



Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) Meeting Agenda

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

9:00 am – 12:00 pm Tuesday, October 30, 2012

9 – 9:10 **Welcome, Introductions:** *Teya Penniman, MISC & 2013 CGAPS Chair*

9:10 – 9:20 **HDOA Plant Quarantine:** *Carol Okada*

- Last year the Leg allowed us to transfer 9 DOT inspectors to our G funds. We are also in the process of hiring 3 dog handlers for the BTS, we have some staff on Guam doing the RR training, we'll send more in the next round.
- Manifest (importer and transporter manifest programs). The Importer manifest allows transitional facilities to conduct pre-release organizing for the inspectors to facilitate high risk commodity inspection. It will also help bring the INVICTA database up to speed. The transporter manifest program is to finish building the system that was piloted by Matson.
- We received funding from the Farm Bill for work in our nurseries to work on pests moving interisland (Kevin Horichi 974-4141)
- We received another grant to conduct another risk assessment at the ports, 100% blitz, all commodities at the site, random, unannounced. It will also allow us to start with Bishop Museum to do DNA pest risk. It will also allow us to see if the importers are filling the manifest correctly. There haven't been too many surprises yet, it seems like things are getting cleaner. I think maybe interisland is higher risk right now. We are working with DOT to look for a place to inspect at the harbor because things are moving on
- We went to our Christmas tree exporters on the mainland to make sure we receive cleaner trees. Hawai'i receives the 3rds, the trees that have been left in weedy fields. Oregon and Washington are sending inspectors and an entomologist to see what we receive.

9:20 – 9:30 **U.S. Customs & Border Protection:** *Jim Kosciuk*

Not present

9:30 – 9:50 **HDOA Plant Pest Control update & new pests:** *Neil Reimer/Darcy Oishi*

- LFA has been detected and confirmed to be present in Kona coffee, maybe .5 acres, 2 properties adjoining forest. However, we haven't completed delimitation surveys. Owner agreed to allow test use of Tango (registered, but not tested for efficacy in an eradication situation). Our new Kona entomologist (Rob Curtis) has hit the ground running.
- New pests arrived, both first reported by arborists (lots of outreach to this group is paying off). *Ficus microcarpa* stem galler, not yet described (defoliation, silvery looking leaves). Also, Lobate lac scale has been discovered, is widespread on Oahu. *Paratachardina pseudolobata*. Parthenogenic, females produce offspring without males (and no males are known to this species). Native range is the Asia-Pacific region, although genetic tracing has not been done. Invaded Cuba, Bahamas, Christmas Island, Florida and Puerto Rico. It got to Florida in the late 90's. It hits 300+ plant species in FL, mango, avocado, macadamia, coffee, dendrobiums, hibiscus, citrus, and known to attack genera of some of our native

species. In FL, it was a big problem for the first 4-5 years, then seemed to get under control, but they don't know why. Oct 6 AAA tree climbing competitors notice a distressed *Ficus benjamina* tree at Moanalua gardens. Oct 12, HDOA notified and samples collected. No detections yet on other islands. Chemical control: root drench with imidacloprid, foliar application with Bifenthrin, imidacloprid. Biocontrol research in Florida didn't result in much due to closely related species LLC in its native range. LLS has the ability to encapsulate parasites. Due to the probable spread and capacity for damage, we have initiated biocontrol research. LLS can be covered in sooty mold, which can hide the insects. Causes stem and limb damage and can even kill it. Report unknown host plants on Oahu, report any sightings on neighbor islands.

- Launched LFA control Ops on Kaua'i, did the second treatment. We are using Tango right now (a growth regulator), we are seeing ant population knock-down, then we will switch to a more aggressive pesticide.
- PPC legislative packet would include CIP for a new biocontrol facility, positions mostly for neighbor islands and a few for Oahu, 13-14 positions (would return us to 1980 level). We developed a 10-year strategic plan for 35 mil dollar facility and 90 staff.
- If anyone is going to do media asking people to call the Pest Hotline, please let us know so we can make sure we have the staff to cover it.

9:50 – 10:00 DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources: Jono Blodgett/Sonja Gorjula

- Continuing removal operations of alien algae in Kāne'ohe Bay, we've remove 50,000 lbs of algae, stocked 2 urchins/sq meter with native collector urchins to help keep the biomass down so the coral can survive. Hatchery has been producing 5000 sea urchins/month. TNC has built a second Supersucker barge that will work with ours.
- Tsunami debris has kept us busy inspecting for invasive species on reported debris. Debris in Oregon turned out to have 20 NKO species, 9 predicted to be invasive.
- We've begun re-engaging the AIS Task Force, if you would like to participate, please let me (Sonja) know. CA did a risk assessment on ships/boats, so they know the types of vessels that are high risk. Hawai'i will need to do that in the near future.

10:00 – 10:10 DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife: Rob Hauff/Paul Conry

- Esther Kia'aina is the new Deputy. Paul retires in December.
- We are still working on the Forest Pest Risk Assessment. It will probably be done in the spring. It is an assessment of risk to the 10 main forest plants.
- We put in the application to USDA NAPPRA rule for Myrtaceae was positively accepted. They didn't know about limiting interstate movement (they think it would be better coming from Hawai'i), but they are looking to see what they need to do within the system for international imports.

10:10 – 10:20 Hawai'i Invasive Species Council: Joshua Atwood

- BLNR approved declaration that axis deer are a pest. It allows hunters (licensed) to hunt deer without reports or bag limits.
- We are working with Sen. Gabbard's office to hold an invasive species/watershed briefing on January 9 at 1 p.m. Jackie Thiel has been working on some angles to get more legislators to attend.

- Comment: you might want to have the invasive species and the native species that it impacts.
- Legislature: DLNR is putting 2 million dollars in their biennium request for the HISC; also another that would increase the rate going into the NARF; close the conveyance tax loophole that allowed Lāna‘i to be conveyed without paying into the fund; listing invasive species control as a legitimate expenditure for NARF moneys.

10:20 – 10:30 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: *Dan Clark*

- OIA provided some funds to help work on BTS issues at USFWS, updating the BTS Management Plan and conduct a review of the research needs for BTS. The position has the potential to be extended through local office funding.
- We received about 1/3 of the amount of discretionary funds we have had in the past. They will focus on the extinction prevention programs for birds, plants, and snails. This means that there could be 500K-\$1 mil or so in discretionary funds for other programs, including ISCs, CGAPS and others. Our office is focusing on “hot spot” areas that directly impact the survival of T&E species. We were supposed to get about \$2 mil for birds because we have so many, but the money didn’t come through.
- In FY 13 and 14, we should start looking at the need to fund the CGAPS staff (1 FTE), and the ISCs, with other funds. It will be very important to set up appointments to come in and show what you do and how it relates to core USFWS directives and our strategic plan.
- Our program has been reduced from seven to two over the past few years. With the completion of our strategic plan last year, our jobs are shifting. We will need to function much more multi-disciplinary way.

10:30 – 10:45 Break

10:45 – 11:15 Invasive Species Committees

Mary Ikagawa, OISC

- We have hired Julia Parrish (she was our outreach spec in 2008) to be the OISC Manager, she will start in December, we will have an OISC meeting soon after. Meeting TBA.
- 3 mature miconia trees treated, two in Mānoa, one in Kalihi.
- Chromolaena work is keeping us busy, 25% of our time.
- ED work at Joint Base Hickam/Pearl Harbor for plants and LFA.
- We have been working with Mashuri Waite and volunteers at Lyon on de-accessioning some invasive plants. The project will be shown on Oiwi.

Keren Gundersen, KISC

- We have been working with our partners with HDOA and the Hawai‘i Ant Lab. It has been a great partnership, we treat every 6 weeks. We are continuing LFA surveys islandwide, including a large survey near Mahalepu Cave area. There is a large population of tropical fire ants and we should consider suppressing.
- Mongoose: May 23 was the first capture, June 29 juvenile female captured. We are trying to gather data, and have found that there are some issues, including the lack of a legal toxicant registered for mongoose (and there is still a lot of R&D that needs to happen for lures and toxicants, which still doesn’t have funding). Also, interisland biosecurity—if we can’t prevent mongoose, how do we expect to prevent LFA? We brought over a mongoose detecting dog without success. A small mongoose working group has convened, and private

participant donations covered the expense of bringing the dog and handler. We have 3-4 credible sightings/week.

- We consider Kaua'i coqui-free. Yea!

Teya Penniman, MISC

- We have put Jeffrey Grundhauser to work on our coqui crew, doing pampas sweeps, and even helping refinish the yurts. He turned out to be a nice guy and I think it worked out well all the way around.
- We have been discussing the idea of having a conservation campus at the CTAHR site, and even had the new Dean of CTAHR (Dr. Gallo) meet with us.
- Finishing pampas work for the year, some found in Haleakala crater caused the closure of some trails (which has never happened before).
- Maui Conservation Alliance has taken as its top priorities biocontrol and interisland biosecurity as its top projects to support.
- Lloyd Loope retirement party this Saturday on Maui. If you haven't received an invite, let me know.

Lori Buchanan MoMISC & BIISC

- We received 500 hours of helicopter time as part of the sentence for transporting axis deer. They also want to "gift" us with the BI resident that provided mouflon and received the deer.
- We are moving along with the eradication of deer on the BI.
- We have about 28 grants and are participating in developing invasive species protocols for Mauna Kea Science area; new partnership with Army National Guard to remove invasive plants from KMC; partnering with Kona coffee growers to remove feral coffee from key growing areas. New chair Jon Price. Engaging others in committee structure.
- Second round of advertising for BIISC manager: Starting interviews this week.
- On Moloka'i, we are still working on about 8 species, my two staff have been holding down the fort. We work with out partners to get big projects done.
- Comment: Thank you for jumping in for BIISC. Can we use some of the donated time for you to bring potential contributors to the project?
- Comment: No, although there is some flexibility in there to work on other conservation projects. There are other funds available that might be used for this.

11:15 – 11:25 USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: *Dorothy Alontaga*

- HTFG has been asking how, when products are brought from international to domestic mainland (they are only risk assessed for continental US, not HI), then imported to Hawai'i, how is that inspected or stopped? COOL labeling applies to some, but not all imports, it lists the country of origin. We are talking with PQ to see what can be done.
- *Imperata cylindrica* (condon grass) is sterile, although crosses with red baron condon grass (federal noxious weed), which is seeded, can make it produce viable seed and it could be our next superweed. It has been coming into HI because it is hard to identify, so we will need to make sure that DNA barcoding moves forward. DNA barcoding was not funded for interstate weeds.

11:25 – 11:35 CGAPS: *Christy Martin*
(presentation)

11:35 – 11:50 Other Partner Agency Updates

- DOH to add 9 vector control statewide.

- DOT Airports: Would like to look into an MOU with group to work on invasive species.
- We are hoping to put together a list of relevant legislation, including the DOH vector control bill, so please let me know if you have anything to list (Josh Atwood).
- Janet Ashman (HFBF): DOH permit program for pesticides applied near, in or over water (NPDES) signed by Gov. Supposed to go the LG, then to the agency for publication (signed by Oct 11, then it starts a clock for publication, etc.). Mark, Janet, Rob have all been involved in the process. Previously these actions were covered by FIFRA, but the court decided that it needed oversight by the EPA via the Clean Water Act.

11:50 – 12:00 New Business & Announcements

Western Plant Board (May—ask Darcy for details)

USFS has secured \$50K of national YCC funds. Up until now, Hawai‘i has not been able to make the pitch for those funds.

(CGAPS Steering Committee to follow, 12:15-3:00)

Next meeting: TBA