



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 November 9, 2010

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, USFWS & 2010-11 CGAPS Chair*

9:10 – 9:20 Legislative Discussion: *Mark Fox, TNC; Carol Okada, HDOA PQ*

- Senate reorganize: Shan Tsutsui is now Senate President, Russell Kokubun now chair of the Water and Land committee; Ag is now part of Housing—Donovan Dela Cruz is the new chair of that committee. Don't know how the House is going to play out.
- New doaner will fund 150-200K per year for the next ten years. Haouli Maui Loa(sp?), they approached TNC and were given priorities from the CGAPS Action Plan.
- Legislative workshop organized by Jackie Kozak of HISC. Speaker Calvin Say and Finance Committee Marcus Oshiro spent time with us. Speaker mentioned several times that he wanted to work with us on finding dedicated funding for invasive species work. Mark will follow up with a meeting to discuss ideas.
- NPDES: EPA Health Department rules on point source pesticide application near water—Janet organized the meeting to discuss rules, clarified that forest applications (except in or near a stream) will not need an NPDES permit. Aquatic areas will be subject to new rules. Janet added: if you think you will need one of these permits, the HDOH needs to change two sets of rules (which takes at least 6 months), but EPA will not be issuing rules until January, and compliance is April 9. Unless congress grants an extension, will not be able to use pesticides in these instances on April 10.
- USDOT order update: Challenge to HDOA collection of inspection fee. With comments, we will collect in a packet and provide to airports for improvements. If we lose, it will be about 100K per year, but moreover, harbor funds would not cover improvements to airport inspection services/facilities.
- User fees: Maritime paying in, some airlines have paid in (into an escrow account). These S funds have been approved for the hiring of inspectors on S funds. Need to speak to the new administration to ensure that 50% of inspectors are on G funds, 50% on S funds so that we don't go negative in the S fund.

9:20 – 9:30 HDOA Plant Quarantine: *Carol Okada*

- PQ entomologist did not receive any applicants.
- Myrtaceae rule change preparation. We want to build outreach for folks to understand why products are going to be restricted. Media event next Sunday Nov 14, 9-noon (first in the series, to build up to Mother's Day). Will feature import replacements (locally grown), the damage to the forest, local floral designers will design flower arrangements with local products. Kanu Hawai'i will start on their buy local (cut flowers) campaign. Any assistance is appreciated, if folks want to attend to mingle and help explain the issue, that is appreciated. Materials, posters, etc., are also welcome.
- Pesticide Branch manager position open for applicants.

CGAPS Steering Committee: Dorothy Alontaga, USDA APHIS; Earl Campbell, USFWS; Paul Conry, DLNR DOFAW; 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 PQ; Teya Penniman, MISC; Neil Reimer, HDOA PPC; Lyle Wong, HDOA PI

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

- Still seeing household goods from Okinawa, e.g. soil, grass seeds. DoD joint exercise presentation to bring awareness to help them lower costs in moving people and goods. Since this outreach program started, interceptions have lowered.
- Pears from Korea include moths. Pre-clearance requirements changed (so that every state but Hawai'i requires a pre-clearance), and so there are more interceptions, which result in rejected shipments.
- Interceptions in cut flowers dropped, perhaps because they are being treated with pesticides, but they are on the rise again.
- Military containers from Iraq to Hawai'i (direct) seemed good, as they had a detailed mitigation plan at the point of shipment.
- Incoming garbage is highly regulated, have compliance agreements for treatment. Military combining services and CBP has been meeting with them and providing training.

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

- USDA FY11 grants RFP out. (distributed copies)
- Pacific Detector News (WPDN) is a good publication for us to receive, produced quarterly by Fred Brooks (working for Charlie Nagamine at CTAHR)
- OPIS is a group that looks at pests on the move and alerts authorities to be on the lookout. They are trying to plan a meeting for Asia/Pacific, so if you have insects or diseases you know of that should be highlighted, let Dorothy know.
- Red palm weevil: detected by a landscaper in Laguna Beach CA., turned the specimen in & a survey was launched (visual, traps), a rapid response plan was launched (already written). Surveys complete, two infested trees, one property, both destroyed. Palm regulations from foreign import--a lot prohibited, but not all (Q37 revision consideration).
- Imperata cylindrica*: joint effort with OISC: a private home had some. Weeds already in trade before the Nox Weed rules went into effect may be here. Early detection has been finding some around Oahu.
- Federal and State Nox weed lists have only about 6 or 7 plants in common. At the end of the Fed Nox weed regulations include the preemption clause for how preemption works. One state tried to have a more restricted list and got slammed (Dorothy will get this info out to our group)
- Will look up the Korean Pears regulations. Pest Risk Committee meeting highlighted this problem of new regulations, but there is one other loophole that we can check on. May be going to Hawai'i because Hawai'i doesn't have many important rosaceae crops—need to see what else the intercepted pests affect.

9:50 – 10:00 Hawai'i Invasive Species Council: *Rob Hauff, DLNR DOFAW for Christy Finlayson*

- Two WRA techs are fully funded for FY11, more permanent source of funding must be identified.
- HISC budget approved with \$1.8 million in priority projects

10:00 – 10:10 DLNR DOFAW: *Rob Hauff*

- Requesting the forest pest risk assessment: letter submitted to the USFS, they are looking into the details of how this might be accomplished. USFS is looking at a risk map this year for

use to describe to congress where the needs are. Mainland models don't work here, so this is a good exercise.

10:10 – 10:20 DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources: *Kate Cullison*

- Still have a hull fouling coordinator vacancy
- Received some supplemental grants.
- Looking at WRA for seaweeds, to address importation via aquaculture. There is a lot of money being funneled into aquaculture of algae, with few precautions for preventing new invasive species.
- Will need NPDES permits for controlling invasive pests, but HDOH doesn't want to start on addressing until Jan.
- Urchins are growing, hoping for a release early in 2011.

10:20 – 10:30 BREAK

10:30 – 10:40 HDOA Plant Pest Control: *Neil Reimer*

- Continuing biocontrol work, outreach, etc. Biocontrol working group is reinvigorated.
- Strawberry guava biocontrol final EA will be out in about a month or so.
- Erythrina gall wasp successful with the wiliwili, but not so much with the coral trees. We have a second biocontrol that we are looking at.
- Nettle caterpillar biocontrol wasp released on all islands with the caterpillar is working very well. Recent capture of a nettle caterpillar on Kauai.
- Glitch on fireweed biocontrol, working with USDA to address. May be able to release next year.
- Foreign exploratory entomologist in Thailand, Laos, looking for natural enemies of pests like maile pilau, etc.
- LFA work. Eradication complete on Maui (a collaboration), still working on Kauai (with KISC), using new technology to get pesticides into trees.
- Bees: apiary specialist will be onboard in a few weeks.
- Coffee berry borer: Don't have a biocontrol, but looking at emergency use of a fungicide to control the insect. However, it would also impact other insects. Since it is a live fungus, it needs to go through the microorganism import procedures. It would be a localized spray, it doesn't move or survive without really wet conditions. A lot of non-target studies have been conducted, with few (if any?) non-target impacts. Statewide surveys show that it is limited to Kona side of the Big Island. Work is on keeping it contained and manage the impacts (also a collaborative project). Alternate hosts for coffee berry borer include other rubiaceae, so we all need to keep an eye out. Neil is following up on some of the literature. Some countries have managed loss to 5%, but that may still be too much for Hawai'i growers. Also, some of the chemicals that are used in other areas are banned in the US/Hawai'i. Cultural methods such as keeping berries cleaned up, off the ground won't work here. Probably arrived smuggled in restricted commodities such as coffee plants or seeds. Also concerned about coffee rust disease—if we can figure out how this pest entered, maybe we can keep the rust out.

10:40 – 10:50 U.S. Forest Service: *Anne Marie LaRosa*

- Good biocontrol working group meeting, about 20 people attended.
- UN Convention on Biological Diversity meeting last month. IS as an issue was highlighted. UN resolutions drafted

-Micronesian Biosecurity Plan: In Sept, three different risk analysis were conducted, submitted to DoD. In December, those three risk assessments should be available for technical review. If interested in participating as a reviewer, please let me know. Also, an implementation plan for mitigating the risks will be put together by UoG and Secretary of the Pacific.

10:50 – 11:00 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: *Dan Clark*

- We will be participating in the Micronesian Biosecurity Plan
- Welcome Domingo! He's on Guam already.
- BTS working group will be meeting this fall, they are doing some strategic budget planning.
- HASOP training for Navy for mitigating the risk of moving BTS
- USFWS going through internal strategic planning, we should be done by January, so folks will be able to see our priorities
- USFWS Ecological Services doesn't have a budget.

11:00 – 11:20 ISCs: *Rachel Neville, OISC; Adam Radford, MISC*

- Paperwork for special local needs for ohia rust. Will leave it up to the steering committee to determine if this is still needed.
- OISC: Jonathan Ho will be doing coqui work and LFA early detection (in cooperation with HDOA).
- Worked with HDOA to put together BMPs on preventing the spread of coqui, presented at the Landscape Industry Council of Hawai'i Conference
- Alex and Danielle found tree of heaven at a house in Kokee, which is a very invasive plant. They are now doing surveys funded by DOT along highways.
- Miconia work: 3,514 immature trees removed. No mature trees found. On track with what needed to be done this year. Acres per person hour is .75, the highest ever in the history of OISC.
- MISC: Early detection/RR workshop held. Notes and output is still being worked on, will be distributed. A second meeting will be planned to work on next steps.
- Cas is awesome. Sept. was the last survey in Waihee, monitoring will continue. Outreach has been really good. 236 sites surveyed, 7,300+ samples taken with no LFA detected island-wide.
- Coqui in surrounding areas, in Maliko Gulch. Well positioned to work in the gulch next year.
- Working with Dr. Leary on using ballistic herbicide technology on difficult to reach cliffside targets. EUP allows him to use this, however there are labeling issues. This needs to be addressed. Would need a Special Local Need permit, will discuss at Steering Committee meeting in Dec.
- BBTV now found in Haiku, outside known area (32 house lots, 31 treated).
- Anne Marie for BIISC: Welcome a new baby boy for Jan Schipper and family!
- Rauvolfia vomitoria*: EDRR find. Planted in Kohala area, spread perhaps 1,000 acres. A few landowners, all cooperative. Grant submitted to the USFS for 300K to try to control. NTBG had one, and removed it from collection. Outcompetes strawberry guava. Looking at a satellite operation center in Kohala.

11:20 – 11:30 CGAPS: *Christy Martin*

- Plant Pono project moving along; in the planning process for a Silent Invasion Update at the Legislature sometime during the first week of opening.

11:30 – 11:50 Discussion on CGAPS Vision and Action #7. Address Federal Laws That Expose Hawai‘i to Unnecessary Risk: Immediate Action: Develop the scientific case and risk assessment for a permanent rule restricting *Myrtaceae* imports to prevent introduction of additional strains of *Puccinia psidii* (‘ōhi‘a rust) so as to establish a precedent for adding to the State Restricted Plants List. (HDOA, TNC, CGAPS, USFS)

- USDA has ruled that there is one strain in Hawai‘i, that there are other strains out there, they are not easy to identify. Therefore, it is an actionable pest. If it is found, action can be taken. However, for HDOA, the rule would be plant-family based—all myrtaceae would be restricted, whether or not the rust is found.
- Building information on why it is necessary is largely complete. Still need work on public support for restriction because the next stumbling block would be small business review. One argument will be that it was only intercepted twice, so why restrict. This will require public support for this restriction.
- Kim Burnett: Working on the economic impact of a restriction on myrtaceae. Called florists on main islands to see what they carry. A lot of them didn’t even know some of the typical myrtaceae (such as wax flower). They have been meeting with folks at Watanabe (50% of the business). Depending on who you talk with, it is either a small part -1% of sales, to the buyer saying that it would greatly impact. 2007 saw myrtaceae products from non-S American sources, so this restriction might have greater impacts. Interestingly, wax flower is being grown on the Big Island, as it can withstand vog, whereas protea can’t.
- The dot.com flower shipments are more difficult, as these are mainland consolidators and shippers via Fed Ex, etc.
- Lloyd: Interesting argument: Information shows that different strains are present on different myrtaceae. Anything direct from Central and South America is a concern. Multiple strains are even more problematic, as it can recombine and impact different myrtaceae. Although it was only intercepted twice, the fact is that it arrived and it devastated rose apple. This clearly shows that even one new strain (or even the same strain) could devastate ‘ōhi‘a.
- HDOA Restricted Plant Rules: Most of the species on this list were back before statehood. Preemption didn’t become a problem until 2000 (plant protection act).

USGS PBIN: Sky Harrison.

New NPS I&M support. They are funding a pests not present in Hawai‘i system. Will work with CGAPS and other sources for potential alerts, so we can form one usable system.

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

- *Cancelled: 1:00 – 3:30 p.m., Invasive Species Committees & HDOA partners meeting*
- *Dec. 6: noon-12 CGAPS Steering Committee meeting*
- *Dec. 9: OISC meeting at Hoomaluhia*
- *Presentation on 2-4D on Maui. Email Janet Ashman for info.*

February 1: Next CGAPS meeting?