



Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) Meeting Notes

GSA Conference Room, Room 7-214
Federal Building, 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Honolulu, HI
9:00 am – 12:00 pm Wednesday, August 21, 2013

9:00 – 9:10 **Welcome & Introductions:** *Jodi Chew, USDA Forest Service & 2014 CGAPS Chair*

9:10 – 9:30 **HDOA Plant Industry Division:** *Darcy Oishi; Rob Curtiss*

- No major new pests right now, but Mike Melzer (UH) has detected some new plant pathogens that have been passed along to USDA.
- Upcoming NZ Primary Industry-Biosecurity conference: will be resending on Pathway Risk Assessment that was funded through the Farm Bill.
- Looked at NZ biocontrol facilities, as we received some funds from HISC for
- Looked at their system for transitioning from an incursion response to established control program. Seems they have a lot of issues, just like we do. At least we don't have to go to some of the extent that they do.

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

- FY12 we did a look at all our interceptions and broke it out by categories: 49% of interceptions were in passenger bags 33% air and sea cargo, _____, 2% stores and holds (freezers, ship stores, etc), 7% in quarters (ships or aircraft). Or 74% were entomology?, 27% pathology, the rest botany. Found more plant diseases this year than past.
- Interceptions by origin: Entomology interceptions: 31 interceptions from American Samoa (these are things riding on goods). A lot from China, Viet Nam, Japan. Although we find a lot from Japan, these are relatively safe items (the city traveler).
- Plant pathology: a lot from Pacific Islands. We are finding a lot of new plant diseases on maile lei, on maile grown in the Cook Islands.
- We find a lot of pests on pandanus, so we have been focusing on handicrafts quite a bit. One of Rebecca's inspectors looked at a shipment of brooms from Philippines. They found two diseases, actionable, and one fungus, NKO. We are starting to see more and more, and we don't know why. The brooms were made out of palm species. CBP put out a news release, but HDOA asked that they talk with them first because they always get called.
- We find a lot of non-reportable items and plants.
- ___ interceptions in air and sea. One interesting thing we found was household goods from Germany, which is unusual. It usually goes to a mainland port. We found that it was goods from Africa through Germany, so we did a joint inspection with CITES, etc. inspectors. We didn't find anything, but it demonstrates how we work.

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

- Introducing Yolisa Ishibashi, she is our pest detection specialist. She works closely with HDOA on CAPS, responses, and with others on investigations, etc. She keeps all the agreements for CAPS and Farm Bill as they relate to us.
- Reminder: There are a lot of commodities that are being approved by USDA for import, and if you are a registered stakeholder (on the website), you will receive notices and you can provide

CGAPS Steering Committee: Dorothy Alontaga, USDA APHIS; Joshua Atwood, HISC; Earl Campbell, USFWS; Jodi Chew, USDA FS; Kate Cullison, DLNR DAR; Mark Fox, TNCH; Maria Gallo, UH CTAHR; Bryan Harry, Emeritus; Roger Imoto, DLNR DOFAW; James Kosciuk, DHS CBP; Lloyd Loope, Emeritus; Darcy Oishi, HDOA PPC; Carol Okada, HDOA PQ; Teya Penniman, MISC; Neil Reimer, HDOA PI

comments. There are ways we can keep USDA paying attention and addressing Hawai'i-specific concerns. Please go online to the USDA APHIS stakeholder registry. We will be taking suggestions for Farm Bill funding priorities, this should open in Oct. We don't have a Farm Bill yet, but this process will be starting anyway. The funding is to address invasive species, early detection, control, etc. For this group, if there is a project that we want to cooperate on, you should talk about it early to prepare. Multi-agency projects that focus on invasive species or outreach, it has a much better chance if you have a collective group proposal. The application process is through Metastorm, which is rather time consuming to set up. Do this ahead of time.

9:50 – 10:00 DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources: Sonia Gorgula, Jono Blodgett; Dave Cohen

- May funding issues and we were all laid off (AIST). We are back at it now.
- We just put out our 100,000 native urchins on the reef.
- We work mainly on *Eucheuma*, *Kappaphycus*, and *Gracilaria salicorina*. Thus far, we had only known *Eucheuma* to occur in Kāne'ohe Bay, as far north as Ka'a'awa. We recently found that it is established on the north shore, Ali'i beach. We have not done delimiting surveys.
- Sonia: PowerPoint:
- 421 marine and estuarine species (previously 343, 2009), 60% of these are believed to have arrived as biofouling.
- Goal for 2013 is to determine what operators do to clean or maintain their hulls, to inform our management plans.
- Surveyed 60 recreational boaters June-July & paper based records of 2011-2013; we will do commercial vessels Aug-Oct.
- State ballast water program requires treated or exchanged ballast, so we did an assessment of the managed vs. unmanaged ballast.
- Mar, April, there were about 100 each month of ships arriving, more than half were unique (not recurring), 6-7% want to discharge ballast. Only half had ballast management, which equates to 645,000 LT ballast discharged. We have not done ground-truthing.
- Management gaps: verification of BW source, missing BW reports, assisting unmanned barges to comply.
- Japan tsunami marine debris contained mussels that are NKO in Hawai'i, are believed to be invasive if established here. One boat stuck on reef at Turtle Bay, there were 11 mussels on that one. May have had others that got scraped off on the reef.
- Will be going back to these areas to survey for new species. Will also do more outreach.
- The reporting phone number is in the Chair's office. We try to respond ASAP. Chair Aila actually went on a weekend to inspect. A lot of the different offices help us by getting samples and sending them.

10:00 – 10:40 Invasive Species Committees of Hawai'i

Julia Parish, Oahu Invasive Species Committee (powerpoint)

- 9 high priority target species for eradication, 6 species in the monitoring state of eradication, 3 animal pest species.
- 26K acres needed to be surveyed for miconia. These include areas around known historic miconia plants. Ground 12, acres, aerial, 14K acres. Need to be surveyed every 2-3 years. Since Jan 2013, 1 mature and 935 immature found.

- Chromolaena odorata*, reported 2011, is a HI Nox weed and Fed. Nox weed. Ag & environmental threat. Wind and animal dispersed, vegetative dispersed, toxic, prolific seed bank, thick growth.
- Due to its presence in a motorcross site, we are considering other motorcross sites. Two new sites have been discovered this year within military training areas. One in Kahana Valley was found by Joel Lau and Mashuri Waite on a hike. The crew found and removed 26 immature in the area.
- Lara has been doing a lot of outreach to motorcross folks, we are working to do other outreach with other training areas like Pohakuloa, etc. We also have the *Chromolaena* response plan from Australia, thanks to Cas Vanderwoode. Australia has a biocontrol beetle in containment and HDOA is in communication with them to possibly do testing for us.
- Next year we are proposing to focus on all motorcross trails that go out and up.
- It is present on Guam in large amounts and have had difficulties with Army National Guard bringing it.
- We have established a multi-agency working group on this, with HDOA hosting the first meeting.
- Cortaderia* spp.: Koolina Resorts and Golf Course, Kapolei Golf Course both have pampas grass and we need contacts. Landcare NZ has just started a biocontrol project for *C. selloana*.
- 13 staff, had a summer intern with the UH Hilo PEPs.

Teya Penniman, Maui Invasive Species Committee (powerpoint)

- Update on *Cortaderia* spp. Pampas grass v. jubata grass
 - 1925 introduced, *C. selloana* deemed innocuous due to the absence of male or hermaphroditic plants. 1992 *C. jubata* added to nox weed list; 2001 Lambrinos paper showed that *C. selloana* is actually more invasive. 2006? *C. selloana* found to be reproductive on Maui.
- Moloka'i (for Lori Buchanan, MoMISC)
- Eradication priority targets; *Arundo donax*, *Cryptostegia* spp, Barbados gooseberry controlled.
 - Albezia* control, native seedling dispersal, 800+ trees removed.

Springer Kaye, Big Island Invasive Species Committee

- Miconia* work started us off, but survey work revealed that it was too widespread. 2008 we started on roadside surveys to get a handle on the next pests. We caught 3 species early on and eradicated, 6 species with the goal of island-wide eradication. 5 individual pampas sites and the owners will not give them up. New rubus, *Rubus sieboldii* on a Buddhist temple site.
- Nursery surveys partnership with HDOA, Master Gardeners, CGAPS.
- Also work with partners on species that defy being ignored such as *albezia*, fountain grass, gorse, etc.

Keren Gundersen, Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee

- 7 3/4 employees. Top priority is *Miconia*, 3500 acres, 2010 was the last mature plant found.
- Collaborating with DOFAW on naio thripps survey
- Part 2 with HDOA and Ant Lab to control LFA. Core site treated, post survey found no ants, moving to monitoring; no work done yet on the cliff site due to NPDES issues.
- Collaborating with others on mongoose, only two caught so far. But 2 new sighting reports per week.
- Assisting TNCH with the last Alaka'i ungulate removal.
- Working with SWCA to possibly do more roadside surveys

10:40 – 10:50 Break

10:50 – 11:00 DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife: *Rob Hauff*

- Watershed Partnership RFP is out, proposals due Sept. 9.
- DOFAW and other Pacific Island Foresters are requesting the reestablishment of the HI/Pacific Island Forester. Please consider submitting letters, coordinate through Jodi.
- Forest Pest Pathway Risk Assessment draft will be out later this week. Some of you have already been contacted to review, and there will be national review, but it is important to make sure we have local comments. Sept 13 comments due.

11:00 – 11:10 Hawai'i Invasive Species Council: *Joshua Atwood*

- DOFAW IS Team is increasing: Pat Chee is the new small mammal coordinator to work on the PEIS and other projects
- Admin rule chapter 124 comment period ended, we have prepared responses, we will be going for final hearing by the end of this year.
- New budget policies, reviews, and requests. NARS funding is under scrutiny, which funds the HISC
- Emily Montgomery is the new HISC strategic planner, to draft a new 5 year plan.
- HISC meetings for 2013 as relates to CGAPS:
- Meeting on 1/8/13 to introduce CGAPS priority issues, request HISC help.
- June 4 Resolutions produced regarding federal issues, 13-1, -2, -3. Full text is available at hisc.hawaii.gov.
- July 1: FY14 budget approval.
- Met with all but Sen. Hirono thus far, Will be meeting with Gov's office to get support.
- Total funding for HISC is \$2.55.
- Tomorrow is Resources WG meeting, 2-4 at DLNR 322.
- We will be helping to coordinate a new Mosquito action plan with HDOH, HDOT, HDOA, CTAHR, at the initial meeting.
- Fall HISC meeting to report back, potential strategic planning retreat.

11:10 – 11:20 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: *Earl Campbell*

- Appreciate the opportunity to see the presentations by entities we are funding and how we fit into strategic planning.
- USFWS, HISC, CGAPS are all going through strategic planning processes and I think we need to be aware of and try to avoid mission creep.
- 5.8 percent cut thus far, will see more. We are doing fairly well with personnel, but Refuges is not fairing as well. The Refuges have had staff reductions and cuts in their ability to get to their work (boats, field sites., etc)
- Programmatic EIS on rodenticides and rodent control methods to be announced in a month or so. We need to discuss this in more detail at the next CGAPS meeting
- FY15 is really uncertain. Watch sequestration. House proposed a 27% cut in our budget and a similar amount in EPA budget.
- We will be developing an invasive species list (internally thus far), established pests, we will send it to partners to comment on in the next week or so, we will be internally prioritizing.

- Next year, we will have a limited amount of priority species that we will be funding work on. We need to focus on key needs for trust resources that we are charged with managing.
- For USFWS grants, please bill at least every 3 months on the money you receive. We have had to try to justify the way we give money, and to whom when this doesn't occur.
 - Revision of federal acts-it isn't a great time to be doing this. However, we are looking at expanding the Lacey Act species, should go out in the Federal Register in the next couple of months. Please comment when it does.
 - We are working on a revised BTS Control and Response Plan, Brand will have that out in the next few months.

11:20 – 11:40 Other Partner Agency Updates

- Janet Ashman, HFBB: Across the country, and here definitely, there is an anti-pesticides sentiment that is really taking hold of people. Kaua'i County bill to ban experimental use pesticides, mostly to deter GMO companies, but this really impacts our ability to work. We really need to see how we might be able to work with a wide variety of partners to come up with an educational campaign especially with policymakers.
- Josh Atwood: Testimony from the invasive species community may result in an exemption for invasive species control.
- Janet: I think this goes beyond just this exemption, and we need to address the issue of uninformed, and in many ways unreasonable fear of a tool.
- Barry: After several years of efforts to establish an agrosecurity coordinator position, UH CTAHR has submitted a proposal to the Chancellor, and we are now advertising it, the position will close by the end of the year.

11:40 – 11:50 CGAPS: Christy Martin

- Funding update (asking for 20K from entities per year): I have funds through mid Sept 2014.
- New CGAPS Legal Fellow Jarrett Keohokalole starts fulltime on Monday, will be based at DOFAW
- Plant Pono products out, website phase 2 work next
- CGAPS and ISCs websites migration to CMS by Dec.
- Working on planning a tabletop exercise with John Roberts, to test and inform the draft plant health emergency plan being drafted by Lloyd Loope and Andi Shluker
- Legal Fellow Melissa Miyashiro on Myrtaceae rule update: draft version of the rule and information packet that will go to technical subcommittee in the next couple weeks.

11:50 – 12:00 New Business & Announcements

(in text above).

Next meeting:

We will try to time it to precede or follow the tabletop exercise which we will try to schedule for a day in the Nov 1-15 window. Will post the CGAPS meeting notice on the CGAPS website and listserves.

(CGAPS Steering Committee to follow, 1:00-4:00)