



**Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS)
Meeting Notes**

*Federal Building 5th Floor Cafeteria Conference Room, 5-200
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Honolulu, HI
9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Wednesday February 10, 2010*

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

9:10 – 9:30 **Legislative Discussion:** *Mark Fox, TNC Hawai'i*

- ◆ Several bills moving forward on a fee for nonpayment into the Pest Inspection and Quarantine Fund. Some include language that would exempt various types of cargo including bulk free-flowing fuel, cement, etc. Exempting sets a bad precedent, and some types of materials (such as aggregate, sand, etc., for some industries) should not be exempt, as they are known carriers of pests.
- ◆ Another bill that is of some concern also brings up the preemption issue that the state shouldn't be charging the fee on international arrivals. The Plant Quarantine Act restricts regulating foreign commerce, but legal analysis shows that "regulating" is not well defined, and that inspections are not expressly prohibited (further, it does not prohibit the charging of a non-prohibitive fee). Testimony continues to point out the fact that federal actionable pests and state actionable pests are not the same.
- ◆ HB2885 would cut in half the conveyance tax allocation into NARF (ISCs, Watershed partnerships, etc.). Even with the reduction from 25% to 20% last year, some major transactions have helped keep the fund steady. We are looking at the minimum amount needed to keep these programs running so that a cap to the fund can be proposed instead of the 50% reduction or more. Legislators have expressed that they do not want to see these programs lose so much funding that they cannot exist.

Updates on CGAPS Action Plan items listing TNC as Lead Agency:

Border Protection

- ◆ Working on securing appropriate State statutory authorities providing and penalties for failure to pay required inspection fees.

Interisland Spread of Pests

- ◆ Supporting joint inspection facilities at ports to reduce risk of interisland pest movement.

9:30 – 9:40 **HDOA Plant Quarantine:** *Domingo Cravalho*

- ◆ FY09 we had 118 positions statewide, 104 were Gfunded. 9 special funds were for Maui, other 5 were soft positions funded by OIA. July 1, RIF lost 6 positions statewide. Nov. 2009, maintained 112, shifted 22 to special funds. Current RIF 30 positions Dec. 31.
- ◆ Now have 21 G, 25 PIF, 22 HISC, DOT 9, 5 OIA. Hilo 7 (lost 4), Kona 3 (4), Maui 14, Lihue 2 (3), Oahu 39 (19)—27 inspectors doing full time inspections are maritime and air ports, others are doing investigations, permits, filling in as needed. 10 positions each day, 3 working at any given time for all arrivals. From 60% of all cargo receiving some action, gone down to 20%.
- ◆ Working with CBP, receiving pest alerts, this has been very helpful.

Updates on CGAPS Action Plan items listing HDOA PQ as Lead Agency:

Border Protection

CGAPS Steering Committee: Dorothy Alontaga, USDA APHIS; Earl Campbell, USFWS; Paul Conry, DLNR DOWAW; Mark Fox, TNCH; James Kosciuk, DHS CBP; Fred Kraus, Bishop Museum; Anne Marie LaRosa, USDA IPIF; Lloyd Loope, USGS PIERC; Tony Montgomery, DLNR DAR; Carol Okada HDOA PO; Teva Penniman MISC; Neil Reimer HDOA PPC; Isle Wona HDOA PI

- ◆ Have done some planning for the joint inspection facility at HIA with seed money, met with DOT, however, the \$5 mil bond allocated to HDOA for the interim facility, it has been put on hold as “lapsed” funds, taken back by B&F.
- ◆ Going live with the program which provides HDOA PQ with cargo manifests prior to ship arrival. Matson is putting in their manifests, so we can see beforehand what’s coming in on their boats. It really works & is helping. Hoping to get Horizon online, other carriers soon.

Interisland Spread of Pests

- ◆ For other issues we’re responsible for, we can hardly keep up, but we’re trying.

9:40 – 9:50 U.S. Customs & Border Protection: *Jim Kosciuk*

- ◆ CBP averaged 100-130/month interceptions. When you think of routes, American Samoa is a high-risk flight, the leis, flowers, food.
- ◆ Random samples being conducted measure success rate at interceptions.
- ◆ Mail branch 750 mail interceptions, Honolulu is the most.
- ◆ One shipment of basalt rock contained an adult beetle, although the wood packing around it was clean.
- ◆ Still finding *Imperata cylindrica* (cogongrass) seeds in materials from China. Hawaii? i does not have this invasive grass, it is one to really watch out for.

Updates on CGAPS Action Plan items listing CBP as Lead Agency:

Border Protection

- ◆ Plant Health Risk meeting held last month, discussed and agreed that improving pest-detection and identification skills for personnel inspecting foreign passengers and cargo is a good goal, the plant pathologist is going to come up with some typical pests and put on some trainings, will also work on digital imaging of pests for record keeping and communication, making progress.
- ◆ Worked with USDA to come up with a draft of the charter to formalize the pest-risk committees, USDA signed off, CBP is reviewing. Formulated a third pest risk committee for neighbor islands, first meeting in Kona next month.

9:50 – 10:00 USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: *Dorothy Alontaga*

Updates on CGAPS Action Plan items listing USDA APHIS as Lead Agency:

Early Warning for Pests not Present in Hawai‘i

- ◆ In regards to our task to convene a multi-agency meeting to establish a list of pests of concern that should be communicated to OPIS, there was a meeting to discuss new pests, but it is difficult to identify potential pests (erythrina gall wasp comes to mind).

Early Detection and Rapid Response

- ◆ Started a draft State Plant Health Emergency Plan, am passing it around to each agency to add their input
- ◆ Monthly USDA plant-import database report printout given to OISC.

10:00 – 10:10 DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources: *Kate Cullison*

Updates on CGAPS Action Plan items listing DLNR DAR as Lead Agency:

Capacity to Control Widespread Pests

- ◆ DAR has been focusing on developing and testing new control techniques for AIS. Urchin project is the priority right now, in Kaneohe Bay. Using the Supersucker to keep the *Eucheuma/Kappaphycus* at bay. Cleared in 14 days, but remaining stipes allows it to regrow and within a year, it grew back. Decided to use native urchins to graze down the

seaweed. Tripneustes (collector) urchins. Every month they monitor and measure, with good control results. Need more urchins, so working on aquaculturing them at Anuenue, however, haven't been successful at raising them to adult yet.

- ◆ January cleared cassiopeia jellyfish in a community project on Molokai,
- ◆ Hull monitoring, working on a hull-wrapping system to kill hull-fouling organisms. This might be especially good for treating grounded vessels

10:10 – 10:15 HDOA Plant Pest Control: Neil Reimer

- ◆ PPC has had significant cutbacks, 40%. Three people on neighbor islands, one on each.
- ◆ LFA on Maui detected in Oct. 09, it is under excellent control, most recent survey could find one small colony. Moving towards eradication. Will continue treat/survey for at least another 8 months before we can consider declaring it a success.
- ◆ Kona detection in one residential area found it on 8 properties, stemming from a landscape company, may have been present for 2 years. Will work with landscape industry association to help control.
- ◆ Ant specialist position federal funds, looking to hire a bee specialist with federal funds.
- ◆ Nettle caterpillar biocontrol EA got a FONSI, should appear in the next OEQC notice.
- ◆ Fireweed biocontrol EA still being worked on.

Updates on CGAPS Action Plan items listing HDOA PPC as Lead Agency:

Capacity to Control Widespread Pests

- ◆ Will be meeting with Jackie Kozak, who is helping with this outreach on biocontrol. Thus far, the PIO has put out press releases.

10:15 – 10:25 DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife: Mindy Wilkinson

- ◆ This year the governor is keeping strict control on which agency testifies on each bill, so it is important that others submit testimony.
- ◆ Am reorganizing the invasive species coordinator/HISC position/program. Mindy's position will be cut as soon as she leaves, the HISC coordinator position will also be cut. There is a new position that will coordinate both and more, and another position that will be more of a fiscal coordinator for HISC.
- ◆ Will maintain a coqui coordinator and crew on the Big Island, awaiting word on federal funds.
- ◆ Have 400K in special lands development funds, will work on getting it out to ISCs for certain projects.
- ◆ Rats. Lehua still has rats; we are trying to come up with a follow-up to get rid of rats on Lehua. The window of opportunity has closed for this year, as the rats are starting to breed.

Updates on CGAPS Action Plan items listing DLNR DOFAW as Lead Agency:

Address Federal Laws that Expose Hawai'i to Unnecessary Risk

- ◆ DOFAW made a request to the USFS for a forest-pest risk assessment to complement the HDOA pathway risk analysis. They asked DOFAW to narrow the scope. Held a meeting to discuss, are in the process of refining the request. If want to participate, let Rob Hauff know.

Early Detection and Rapid Response

- ◆ Two advances on developing and implementing an early warning and surveillance system in urban areas: ARRA funds will support a new program to fund a half-time entomologist to develop a list of high-risk pests in urban areas, with training and detection components. Second, PBIN's Maui Early Detection Project will be presented later today.

10:25 – 10:30 Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council: *Pat Chee*

- ◆ FY09 monies should be spent by June 30, so we will see projects wrapping up and staff losses. From FY10, there was 2 mil., 600K of which went to support HDOA PQ inspectors.

10:30 – 10:45 BREAK

10:45 – 10:55 U.S. Forest Service: *Anne Marie LaRosa*

- ◆ IPIF status: Paul Scowcroft is the acting director, Boone has moved on to a job in New Hampshire.
- ◆ Also, from what Jim was saying, if the ED teams on each island are not already looking for imperata, they should be.

Updates on CGAPS Action Plan items listing USFS as Lead Agency:

Capacity to Control Widespread Pests

- ◆ Met with Tracy Johnson to work on reinvigorating the biocontrol committee. Also met with Jackie on biocontrol outreach. Should have more to report soon.

10:55 – 11:05 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: *Earl Campbell*

- ◆ Received \$1mil add-on for supporting some programs, but the distribution of funds will be delayed due to the Guam EIS and lack of staff.
- ◆ The vast majority of my time has been focused on dealing with the Guam buildup and the EIS. Guam’s population is currently 170,000 people, looking to add 80,000 additional people. The added containers, cargo, people, and military exercises/operations, will be a significant challenge for BTS interdiction.
- ◆ At this point, it is not just about BTS. We are trying to get strengthened biosecurity measures for Guam and the region. Difference of opinion on who should be responsible, DoD or civilian sector. The issue has been elevated to a higher political level than it’s ever been.

Updates on CGAPS Action Plan items listing USFWS as Lead Agency:

Brown Treesnake

- ◆ On supporting the reauthorization of the Brown Treesnake Control and Eradication Act of 2004, received comments on the draft act at the BTS meeting in November. Mark and Earl will work on wording.
- ◆ A range of agencies have been asked to comment on the Guam EIS (about 5,000 pages, with appendices), Mindy and Domingo helped. Comments are due by the end of the week.

Capacity to Control Widespread Pests

- ◆ USFWS wants to see Lehua rodent-free, but we need to look at finding funds and ensuring that the operation is successful.

USDA APHIS WS: *Mike Pitzler*

- ◆ The only legal mechanism that would direct DoD to work on BTS is the Endangered Species Act. If BTS are declared an agricultural pest, the USDA could be financially involved.
- ◆ The Guam-based interdiction program is maxed out and we need to start looking at instituting a user fee for inspection.

11:05 – 11:10 CGAPS: Christy Martin

Updates on CGAPS Action Plan items listing CGAPS as Lead Agency:

Importation of Invasive Plants

- ◆ Received a Kaulunani grant and HISC Outreach funds to create a user-friendly mechanism to publicly share weed-risk-assessment findings. Site will be called Plant Pono.

Brown Treesnake

- ◆ Have been submitting testimony on bills to support HDOA biosecurity program and funding

Address Federal Laws that Expose Hawai'i to Unnecessary Risk

- ◆ Write a white paper that summarizes environmental values most urgently in need of protection and the key gaps in authorities and implementation that limit that protection: Can Lloyd assist with this?

11:10 – 11:30 ISCs Updates:

KISC: Keren Gunderson

- ◆ Developing early detection network for Kauai, based on Maui's, should roll out in April.
- ◆ Grappling with the dead bird situation, with DOFAW who should pick up dead native birds. Working on a need from the rodent project, assisting with collecting rats for genetic sampling.
- ◆ Continuing miconia ground and aerial surveys, will have BIISC crew assist (they see lots of miconia and have a fresh search image).
- ◆ Will be using OISC's ED team for surveys.
- ◆ Continuing nettle, LFA surveys in nurseries. Stepping up to assist HDOA PPC because they are down to a staff of 1.

OISC: Rachel Neville

- ◆ Finished the large pampas grass removal at Royal Kunia golf course, 200+ plants, including reproducing *C. selloana*.
- ◆ Naomi Hoffman is the new OISC chair.
- ◆ Last mature miconia tree found in July, lots of keiki found.
- ◆ Coqui in Waimanalo, enough to conduct a spray operation, some found in a stream, so they are on the verge of escaping.

Updates on CGAPS Action Plan items listing OISC as Lead Agency:

Address Federal Laws that Expose Hawai'i to Unnecessary Risk

- ◆ OISC will work the Dorothy to see how to utilize USDA's Special Local Needs and Official Control procedure to apply for special Federal protection from a pest of particular concern to Hawai'i. This will test the effectiveness of the system with a demonstration project.

MISC: Lissa Fox (MISC PR)

- ◆ Pat Bily of TNC is the new MISC Chair, as Randy Bartlett has stepped down.
- ◆ Milkthistle is a new target.
- ◆ Assisting HDOA PPC on LFA outreach. Starting landscape industry outreach on LFA.
- ◆ PBIN has assisted in designing a new LFA webpage, should go up soon.
- ◆ Pursuing funding for a LFA video, to be done by Masako Cordray and Chris Wescott, who did the miconia video.
- ◆ County funding is dropping and this affects our staffing and ability to attract federal funds. Last MISC meeting focused on regulatory issues and discuss what can be done via new county ordinances to patch gaps.

MoMISC: Lori Buchanan

- ◆ Teya is in NZ, reporting on our 12 eradicated species, and 9 on its way.

- ◆ MoMISC has become a full service ISC by participating in aquatic species removal in Kaunakakai.
- ◆ Also added a new target, albizia. It is near a cultural site, so we followed cultural protocols and treated 1,000 trees, girdled with Garlon.
- ◆ Going to start aerial miconia surveys again.
- ◆ Found first fireweed, one plant. Will resurvey.
- ◆ Looking at control/eradication of bo trees, tree daisy.

BIISC: Page Else (BIISC PR)

- ◆ Looking forward to the start of the new BIISC coordinator, Jan Schipper. He worked for Conservation International in the DC area, will be here in March. Has already started working with us via email.
- ◆ Working on mangrove, subcontract from Malama O Puna , wax myrtle.
- ◆ There is an LFA coalition that is forming in Kona to deal with the infestation, BIISC will be part of that.

11:30 – 11:45 Maui County Eyes and Ears Early Detection Program: *Sky Harrison, Elizabeth Speith, Pacific Basin Information Node; Lissa Fox, MISC*

(presentation given)

- ◆ Sky will work on convening a meeting of agencies to discuss pest reporting, alert & response database capacity-building.

11:45 – 12:00 New Business, announcements, upcoming meetings & next meeting date

- ◆ *Invasive Species Committee meeting from 1:00 p.m. – 3 p.m., same room*
- ◆ HISC legislative report and summaries are complete and posted.
- ◆ Annual partnership reports are completed, posted online on the CGAPS site.
- ◆ Next meeting: **May 5 (May 5th 2010 at HDOA PQ Conference room confirmed, 9-noon, with HDOA/ISCs partnership meeting to follow at 1:30).**