

**Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS)  
Meeting Notes**

**November 1, 2006, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Hawaii Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Branch  
1879 Auiki St., Honolulu, HI

**9 am: Call to Order** (Randy Bartlett, FY 07 CGAPS Chair)

**9-9:10 am: Introductions/Announcements**

**Updates (5-10 minutes ea):**

**Codes of Conduct** (Christy Martin, CGAPS-PIO; Boyd Ready, LICH)

- The Codes of Conduct project has three main goals, to gain voluntary acceptance from plant industry groups/individuals: 1. to submit names of new plant introductions so that they can be screened for invasive potential using the Weed Risk Assessment PRIOR to introduction, propagation and distribution; 2. to understand that some plants currently being sold are also invasive and the target of control/eradication by conservation groups, and to make a short list of some of these plants that industry will discontinue growing/selling; 3. to promote non-invasive alternatives to common invasive ornamentals. ONGA, KLIC have signed the Codes.
- The Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii (LICH) has signed a resolution in support of the Codes project, WalMart Garden Marts statewide has agreed to the list of KLIC no-sell plants including Australian tree ferns, kahili ginger and other plants. Big Island Association of Nurserymen (BIAN), Maui Association of Landscape Professionals (MALP) and Hawaii Island Landscape Association (HILA) are supportive of the project.
- The Hawaii Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) is taking the project a step further by looking at the list of 600 plants that have been screened with the Weed Risk Assessment. The ASLA board will look at the list of plants that have screened out as “H”, or high-risk of being invasive if planted in Hawaii. The plants they agree are invasive, they will put it on a list that they will recommend not be specified for projects. There are plants that they have questions about, and this list of plants and questions will be shared with the Weed Risk screener and field botanists for clarification/discussion.

**Coqui Frogs** (Tom McCullough, USDA APHIS WS-Big Island)

- Part of the Coqui Frog Working Group: Administer loan-sprayer program (have 28 sprayers, 100 gal-400 gallon sprayers) available island-wide.
- WS is assisting with incipient population, we have a 4-person squad, have sprayed and eliminated over 100 incipient (less than 50 calling frogs) populations. Have also assisted in spraying populations for elderly/handicapped residents. Will be hiring more staff in coming months (we’ll have 12 staff w/ the help of County funding). Looking for a few more sprayers, they are in high demand—there is a 90-day wait for the ones with the mechanical agitator.
- All County Transfer Stations island-wide were sprayed.
- 7 specialists were hired to survey certified nurseries to assist in controlling frogs by creating a frog-free buffer zone so the owners can control frogs within nurseries.
- Assist with outreach and education with workshops and direct outreach. Also provide instruction book with tracking forms. A piece of advice is to spray during the “magic hours”

between 4-6 p.m., when the majority of the frogs are still low in the leaf litter, before they have moved high into the trees.

- County has given mini-grants to community groups, which USDA WS will assist with training.

### **Hawaii Superferry** (Lyle Wong, HDOA)

(not present)

### **Hawaii PILN** (Anne Marie LaRosa, USDA FS; Dr. Jill Key, PILN)

- Mission: a regional partnership to empower effective invasive species management through a participant-driven network that meets priority needs. Rapidly shares skills and resources, provides links to technical expertise.
- Supported by 8 national and local govts.; BINGO's,
- PILN works with multi-sector teams, each team brings 2 top priority projects where network support is needed (strategic and field project)
- First meeting in May in Palau 2006, 42 people from 11 countries. Since then, all action plans produced during the meeting are progressing.
- Other partnership projects with PILN: Social marketing training with RARE—this is a U.S. based program that sends people to assist with projects.
- Second cohort of teams (6 new teams) will meet in March in Samoa, in conjunction with a 3-day workshop on marine invasive species.

### **Legislative Priorities** (Mark Fox, TNCH)

(not present)

### **10:10 – 10:20 am: Break**

### **Updates – continued:**

#### **DOA** (Lyle Wong, Carol Okada, Neil Reimer)

(not present)

#### **DOH** (Erick Cremer, West Nile Virus Coordinator)

- Mosquito surveillance going well, have discovered a new large breeding site at Hickam.
- We continue to have problems getting dead birds to test for WNV. Thanks to Ryan and the OISC crew, Keren Gunderson and the KISC crew for agreeing to transport dead birds. Maui has extra staff to pick up and transport birds. Now we need people to call 211 to report dead birds.
- Live bird surveillance—test about 30 birds /week on Oahu, 20-30 birds/week on Maui; just starting on Kauai.
- Main outreach goals is to get 211 number out there so people know that when they see a dead bird, to call 211, the operator will talk them through.

#### **DOT** (Lynn Becones, Chris Dacus)

(not present)

#### **DLNR-DOFAW** (Mindy Wilkinson, DOFAW Invasive Species Coordinator)

- Major accomplishment: Thanks to USFS pass-through, HISC funds, we now have at least the beginnings of early detection programs on each island, at least for vascular plants at this point. This is a major step up, as there has never been this capacity before.
- Working on avian disease surveillance network in the State for influenza and WNV, etc.
- There will be a new feral cat bill in the Leg this year. The impact of feral cats on seabirds is tremendous, and there are no consistent methods to deal with them.
- Mark Defley has taken a position with the Navy on Guam; Chris Buddenhagen has been hired and will start as HISC coordinator.
- Hans Sin has been rehired to work on coqui frogs on the Big Island, with statewide reporting responsibility.

**DLNR-DAR** (Sara Pelleteri, AIS Coordinator)

- The AIS team has been busy. Invasive algae surveys mostly finished on south shore of Oahu, looking towards other shores. Done Hilo harbor, working on plans for Molokai. Need data as a baseline for Supersucker Jr., the mobile unit, which will be ready for use soon.
- Carijoa project at Port Allen is ongoing. Team resurveys occasionally. February is the unwrapping of pier. Will then conduct surveys around Kauai and Niihau for Carijoa.
- Discosoma sp. eradication project took over a year, but have not found any new polyps in past two months.
- Invasive sponge surveys with Dr. Coles of Bishop Museum.
- Conducting hull fouling surveys for vessels going to the NWHIs with Scott Godwin.
- Signe Opheim working on Habitattitude project to gain drop-off points for unwanted aquarium plants and animals, and to raise public awareness to not dump unwanted pets.
- Attended the September ANS Task Force meeting—we will be the next meeting site for the Western Regional panel meeting, perhaps in October 2007.
- Ballast Water and Hull Fouling program coordinator: We are waiting on the State to finalize the position description, will be posted soon.
- Ballast Water rules are back at the AG's office for approval, there are still several more steps before these can be enacted.

**DHS** (Jim Kosciuk, Agriculture Liaison, Customs and Border Protection)

- DHS has advertised for a container examination station (CES) for sea cargo. At this point, we have two interested companies. Currently, containers are examined in multiple locations, and it needs to be in one place.
- DHS gave a briefing for Pacific Command on animal diseases and avian influenza to ensure that all arriving vessels meet quarantine standards and requirements.
- On-the-spot penalties have gone up nationwide, from 100 to 300, 250 are now 500 for passengers that fail to declare or attempt to smuggle.
- Recent seizures have been good: Flight from China had 100 lbs of citrus, which is highly restricted and regulated due to citrus canker and other diseases.
- DHS trying to get a university student intern, 16 hrs-full time. If they turn out to be good fits, they could be offered a permanent position upon graduation.

**USDA Forest Service** (Anne Marie LaRosa, Forest Health Coordinator)

New aerial detection program for Hawaii, partnering with DOFAW on aerial detection pilot program to determine best methodology for Hawaii. In national surveys, most of the

methodology is aimed at detecting insects and diseases. In Hawaii, weeds and ungulate damage are believed to be more important. Working with Rob Hauff on getting 50K to do this, also looking at hyperspectral/lidar combo, multispectral and other methods. (strawberry guava, miconia, albezia, melastoma, etc.).

**USFWS** (Earl Campbell, Invasive Species Division Coordinator, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office)

- **BTS:** Have signed agreements with the Air Force for their expanded runways to do 100% inspection on all flights leaving, and they will pay for it. Will need maybe a \$2.8 million budget for it (now have a \$1 million).
- Office of Insular Affairs and USFWS met with Navy and Marines (175,000 Guam pop), military will expand by 35,000 people in next couple of years. Used Section 7 ESA to get cooperation.
- Meeting in mid-Nov in Ft. Collins to discuss BTS issues, and again in April 2007 on Guam.
- Hiring a GS 11 position for multi-species IS work, including some BTS work. Will also be looking for a BTS coordinator, but committee needs to decide what the needs are.
- **Rodents:** Getting close to submitting application to EPA for aerial broadcast of rodenticide in forests in next month.
- In 3-6 months Statewide EIS on aerial broadcast of rodenticide in HI.
- Submitted a national application for diphacinone use on offshore islets.
- Potential funding: may get an add-on of 800K. Would like to assist with rodent eradication on Lehua, support for the ISCs, CGAPS, perhaps PILN.

### **11:30 am: New Business**

**Avian Influenza sampling work** (Mike Pitzler, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services)

- Funding became available for nation-wide surveys for avian influenza. We have a plan for detection and response. Workshop was held for bird trapping and sampling in Hawaii. There is a quota of migratory birds that we need to sample before the end of 2006, which is slow going, as Hawaii doesn't have loads of migratory birds.
- What happens if a bird tests positive? We increase sampling in that area. Determine if it may spread into the poultry industry. Plan beyond that needs work. Table top exercise is being planned that will hopefully help us determine what will should be done, especially in light of the large numbers of feral chickens statewide—aiming for the week of Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, under the auspices of Civil Defense.
- Shelly Cramer will be assisting with coordinating this program; Josh Fisher (formerly with OISC) has been hired to help with Oahu issues.

**Apple Snail Plan** (Penny Levin, E Kupa Ku Ka Aina)

Plan is printed and on CD, we need to talk about how to to implement the plan & we need everyone's help to implement the plan. Will try to put it on the HEAR and DAR websites.

**Pathways Analysis** (Earl Campbell, Darcy Oishi, Anne Marie LaRosa)

Planning a risk assessment with USDA.

**12 noon: Pau. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday February 7, 2007 at HDOA-PQ Facility**