



CGAPS 10 Point Vision and Action Plan

Rev. December, 2009

COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

This document is a collaborative effort, documenting the 10 most important areas where we must focus our efforts. The major issues and immediate actions are listed, with the acronym or the agency/representative that will work on it.

For more information on CGAPS, visit www.cgaps.org

CGAPS Steering Committee and members participate in CGAPS inasmuch as the actions and views presented are allowable and do not include prohibited practices for government employees or the appearance of such practices.

CGAPS Vision & Action Plan

1. BORDER PROTECTION

Vision: Hawai'i has an effective biosecurity system that is adequately funded and staffed to prevent alien pest species from entering the state, regardless of cargo origin or import pathway.



1. BORDER PROTECTION

Needs

- *Joint federal/state inspection and quarantine facilities for ports on each island.*
- *A reliable funding system for cargo inspection and quarantine.*
- *A program to inspect First Class mail and parcels.*
- *Treatment and destruction facilities for intercepted pest at every port.*
- *A more stringent system for inspecting arriving passengers and baggage.*
- *Reinstatement of the State canine inspection program.*
- *Implementation of HDOA's Biosecurity Plan.*

1. BORDER PROTECTION

Immediate Actions:

- Expedite planning and construction of joint-agency inspection facilities at ports of entry; ensure that inspection facilities are included in plans and phasing documents (HDOA, USFWS, USDA APHIS, CBP, CGAPS, ISCs)
- Improve pest-detection & ID skills for personnel inspecting foreign passengers and cargo. (CBP, USDA APHIS)
- Secure State statutory authorities for enforcement/penalties for failure to pay inspection fees. (TNC, CGAPS)
- Ensure HDOA gains access to cargo manifests. (HDOA PQ)
- Support reinstatement of State detector dog program (TNC)
- Formalize pest-risk committees. (CBP)
- Implement a cooperative agreement between USDA/APHIS, HDOA, DHS/CBP, and USFWS to design an overarching pest-prevention strategy for Hawai'i. (CGAPS)

CGAPS Vision & Action Plan

2. SMUGGLING OF PESTS

Vision: The risk of new species arriving illegally will be greatly reduced.



2. Smuggling of Pests

Needs:

- *An educational program informing legal professionals about the societal harm caused by smuggled invasive pest species.*
- *Ensuring that maximum penalties for smuggling are imposed.*
- *Improved enforcement tools to detect smugglers at ports.*
- *A program to inspect First Class mail and parcels.*

2. Smuggling of Pests

Immediate Actions:

- Establish a program to educate legal professionals within the judiciary system about the dangers posed by illegal entry of plants, animals, and microorganisms to the agriculture, public safety, environment, and natural resources of Hawai'i. (CGAPS, HDOA, USFWS)
- Publicize prosecuted cases to increase the perception and awareness of the general public that invasive species affect everyone in the State. (CGAPS, HDOA, USFWS)

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3. STOP IMPORTATION OF INVASIVE PLANTS

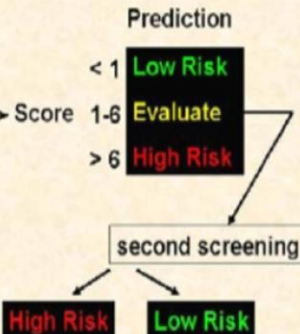
Vision: Hawai'i will be protected from the importation of new invasive plants.

Hawaii Pacific Weed Risk Assessment System

LOW RISK



- 49 questions
- history of use/cultivation ?
- climate/distribution ?
- weed elsewhere ?
- undesirable traits ?
- plant type ?
- reproduction ?
- dispersal ?
- numerous/long lasting seeds?
- tolerates herbicide, fire, etc?



HIGH RISK



WANTED:

MICONIA
(MICONIA CALVESENS)



**FOR DAMAGING THE WATERSHED AND OTHER
CRIMES AGAINST THE FOREST**

3. Importation of invasive plants

Needs

- *A proactive, comprehensive risk-management procedure for reviewing proposed plant imports before they are allowed into the state.*
- *HDOA in-house botanical expertise to identify plant species and propagative parts.*
- *Commercial and public adoption of risk-assessment recommendations.*

3. Importation of invasive plants

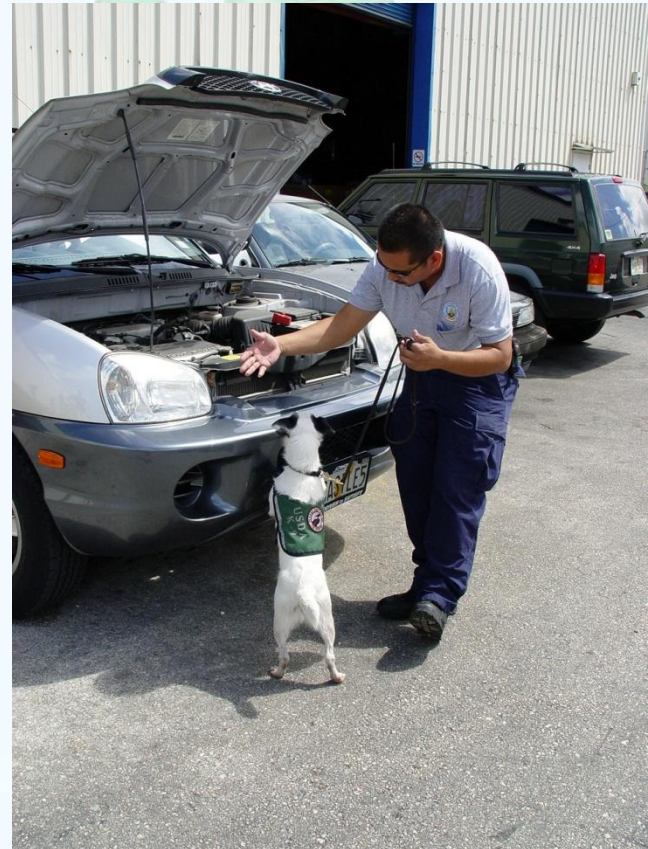
Immediate Actions

- Obtain funding to provide interim botanical expertise for HDOA. (TNC)
- Ensure continued funding for weed-risk-assessment technicians. (DLNR, USFWS, USFS)
- Create a user-friendly mechanism to publicly share weed-risk-assessment findings. (CGAPS)
- Work with plant industries and relevant agencies to produce a list of additions to the Restricted Plants List. (CGAPS, ISCs, USFWS, USFS, HDOA)
- Explore the utility of using a web crawler to monitor listed noxious weeds for sale via the internet. (DLNR, USDA APHIS)

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4. BROWN TREESNAKE

Vision: The risk of brown treesnakes arriving and becoming established in Hawai'i will be extremely small.



4. Brown treesnake

Needs

- *Federal law that requires inspection of all cargo and conveyances leaving Guam for brown treesnakes.*
- *Dedicated, sufficient funding for brown-treesnake-interdiction efforts by USDA/Wildlife Services from both the military and civilian sectors.*
- *Development of techniques to severely suppress snake populations on Guam island-wide.*
- *Adequately funded port-of-entry inspection and quarantine measures in Hawai'i, including canine inspection program.*
- *Development of more effective tools for snake interdiction and detection of low-density snake populations.*
- *Continued Guam-based training for brown-treesnake rapid-response teams.*

4. Brown treesnake

Immediate Actions

- Support implementation of HDOA Biosecurity program and funding. (CGAPS)
- Support reauthorization of the Brown Treesnake Control and Eradication Act of 2004 to require dedicated funding for, and inspection of, all cargo and conveyances leaving Guam. (USFWS, CGAPS, TNC)
- Support Congressional appropriations for the reauthorized Act. (TNC, CGAPS)
- Work to achieve, through the NEPA and regulatory processes, improved brown-treesnake interdiction programs that adequately cover the Guam military expansion. (USFWS, CGAPS, TNC)

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5. AQUATIC INVASIVES

Vision: Hawai'i will have an effective biosecurity system that prevents aquatic invasive species from entering the state and spreading.



5. Aquatic invasives

Needs

- *State authority and capacity to protect against hull fouling.*
- *Development of a State system to verify ballast-water exchange or sterilization for all incoming vessels.*
- *Reduced risk of aquaculture species as potential invasive species.*
- *Reduced release and spread of aquarium species.*
- *A Weed Risk Assessment system for macroalgae.*
- *Application of standard tools used for the control of aquatic invasive species in freshwater ecosystems in Hawai'i.*
- *Development and registration of new control methods for aquatic invasive species.*

5. Aquatic invasives

Immediate Actions

- Ask DLNR to create a permanent position to coordinate ballast-water and hull-fouling work. (CGAPS)
- Adopt BMPs for ballast water and hull fouling using a policy of zero tolerance for aquatic invasive species and 100 % inspection of vessels, similar to the model program implemented in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. In the main Hawaiian islands, identify and address incoming and interisland vessels that are a high risk for aquatic invasive species introductions. (DAR)
- Draft & adopt regulations to address hull fouling on arriving vessels. (DAR)
- Help implement in Hawai'i Habitatitude's education campaign to reduce aquatic releases. (DAR, CGAPS, ISCs)
- Implement priorities from the State AIS Management Plan. (DAR, USFWS, HDOA)

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6. INTERISLAND SPREAD OF PESTS

Vision: Each island will be protected from alien pests present on other islands.



photo: S. Chun/CTAHR



6. Interisland spread of pests

Needs

- *An efficient and comprehensive inter-island inspection system.*
- *Routine risk assessments for inter-island movement of pests present on one or a few islands.*
- *Screening of materials carried by passengers or shipped on vessels or aircraft.*
- *A regulatory mechanism to impose economic sanctions for negligent transport of targeted pest species.*
- *Development and implementation of treatment facilities at each port.*
- *Federal assistance to enforce state interisland quarantine regulations.*

6. Interisland spread of pests

Immediate Actions

- Develop risk-assessment and risk-management strategies for inter-island introduction pathways. (HDOA, ISCs, USFS)
- Support planning and construction of quarantine treatment facilities to reduce risk of interisland pest movement. (TNC)
- Implement actions to reduce pests at points of production in Hawai'i that complements the existing program at certified nurseries. (HDOA)
- Create a working group to explore regulatory options for negligent transport of pests. (MISC)

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7. ADDRESS FEDERAL LAWS THAT EXPOSE HAWAI'I TO UNNECESSARY RISK

Vision: Hawai'i will reduce the risk posed by federal laws or agreements that don't protect Hawai'i, to ensure the best protection measures from all pests of concern to its economy, environment and people.



7. Address Federal laws that expose Hawai'i to unnecessary risk

Needs

- *A comprehensive national policy to protect Hawai'i from pests arriving via domestic pathways.*
- *A joint federal-state inspection program for cargo, conveyances, and passengers with the mandate to search for both federally listed and state-listed pests.*
- *The burden of proof must be placed on the importer to show that a proposed importation is not a biosecurity risk.*
- *Trade agreements that provide special biosecurity protections for Hawai'i.*
- *Policy from the Federal Government that Hawai'i needs special biosecurity protection at the federal level.*
- *Revision of Federal regulations related to foreign importation and interstate movement of pest vertebrates to provide a proactive, precautionary approach to excluding invasive vertebrates from the U.S.*

7. Address Federal laws that expose Hawai'i to unnecessary risk

Immediate Actions

Harmonize State and Federal quarantine pest lists. (HDOA, USDA APHIS, CGAPS)

Request from USFS a forest-pest risk assessment to complement the HDOA pathway risk analysis. (DOFAW)

Write a white paper that summarizes environmental values most urgently in need of protection & key gaps in authorities and implementation that limit that protection. (CGAPS, USGS BRD, USFWS)

Provide comments on Federal quarantine rules for importation of propagative materials (Q37), emphasizing the need to protect Hawai'i's ecologically dominant plant species. (CGAPS, ISCs, TNC)

7. Address Federal laws that expose Hawai'i to unnecessary risk

Immediate Actions (continued)

- Utilize USDA programs to apply for Federal protection from pests of concern to Hawai'i. This will test the effectiveness of the system with a demonstration project. (OISC, HDOA)
- Develop the scientific case and risk assessment for a permanent rule restricting *Myrtaceae* imports to prevent introduction of additional strains of *Puccinia psidii* (ohia rust) so as to establish a precedent for adding to the State Restricted Plants List. (HDOA, TNC, CGAPS, USFS)
- Support efforts to revise the Lacey Act Injurious Wildlife section. (CGAPS, USFWS, ISCs, HISC)
- Request separate consideration for Hawai'i in risk assessments from USDA/APHIS. (CGAPS, ISCs, HISC, USFWS)

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8. EARLY-WARNING FOR PESTS NOT YET PRESENT IN HAWAI'I

Vision: Hawai'i's network and system will identify pests not yet present and result in risk reduction measures.



8. Early-detection for pests not present in Hawai'i

Needs

- *A Pacific Initiative, similar in scope to the successful Caribbean Initiative, is needed for Hawai'i.*
- *An early warning specialist position to identify potential new invaders and their probable mode of arrival.*
- *An improved communication protocol for sharing early warning alerts among relevant agencies.*
- *A coordinated, periodic effort to update pests of concern on the OPIS watch list. At a minimum this would involve personnel from USDA/APHIS, USFS, HDOA, and DLNR.*

8. Early-detection for pests not present in Hawai'i

Immediate Actions

- Develop a plan for creating the above-described specialist position. (USDA APHIS, HDOA, USFS, DOFAW)
- Advocate for creation of a Pacific Initiative patterned after the Caribbean Initiative. (CGAPS, TNC, USFS, USDA APHIS)
- Use PestNet, PILN and similar networks to communicate pests of concern, and include in this effort vertebrate and aquatic pests that are not covered by OPIS or NAPPO alerts.
- Convene a multi-agency meeting to establish a list of pests of concern that should be communicated to OPIS. (USDA APHIS, DLNR, HDOA, UH/CTAHR)

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9. EARLY DETECTION AND RAPID RESPONSE

Vision: Hawai'i will detect new pest species that have slipped past biosecurity measures and will launch rapid response measures when they are still controllable or eradicable.



9. Early detection and rapid response

Needs

- *A dedicated invasive-species emergency rapid-response fund similar to the Hurricane Relief Fund.*
- *Expanded surveillance to detect a wider variety of pests.*
- *Creation and regular updating of rapid-response plans for different types of pests.*
- *A statewide resource document for emergency response to new pests.*
- *State authority to implement and enforce quarantine for newly discovered pests.*
- *Updated State Plant Health Emergency Plan to address non-agriculture pests.*

9. Early detection and rapid response

Immediate Actions

- Hold a workshop with all key players to clarify agency and non-agency roles for emergency responses to new pests, and to identify current pest-detection programs, limitations, reporting needs, communication channels (from new pest detection to appropriate responders), and coordination needs. (MISC, OISC)
- Develop and implement an early warning and surveillance system in urban areas. (DOFAW, USFS)
- Update State Plant Health Emergency Plan. (USDA APHIS, USFS, HDOA, OISC)
- Develop a means to share the USDA plant-import database with early detection and rapid-response specialists. (USDA APHIS, OISC)

CGAPS Vision & Action Plan

10. CAPACITY TO CONTROL WIDESPREAD PESTS

Vision: Hawai'i will have the capacity to control the widespread pests that cause unacceptable harm.



10. Capacity to control widespread pests

Needs

- *Improved State and Federal capacity for biocontrol research and testing.*
- *Apply in Hawai'i methods and technologies successfully developed for similar work elsewhere.*
- *Develop new control techniques for non-traditional invasive species.*
- *Greater institutional and public support for control programs.*
- *Public acceptance of biocontrol as a valid and useful control technique.*

10. Capacity to control widespread pests

Immediate Actions

- Review public information on biocontrol in Hawai'i, and design and produce additional outreach materials. (HDOA PPC, HISC)
- Reinvigorate the biocontrol working group to produce a statewide strategic plan. (USFS, HDOA PPC, TNC)
- Support capacity-building for rodent control in conservation areas in Hawai'i. (USFWS, US Army, DLNR)
- Develop and test new control techniques for aquatic invasive species so as to improve control options for aquatic infestations. (DAR, USFWS)