



Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) Meeting Notes

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Conference Room, **Room 4-127**
Federal Building, 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Honolulu, HI
9:00 am – 12:00 pm Tuesday, December 17, 2013

Note: *These meeting notes are uncorrected. They represent the best and fastest (but not most accurate) typing by Christy Martin. Please check with agency or organization representative to verify.*

9:00 – 9:10 **Welcome & Introductions:** *Jodi Chew, USDA Forest Service & 2014 CGAPS Chair*

9:10 – 9:30 **HDOA Plant Industry Division:** *Darcy Oishi*

9:30 – 9:40 **U.S. Customs & Border Protection:** *Jim Kosciuk*

- Military shipment w/ flatracks (vehicle carriers), 3 of them had snails, soil, etc. Couldn't find a wash site, and couldn't send it to the base for cleaning because there was no way to ensure dirt and snails wouldn't fall off enroute, so we sent it back to Guam. We are looking for nearby facilities to clean stuff. Matson, Horizon, etc. not going to provide the space.
- Currently looking at holiday handicrafts, especially for plant diseases, seeds, etc.
- Looking at refrigerated sea containers again. The filter in refers usually have seeds, etc. Looked at 100% of them to track trends.
- Transit from foreign to Long Beach, etc., we have been doing inspection at those ports for transiting containers. This has worked well with having the officers flag things for Ag specialists.
- Aloha Air Cargo (United has a good facility that is contained. Korean and China airlines will be using Aloha Air Cargo to handle an increase from 2500 pcs a day to 7500 pcs/day.
- Garbage on military and other vessels, we fax them enroute the regulations to make sure the ship arrives clean. We have a military liaison to help relay these notices. We also have language specialists that are inspectors to make sure information is translated.
- Provide posters of pests like Asian gypsy moth. We travk vessels over years, so we know every port they have ever visited. They are supposed to come in clean, with a clean certificate.
- Interceptions: Mail is consistent. Last month there were 533 mail violations (600 is usual)—2 plant shipments referred to HDOA, 20 shipments to USDA propagative materials, airport 140 pest interceptions, 140,000 lbs seized. 4 beagle teams consistently find items. 850 air cargo inspections, 1500 sent to USDA. No provider or contractor to do large methyl bromide fumigation, only small parcels.
- Sea cargo 100 examples of 40 ft. containers/month. Military household goods shipments. Sand pears from S Korea, about 20% of the imports have problems, must send back. Ceramic tile from China, wood packing materials—wood marking for phytosanitary inspections/treatment, we are finding that it has been 5-6 years since treatment, and are reinfested.
- Longbeach wasn't looking at pallets and wood packing, now finding a lot of violations.
- Distribute signage to cargo sheds for Khapra beetle as a high-impact pest of grain and seeds. Expansion of trade and markets means that pests are finding their ways into the transportation

CGAPS Steering Committee: Dorothy Alontaga, USDA APHIS; Joshua Atwood, HISC; Earl Campbell, USFWS; Jodi Chew, USDA FS; Kate Cullison, DLNR DAR; Mark Fox, TNCH; Maria Gallo, UH CTAHR; Bryan Harry, Emeritus; Roger Imoto, DLNR DOFAW; James Kosciuk, DHS CBP; Lloyd Loope, Emeritus; Darcy Oishi, HDOA PPC; Carol Okada, HDOA PQ; Teya Penniman, MISC; Neil Reimer, HDOA PI

system. If we see it , we might see it in ship stores, or other. We have so far only found them dead.

- CRB: CPB found a beetle in passenger baggage. They had just opened some boxes from a couple families, and they looked on the floor by the baggage belt, they saw an adult beetle walking around. The inspectors picked them up. Historically, I remember a family coming through that had two beetles that were pets, they were going on vacation and bringing their pets with them. It is always a threat. For coconuts, we are seeing a lot more diseases.

9:40 – 9:50 USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: *Dorothy Alontaga*

- CRB: PPQ in each airport conducts perimeter surveys, they have a CRB trap behind the facility. We put up traps once we heard from PPQ. Arnold Hara of UH CTAHR brought a lot of traps and set them up. Also, there were a lot of dead looking trees around the airport, and there is a private contractor that takes care of the landscaping around the airport.
- Shahin: I am a contractor working for the Highways/DOT landscaping and can work with you on that.
- Arnold will also be putting other types of traps up to monitor for items.
- In celebration of our wonderful tabletop experience, we have been trying to work on how to further the response. Guam has printed Volunteer CRB t-shirts that we might be able to copy/modify.
- Weeds: The NAPPRA process—anyone can petition APHIS for inclusion—31 plants that are invasive have been added on round 1, round 2 additions are in process. Sign up for the Stakeholder email list from USDA APHIS so that you know how and when to petition. (not widely prevalent, also under official control)
- Teya: Is that something that we should do collectively, or individual?
- Earl: It may be important to have all key contacts in each agency register so that we can all comment.
- We will discuss how we might take advantage of this during the afternoon steering committee meeting.
- Look at things that haven't arrived, the weeds of the world that haven't arrived in US or HI, that is a NAPPRA issue.

9:50 – 10:00 DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources: *Kate Cullison (not present-Jarrett Keohokalole)*

- Ballast and Hull fouling rules update: Summer 2014 will reengage AAOTF with DOT and DOH to discuss EPA regulatory vessel discharges. Vessels over 79 ft. and others for smaller vessels puts in place conditions for hull management, cleaning and ballast management. Working with HDOH on creating the reporting form and conditions. The Hull fouling/cleaning practices are not yet usable, but the reporting requirements are already required for HDOH, so we are working with the
- AG has the new ballast rules. Should start the consultations in January. This rule update just changes the our State ballast rules to match the new, more stringent Federal Ballast rules.

10:00 – 10:30 Invasive Species Committees of Hawai'i

Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee:

- LFA – We have completed a yearlong treatment regime, working under HAL and HDOA, for LFA at Kauai’s one infestation site. Monitoring is showing great results with very few LFA being detected. “Hot spots” will be treated, and the next phase will involve working with a cherry-picker to treat the crowns of the tall palms to ensure that all ants are being addressed. Treatments and monitoring will be scheduled quarterly. The landowners have agreed to chip in on the expense. HAL is also working on options for treating the difficult cliffside infestation.
- Mongoose – We now have gone 18 months without another mongoose capture. Response to sightings and trapping continues. This calendar year, there were 39 credible reports from all areas of the island: north shore, east, south, and west sides, as well as Kokee.
- Miconia – Over the last calendar year, over 1,400 acres were surveyed with no mature plants detected. Over 300 person hours were expended. KISC is continuing to utilize HBT with James Leary during aerial surveys and this is proving to be very effective.
- Outreach – KISC now has a “roving” mongoose display that features a taxidermy mongoose, museum quality mounted skulls of a cat, rat, and mongoose (for comparison), information about the history of mongooses in Hawaii and on Kauai, and “takeaway” cards with a phone number for reporting. (Photo attached). The display is now at Island School and will be placed in other schools, libraries, and public places around the island.

Oahu Invasive Species Committee

- Miconia: OISC Field Crew conducted a total of 947 aerial and 472 ground surveys and controlled one mature and 313 immature plants. In October, OISC collaborated with Dr. James Leary & UH CTAHR to treat 46 immature plants over 13 acres using Herbicide Ballistic Technology (HBT).
- Devil Weed: OISC Field Crew spent 407 hours conducting surveys of 239 acres and treating 6 mature & 63 immature *Chromolaena odorata* in Kahuku.
- Pampas Grass: Aerial surveys for *Cortaderia selloana* and *C. jubata* were conducted in Heeia. Survey and treatment for *Cortaderia selloana* was conducted the Kipapa area. Total of 247 acres.
- Cape Ivy: Surveys and treatment of *Delairea odorata* were conducted over 25 acres in Kaloii watershed in September; there were very few plants and OISC is now asking the question if the plants are dying back or are the treatments finally making a significant impact?
- Fountain Grass: Surveyed for and treated *Pennisetum setaceum* over 100 acres in August; 4 mature & 187 immature.
- Spiked Pepper: Surveys and treatments for *Piper aduncum* were conducted in Manoa & Waimea in October; 3 mature & 2 immature.
- Himalayan Blackberry: Survey and treatment for *Rubis discolor* was conducted in Palolo over 13 acres in August; 136 immature total.
- Cissus repens: Conducted surveys in Makaha in August with no plants found.
- Pest Reponse: A total of 14 coqui frog surveys conducted; 2 detected and controlled. 32 LFA surveys conducted; none detected. 9 Naitio thrips surveys conducted; none detected.
- Outreach: In August, OISC Outreach Specialist participated in Master Farmer’s workshop, gave presentations to the Sierra Club Outings and the Manoa Neighborhood Board meetings and at Roosevelt High School, as well as contributed to an article about the invasive species, *Macaranga tanarius*. In September, OISC met with the Honolulu Mayor’s office to discuss invasive species issues on Oahu; Hawaii News Now produced a segment on Devil weed and the Kahuku infestation and the Outreach Specialist presented invasive species information and

decontamination procedures to Kiewit Construction staff. New Outreach Specialist should begin by first of new year.

- Early Detection & Rapid Response: In August, the Oahu Early Detection team surveyed 10 acres in Waimea Botanical Garden and found 2 mature spiked pepper (*Piper aduncum*), one was 7 meters in size, and was located within 200m ground survey buffer area. In September, the OED team surveyed Waihee Lo'i to observe the distribution of *Heteranthera reniformis*, an invasive aquatic plant, with staff from the Oahu Army Natural Resource Program. In October, they surveyed remaining portions of Waimea Botanical Garden. The OED team identified a total of 37 plant specimens collected by partner organizations and the public.
- Other: Participated in Wilderness First Aid training with OANRP & NARS; OISC Committee Meeting in August; met with Hawaii Farm Bureau and HDOA regarding LFA surveys at Farmers' Markets; participated in *Chromolaena odorata* Working Group; met with C&C Ag Liaison; in October, OISC welcomed an AmeriCorps intern who will be working alongside our Field Crew for about a year; assisted the DLNR DOFAW offshore island biologist in conducting Wedge-tailed shearwater surveys on Kaohikaipu

Maui Invasive Species Committee

- Continue to get more and more reports of coqui. We had 3x as many reports as the past two years.
- Rights of entry are getting more complex with landowners due to new language from the University. In the past we had informal handshake agreements, but now legal folks are involved. No longer have right of entry at Lāna‘i due to this issue. Ivy gourd, fountain grass work has stopped.
- Darcy: They have a new resources management team, they are asking us to work with them on access issues.
- Transfer of Hana Ranch has stopped our use of LZ at the ranch.
- Continued to use Paintballs for Conservation
- Kanalu Sproat is continuing aerial surveys for a population estimate.
- LFA video premiers in the works on each island. All invited, please come. On Oahu will be at Café Julia, the same place as the Rain Follows the Forest premier. January 8 Maui, Jan 13 Oahu, Jan 18 Kaua‘i, KITV on the 10th.
- Darcy: HDOA staff would like to see the LFA video so that they can be prepared for calls and questions. (absolutely, will work with you on that)

Moloka‘i Invasive Species Committee

- Early detection aerial survey, 2150 aerial survey acres for Miconia, found first naturalized population of Himalayan ginger on Moloka‘i. DOFAW Maui jumped on it right away in partnership with TNC. National Park Service, Penny Levin worked with us to conduct surveys for apple snails due to possible introduction with huli from Maui. Didn't find any, but we did find kudzu in Wailau. Right next to a river and the residents eat from the river, so we don't want to use. Thank you to DOFAW and our partners.
- Rubbervine, coqui frogs, bo tree, tree daisy, LFA surveys all conducted, all with none found. We actively inspect the one nursery when they receive new shipments from BI.

10:30 – 10:40 Break

10:40 – 10:50 DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife: *Rob Hauff*

- DOFAW administrator is retiring today. Don't know the plan for filling that seat. We have a new Wildlife Manager, she is starting in January, Marie Morin worked in the 1980s in DLNR, worked with Sheila Conant on birds, etc.
- Ron Canarella also retired. Not sure when it will be official, not sure what the plans are for that spot.
- We can move forward with release of SG biocontrol on State land. We will be having an outreach planning meeting tomorrow. DLNR DOFAW is prepping sites for Oahu.
- Working with USDA FS Tracy Johnson to get a *Tibuchina urvilleana* biocontrol EA out.

10:50 – 11:00 Hawai'i Invasive Species Council: *Joshua Atwood*

- Supporting expedited processes for dealing with preemption. By January we will have recommendations to send to delegates.
- HISC meeting tomorrow at 2 p.m. in 312.
- Mamalu Poepoe: utilize DOT funds (FAA) to work on airport lands to work on LFA and other pests to work on these pests on airport lands statewide.
- Went to part of the Micronesian Chiefs Summit, there is a joint letter to Gov. Abercrombie to participate in initiatives including
- Report A Pest: Discussion will be raised tomorrow to move online reporting from HBIN to HISC Support. Will be requesting permission to continue to explore this.
- Funding: Gov's budget includes \$1 mil additional invasive species funds. We requested \$5 mil, but B&F cut it to \$1. Working with legislators to get a priority package for funding on invasive species. Appears to be a black box process, it is up to DLNR to advocate for items in their supplemental budgets. They prioritized the Watershed initiatives, admin office, and 2016 IUCN WCC. The HISC and invasives did not make the prioritized list, which is concerning. I will try to attend the WAM hearing.
- Strategic Planning: Joint session in January. Day one will be a mapping and assessment of IS in Hawai'i, second day will be more HISC-focused, but even for folks that don't normally participate in HISC it will be good to participate.

11:00 – 11:10 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: *Earl Campbell*

- Service funding: we found out about our FY14 (begins Oct 2013), and heads up for FY15. We anticipate an across the board 7% cuts in most programs except recovery and listing which will receive 10% cuts. Last year was a 5.2% cut. Lloyal's analysis: 1.4 to 1.6 million will be available to Hawai'i and Mariannas. San Diego Zoo facility and similar will be priority, they cost \$1.2. Unless there are last minute changes, we will have 200K-400K for general projects. We are continuing to WPs, ISCs, smaller projects will take the biggest hit. We have to work out our messages to the public. If we take this to FY 15, it will get even worse, and there will be cuts to captive-breeding projects. We need to make a very good case for what resources are needed when things get better. At a regional and national level, retention of staff is the priority. However, we need to go to the DC level for replacing staff to cover attrition, etc. Everyone in the office will be taking on additional work. We are currently trying to hire a deputy to cover regional supervisory duties, but in the interim, Earl is covering. Section 6 funds for DLNR are going to take a hit, too.
- There are a few people leaving. George Phoecas is departing, transferring to Bangkok. This position will remain vacant, Gary Young in Portland will be covering, so there will be nobody

in the office locally to do this work. Mike Pitzler has officially retired, he went on medical leave about a year and a half ago. He has been a wonderful collaborator.

- BTS Working group meeting on Guam. There was a paper that was good, by Bob Reed. He had a group of people review snake reports on Saipan. The question of “are there snakes on Saipan”, in a retrospect review, it brought into question the credibility of sightings. The interview tools that we use, and this is related to mongoose sightings on Kaua‘i, we might want to consider changing. Might want to see if/when Bob might be passing through Hawai‘i, as it would be good to have this for folks.

11:10 – 11:40 Other Partner Agency Updates

- Barry Brennan, CTAHR: We have interviewed 3 candidates for the agrosecurity position, the committee met to make the ranking and recommendation, it is possible that we may have someone appointed and starting in January.
- Shahin Ansari, SWCA: DOT Highways’ SNIPP program launched and SWCA is contracted to move it forward.
- Laura Brewington, RISA program at EWC: Climate change, groundwater recharge work. Also doing scenario planning, Doing this work on Maui so far, will move it to other islands once complete. Work mostly with Giambellucca on this.
- Josh Atwood: We received this morning the OK to recruit for a HISC interagency coordinator to be co-managed by Josh and Darcy.
- Teya: HTA Natural Resources Program grant received OK to do a white paper on interisland biosecurity, particularly on LFA (and another grant for coqui work). We will try to get additional funding from the legislature to support work at HDOA for data support. Inspectors have “mentioned” that there have been 3-4 interceptions on Maui per week.
- Dorothy: There is an initiative with the National Plant Board to engage HI nurseries for a systems approach for nursery certification. It could potentially cover coqui, LFA, etc. If it takes off, there could be a good incentive for nurseries to participate in this because interstate shipments from certified “systems approach” program might be eased. (Darcy: Hawai‘i’s nursery certification programs are not set up for LFA or coqui, etc., inspections are for shipments, not for nurseries themselves).

11:40 – 11:50 CGAPS: Christy Martin

HMLF Projects update

- Melissa Miyashiro: Logistically, there has been a lot of changes in HDOA, so I am currently stationed at the King St. office until things smooth over at PQ. The hope is that in the future I will work directly with Darcy at PQ. Myrtaceae rule is being led by Deputy Enright, it is at the supervisor level at the AG office for review. (Darcy: I will ask Scott to had the project over to me so that I can work with the AG’s office and be the direct contact).
- Also been working to address concerns with enforcement capacity. We will work with Darcy and the AGs office to fix this. It is a priority.
- Some research project for the PHERP, working with Lloyd on legal issues. Also worked on hybrid animals as restricted in other states/nations, etc.
- Ag law class proposed for UH William S. Richardson. Maybe as early as next fall we will have this class.
- Plant Pono: Amanda has been working on a pilot project with BIISC ED and Master Gardeners with a Plant Pono endorsement for nurseries.

- Electronic Manifest: System is complete and running, Darcy, Mark F and I will be viewing it on Thursday and we will report back.
- 2014 Projects (Restricted Plants list, strategic planning for CGAPS, Marine Risk Assessment GA; Reduce interisland pest risk, legal fellows, CGAPS support and Plant pono liaison)

11:50 – 12:00 New Business & Announcements

- Darcy: Posa Skelton of SPREP has asked HI if we are interested in hosting the next PILN workshop. Don't know the theme yet. This will be a 2014 workshop, not sure if it will be extended to include participants beyond PILN. Will keep folks updated on this.
- Teya: It sounds like the US has approved Hawai'i to be the site for the IUCN WCC in 2016.
- Jarrett: The law school is actively recruiting for full and part time, ELI is expanding, if there are issues that are particularly juicy for extern or internships for students, these are opportunities. Contact Melissa, Jarrett, Christy, Denise.

(CGAPS Steering Committee to follow, 1:00-4:00)

Next meeting:

Proposed for Tuesday, March 18, HDOA Plant Quarantine conference room. Will be confirmed via list serve once set.