy- As ISAC member created white papers including one on climate change and IS in underserved communities. There will also be a National priorities paper hopefully available sometime in the new year. Hope to host ISAC meeting on Oahu in Spring 2024 including time to interact with the community.

11:40 – 11:55 Additional Partner Updates

- Elliott Parsons- Pacific RISCC- For anyone not on the Pacific RISCC Listserv, we are putting on the
 inaugural virtual International Invasive Species and Climate Change Conference, Jan 30-31,
 https://naisma.org/event/international-invasive-species-climate-change-conference/ the IISCCC
 Conference (above) is free, will be roughly 7am-12 pm HST, and will include a whole session on Island
 and Invasives
 - Looking for webinar and workshop ideas in 2024- training needs related to IS and climate change
- CTAHR- Roshan- presentations and conferences ongoing. Brooke Manhken presented about Maui Nahiku LFA aerial treatments. Next presentation will be on Feb 28. Kelsey Brock speaking
- CTAHR PEPS Ag Security lab- Mike Melzer- Biosecurity education training: If you know any high school, undergraduate, or graduate student interested in a biosecurity education: https://www.paconbiosecurity.net/ Students must be an american citizen

11:55 – 12:00 New Business and Announcements

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.

CGAPS Survey will soon be released

2024 CGAPS General meeting dates and location are to be determined. Please look out for email updates!