

## **CGAPS Meeting: January 26, 2005**

*Meeting notes taken by Kim Langley, CGAPS Coordinator—these notes are for general information only and have not been passed through CGAPS participants for edits or approval.*

### **Meeting opened by Mark Fox, Chair**

#### **HISC Update- Mindy Wilkinson, DOFAW and Neil Reimer, HDOA**

The remaining one million in funding was released on Jan. 14; so all working groups are back to the original budget. The ISC gets an extra \$100,000 to each county. The accounts are open; the Aquatics team is in the hiring process.

Outreach Working Group- three outreach specialists' positions, currently in hiring process. There was \$107,000 of grants awarded to 13 separate outreach projects from various groups.

The first round of the Research and Technology grants has been completed, three awards.

Prevention working group, with the increase of \$350,000 the four approved projects will now have full funding. The majority went to HDOA for a research/blitz inspection study, a risk assessment of pathways. Other projects are: BTS on Guam, ballast water issues by DLNR DAR, and HDOH for additional equipment for the West Nile virus prevention project. Funding is on the way; there has been some delay because of the new process. DAR and Wildlife Services have received their funds. In future there should not be any delays because the groundwork is now laid.

Question regarding how many staff have been hired from HISC funding; approximately 64, which includes temporary hires to deal with coqui frog during the summer.

The request was put forward to the Legislature for a four million dollar budget for the next year, two million from general funds and two million from the NARS fund. The first hearing was on Wednesday and it went fairly well. There were a lot of questions about coqui frog. There is not a clear understanding of how the funding is affecting the counties. There are other bills coming before the legislature for specific funding for coqui frog on the Big Island and Maui.

The most visible problems are the most intractable. Money to control coqui frog are not enough to address the problem. Discussion of BIISC supporting community efforts to fight coqui frogs. County is very involved with MISC on Maui, so those needs of increased funding will be communicated to the county. There is a need to communicate a coherent plan for coqui frog on the Big Island. DOFAW would like to have a statewide meeting on coqui frog to determine a strategy.

Administrative position is that taking two million from the NARS fund will not impact the ability of the NARS fund to support other issues.

In past years there have been requests for single issue funding, traditionally they don't pass, there is a lot of interest in the beginning, but restrictions due to funding generally ends support. However, we should still be putting forward an integrated plan that addresses the concerns of specific species requests.

The issue of HDOA charging user fees to be self-supporting will be re-submitted this year; the bill was supported last year but did not go far. User fees for inspections would

increase HDOA's ability to do inspections. Another bill will be introduced to allow HDOA to collect fees.

There is another initiative to use the conveyance tax fund to support low-income housing; this will also affect environmental issues as the fund has multiple users.

**ACTION ITEM-** Mindy Wilkinson, DLNR DOFAW, will send out meeting invitations to CGAPS partners and county representatives to develop statewide strategy regarding coqui frogs.

The Interagency working group has never met.

### **CGAPS Coordinator Report- Kim Langley**

CGAPS has received funds from HTA in support of the alien algae/marine outreach project. Signe Opheim, the current alien algae clean-up coordinator was introduced.

### **Aquatics Update- Tony Montgomery, DAR**

Ballast update, administrative rules exist now in a draft form, if anyone wants a copy, let him know and he will send out. The rules will go to a public hearing, probably in the fall. AIS coordinator, they have finished the interview process and there were three excellent candidates, as soon as the offer has been made and accepted, he will make an announcement. The aquatics team, in the resume review phase, interviews will take place next week. The team will be based at Coconut Island. Also, they will be expanding in Hilo with monitoring staff and a data person to collate and collect data. It is noted that another group has begun alien algae clean ups on the Big Island and Tony is trying to contact them to offer support.

### **Alien Algae- Eric Conklin, UH**

A presentation on the alien algae control program; general overview and supersucker update, representing the Hawaii Marine Algae Group.

Twenty species of algae introduced, five are species of concern. Two are of high concern, Kappaphycus and Gracilaria. Ten years ago in Kaneohe Bay you had to search to find alien algal, now they cover 80% of reefs in Kaneohe Bay. The supersucker is the result of research to find a mechanical algae removal method. The idea is the machine and five crew in a few hours can have the effect of hundreds of volunteers and an entire day. The supersucker is a hose with a pump which divers feed algae into, the hose empties onto a sorting table on a barge, where native species can be sorted out and returned to the reef. Preliminary testing is under way. They need to obtain the necessary permissions for operation. They are currently in the process of hiring operational staff and developing the monitoring protocol. The group does not want to create more problems, so there is a need good hard quantitative data that it is removing algae and not harming the reefs. Also described the research on bio-control through use of urchins.

Question raised of were they using native urchins? Yes, experiments have been conducted; the problem is the small scale of experiments. There is a need for cultured urchins to conduct large-scale experiments. Asked if they will collect spatial information?

Yes, everything will have GPS coordinates and integrate into ArcView maps of sites; they lack manpower for thorough assessment.

Impression of urchins collecting due to human collecting? Suspect your correct, but no data to support that. This urchin is cultivated in Japan for consumption.

Urchins changing diet to alien species, Italian study found urchins has poorer health, are you looking at this? Yes. A uh researcher is looking into it, in the lab, single species alien algae does cause a slower growth rate in the urchins.

### **Weed Information Management System- Mandy Tu, The Nature Conservancy**

The Weed Information Management System (WIMS) is a new application tool for invasive weed management that was developed in Oregon beginning in 1999. It uses a MS access relational database on a desktop computer. What the system can do: tracks occurrences (locations), assessments (monitoring data), and treatments (any management action). Data is easily imported and exported; automatically produces reports and GIS shape files. It can be used with a pocket pc handheld unit. It has a very small GPS unit attached. Can be held in one hand.

Each occurrence is a point. An assessment is a polygon. Treatment can be related to one occurrence or to many. Viewed various screens; desktop and handheld unit and went over possible reports. Software is available for download:

<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/wims.html>. PowerPoint presentation and manual also available for download.

### **Ants- Lloyd Loope, USGS**

Group is not very active of late, no coordinator currently, due to lack of funding. Group was established in 1999 due to threat of RIFA. Little fire ant has gotten out of control, has been on the Big Island for six years, has grown from six populations to thirty populations, some over 30 acres. It is incredibly difficult to survey for, nursery trade is main foci for spread, within Big Island and inter-island. The Kauai population has been brought under control. Needs to be coordination /facilitation of HDOA program (coming out with statewide plan) and the ISCs.

ACTION ITEM: Lloyd will send out a written report to CGAPS list serve.

HDOA has been running RIFA assessment program using federal money, doing surveys at major ports of entry. On the Big Island, the widest range of little fire ant infestations, they will be doing outreach program. On Maui, Oahu, Kauai, are trying to step up the assessment program. Attempt to hit nurseries first and point of entry. It is not set up to assess general public. Gearing up to speak with nursery association people.

### **Brown Tree Snake- Earl Campbell, USFWS and Jim Murphy, Wildlife Services**

The good news is that the Air Force is constructing a working dogs facility for their dogs, when the facility is finished, Wildlife Services will inherit the old Air Force dog facility, solving the dog kennel problem. Congressional letters were instrumental in making this happen. The budget has been flat lined for years, but with assistance of the congressional delegation, the military will be coming through with additional funds, so

we are able to keep people employed, not needing to furlough as many staff. There are efforts on a high agency level to keep the program going. Most of the staff are still on temporary jobs, but they are still working. In past they were doing 24/7 inspections, now they do high priority, can no longer do 24/7. The Department of the Interior Insular Affairs is trying to cover civilian shipping. There is less coverage of military, even with the increase of military funding; it has not kept up with inflation. BTS meeting in March, in DC, has been called by the Assistant Secretary of Insular Affairs. They are being supported at the secretary level; DOD, DOA and Commerce have been asked to attend. There will be presentation and review of statements by states and territories; presentations on budget, and a second hour budgetary discussion, looking at needs and the constant search for funds to keep the program a float.

### **Media Campaign- Christy Martin, CGAPS**

Pest hotline, do we keep same number? Went over poll results regarding who would call the current number. There have been discussions with Verizon and they have reserved a number for us, it relays to any other number we choose to use. We will not receive a special rate for the service, Verizon will tell us the cost. Tomorrow there will be a meeting to discuss options, all are welcome to attend.

Don't plant a pest brochure; CGAPS has been trying to work with the landscape/nursery industry. The message is no one will be completely happy with the list of included plants. The plant industry will need to make concessions; we will have to make concessions. There was a question regarding is this list finalized for the brochure? Christy responded not completely as we want to generate a little more conversation. Would like the plant industry to come back to original purpose of brochure. The plant industry would like to see an economic study of how taking these damaging plants off the market will effect their profit, they don't see the economic damage caused by the plants being spread into natural areas. It is difficult to quantify, even for miconia there has not been a serious economic study.

Phone line- trying to clarify HDOA call center- what is it and who answers the calls. The pest hotline calls go to the airport office. They relay calls to appropriate Ag staff. They get a lot of inappropriate calls, for roaches, chickens, etc. There is not a clear, written down phone tree of who to call for what issue. The Verizon option does have an automated phone tree option. There is a need to keep the menu options simple.

### **Weed Risk Assessment- Carter Smith**

He is continuing to meet with industry groups and conservation groups, setting a basis of understanding about the WRA. Looking at the next steps of the process. This will involve working with industry groups on O'ahu, which have proven to be more reluctant. He is assisting with invasive species section of the upcoming LICH conference in April. He is expecting OISC to present, a view of what they are working on. He will be following up his initial requests for speakers; anyone interested in speaking at the LICH conference should contact him.

### **OISC- Ryan Smith**

Due to the HISC funding OISC has recently hired four new field staff, a field supervisor position was hired internally. The total field crew now numbers six. They are collaborating with KISC to develop a psa for coqui frogs, funds were received from the HISC Outreach working group. They are still looking for a combined baseyard/office space. Their top targets are miconia, coqui frog and they have found more miconia in the Haiku area.

### **KISC- Keren Gundersen**

Their top priority is staffing, have hired three new staff and will soon be hiring three additional staff and temporary staff in summer for coqui frog work. One staff person is to continue work on mongoose. They have found near mature miconia trees in the buffer area. There is one coqui frog infestation, they have a psa out which has generated response from the community, but mostly for greenhouse frogs. However, the current control strategy does not seem to be working, so will be seeking input from partners.

### **MISC- Teya Penniman**

They have completed hiring for the HISC funded positions. They are looking at doing team building exercises and crew training on databases. They will be hiring temporary positions to work on coqui frog in the spring. They will also be having in-house trainings and working with community groups to control coqui frogs in their areas. They were working with the mayor and did supply the numbers for how to eradicate miconia. They are working on increasing operational efficiency.

### **MoMISC- Lori Buchanan**

MoMISC will be bringing on a new hire. They don't have coqui frog, don't have miconia. They focus on prevention; they have a lot of support from the Ag industry. Their goal is to focus on outreach and education and to control what populations they do have. The committee does not have the resources to take on rubber vine. But they are taking on Australian tree fern.

### **BIISC- Julie Leialoha**

BIISC is finally getting staff on board; most of the positions should be filled in the next few weeks. An additional crew will be picked up in May to focus on coqui frog. They will be moving the office to the new baseyard soon.

### **Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) program- Yolisa Ishibashi**

She works with Hawaii, Guam and the territories. She processes their CAPS applications and forwards everything to Colorado. She handed out a brochure. Pointed out the survey of glassy winged sharpshooter on O'ahu. Surveys are done by cooperators. She does not survey for coqui frogs. Question about possibility of getting the funding expanded? She replied, no, the agency submitted proposals for a larger

amount then they had previously received but did not receive additional funds. Program encouraged by APHIS, which also is facing federal funding cuts.

**Announcements:**

Earl Campbell announced that FWS is offering training in the next two months, twelve slots open. The training is a type of risk assessment, previously applied to commercial issues, quality assessments, looking at re-applying this risk assessment to aquatic invasives. They are starting to use it for terrestrial issues. They will put out an announcement; DLNR, HDOA, DAR will be given slots. If there is a lot of interest, there may be the option of a second session.

Bruce Cassler asked if there was any move to get certain plants put on a banned list (noxious weed list)? HDOA replied that since 1992, they have not updated the noxious weed list. There is a problem of obtaining consensus and submitting to the Ag board. There are no aquatic plants on the state noxious weed list. This led to a general discussion of the process of the noxious weed list, banning plants, etc.

Next Meeting April 27, 2005