



Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) Meeting Notes

12:00-3:00 pm, Thursday, June 20, 2024

Hybrid participation on zoom or at the Foreign-Trade Zone No.9 Homer A Maxey ITRC Pier
2. 521 Ala Moana Blvd Honolulu, HI 96813 (Harbor View Room 258)

***These notes are uncorrected by speakers and participants—they represent a sense of the meeting and information shared. Readers and users are urged to verify data or information with the speaker.**

12:00 – 12:10 **Welcome and Introductions:** Susan Cordell, Chair

Attendees: Ambyr Miyake (UH CTAHR), Christy Martin (CGAPS), Josiah Marquez (HDOA), Kailee Lefebvre (CGAPS), Elliott Parsons (Pacific RISSC), Chuck Chimera (HISC), MJ Mazurek (USFWS), Angela Kieran-Vast (NAVFAC Pacific), Arisa Barcinas (CRB), Brooke Mahnken (MISC), Danielle Frohlich (SWCA), Elizabeth Monaghan (DAR), Elizabeth Speith (HISC), Erin Bishop (OISC), Janet Ashman (HFB), Kimberly Kahaleua (DOFAW), Lori Buchanan (MoMISC), Nicole Olmsted (Navy Pacific Region), Rebecca Chong (CBP), Sanna Matheny (CRB), Susan Cordell (USFS), Tiffani Keanini (KISC), Jennifer Tamaariki (BIISC), Ellie Montgomery (HISC), Jean Fujikawa (OISC), Rob Hauff (DOFAW), Michelle Montgomery (HAL), Chris Kishimoto (HDOA), Mike Melzer (UH-CTAHR), Keith Weiser (CRB Response), Nate Dube (OISC), Jack Reef (HISC), Melissa Kunz (USDA), Jeremy Gooding (USDA), Mark Fox (NOAA), Wayne Tanaka (Sierra Club), Mark Ladao (HPR), Raenette Gee, Leyla Kaufman (FWS), Jesse Adams (KMWP), Cheryl Young (USDA)

12:10 – 12:20 **CGAPS:** Christy Martin

- There has been a lot going on. Connecting people at FESTPAC when it came to biosecurity portion. Support US Navy and DAR with unomia project and SCTL (Drew Porter). Taking legislative action this year to have vessels report biofouling?

12:20 – 12:25 **HISC/CGAPS Strategy update (Large-Scale Control of High-Impact Invasive Species):** Christy Martin

- Landscape scale control of high-impact invasive species are projects that are on the scale of introducing mosquitos to help control avian malaria. ABC and Birds, not Mosquitos project, just got a new outreach specialist, Emma Shelly.

12:25 – 12:30 **KISC:** Tiffani Keanini

Plants

- Miconia: YTD 2024: 1,559 acres of Miconia aerial surveys, 77 acres of ground survey with 20 mature and 2,422 immature Miconia plants detected and controlled. The albizia canopy coverage in the are is impeding ability to identify immature miconia plants during aerial surveys.
- Early detection plant program: 2024 focused on controlling known and new locations on Macaranga Mappa (Bingabing), Pueraria montana (Kudzu), and Juncus effusus. 100acres surveyed, 244 plants controlled

CGAPS Steering Committee: Chelsea Arnott, HISC; Jodi Chew, USDA FS; Rebecca Chong, DHS CBP; Susan Cordell, USDA FS IPIF; Mark Fox, Emeritus; Bryan Harry, Emeritus; Angela Kieran-Vast, NAVPAC; Mary Jo Mazurek, USFWS; Michael Melzer, UH CTAHR; Brian Neilson, DLNR DAR; David Smith, DLNR DOFAW; Cheryl Young, USDA APHIS; Dexter Kishida, HDOA; Tiffani Keanini ISCs

Pests

- LFA: 3 additional LFA infestations were identified in 2024, Kauai currently has 10 sites ranging from 1 to 55+ acres in size. Equaling estimated 137ac and counting. 3 sites have high-risk pathways for additional potential intra-island spread. 10 sites: 1 will be officially eradicated this year, 1 monitoring, 1 in treatment, and 2 sites are pending treatment strategies, 5 still need delimiting surveys completed. Look forward to working with partners to develop an island-wide LFA management plan with all our partner's roles, responsibilities, mandates, and capacity clearly defined.
- CRB: CRB have been detected in 51 of the 159 traps we have deployed island-wide. The majority of the Beetles collected have been at the Wailua Golf Course in traps and near treatment sites. Some continual captures in the Lihue & Puhi area and isolated detections in other locations on the island. This highlights how quickly CRB can spread through contaminated materials if there are not policies in place to mitigate the high-risk pathways.
- Coqui: YTD 2024: KISC controlled 39 frogs in 8 locations
- ROD: Continuing island wide DMSM surveys – working towards sampling the priority suspects w/ DOFAW/KRCP/KISC. No notable new detection areas recently.

12:30 – 12:35

OISC: Nate Dube

- Personnel: Kepano Carvalho promoted to Field Operations Manager and will oversee all OISC field ops. Phillip Kapu TA'd into Field Supervisor position. Sydney Estrada TA'd into Field Crew Leader position. Community Liaison (LFA) to start in September. Hiring temp positions with excess HISC FY24 funds due to delayed account openings, staff changes, and heli cancellations. These temp positions will help us ramp up LFA/coqui in short term with no restrictions in terms of survey vs treatment. In general, having a hard time hiring/retaining staff
- EDRR: New coqui population in summit area of Pu'u o Kona. Likely from population below. Determining next steps. OISC continues to assist HAL and community responses for LFA. Lanikai & Kahalu'u Community Response. Pampass grass at private residence
- Target Species
 - Miconia: Consistent heli ops cancellations due to weather and lack of pilot availability
 - Cane ti: Consistent heli ops cancellations due to weather and lack of pilot availability
 - ROD: Still responding to public reports and taking samples. Only one round of DMSM, will take place before end of year. DMSM meeting coming up. Strategy meetings in Hilo
- Accounts & Contracts
 - Waiting on the compliance agreement between the State and REPI in order to execute LFA/coqui FTE positions
 - Need to get MOU for BY space before we hire these permanent positions too
 - Working on MOUs for Kawainui BY and Ho'omaluhia
 - Approval will be difficult for Kawainui based on MOU, will keep working with DOFAW/PCSU to address issues
 - Looking around still for BY space if anyone has leads

- Considerations: 15-20 staff, 4-6 work vehicles, personal vehicles for staff, access to hose/decon area
 - Preferred: windward side, access to bathrooms and potable water, office space, storage space for equipment gear
- Kamehameha Schools ROE approved after 5 long years
 - Ironing out the details; very report heavy, but manageable
- Short term ROE for miconia in Waihe'e approved
- Provided info as requested on joint HDOA/UH/DOFAW MOU for LFA/Coqui/CRB
- Outreach
 - Heavy on LFA outreach and field support
 - LFA testing at a number of plant giveaways/sales
 - Access permissions
 - Support to community members for community led responses
 - Increased Ho'ike and sample ID/collection first half of the year
 - A lot of interviews with news agencies to start the year
 - Presentations/tabling at career fairs, schools and various community events including Kaimuki Middle School, Aloha Trees, YMCA, Holomua, Mililani Middle, and more
 - Continued with devil weed volunteer outings
 - Took part in HISAM planning and tabled at event
 - Conducted HISAM virtual presentation
- Miscellaneous
 - OISC meeting next week Tuesday 9:30-12(ish)

12:35 – 12:40 **MoMISC:** Lori Buchanan

- Molokai: No albizia, No ROD, 1 snake (January 2024), No Miconia, No CRB, No coqui, No LFA

12:40 – 12:45 **MISC:** Teya Penniman

Invasive Plants

- Miconia: We have resumed use of HBT for miconia work – flying today; contract is progressing with UH SDAV for remote sensing of miconia across East Maui watershed. Developing more HBT capacity with crewmembers, including Hana team. We are also working with HISC, James Leary, Nelson Paint company and other Watershed partners to develop HBT with imazapyr (thanks Chelsea, for helping to shepherd this!).
- Pampas grass: it's pampas season, so we will be doing more aerial reconnaissance / control in East Maui. Aerial ops in West Maui can be done year-round because there are so many targets.

Little Fire Ants

- New infestation: We have a new LFA infestation on a road in Hana. Maui's 2nd infestation, and 16th detected via community reports. It's along a road and also at the County Public Works baseyard. No evidence so far that LFA is in the green waste or landfill at the site. Estimated size – possibly 20 acres, making it Maui's second-largest infestation. MISC is working closely with HDOA, County Public Works, and Councilmember Sinenci's office. We are continuing to delimit the site, have made recommendations to Public Works, and have scheduled a public meeting in Hana for next Monday, in coordination with Councilmember's office.
- LFA Detector dog: Freddie the black lab detector dog is at MISC and moving towards full capacity. Our handler Trisha and Brooke Mahnken went to Australia to be trained by the Murrays – the dog trainer – and then all came back to Maui, including Freddie for transition to Maui and to working with live ants. He is successfully alerting to live LFA on Maui in the field. It's like having a highly-skilled athlete as part of your team, who continues to train and perform and learn with us. Trisha and Freddie have done one public demo and will do another in Hana next week as part of our public meeting. Huge mahalo to CGAPS (Christy!) for helping secure funding from Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation, the Laurence H. Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation, Hawaii Conservation Alliance Foundation, and HISC for supporting this project.

Coqui frogs

- The crew focuses on keeping frogs from spreading outside the core population, responds to outlier single-frog reports, and is working to eradicate coqui from satellite populations. Constant turnover and small staff make progress challenging.
- Nearing completion on installation of coqui barrier fence, with ongoing maintenance progressing. Still need to address infested nurseries. There are now eleven community groups. We need to replace the two coqui liaisons we had to keep that support happening.

CRB

- MISC and MoMISC continue to participate in the County-led CRB Response planning exercise. No new detections.

Public Relations

- MISC lost our awesome part-time Outreach associate, Merrill Rahnken, who was responsible for our Hoike education program and helped a lot with other outreach events (still with us as intermittent). But we are excited that Laura Luther is joining us in a full-time capacity this next month. Laura has a strong background in natural resources (pueo Master's project) and education. We are excited to expand our outreach and education capacity. Like many others, MISC participated in the HISAM activities during May, including three webinars covering ants in Hawaii, the Nahiku LFA control effort, and detector dogs. MISC also partnered on a speaker series highlighting community involvement in invasive species response.

Staffing

- Like many ISCs and agencies, hiring and retention continues to be challenging.

Funding

- The MISC and MoMISC grants, along with seven other county grantees, are moving to a different department at the County – the Environmental Protection and Sustainability division of the Department of Environmental Management. We believe this will be a much better fit for these grants (than under the Office of Economic Development). Mahalo to all during this last challenging year for supporting the MISC and MoMISC projects.

12:45 – 12:50 **BIISC:** Jennifer Tamaariki

- BIISC Target Species: Smokebush (1 active site), Rubbervine (2 active sites, eradication start 2009), Barbados Gooseberry (2 active sites, eradication start in 2011), Silver-leaf aster (4 active sites, eradication start 2012), Molucca Raspberry (1 active site, eradication start 2013), Dahoon Holly (2 active sites, eradication start 2014), Devilweed (10 active sites, eradication start 2021), Giant Burmese Honeysuckle (1 active site, eradication start in 2012)

12:50 – 1:05 **CRB:** Keith Weiser

- Statewide: HI Island had 4 finds this year. All in the greater Waikoloa area. On Maui, we are meeting with a response group. No finds on Molokai and Lanai. We are getting more requests to do trainings for stakeholders. Drone work on Kauai. Drone treatments seem to be pretty effective on Kauai.
- On Oahu, the windward coast has the least amount of CRB. Staff are being asked to do more presentations and sorts.
- We treated 2 housing complexes.
- We are in the process of hiring the first drone pilot. We are having a CRB symposium in September. UH testing some palm treatment methods.

1:05 – 1:10 **ROD:** Rob Hauff

- The second Rapid Ohia Death Science Symposium will be held July 18 and 19 in Hilo. We'll be marking 10 years since the Ceratocystis fungus that causes ROD was first isolated and discussing recent research results with forest managers. The meeting will inform our update to the five-year multiagency strategic response plan. We wanted to limit attendance to folks working directly on ROD while having good agency representation. If anyone is interested in attending, please reach out to me or Ambyr.
- The annual ROD outreach workshop will be held in September in Hilo. This is an event for outreach specialists to learn the latest on ROD, strategize on public outreach, and refine messaging. Contact Ambyr if you or your colleagues are interested in attending.
- We're looking at updating island response plans in the coming calendar year.
- Senator Schatz's office secured \$2.25M in congressionally directed spending for research on ROD with Ryan Perroy's lab at UH Hilo being the lead. They are looking to expand research to Kauai with project.
- The project is working with Pesticides Branch and the manufacturer of SPLAT Verb, a verbenone-based insect repellent labeled for forest use in Hawaii for suppressing ambrosia beetles attacks on ohia (they are trying to include coffee berry borer on the SLN too).
- Dr. Rich Snieszko, a forest service geneticist and leader in developing pest-resistance in trees based out of Dorena, OR, will be visiting Hawaii in July to advise the Ohia Disease Resistance Project. He'll also be

meeting with managers to discuss potential genetic resistance in niao to Myoporum thrips and the on-going koa disease resistance project.

Island updates:

- Oahu is up to 15 detection of *C. huliohia* with a cluster of recent detections in Makaha Valley. ANPRO is working with partners to contain the disease and monitor. Still no *C. lukuohia* detections on Oahu.
- Surveys continue on Maui with no new detections.
- Kauai continues to detect both *C. huliohia* and *C. lukuohia* and has re-focused its response areas to priority high-value to ohia forest due to number of detections.
- On Hawaii island, surveys continue across the island and managers are working closely with researchers. There are very concerning levels of ROD in both Ka'u and Laupahoehoe Forest Reserves where some of the state's best ohia forest remain.

1:10 – 1:15 HISC: Chelsea Arnott (presented by Jack Reef)

- Interagency MOU for High Priority Pests signed on April 19th. Timeline for regular meetings, data protocols, streamlining survey and treatment protocols and developing county response plans.
- HISC approved initiating rulemaking for the HISC administrative. On the agenda for June 20th small business regulatory review board meeting. If approved, schedule out the public meetings. Rules include HISC departments, counties, and agents to enter private property for control and eradication of Council listed invasive species. Also order state departments control and eradication on public lands.
- HISC FY25 Funding: HISC Resources Working Group meeting scheduled for August 15th at 12:30 pm and HISC meeting for August 28th at 1:00 pm.
- Still working on the review and update for the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan.
- Submitted REPI preproposal to support CRB and LFA research and work in Hawaii for HAL and CRB Response Team.
- Chelsea out from July 1-23 but Rob Hauff and Jack will be available for any immediate needs.

1:15 – 1:25 HAL: Michelle Montgomery

- HAL has hired 1 new Full-Time staff assistant on Oahu. We may be hiring another person this summer.
- For Oahu, we have a total of 16 sites that has been detected this year. Of those, 6 sites has been found in the past 6 weeks. A lot more awareness going on in Oahu. We are relying on partners with all the ISC's as well as we are building new partnerships with private industry. We are providing a 2-day training to applicators. Funding is still a big issue. Chelsea has been helping a lot.

1:25 – 1:35 Ports of Entry Monitoring Program (JB Response Plan)- Christopher Kishimoto

- Hawaii/Oregon Japanese Beetle Training: A multi-agency group from Hawaii went to Oregon to learn from their Department of Agriculture Japanese Beetle Program. All traps are tagged and labeled. Japanese Beetle is not a federally actionable or reportable pest. Oregon's budget for JB project is around \$2Million (staffing, treatment, green waste management, vehicles, outreach materials, and overtime). There is about 11,000 traps deployed in Oregon, about 8500 of those traps are in the

Portland area. Joint effort by USDA, HDOA, HISC, USFWS, and CGAPS to create a JB EDRR Plan for Hawaii.

1:35 – 1:45 **Break**

1:45 – 1:50 **UH Agrosecurity Lab: Michael Melzer**

- Faculty Recruitments: Dr. Marian Luis starting in August, candidate interviews for Arthropod Specialist in Hilo is complete and Dean has made his decision,
- Finished Pest Surveys: All were negative. Citrus commodity survey, field crops pest survey, palm commodity survey.
- Next year for Cooperative surveys: all insect surveys because we have an entomologist in charge
- 2024 PPA 7721 Pest Surveys are imminent
- Lab updates: red palm mite on loulu and coconut in Honolulu. Not reported in the Pacific Islands.

1:50 – 1:55

1:55 – 2:00 **DoD AIS in Pearl Harbor: Nicole Olmsted**

- Recap: Highly invasive soft coral, *Unomia stolonifera*, found in Pearl Harbor. Navy tested manual removal and smothering methods using tarps and pallet wrap. All removal methods were successful. Recolonization happens quickly. Navy conducted lethality lab trails to develop BMPs for gear/equipment cleaning
- Update: FY 24 contracting in process. Plan to work outside in established. Exploring eDNA options. Need genetic barcode. Navy presented at the International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species . USGS confirmed *Unomia* has male and female gonads so sexual reproduction is possible. Grant opportunities and partnerships for more research

2:00 – 2:05 **DAR: Elizabeth Monaghan**

- Removed the non-native coral *Montipora foliosa* from Reef 8 in Kāneʻohe Bay in April which was reported in September 2023 after it was thought the initial removal in 2020 was successful. A follow-up survey was conducted one week later, and additional surveys were planned for the next several years.
- Responded to citizen report of an unidentified zooanthid off Kualoa to check for potential non-native status following reports – samples were collected and shared for morphological and genetic identification.
- An algal desiccation experiment using *Acanthophora spicifera* as a proxy for the cryptic alga *Chondria tumulosa* that has been overgrowing reefs in the PMNM began in May. This experiment will inform decontamination protocols for vessels traveling within the PMNM and will continue through the summer.
- It is anticipated team will hire additional contract staff to assist with invasive octocoral surveys and/or removal. Also collaborating with many other agencies on eDNA survey development
- Ballast Water Biofouling Team has been conducting recreational harbor biofouling surveys on neighbor islands – completed Oahu, Kauaʻi and Kona area

- Continue to meet with the Coast Guard quarterly to discuss enforcement options for the 2018 Vessel Incidental Discharge Act

2:05 – 2:10 **USFWS:** MJ Mazurek

USFWS PIFWO/DOI other partner updates

- Event: Territorial Climate and Infrastructure Workshop July 30- Aug 2, TBD Hawaii Convention Center. Register here: Whova site: https://whova.com/portal/registration/tcaiw_202407/
- Funding:
 - FWS: Founding populations of aquatic invasive species within the early detection and rapid response context applications for quarterly funding [Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species](#) Next deadline 15 July 2024
 - USDA: (FY) 2025 Plant Protection Act Section 7721 (PPA 7721) funding. APHIS is funding projects that protect American agriculture and natural resources - Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program funding. www.aphis.usda.gov/funding/ppdmdpp/ FY 2025 Implementation Plan, [Frequently Asked Questions document](#) Deadline July 31, 2024.
- Vacancy Announcement: Interjurisdictional Invasive Species Rapid Response Team Coordinator, closes 17 June 2024 or when 200 applications are received. [Announcement link: USAJOBS - Job Announcement](#) (ping MJ if want help with federal applications)
- National IS updates
 - H5N1: The HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) 2022 incident/event continues to spread globally impacting wild birds, domestic poultry and increasingly showing up in mammals (ie. marine mammals). The Pacific Islands/Oceania remains one of the few places that a positive detection has not occurred yet in the world. Discussions in Hawaii are ongoing with representatives from USFWS, USDA, NOAA, HDOA (Animal Industry) initially meeting and scheduled to meet again to update Response planning docs and communication lines. Will invite additional State programs to join in on the discussion (DLNR, HDOH) and update agency roles in the Response Plan as appropriate. Next meeting is scheduled June 17, 1-2pm. Please reach out to J. Fisher if in your lane.
 - Emerald Ash Borer detected in British Columbia/infestations removed in Oregon [Links](#)
 - Monitoring for quagga [mussel veligers on the Snake River in Idaho](#)
- 2024 Update to BTS Fact Sheet for FEMA first responders (see attached)
- H5N1 recently found in mice in NM; one human mortality in Mexico

2:10 – 2:15 **USFS and IPIF:** Jodi Chew and Susan Cordell

- Nancy Chaney retired last month and we will be rehiring for that position to help Tracy Johnson.
- Jeremy ? just joined team. He is going to the pacific in October. Working with grant programs on biosecurity issues.

2:15 – 2:25 **DHS Customs & Border Protection:** Rebecca Chong

- FestPAC – worked alongside other ag reg agencies to ensure participating countries were aware of our regulations prior to arrival by providing training for them and working closely with SPC and CGAPS. Will work with partners on an after action report.
- RIMPAC – 28 countries on their way or already in our waters for biannual war games. This is Hawaii’s largest threat to animal agriculture – 300,000 lbs. of regulated garbage arriving in short duration of time. Working closely with PPQ, NAVFAC and stakeholders to ensure regulated garbage is handled and processed properly.

2:25 – 2:30 DLNR DOFAW: Rob Hauff

- Earlier this month the water and land committee went to Maui to look at DOFAW projects and tour went well. Good conversations occurred and they particularly chatted about recruitment.
- DOFAW is looking into a contract with a company to do pictometry imagery.
- We do have job vacancies in DOFAW so reach out if you have any questions or are interested

2:30 – 2:40 HDOA-Plant Industry, PQ, PPC: Dexter Kishida

- PQ has been busy with FESTPAC.
- PQ will be searching for a Plant Industry Administrator. We are looking at redoing minimum qualifications for working for HDOA.
- No movement on Ch. 72 rulemaking.

2:40 – 2:55 Additional Partner Updates

2:55 – 3:00 New Business and Announcements

Note: To join or leave the CGAPS listserve, click here (<https://bit.ly/2RExLJP>) or, go to the University of Hawaii’s listserve webpage and search for the CGAPS List.

The next Quarterly General CGAPS Meeting will be on Friday, Sept. 6, 2024 9a-12p. This meeting will be hybrid with an in-person location at the Foreign-Trade Zone No.9 Homer A Maxey ITRC Pier 2 521 Ala Moana Blvd Honolulu, HI 96813 (Harbor View Room 258).