



Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS)

Meeting Notes

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 3rd Floor Conference Room, 3-127
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Federal Building, Honolulu, HI

9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Monday July 27, 2009

9 – 9:10 Welcome, Introductions: Fred Kraus, *Bishop Museum; 2009-10 CGAPS Chair*

- ◆ Dan Clark, USFWS, is the new Deputy Chair, will be the next CGAPS Chair in 2010-2011, Neil Reimer is the Chair Emeritus.
- ◆ CGAPS Vision and Action Plan: We still need to meet with a few of the major agencies & groups. Need DLNR DOFAW & DAR, USDA APHIS, HDOA PPC, CBP, NPS. Christy will send out the latest draft for comments/review this week. We hope to discuss it at the next Steering Committee meeting, set for August 7, 9 a.m.-noon. Please be ready to discuss.
- ◆ Steering Committee has decided that for the next year or possibly two, CGAPS will be meeting 3 times per year. Next CGAPS meetings will be in November & April. Dan will set his meeting schedule.

9:10 – 9:20 Legislative Summary: Mark Fox, *TNC Hawai'i*

- ◆ (Summary sheet passed around) What didn't die is the NARF. Conveyance tax paid in was going to be stopped for 6 years, but instead there will be 20% (reduced from 25%) going into the Fund for three years, and a new permanent conveyance tax on properties over \$2 million. There should be a slight increase in the money going into the fund. With the State budget situation, this will again be looked at by the next legislature.
- ◆ Snaring bills lived a little longer this year. It got a hearing, but didn't go very far.
- ◆ Working with HDOA, we almost got a bill through that would institute a penalty on any company that doesn't pay into the Biosecurity cargo inspection fund. Most of the sea carriers are paying in, most of the air carriers are not, but there is no provision in the bill that would allow for penalties for non-compliance. Will try again next year.
- ◆ Related effort to stop bills that would exempt frozen food, cement, etc. from paying into the Biosecurity inspection fund. Although frozen food itself isn't high risk, the containers are the problem. Cement material is a known vector of invasive ants and seeds.

9:20 – 9:30 HDOA PQ Update: Carol Okada or Domingo Cravalho, *HDOA PQ*

- ◆ Budget. We lost between 1.4 and 1.8 million dollars. We had \$650K to run the operations, now down to about 150K. We lost the detector dog program for detecting things like brown treesnakes.
- ◆ 53 people are on the layoff list.
- ◆ With limited resources, our three main targets are RIFA, BTS and mosquitoes, for keeping them out. Also, we are still working on our other priority of containing pests in farm/agriculture areas, so they do not spread.
- ◆ Visited joint inspection facilities across the nation. USDA is still planning on visiting Honolulu, would put \$5 million in to match State funds. HDOT is still working with us on location of the facilities.
- ◆ 2008 legislature approved Biosecurity Program and the implementation of a manifest program to identify high risk cargo and prioritize inspections. The manifest program is in the prototype,

CGAPS Steering Committee: Earl Campbell, USFWS; Paul Conry, DLNR DOFAW; Mark Fox, TNCH; Fred Kraus, Bishop Museum; Anne Marie LaRosa, USDA IPIF; Lloyd Loope, USGS PIERC; Tony Montgomery, DLNR DAR; Carol Okada, HDOA PQ; Teya Penniman, MISC; Mike Pitzler, USDA APHIS WS; Neil Reimer, HDOA PPC; Lyle Wong, HDOA PI

finished, ready to implement, but the contract ran out. On hold, until DAGS approves the contract, and releases the funds to implement.

9:30 – 9:50 PILN Biosecurity Workshop: Domingo Cravalho, *HDOA PQ*

- ◆ PILN is the Pacific Invasives Learning Network to share knowledge and resources.
- ◆ HISC funds supported a biosecurity workshop held in Honolulu, June 2-5 2009 that brought in PQ workers from across the Pacific (American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, FSM—Pohnpei, Yap, Kosrae, Chuuk, Hawai‘i—CBP, USDA APHIS, HDOA) to talk about biosecurity methods, issues, shortcomings, successes.
- ◆ Jim Stanford of USGS also provided participants training on BTS rapid response; Pest Risk Assessments, Weed Risk Assessment and other topics.
- ◆ Field Trips to Fed Ex, Air Cargo inspections, CBP & USDA inspection facilities, Kawamoto Orchid Nursery, Aloun Farms, Armstrong Produce, Bishop Museum.
- ◆ A lot of the material goes through Guam or Honolulu to get to American Samoa, CNMI and FSM. They rely a lot on us to catch a lot of the stuff, but they have a lot of challenges to inspecting what comes in.
- ◆ Outcomes: Want to improve diagnostic capabilities, improve public awareness via airline video in particular, seek additional funding sources, share invasive species issues/expand borders to prevent pests (communicate with PQ in other areas), increase capacity building, overall improve biosecurity measures.
- ◆ If we hope to continue and have additional workshops, we would need to seek additional funds.

9:50 – 10:00 US Customs & Border Protection Update: Jim Kosciuk, *DHS CBP*

- ◆ CBP, HDOA State plant health risk committee meetings have re-started. First meeting last month, want to meet every other month, had a briefing on LFA from Cas Vanderwoode. Revisited the APHIS ant quarantine for Hawai‘i. Animal risk meetings have been ongoing. HDOA gave a workshop, tour for CBP staff on their challenges and work. These collaborations are important and we want to do more.
- ◆ Interceptions: airport interceptions finding 125 actionable insects per month, 25 and 30 per month at the seaport—these are rising because we are finding more pests on wood packing materials. Even the ones that have been stamped as inspected, treated, CBP is finding more and more pests. Air cargo 15-30 per month. Highest risk commodity is cut flowers from Thailand, w/ thrips, snails, etc.
- ◆ Several shipments came in stamped from Vietnam, CBP thought it looked odd, have found that the stamp was fraudulent. USDA will revisit the certification of the facilities that it came from.
- ◆ Looking at the importers, we take a look at where they are buying the materials and where it comes from, for example stones and slabs, from places with more pests. “Port Shopping” has become an issue, where an importer sends materials to a busy port such as Longbeach, thinking that it is more likely to be passed before coming to Hawai‘i. We can track these importers and commodities so that we can again look at the shipments once they reach Hawai‘i.
- ◆ Have sterilizers on the Big Island to treat the small amount of garbage that comes in. Have new one in Kona, looking at a small one for Hilo (old ones have deteriorated). Otherwise, would have to keep garbage on aircraft, to be treated at next port of arrival.
- ◆ Rebecca Chong (CBP) is working with Leslie Iseke of HDOA on cross training staff so CBP can better watch for State pests
- ◆ We have funding through user fees collected from carriers.

- ◆ One hold that has been plugged, all vessels have to notify CBP if they have dunnage that they are dumping at the port. Have a penalty if they do not. Dunnage is anything that the vessel discards.

10:00 – 10:10 HDOA PPC Update: Neil Reimer, *HDOA PPC*

- ◆ Varroa mites: Mites on O‘ahu, Big Island Hilo area. Working with the growers and USDA. Grant from USDA for 370,000 to work on varroa issues. Want to set up an apiary position to work with the beekeepers to protect bees. Still have swarm traps set up to keep mites from moving to uninfested islands.
- ◆ Nettle caterpillar now in Hilo area. Kipapa on O‘ahu still infested. Using sterile fruit flies to control nettle caterpillar. Male sterile fruit flies fed the nettle caterpillar hormone attractant, so the adult moths cannot complete the breeding cycle.
- ◆ Reviewing the final FONSI for a parasitoid for the nettle caterpillar.
- ◆ Fireweed biocontrol caterpillar is still being worked on, is host-specific, but is preyed on by other parasitoids. Looking at others, but takes 6-7 years once a potential biocontrol is found.
- ◆ Wiliwili gall wasp parasitoid released on all islands. Didn’t have good recovery right away, but since it has started warming us this year, the populations are rising and it looks like we should see how well it works once the trees start flushing this fall.
- ◆ Also having a lot of budget difficulties. If layoffs are the route the state takes, we will lose a significant amount of staff and we will need to re-prioritize.

10:10 – 10:20 Aquatics Update: Jason Leonard, Tony Montgomery *DLNR DAR*

- ◆ Have 10 people working on AIS in the state. 7 people on the super sucker, a consultant, Jason on ballast issues, Tony is a reef biologist, but has been coordinating. Hiring an AIS coordinator to do this.
- ◆ Supersucker working, revisits have shown that the regrowth is high. Now trying to clear it, place aquacultured collector urchins (native) grown at Anuenue Fisheries to keep it down. Looking for a urchin aquaculture specialist.
- ◆ Supersucker Jr. working on Moloka‘i.
- ◆ Grant being used to survey private boats and yachts for hull fouling, education.
- ◆ HISC-funded ROV helps survey hulls, particularly helpful for NWHI-bound ships (zero tolerance). Also, pole cameras used for hulls, viewing screen on sunglasses.
- ◆ Ballast HRS: Worked with industry to ensure the smallest amount of discharge in Hawai‘i waters, or exchange at sea prior to discharge.
- ◆ Hull fouling much more complicated: No regulations in place. Main problem is smaller fishing vessels, vessels that have been sitting (non-cargo), because they are not maintained.
- ◆ High risk events: Inspecting unknown vessels, work with Navy on inactive ships transiting here. High risk vessels via ship groundings transfer species from hull to reef—One recent grounding inspected and found new species of algae.
- ◆ DAR has authority to regulate movement of aquaculture species, although HDOA regulates the import of new species. Looking at banning all aquaculture licenses that deal with growing *Gracilaria salicornia*. Found in a pond on Kona side of the Big Island, it could have spread.

10:20 – 10:30 DLNR DOFAW Update: Paul Conry, *DLNR DOFAW*

- ◆ With conveyance tax revenues (down to less than 6 million) into the NARF. Bienium budget to keep \$2 million in HISC, with Federal stimulus \$500,000/year (for plants alone) going into invasive species work statewide. Dilemma is that it will be released quarterly. Some general

fund money also given back to DOFAW, might be used to do some coqui work, or perhaps might be saved for the next round of budget predictions.

- ◆ Next legislative session, the NARF will again be looked at for reallocation (along with all the beneficiaries of the conveyance tax).
- ◆ Forest Service monies are same as last year.

10:30 – 10:40 Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council Update: Patrick Chee, *DLNR DOFAW*

- ◆ Mindy is back, Patrick is just the HISC coordinator for now. Cut from \$4 million to \$2 million, via NARF. Have not started any of the budget meetings. Want to start in mid-to late August to decide on budget expenditures. HISC funds are subject to Governor release, will be coming in quarterly chunks.

10:40 – 10:50 BREAK

10:50 – 11:10 Naio Thrips: Darcy Oishi, *HDOA PPC*

- ◆ Myoporum thrips (*Klambothrips myopori*) were reported on myoporum plants in California in 2005 (on *Myoporum ladum*, described in 2007). Forms galls on the leaves and stems and kills the plants. Myoporum thrips had been presented at a CGAPS meeting last year as an “not yet present, early detection species”. Native range is unknown, could be S.E Australia, because *M. ladum* is from this area. Can kill the plant within 3 years for larger trees.
- ◆ Naio in managed areas in landscaping is threatened, we assume that natural populations of naio are at great risk. Question: Naio has been relatively pest-free until recently, although the increased use of various types of naio has apparently raised the risk of introducing pests of myoporum—is it worth it?
- ◆ Myoporum thrips first reported in Waikoloa on Naio papa to UH (via Arnold Hara) on March 20. Treated and bagged the area on March 25. Detected expansion on March 26 on Waikoloa freeway median. March 30-31, treated with Talstar with marginal success.
- ◆ Investigation found that damage had been seen as early as November-December 2008 (but not reported) and that it was beyond the ability of HDOA to control.
- ◆ Current infestation sites at Waikoloa Village, Mauna Lani, Kona Village hotel, Hapuna, Waimea. Potentially spread on landscaping plants, although some sites are apparent natural spread.
- ◆ Possibly introduced on plant materials from California, or a foreign introduction from Australia or NZ, although it could have been an accidental introduction. Genetic studies will show whether it is related to the California population.
- ◆ Arnold Hara (UH Hilo) is working on chemical control methods based on California extension agents, although budget issues in California are hampering efforts.
- ◆ Potential biocontrol would be expensive, particularly since the native range of the thrips is unknown. Hawai‘i will also be limited in its ability to conduct biocontrol testing (HDOA doesn’t have the rating to conduct this work in their facility).
- ◆ Naio is being hammered by multiple pests in addition to this new thrips. A second thrips is also attacking the naio, and a root knot nematode is also attacking the roots, and is easily mistaken for nutritional deficiencies. An new weevil found feeding on flowers at the Pearl City Urban Garden Center, first state record for *Apotomorphinus cribratus* (Curculionidae). Weevil also known to attack Java plum.

11:10 – 11:25 Issue updates:

- ◆ Restricted plants meeting: Christy Martin, *CGAPS*

-In 2008 the Legislature approved a wording change to the HRS to allow HDOA to add plants to the Restricted Plants List that are themselves invasive (the Restricted Plant Rules and List had only included restricting the entry of plants that could potentially bring insect or plant diseases). A meeting was held at HDOA in July with representatives of nursery, landscaping, landscape architects, Farm Bureau, biofuels, research and conservation to discuss what plants to add to the Restricted Plants List.

-With the budget, cutbacks and the somewhat limited ability of HDOA PQ inspectors to identify all pests, it is currently not feasible to add many plants to the list.

-At the end of the meeting, discussion of adding invasive plants to the Restricted Plants List was set aside. Lyle Wong of HDOA suggested that we work on restricting the entry of Myrtaceae to prevent introduction of new strains of Ohia rust. This was agreed on by all as a necessary and do-able project.

- ♦ Strawberry guava EA: Anne Marie LaRosa, *USFS*

-We've held the meetings statewide, thank you to all for helping and attending. We are still working on compiling the comments in the EA.

- ♦ Miconia Conference summary: Teya Penniman, *MISC*

-Held at the Keanae YMCA camp to allow close access to miconia. Mahalo to the organizing committee and presenters. 110 people, 8 countries represented. Proceedings will be available online later this year.

-Outcomes: Need to synthesize research on control and movement.

-From Tahiti, the seed viability has shown to be 16+ years and counting (had previously thought it to be 10 years).

-Research shows that miconia raindrops are some of the largest drops in the world. Increase runoff, increase soil erosion.

-Biocontrol release in Tahiti has shown some success in increase biodiversity of plants.

-Recognition awards by a local Maui artist to DLNR, County of Maui and Haleakala National Park for vision, leadership, support.

-Fieldtrip participants killed over 4,800 miconia.

11:25 – 11:50 ISCs Updates:

- ♦ KISC: Keren Gunderson

-Early detection: KISC and HDOA, Cas Vanderwoode met to discuss LFA detection program. Survey nurseries, also looking for naio thrips, nettle caterpillars, and coqui if importing plants.

-Wild population of coqui is down to countable frogs, but one property owner is not allowing access to control frogs. KISC has responded to calls and has captured coqui frogs--it is an ongoing problem as a lot of people still import plants from the Big Island.

- ♦ OISC: Rachel Neville

-Early detection: The O'ahu Early Detection Team finished surveys of all botanical gardens and many nurseries. Finished all county accessible roads (it took them 3 years) and state roads will be done during the fall. Of all the plants of concern, they will screen using the Hawai'i Pacific Weed Risk Assessment, along with an additional assessment of whether or not it might be harmful to the watershed. Once this assessment is done, OISC will determine which ones they have funding to control.

-All ISCs participated in the BTS rapid response training.

-Bad news. OISC found three mature miconia trees in Kaalaea Valley (Windward), in a known seedbank area. These are the first mature miconia trees found on O'ahu in several years.

Unfortunately, OISC should have surveyed this area last year, but due to budget cuts, we didn't make it. It looks like they had just produced seeds. OISC has 2,500 acres that need to be

surveyed. Using the 3 year from seed to seeding concept, 800 NEED to be surveyed by Dec. 2009 (even if meeting attendees have to help—ha ha, but really, everyone is welcome to help).

♦ MISC: Teya Penniman

-Frogs: Maui is in a state of continual re-introduction. Still running the coqui-free nursery certification program & it has been a great outreach & awareness program. On the verge of conducting the coqui control program in Maliko Gulch using high-volume sprayers.

-Roadside surveys continuing with Forest and Kim Starr.

-New species *Cilibum* sp. milkthistle added to the priority target lists, thanks in part to Forest and Kim's work.

♦ MoMISC: Lori Buchanan

-Most recent target species has been albezia, and we controlled 800 trees. We intend to eradicate it from Moloka'i.

-We strive for solid fieldwork, because it generates solid data, which results in solid money.

-Last week we got a coqui (the third to show up on Moloka'i) that had come in on a vehicle from the Big Island.

-Still surveying for nettle caterpillar, with none found. Surveying for Australian tree ferns, which we have controlled all known plants.

-Worked with DAR & others to remove 200 upsidedown mangrove jellyfish from Kaunakakai.

-We are very focused on our partnerships. We wouldn't be able to get anything done without our partners. Our priority is to keep our partnerships strong.

-South slope aerial shooting by TNC needed help, MoMISC helped with cultural protocol.

-Still looking at bo tree to determine if we can target (there about 7 trees on Moloka'i), along with tree daisy.

♦ BIISC: Julie Leialoha

-BIISC was able to meet all 2009 goals. Fully staffed, except still seeking a coordinator (Julie will be working for OHA in Wao Kele O Puna—Mahalo for all your help, Julie!)

-Early detection project ongoing.

-Just completed a project in Wao Kele O Puna to remove miconia.

-Almost completed wax myrtle control on a state parcel in Hilo, but surrounding community is opposing. Page is doing outreach to try to gain assistance.

-Malama O Puna has a grant to remove mangrove, BIISC will assist as a partner.

11:50 – 12:00 New Business, announcements, upcoming meetings & next meeting date

-August 13, 1-4 OISC meeting

-Q37 APHIS rules for import, plants for planting not authorized for import pending pest risk analysis. Christy will have the URL.

-Penny: Mahalo to the conference folks for holding the miconia conference in Keanae. The community is still talking about it.

Next meeting: Monday November 9.

Invasive Species Committee meeting to follow from 1:00 p.m. – 3 p.m.