



Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) Meeting Notes

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

9:00 am – 12:00 pm, October 25, 2007

9 – 9:10 **Welcome, Introductions:** *Anne Marie LaRosa, USFS IPIF; 2007 CGAPS Chair*

-Announcement: Dr. Neil Reimer, HDOA PPC has assumed the CGAPS Deputy Chair seat and will be the 2008 CGAPS Chair. Mahalo, Neil!

9:10 – 9:20 **HDOA PQ Biosecurity Program Update:** *Lyle Wong, HDOA*

- Recently looked at Miami airport and others at the inspection facility. HDOA submitted three CIP requests, one for a joint-use inspection facility (fed-state) at the airport, one for the harbor, and one for a new biocontrol facility.
- We are working with HDOT to put the facilities on the master plan for the ports. It is our plan to have a facility up and running within two years. We put in a request for first year funding, it was funded, but our second year request was not funded, most of it went to anti-terror projects.
- We are still not yet fully staffed, our 56 new positions are statewide, and we are having a difficult time filling all but Oahu and Hilo.
- We are still working with the County of Hawai'i to put in 25% of costs for hot water treatment facilities for nurseries on the Big Island. Funding is tight, but there are so many pests on the Big Island that make it even more important to treat plants before movement.
- The Plant Board Meeting was held here last month. We had discussions with the California agriculture department on the amount of agriculture product rejections (increasing) from HI growers. One reason is that there is more attention on products going into two main ports. When pests are found, items are shipped back at the exporters' expense. As HDOA expands our inspection and interceptions, we will also be sending back or destroying items, but unlike in Hawai'i, the cost is borne by the importer. What we need to do is to work with our shippers and growers so that we move clean materials, and they move clean materials, otherwise we will be hurt in the long run.

9:20 – 9:30 **Nettle Caterpillar Update:** *Neil Reimer, HDOA PPC*

- The Oahu introduction (Kipapa Gulch area) can pretty much be traced to one nursery importing plants, primarily rhapsis palm from the Big Island. We did an immediate response, spraying the area for the caterpillar stage, and worked with OISC to remove as many cocoons as possible. We are also using the pheromone traps that attract the male moths. From the nursery records, we checked a nursery on the West side and found a small infestation, which we treated immediately. Despite ongoing efforts in Kipapa, it looks like it has spread to Mililani area and we will be working with the community to look for and treat.
- On Maui we partnered with MISC, USDA to set up a grid to delimit the population, but it looks like it has been there for a while. The caterpillar lifecycle is about three moths, the moths are only present for about 10 days, so that makes it difficult to work with.
- USDA ARS developed a pheromone which attracts males, and this has been used to detect and disrupt mating cycle. We are looking for a company to mass-produce the pheromone. We would like to eventually see how we might use the pheromone over a large area.

9:30 – 9:40 **EGW Biocontrol:** *Neil Reimer, HDOA PPC*

CGAPS Steering Committee: Randy Bartlett, ML&P Puu Kukui Watershed; Earl Campbell, USFWS; Paul Conry, DLNR DOFAW; Lu Eldridge, Bishop Museum; Mark Fox, TNCH; Anne Marie LaRosa, USDA IPIF; Lloyd Loope, USGS PIERC; Tony Montgomery, DLNR DAR; Carol Okada, HDOA PQ; Teya Penniman, MISC; Mike Pitzler, USDA APHIS WS; Neil Reimer, HDOA PPC; Lyle Wong, HDOA PI

- We have a few large biocontrol species that are currently being worked on: a moth for the fireweed (*Senecio madagascariensis*) and a parasitoid for the nettle caterpillar, and the EGW biocontrol insect, *Eurytoma* sp.—a parasitoid for the wasp.
- Due to the natural cycle of the wiliwili species, it defoliates in the winter. The large plants are still able to supply itself with nutrients even when defoliated, so from its discovery here in April 2005, we had a bit of time to address it, but in many cases the tall wiliwili and some other species of wiliwili have died and have been cut down. Probably arrived and spread around the state was via aircraft.
- EGW described in 2004, distribution records researched: 2000: Reunion; 2003: Singapore Mauritius, Taiwan; 2005: Hawai‘i, China. So it had been on the move
- Have sent HDOA staff to native range of wiliwili tree, to look for natural occurrences of wiliwili trees and pests of the plants. This is dangerous work and many times they have guides and armed guards.
- When wiliwili were found, the leaves had maybe one gall, and many times there were health and no galls—this is a good sign, that means that in the native range of EGW, there exists a way to control them.
- We have a few species of parasites, etc. that we are either testing or holding until we have more space and time to rear and test. The species that we are testing now is *Eurytoma* sp. We do propagation, life history, longevity, fecundity and host specificity (impact on target and non-target species). We do this for all species since the mid 1970s.
- Eurytoma* lays its egg on the host larvae and kills it, then it tunnels through to the next EGW larvae, so it can take out a number of EGW larvae before turning into a wasp itself. The host specificity studies look really good, they do not switch to native or non-native hosts.
- We just posted them for public comment (to OEQC), requested a release permit with USDA APHIS, HDOA for release permit. One problem is that the *Eurytoma* sp. is viewed as a “new” species and may need to be officially described and named before being released, regardless of the tests. Even though this is a high-priority pest issue, there is no way to move it up in the cue of applications to the USDA, applications are dealt with in the chronological order they receive it.

9:40 – 9:50 Strawberry Guava Biocontrol: *Anne Marie LaRosa, USFS IPIF*

- Tracy Johnson with USFS is doing the work. HDOA approved in early 2007 to release the biocontrol, is waiting on reply from USDA APHIS. May be able to release in spring 2008. Julie Denslow is ready with the monitoring plan on the Big Island, which will last 3-4 years before being released on other islands.

9:50 – 10 Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection Update: *James Kosciuk, CBP*

- On targeting items coming in from foreign ports, we look at the manifest (which is vague due to the “codes” used). At times we have to go to the bills of lading and even invoices to figure out what the merchandise is.
- Centralized exam service went into service Oct 15. There is a centralized inspection area for sea containers, a CES station. This is a great improvement, since inspection is now done in a controlled environment, not at the different importer locations, etc. For example, even if the entry documents are prepared for Maui, it comes to the Oahu CES station, where it is inspected. It costs the importers more, but it is a good safeguarding measure. The airport inspections are done

- Still averaging about 150 pests or diseases interceptions per month, the majority are actionable pests. At the mail centers, we issue about 750 mail violations per month, parcels arriving from foreign areas. We also intercept and forward a lot of items to HDOA, things that are actionable by the State.
- There are a number of animal, plant and disease committees between state and feds to that we can better communicate and conduct joint operations.
- We've had a couple of interesting things: 1 was a shipment of cargo from China, of stone, which is something we look at. There was one 20 ft. Container that we targeted and was held at the CES station. We noticed ants crawling on the container, we collected the ants and closed and sealed the container, event he vents and seals with duct tape. We take the SOP on "no new ants" seriously. We sent the ants to be ID'd. It was either RIFA (not present) or tropical fire ant (present), so we gave the importer the option of "treat or return", they chose treat and treated assuming it was RIFA. After the fact, the ID came back with the ID of tropical fire ant, but it was a good exercice and test of the scenario.
- Another was working with Earl and HDOA about 125 containers from Wake Island, which we targeted. State concern was about new species of rats not present in HI, CBP was interested in any number of things int he container. The materials were scrap and salvage materials, it turned out to be actually very clean. We watched the containers being offloaded, we looked at the ships (we look at all foreign ships), the only thing we found was more ants. So we sealed it, etc. Again.
- Both are examples of good communications and cooperation. In the event that we found rats, we would have made three calls, one to CDC, we would have called HDOA, and HDOH.
- Military has to manifest cargo, but not to the degree that commercial cargo is. CBP looks at it as well.
- When we find pests on international shipments via domestic ports such as Miami, we trace back and let the other ports know.
- We get 4-8 shipments of orchids from Thailand, and continue to get lepidoptera, thripps and snails. We usually require destruction of these. It goes a week into the freezer facility, then to the steam facility.
- Lyle: HDOA is still trying to get an irradiator at the airport, it would be one more treatment option for items coming in. We are still working on showing the benefits of this service to environmental groups that are opposing the facility.

10 – 10:10 2008 Legislature: Anne Marie LaRosa, USFS

- HDOA will be requesting a change to a statute so that shipping manifests list items being shipped (rocks, sand, furniture, plants, etc.)—this will be important so that HDOA can identify if the shipment might carry a high-risk pest.
- HDOA will also be looking at interisland manifests so they may better identify commodities that may carry pests like LFA.

10:10 – 10:20 Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) Update: Chris Buddenhagen, HISC

- Main update is that we have been reviewing research and technology proposals, coqui proposals and public outreach proposals.
- Shahin Ansari has left the WRA Technician position, we hired Chuck Chimera and will be hiring a second WRA tech position.
- We will also be updating and revising the HISC Interim Plan, working within the working groups.

10:20 – 10:40 Aquatics Update: Tony Montgomery, DLNR DAR and Sara Pelleteri, DLNR DAR

- Sara: The AIS Team is finally back up to full-strength. There has been a lot of interest in the Supersucker project. Officials from Maui County came over and there is interest in possibility building their own. Joanna Tavares has just been hired to look at AIS treatment

methods that have been used around the world and look into use in Hawai'i. There is an announcement about the HACCP training on the back of the agenda.

BREAK 10:40 – 10:50

10:50-11 Brown treesnake and Military Expansion on Guam: Mike Pitzler, USDA APHIS WS

- Mike: Earl handed out a projection of the construction activity on Guam. Current DOD plan is to increase operations on Guam, population will increase by 40%. By 2009, this increase will begin. Shipping will increase by 600%. Major growth in the CNMI. Continental will increase flights, one shipper is adding 5 new vessels, with routes between Guam and Honolulu. Our kennel space will not be increasing commensurate with the level of inspection necessary—we are also non-regulatory.
- Ramifications of this growth are tremendous. We have never had what we need on Guam to achieve 100% inspection. We are always in contact with HDOA (Domingo is awesome), but we will need to ramp up our inspection capability here, although that is our second choice, we would rather inspect before Guam departure.
- Earl: The political pressure to move to Guam is from the top levels, so it is not a question of if, it is a question of when. The Japanese government will come up with 12 billion to assist, so this also ensures it will happen. By FY10, DOD will break ground, which means that most of the construction materials and equipment will come from or through Honolulu. By the time we have the EIS done, these things will be moving. Raw materials will also come from Asia, and containers will be providing the transportation for more than BTS.
- We need help from people to make sure we get things done that will help protect us.

11 – 11:25 Invasive Species Project Updates: (5 minutes each)

- ◆ **West Nile Virus Working Group: Arlene Buchholtz, HDOH (not present)**
- ◆ **Avian Influenza: Joshua Fisher, USFWS**

-37 countries have confirmed presence of AI. 220 million birds have been culled to control outbreaks. We are monitoring birds by sampling migratory birds and chickens. Did a tabletop exercise in August to look at interagency work and responsibilities. Thus far, AI has not been detected in the Americas.

- ◆ **Update on new pests: Rob Hauff, DLNR-DOFAW**

-Anne Marie/Earl: Coconut rhinoceros beetle from Asia was detected on Guam, they are in the delimitation process, known in Tumon Bay, and surveying in Anderson AFB. Palms are susceptible.

-Darcy: APHIS is launching an eradication program, with traps and lures, they hope to place 1,000 traps.

- ◆ Visit the new HISC, CGAPS and ISCs website at www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org
- ◆ Media Update, Christy Martin, CGAPS Public Information Officer

-We have five new PSAs running on KITV, thanks to

11:25 – 11:50 ISC Updates: Top 3 priorities: (5 minutes each)

- ◆ OISC: Rachel Neville

-Our Oahu multi-agency partnership has been working on the only known wildland population of coqui on Oahu. Our temp crew sprayed the entire area, and we haven't heard a frog since Nov 2006. We will have a coqui meeting in November to discuss the cost/benefit report.

-Early detection program has two botanists working with Bishop Museum. They surveyed nurseries and botanical gardens and are now doing roadside surveys. One interesting thing they found was a supposedly “sterile” variety of *cylindrica* –. One other thing they found was that a sprout of the bo tree (the pollinator for the tree has arrived), it is the tree of enlightenment. They will put their finds through their analysis to see if they might be good targets.

-Neil: we found out that the pollinator was here through the Foster Botanical Garden, where they found sprouts.

-Castle Junction (Kapua Kawelo) found *Verbena bonariensis*. They surveyed and removed.

-We are having our priority species meeting, coming up.

-We found the biggest reproductive miconia tree we’ve seen in years, behind the Luana Hills golf course. We found another mature tree in the area, with lots of keiki. This is on the edge of our aerial buffer zone, and it has increased our survey area. We think that the Maunawili trail keiki came from this mature tree.

◆ KISC: *Keren Gundersen*

-Early detection roadside surveys (265 miles of road on Kaua‘i) will start in November. Our strategic planning meeting has been moved to early next year, to accommodate results.

-Coqui frog project goal was s no calling frogs by Nov. We continue to hear calling frogs as they mature, so we go back and treat.

-One year ago, we did an island-wide survey of nurseries for LFA (with none found outside of the known infestation in --), this year we will also be looking for nettle caterpillar.

◆ MISC: *Teya Penniman*

-We are still working on controlling fountain grass and ivy gourd on Lanai

-Our vertebrate crew is now a vertebrate-invertebrate crew. We are also working on nettle caterpillar delimitation surveys with HDOA, along with

-The Hana crew is still working on miconia, and has been using rappelling to augment the control efforts.

-Early detection: We are developing our outreach to train more eyes and ears to detect a limited number of species. Elizabeth

-Forest and Kim Starr will begin nurseries and botanical gardens, there are already some challenges as far as identifying all the things they don’t recognize.

-Crew has been working on early detection and control of *Pittosporum undulatum*, which looks like it could be successful.

-Also continuing dead bird pickup and delivery.

-Veiled chameleons: we had for a while been focusing on the core, but then we put buffers around them and are conducting surveys to delimit the population. There was only one area we found chameleons outside our core. We are not finding a lot of chameleons, we have been successful at containing them, but they are so cryptic.

◆ MoMISC: *Lori Buchanan*

-Superferry has been good for business. There are a lot of things going on on Molokai, I am getting a lot of press and a lot of calls for presentations.

-In 2008 we want to do a lot of work on early detection and outreach. Most of our target species are under control and monitoring.

-We’ve been getting great feedback from outreach. USDA has hired the first full-time officer based on Molokai. She is from the mainland, so we are helping to train her, introduce her to the community.

-We will be doing on-the-ground surveys (me and Kamalani, with help from TNC): we will be taking the info taken from the aerial miconia survey and investigating other plants. We will also be

resurveying for Miconia, in the 2008 year. We will also be asking for MISC staff to come and help resurvey for BBTV.

-We are worried about the rash of people coming to Molokai to grow things like *Arundo donax*. We are working to run new things through the weed risk, and

♦ BIISC: Julie Leialoha

-We need to readvertise for an early detection botanist.

-The ground crew has been focusing on plume poppy (*Bocconia*) in Honomolino area. We are also working to contain it in Wood Valley area.

-We have also been working with the community, HAVO, DLNR, on control of fountain grass in HOVE area.

-We've continued with aerial survey/control of miconia and ground operations, but it is obvious that we will need to scale back due to the magnitude of the problem.

-We have had a lot of outreach opportunities and have had such great success that we virtually have no outreach materials left to give away.

-We've been working with community groups to control weeds in their own area.

-We were blind-sided by the coqui bounty hunter program, which we were not consulted on in the first place. There are lots of issues, and HIEDB is trying to deal with it. (Earl interjects that there are studies that show that a bounty program is one of the best ways to spread a pest, with only one highly-controlled successful program).

-For coqui, we are assisting DLNR where possible, we have been continuing with the community matching program, where if someone buys chemical, we will provide a matched amount of chemical.

11:50 – 12 Announcements, upcoming meetings & Next meeting date:

(Invasive Species Committees Meeting 1:15 – 3:30, HDOA Conference Room)

1. HACCP Training Sessions: Strategic planning associated with Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) planning is taking place. Training sessions and general presentations to inform Natural Resource Managers and their partners about the form and function of HACCP will be taking place all next year. If you have questions about scheduling a HACCP training or general HACCP presentation please contact Tony Montgomery at 808-587-0365, email tony.montgomery@hawaii.gov or Jeff Herod, USFWS Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, at 808-792-9462, or email jeffrey_herod@fws.gov. We also invite you to visit the national website: <http://www.haccp-nrm.org/>
2. April 11, 12 the Kaua'i Conservation Conference will feature a discussion on biofuel and risk analysis.

Next meeting date: we will submit a request for the HDOA conference room for Thursday, January 17.