



Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS)

Meeting Notes

Hawai'i Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Conference Room
1849 Auiki St., Honolulu, HI

9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Tuesday August 3, 2010

Please note that the format of the quarterly CGAPS meetings has changed. Meetings will feature updates from agencies/NGOs on their progress on the 2009 CGAPS Vision and Action Plan. That document, and a shorter summary document listing tasks by agency/NGO can be found at www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org/cgaps/whitepapersreports.html

Note: These meeting notes were taken by Christy Martin and have not been verified by the speakers at the meeting.

9 – 9:10 Welcome, Introductions: *Dan Clark; 2010-11 CGAPS Chair*
Welcome Carol Okada as Deputy Chair.

9:10 – 9:30 Legislative Discussion: *Carol Okada, HDOA PQ*
-We have our 1st challenge on our service fees. Even though air is just 2% of the cargo coming in, it is a high risk pathway for bringing live pests in. ATA filed a petition with US DOT to claim federal preemption and that HDOA can't collect these fees. If ruled in favor of ATA, we would lose about 200K. We are in discussion with the AG, and we just don't know how this will go. We could use this as an opportunity. They are saying this is a federal issue, and if USDA can collect per cargo, they can do the work to inspect (more than they do now), akin to the Case bill. Or, we could request legislature to use money we already have to spend towards legal council on this and related issues. Or, the first improvements at the Mauka Pier expansion at the port needs an EA & they haven't done one, the other improvement EA is old, it does not include pertinent invasive species information (similar to what happened in ASAP) & we can comment publicly, including Section 7. The \$5 million for the inspection facility lapsed without HDOT signing an MOA for the space.

9:30 – 9:40 HDOA Plant Quarantine: *Carol Okada*
HDOA is going ahead with planning facilities for ports. Legislators placed a budget proviso to require HDOT to work with HDOA to identify the biosecurity needs of the State. Not limited to ports, but also each county, to implement the HDOA Biosecurity Plan.

We submitted several proposals for funding, one of which is for sharing our information from INVICTA on pests arriving with other agencies and the public. The plan would be that Bishop Museum will assist with identifications and will filter the confidential information before making it available. The second is the genetic fingerprinting of pest plants (HDOA has to positively identify the plant species before taking action) to enable HDOA to better prevent plant pests. The next was on minimizing pests at nurseries and production sites to help keep them out of the transportation network.

9:40 – 9:50 U.S. Customs & Border Protection: *Jim Kosciuk*
(not present)

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

-Anne Marie has given us her portion of the State Health Emergency Plan, and would like to pass that along with DOFAW with questions to answer regarding DOFAW's steps in a plant emergency. Each state is required to have a State Plant Health Emergency Plan. Everyone that has a role in an emergency needs to take part in writing this plan. Plan will also be sent to Teya and the ISCs, as one of the response orgs.

-We have an OPIS (Offshore Pest Information System) for govt agencies, password protected. However, please let me know if you know of any pests coming through the Pacific, with information on what it is, where it is, a justification, etc., for Dorothy to post.

10:00 – 10:10 Hawai'i Invasive Species Council: Christy Finlayson

-Holding the working group meetings to come up with proposals and budget requests for the HISC. The HISC meeting hasn't been scheduled, but we are aiming for September.

10:10 – 10:20 DLNR DOFAW: Christy Finlayson; Rob Hauff

-HPWRA technicians: We will be requesting continuing funding for the technicians from the HISC. We'll also be looking for additional funding.

-Haven't looked into the possibility of a web crawler as an invasive species prevention tool.

-We made our initial request for a forest pest risk assessment and it was sent back to DOFAW for more information. We will work on it. Anne Marie said they need it soon.

-Detection of pests in urban areas (ARRA). We need to start working on a job description to get to PCSU.

10:20 – 10:30 DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources: Tony Montgomery or Kate Cullison

-We have some staff changes at the AIST. Our senior tech will move into the crew leader position. We've had 4+1 intern to run the Supersucker. Will be hiring one staff to replace our departing intern.

-We still have no ballast water/hull fouling staff. Will be hiring.

-Just started nutrient work to look at why the different species of invasive seaweeds in Kaneohe Bay may be nutrient driven.

-Will be working on trying to tighten the biosecurity protocols for NELHA.

-We have redrafted the AIS Management Plan to reprioritize. Will meet with the advisory committee to get comments.

-Trying to get funding for a legal fellow to do rule writing to address some authority gaps.

-Trying to get funding +++?

10:30 – 10:40 BREAK

10:40 – 10:50 HDOA Plant Pest Control: Neil Reimer

-Biocontrol outreach has been a priority. Working with Jackie Kozak, who has helped us to produce a really good flyer on biocontrol. She has great ideas and we look forward to getting more info out there.

-We had lost about half of our staff, from 11 staff with control statewide, down to 4. Internally, we've been doing cross training to cover some work. We've done some grant writing, but it is usually species specific.

-Small hive beetle response: widespread on Hawai'i Island, not yet present on other islands.

-Coqui: still working with PQ to respond to new sightings.

-Biocontrol program continues. Recently released the nettle caterpillar biocontrol. Will do the release on Maui today. It is doing really well and providing good control.

- Next Environmental Notice will post the final EA and FONSI for the fireweed biocontrol. August 8. We are working on the federal permit & final State approval.
- We have several proposals out to fund biocontrol of additional fireweed biocontrol, biocontrol of and fountain grass, banana aphid (for BBTV control), small hive beetle, clidemia.
- We received a number of comments on strawberry guava biocontrol. We have to respond to every comment. Lots of names on petitions, but pretty good balance on actual letters.
- HISC substantially funds the ant coordinator, we're hoping to continue that, with grants to implement ant work, will also request funds for biocontrol work from HISC.

10:50 – 11:00 U.S. Forest Service: *Anne Marie LaRosa*

- The USFS Biocontrol program is strictly research, but release on State land is a State function, so we will work with HDOA on these projects.
- Biocontrol steering committee: Tracy will be looking at reinvigorating the biocontrol steering committee (all Forest Service staff)
- We need to come up with a top three biocontrol list to promote to the Forest Service.
- PILN is back up and running with a new coordinator to replace Jill Key. Hopefully, we'll see a meeting this coming year.
- Ohia rust: Lloyd came out with "A summary of information on the rust *Puccinia psidii*, with the means to prevent additional strains from invading Hawai'i. Rodrigo's seminar at UH Manoa and in Hilo showed that strains are very specific to different hosts. FS funding this work & it has many partners.

11:00 – 11:10 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: *Earl Campbell or Dan Clark*

- Significant amount of effort, via parallel tracts, but is still in process and so I'll need to hold off on updating until next meeting.
- NEPA process associated with the buildup: The EIS is a 10-volume document, many thousands of pages, which is open for comments. Comments due August 30. Please look through and comment.
- Couple of positions open that will be posted soon. IS positions to be filled are Jeff Herod's and Karl Buermeyer's. Will post notices once open.
- Funding update: Just went through and prioritized our encumbrances with million dollar add. We will continue to have CGAPS funded, Maliko Gulch work, early detection/rapid response projects with ISCs, USGS WNV survey work at airport, rodenticide PEIS work for conservation purposes (endangered species recovery + add-on funds). Research projects also funded including rodenticides on mice and Maliko monitoring. Also funded (although not via add-on) AIST funding and outreach for zebra mussels in HI.
- For recipients of grants, Sept 30 2011 is the end date for Congressional add funds. For all funds, we need to show spending no less than quarterly (invoice quarterly to USFWS, no less than \$100. Must show fiscal activity, or funds may be revoked). Reports due every 6 months, new form by Josh.

11:10 – 11:20 CGAPS: *Christy Martin*

- Plant pono is underway on promoting non-invasives. Working with Heidi Bornhorst as our writer. Website should be up within a year.
- Worked with DAR, AIST to film the use of native sea urchins to control invasive seaweed

**11:20 – 11:30 ISCs
OISC: *Rachel Neville***

- Miconia 3,583 acres surveyed for miconia, found 3,000+ immature miconia
- Last year budget cuts made us reprioritize surveys. Were able to complete all these reprioritized areas with the help of Americorp interns in 6 months.
- Royal Kunia pampas removal is done. Crew is now monitoring the site and found new keiki. Now native plants in this place. Ko Olina course still has pampas.
- We are back up to a full crew of 5 with some new hires, but still working to hire a ant/coqui person to replace Chelsea.
- Have a PIPES intern from UH Hilo to do early detection for Myoporum thripps. None found.

MISC: *Teya Penniman*

- Would like to schedule a meeting on the negligent transport of pests workshop this fall (Sept. or Oct.), would like to have this meeting prior to the next legislative session.
- Would also like to schedule a second meeting clarifying agency/non-agency roles for emergency response. Will send out a Doodle poll to schedule both meetings.
- Frog work: USFWS, State and County funding have allowed us to construct a fixed line system through Maliko, gravity fed from tanks. Crew can plug in at almost any point. Have a temp crew, have been maintaining outreach.
- Veiled chameleon search again this month. Again, nothing found in the last two years. We'll call it eradicated if Domingo can't find it.
- Aug 25, BTS training for outdoor staff (county, etc. workers).
- LFA work: Waihee detection looks like a successful eradication, kudos to HDOA PPC. Still haven't been able to identify where the infestation came from. Have been doing a lot of outreach, ant detection kits, posters, bus posters, public meetings, etc. Will so a presence/absence survey on Lanai.

KISC: *Keren Gunderson*

- OISC early detection team came to Kauai and completed it within 2 months. Some of our existing targets were found, we're working on access. We'll also have a meeting to discuss adding targets.
- Lawai coqui location has been quiet, but the frogs continue to arrive, KISC works with HDOA to respond.
- Cas came to Kauai and met with the owners of the one infestation site. They are being very cooperative and want to get rid of the ants. It will involve treatment once a month.
 - Just submitted for posting a position to survey for LFA, nettle caterpillar, naio thripps, coqui
 - Have free standing display with coqui sounds that we will be placing at nurseries, will have LFA info on the back.

BIISC: *Jan Schipper*

- Having difficulty with working on targets that are further away, since Hilo seems to have everything.
- Working with Young Bros staff on detecting/reducing the transport of pests
- Outreach has been challenging, especially with just one person.
- Some funding for coqui for areas that are critical habitat for Drosophilla, high value natural areas.
- These deficiencies have moved us to really work hard on our partnerships.
- Ruvolfia vomitoria covers 1,000+ acres, is much farther than we thought. Is prolific and fast spreading. Confined to 4 very large property owners, so that is a plus.
- Best west-side wetlands has been hit by mammal predators, need better control to protect.

-Work with communities, one in Waimea, where a community member found a banned seed packet for sale in a local hardware store. HDOA was able to contact the buyer and got it pulled from all stores statewide.

MoMISC: *Lori Buchanan*

- Building partners is important. TNC has been our main partner. Their staff will be cut by 50% in the coming months.
- Treated 2nd time mangroves with community. First time we removed 1500 a year ago, this time about 500 seedlings were treated.
- Still removing cassepeaia from the swimming area. Also found that we've got carijoa, which we'll go back and get.
- With the help of MISC & Adam, we treated 21 properties that had BBTV, surveyed hundreds.
- At the end of this month we'll restart our miconia early detection surveys.
- Will start on LFA surveys again.
- Quarterly meeting next week, will have Steve Anderson, Tavita Toiga.
- Found fireweed, moving to rapid response.
- Bo trees: Had 6 mature trees, and we found they were spreading. Via outreach we got people to remove half their trees, we have been finding seedlings.

PCSU: *David Duffy*

- Expanding our staff to assist with purchasing. Will bring someone onboard to assist with personnel. Still working on streamlining our safety procedures.
- Always working to deal with new rules and protocols.
- Have spent the past few months trying to finish a paper on the problem of feral cats in the Pacific, is 95% done. We know their impacts on species, but human health is a major underreported issue, including toxoplasmosis. They have also been linked to mental health problems, not just in humans. This will be published in Pacific Science.

11:30 – 11:40 Micronesian Biosecurity Plan: *Phillip Andreozzi, NISC*

- About 3 years ago, I worked with the RISC (Regional Invasive Species Council) in the Pacific. At about that time, the Guam buildup became a reality. These and some other events led to the creation of the MBP, which looks at the risks and needs for biosecurity to the entire Pacific. Is a proactive program.
- 2.7 million dollar program, entirely funded by fed govt., risk assessments being conducted with the goal of figuring out how to prevent invasive species from being moved as a result of the buildup. Due in December, will look at independent review thereafter, then implementation down the line.
- The NISC role is that Philip is the coordinator to ensure that there is communication between individual countries, agencies, etc. This plan will be exportable, and so another benefit will be to share this info so that others areas/countries can start their own biosecurity plans.

11:40 – 11:50 Anticipated Changes in Pesticide Permitting: *Janet Ashman, HARC, or Rob Hauff, DLNR DOFAW*

- NPDES. Court ruling that Clean Water Act now applies to pesticide application, and this will be regulated locally by Hawai'i Department of Health. New rules must be in place by April 9, 2011 (unless the court allows an extension). Challenges to an EPA rule on pesticide application in, around, on or near water is in the works. If your applications go into water that . May need to file for a general permit with the Hawai'i Department of Health for a permit to do so. The

State is waiting for EPA rules before drafting their own. However, we can't promulgate rules in that short amount of time.

-Please help expedite HDOH rulemaking by participating (or designating a representative) in a subcommittee of the HDOH working group to start looking at rules and start drafting language. The way the federal system will work, is that it will require a permit in one of 4 categories: forest canopies, aquatic weeds, mosquitoes, etc., so it doesn't cover things like ag crops, forest floors, areas like upper reaches waters, etc. If there is any connection between your activities and the movement of residues into US waters, then you will be affected.

-We need help in finding and hiring someone to guide rulemaking in modifying HAR 11-54, 11-55 to allow the permit system to move forward. Need an expanded general permit process, or each of us and individual farmers, etc. are going to be applying.

-NISC has been working with NCEQ, need from Janet a 1 page on this issue.

-Gordon Brown has submitted USFWS comments.

-County government also needs to be involved.

-Taro Security Task Force also needs to be involved.

11:50 – 12:00 Additional Agency Updates, New Business & Announcements

- Penny Levin: Just received a federal grant to do some lab testing of natural compounds to control apple snails;
- DLNR posted rule change regarding EA exemption list, posted to OEQC for public comment.
- 1:00 – 3:30 p.m., Invasive Species Committees & HDOA partners meeting
- Inga Gibson, Humane Society of the United States is planning Aug 9th meeting on reducing cat impacts (have had several meetings so far); also planning a meeting on pig snaring. Contact Inga for more info.