



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, Thursday, May 5, 2011

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*

- This is Dan's last meeting as CGAPS Chair. Carol Okada will be the Chair in FY2012. We are looking for new members for the Steering Committee and to take the Deputy Chair seat.

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

- The DLNR funding provided for HISC programs will probably stay the same for fiscal year 2012 (1.4 million + 400K from Legacy Land acquisition fund). The NARF did not cut allocations or raid. The Legacy Land Program did get raided in a couple of areas, a couple hundred thousand in funds but no reduction in allocations. Some will go towards a DLNR land development office which will look at revenue generating possibilities on some DLNR lands.
- A bunch of bills died early on (establishing an EEW, snaring bills, sterile tree program funding, etc). As this is the start of
- HB865: Increases invasive species inspection fee from 50 cents to 75 cents per 1,000 lbs or parts thereof. Will allow us to keep our inspectors and hire 10 inspectors, 2 entomologists
- HB1568: Going to the Gov for consideration. This would require HDOT to work with HDOA on inspection; requires HDOT to provide inspection facilities at harbors. There will be strong pushback on the airport side—we need to have inspection facilities on property at airports.
- HR77: Resolution that started as a bill, to gather a working group on plant rules, restricted plant and noxious weed lists.

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

- First two needs on our action plan are in statute (if Gov signs!).
- For monies we will do preliminary planning for design/construction for next year's legislature. 100K from barrel tax.
- Leslie will be working on implementing HR77, and we will be moving forward with the myrtaceae rule.
- Because HDOA received a 40% cut in budget in past years, we did not get cut this year.

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

- Mail facility is still averaging 425 violations each month (plants, food, insects, etc.). Other 11 mail branches nationwide are really large, but we write more violations by far. Moving more staff to this facility due to risk.
- Passenger processing & air/sea cargo, 100 pest interceptions/month.
- Special ops look at galley, etc of air carriers and there are some violations, but
- Orchids are maybe 98% of the commodities coming into the state, and we look at a percentage (10%) in each shipment. Sometimes we do 100%, or target dirty shippers. We usually find

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

Lepidoptera, snails, thrips, etc. Rec'd a call from HDOA about a live snake in orchids. The importer called HDOA to report the snake & killed it, turned it in.

- Military household goods identified as a high risk pathway. We did an outreach in cooperation with DoD logistics offices. It gets expensive for DoD when CBP has to stop a shipment, unload and inspect. When we bumped up inspections, it got their attention.
- Sometimes DoD does remediation work in the Pacific, which means that they may take soil from the site, through Hawai'i, to the mainland for disposal—in one case, we denied entry even though it was just transiting. All soil must have the necessary permits and must be inspected. Soil for research or construction must go to a compliant facility, which is also inspected periodically. Had a container that came in really muddy & we denied entry and sent it back.

9:40 – 9:50 DLNR DOFAW: *Paul Conry*

- NARS funds for HISC are as Mark reported, \$1.4 and 400K from Legacy Land funds.
- Conveyance tax projections look like a little over \$9 million will go into the funds. There is a little improvement this year. The challenge for next year and beyond is to find some dedicated and sustainable funds for the ISCs and similar operations. We will need to pull together and see if we can find solutions for this.
- There is a \$15 million reduction in G funds that will be shared between government agencies. We will receive a direction on our share. Some of it will be invasive species funds.
- We have a restriction on spending G funds and that is stopping us from hiring for the Invasive Species Coordinator position. We are talking internally to see how we can fill this position either temporarily or permanently ASAP.
- A sleeper bill where wording was inserted that would redefine “wildlife” and DLNR’s responsibility for a broader range of animals did not pass, but we need to go back to the legislature next year to address interisland introduction of animals like axis deer. Part of the problem is that it can be introduced from private land to private land. If a landowner introduced it onto private land and it isn’t contained, if it gets onto state land, we can bring them in front of the BLNR for civil penalty. Anywhere on state lands or private lands (with permission), kill it.
- We will work on scheduling a HISC meeting and declare axis deer a pest species, which will help clear the way for control.
- Going forward with PCSU to get the HISC coordinator hired. I wish we could do the state position first, but we’ll just have to deal with the way things are.

9:50 – 10:00 Hawai'i Invasive Species Council: *Jacqueline Kozak via email*

- Will work with Paul to brief HISC chairs in the next month
- Will work with working group chairs to convene and get the budget process underway in June for approval in July.
- Would like to push for at least two HISC meetings/year, one on policy needs, the other on budget.
- Hoping for a start date for new HISC coordinator to be June 16. Will announce when hiring is official.

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

- Working on a list of pests that are not known to occur, that are not actionable for Fed agencies, that we will apply for federal assistance.

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

- Still no ballast/hull fouling staff, have extended the application deadline, will readvertise. We have funding for one year.
- Hired second choice for Kāneʻohe Bay monitoring coordinator.
- Have started gathering experts for monitoring advisory committee to set research and monitoring for the bay to guide our work.
- Reef 16 sea urchins have largely disappeared. They may have moved, been stolen, died of natural causes, or died of old age.
- Urchins will go to 26, 27, 29. SS will clear reefs before stocking.
- Working on clarifying policy for aquaculture, restricted species, and species that we have bag/size limits for.
- Freshwater: will try to expand work on control of invasive stream fish, testing on Maui.
- We have a legal fellow working on some of these issues.

10:20 – 10:30 BREAK

10:30 – 10:40 HDOA Plant Pest Control: *Neil Reimer*
(No representation)

10:40 – 10:50 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: *Dan Clark, Earl Campbell*

- In past years, we've had two adds, \$1 million for invasives, and \$2 million for forest birds. We had 4.5 million for grants and agreements in previous years. We do not have that this year. We will have between \$600-800K in funds available. We have done preliminary proposals (ISCs, CGAPS, rodenticide PEIS), have the go-ahead to will continue to work with folks on developing these. Decisions on funding from the regional office will not be made until the last minute, so don't "pre-spend".
- USDA Wildlife Services is receiving significant hits. The congressional add that funded the Hawai'i office was not approved. Funds that support the Hilo NWRC field station were not approved. Mike and staff (and NWRC station manager) are working on this and financial scenarios. WS has a memorandum of agreement with agencies for their work on Guam (8%). This low overhead will change. How to pay for administrative staff is another question. Will have more at the next meeting.
- Micronesian Biosecurity plan: two people have been assigned to work on this, Cory Camphora and Stephan Lee with the Navy.
- Will try to roll out USFWS 5 year plan in the next few months, will send it to our partners for review.
- We will be participating in the deer issue on the Big Island.

10:50 – 11:10 ISCs: *Rachel Neville, OISC; Keren Gundersen, KISC; Teya Penniman, MISC; Jan Schipper, BIISC*

- Rachel: continuing work on miconia and blackberry. Delimiting surveys for our ED species. One that is most interesting/scary is Siam weed (*Chromolaena odorata*) mid-level viney thing. Is on the Nox Weed list, we've been partnering with Army NRP, HDOA staff to delimit the population, in the area of the Kahuku motorcross area. Hoomaluhia had a *Rauvolfia vomitoria*, but they removed it after learning about it from Alex and Danielle. They did delimiting surveys and haven't found spread. Coqui: OISC has been working closely with HDOA and nurseries to get frogs early. LFA surveys ongoing, none detected. This summer we will work with the PIPES program & NARS entomologist to survey all the naio populations to look for thrips.

- Keren: just completed islandwide survey for LFA, naio thrips, and nettle caterpillar. Nettle had been found and Neil and his staff are working on it. Due to funding reductions, we are beefing up our partnerships. TNC will assist us with resource mapping to survey for miconia. We are having to change our strategy on miconia because we are finding that as soon as 6 months after miconia emerges from the hau understory, it fruits. This necessitates more frequent surveys. We have requested funding for long thorn kiawe from PMRF. Dr. Leary of CTAHR is assisting with herbicide/control efficacy. Received funding from DOFAW to respond to mongoose reports for 1 year, to do presence/absence.
- Teya: On coqui, we are working on compliance and research for our work in Maliko. We are still receiving new frogs in shipments. We would like to investigate convening a multi-stakeholder group on ways to address this ongoing problem. Still doing coqui-free certification for nurseries and garden shops. Miconia work is funded through August, with nothing after that, and our strategy has already shifted. Looking at using herbicide ballistic technology and high-res imaging. New fountain grass found, limited and removed. Nursery surveys by Forest and Kim, we are finding 35-40% of species are in the Global Compendium of Weeds. Will send a Doodle poll to schedule next ED meeting. There is a county initiative to address recalcitrant landowners.
- Teya for Lori: Working in Kalaupapa. There was a shipment that had coqui & now they camp out when her containers arrive. Also increased their staff by adding one of the TNC staff.
- Jan: Finally got a photograph of deer on Big Island. Don't know where they came from...if they came from East Molokai, they may have bovine tuberculosis, which could spread to the cattle industry (discussion about veterinary sampling and no bt found, although not all pops checked. Jason Moniz said that there is a quarantine on moving axis deer from E. Molokai because of a confirmed case there). Got a lot of support for our work on deer, and we have taken on a more coordinating role. Haven't done a press release on deer, and haven't figured out what to say yet. Would like to build support first beforehand. Had a meeting last week and received support from all the ranchers in the area. May have a population of chinchillas on Mauna Kea. (discussion on chinchillas: Need to focus effort on this, as they will do very well in upper elevation. Control methods will be covered under the rodent PEIS). Rauvolfia work is ongoing. We've had to shed plume poppy work, and limited miconia work to Kohala area. Early detection work ongoing, now in Puna, a lot of new things at Bishop being identified. The coffee berry borer showed up in Kau.

11:10 – 11:20 CGAPS: Christy Martin

- A lot of time spent supporting our partners at the legislature and other efforts. Little time towards outreach, although I give a few talks/month & have spent some time with landscape industry folks.
- Will be focusing on getting our projects organized and off the ground: INVICTA upgrade for air cargo manifests; myrtaceae rule; presence/absence databases in support of federal inspection assistance for high-risk pests not present.

11:20 – 11:30 Other Partner Agency updates

- Jody Chou, USFS: I've been onboard for two months in this new Honolulu-based position. I'm the regional forester Pacific Island liaison (total forest health, not just invasives), not part of IPIF. My region office (5) is in Vallejo, CA, Randy Moore is my boss. My job is to get into the network here so that we can start having discussions on having healthy forests in HI, then take it to CA, and hopefully bring needed funding back to HI. I don't know what they plan to do with Anne Marie's position (it was moved out of IPIF into Region 5). I will ask the director about this.

- Janet Ashman (HFBF): A 6 month reprieve for NPDES permits. Looking for a congressional fix before October. If none comes, you'll need a permit for applying pesticides in, around water. (Kate: for aquatics, it means that any decision on control of aquatic species using pesticides is on hold)
- Charlie/Fred (CTAHR): Pesticide training classes going well. Am toying with the idea of changing the class to provide safety training for folks that don't need full certification. Will send an email.
- Sky Harrison (PCIN): plugging along on an early detection alert database program to collect and gather pest alerts.

11:30 – 11:50 Discussion on budgets and future funding

- Need to discuss next meeting on finding permanent new funds for invasive species work. Need to do this before the fall.

11:50 – 12:00 New Business & Announcements

- *CGAPS Steering Committee: Today, 12:15 – 2:15 p.m.*
- Joint American Phytopathological Society/International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences meeting, Honolulu, Aug. 6-10, 2011
- International Symposium on the Biological Control of Weeds, Waikoloa Beach Marriott, Sept. 11-15, 2011
- Society of American Foresters, Honolulu, Nov. 2-6, 2011
- The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, Hilton Waikoloa, Nov. 5-10, 2011
- American Society of Hort Science in Waikoloa, BIISC will be participating and leading a fieldtrip on invasives.

Next meeting: Monday, August 1, 9-noon.