

Prevention EDRR Working Group

December 7, 2020, 1-2:30 pm

Attendance: Kevin Hoffman (HDOA), Mike Melzer (UH CTAHR), Rebecca Chong (CBP), Becky Azama (HDOA), Darcy Oishi (HDOA), Tiffani Keanini (KISC), Springer Kaye (BIISC), Nate Dube (OISC), Helen Sofaer (USGS), Chuck Chimera (HPWRA), Elizabeth Speith (MISC/HISC), Cheryl Young (USDA APHIS), Dorothy Alontaga (USDA APHIS), Roshan Manandhar (UH-CTAHR), Randy Bartlett (HISC), Natalie Dunn (DLNR), Jess Inskeep (HDOH Vector), Tim Gallagher (Bishop Museum), Christy Martin (CGAPS), Kelsey Brook (UH), Stephanie Easley (CGAPS), Leyla Kaufman (HISC)

1. Kevin Hoffman welcomed the Prevention/EDRR Working Group (WG). Kevin announced that he is retiring at the end of December. Mike Melzer has agreed to be the chair of the WG. Kevin will let us know who his HDOA replacement will be.
2. Rebecca Chong gave an update on HIRAC (Hawaii Risk Assessment Committee). The HIRAC is starting new special operations, looking into expanding them in the following quarter. There was some discussion regarding interceptions in sea cargo that were not actionable.
3. Kevin provided a powerpoint presentation on the coffee rust that has been discovered on Big Island and Maui. PDF of the ppt is available upon request.
4. Task Updates:
 - a. Task 1: Prepare comments to USDA List of Plant and Animal Pests & Disease Threats to include pests of concern in Hawaii.
Stephanie Easley provided the update that no meetings were held on this task and that based on communications with key agencies, this task will not move forward. Discussion of replacement task and how to elevate the HI priority prevention concerns through existing processes (such as Cooperative Agricultural Pest Surveys (CAPS) was encouraged. To start the process Darcy Oishi provided an overview of the CAPS process. This process is time consuming and requires personnel trained in risk assessment. DOA is evaluating routes to get that going.
 - b. Task 2: Work on determining a process to update the federally actionable pest list to include Hawaii specific pests. Additionally, working on addressing how to include/regulate non-plant pests such as coqui frogs/mosquitoes.
Update provided by Leyla Kaufman and Dorothy Alontaga. There was no meeting for this task. Currently USDA APHIS does not regulate species like

coqui frogs or other non-plant pests. In order to address those species, we will need to identify the agencies that can address them (control or make regulations for the species of concern). If we want to include species that will have undesirable ecological effects (such as coqui frogs, etc.), we may need to link them with endangered species habitat (Tony Palermo can provide more information on that). Mosquito species are not regulated by the federal government, only the diseases they vector are regulated. FWS will only have a narrow reach (mosquitoes as it relates to avian malaria or avian influenza on endangered forest birds). CDC might have some involvement for mosquito species of human health concern.

The group decided to have a meeting with participants that signed up for the initial task during the next quarter.

c. Task 3: Develop communication protocols between HDOA and UH-CTAHR Extension to promote timely collaboration on prevention and EDRR efforts.

Update provided by Mike Melzer and Kevin Hoffman. This task group met 3 times in order to draft a protocol for communication between HDOA and UH-CTAHR. The task group developed a tentative protocol and points of contact between the two agencies. The CTAHR side developed a flowchart for how communication will flow up and down the chain. HDOA is working on its own internal communication flowchart. CTAHR will be given and receiving data/information while HDOA will be the information hub for other agencies such as ISC's, etc. CTAHR will work on formalizing the internal communication protocol and HDOA will be working on its own.

d. Task 4: Coordinate with UH to be able to rapidly identify diseases of concern to guide regulatory actions and potentially other EDRR/surveys. Updated provided by Mike Melzer. Mike saw a connection with the discussion around task #1 (CAPS survey). This task will develop lists of species of concern and develop diagnostics for them. Mike has put together a preliminary list of priority species that need diagnostics tools for prompt identification and shared it with HDOA, HDOA is coming up with its own list. The goal is to come up with a list that HDOA and other state and federal agencies will endorse, bring that list back to CTAHR and develop the diagnostics capabilities for all/most of them (Mike's lab can focus on the diseases but other CTAHR labs could help with diagnostics for other pest groups).

e. Task 5: Update to the Noxious Weed Seed Lists (§4-67-3 Hawaii Administrative Rules) and Noxious Weed List (Chapter 4-68 HAR)

Stephanie Easley gave an update on the status of this task: The task group has met twice and plans to meet once a month going forward. She noted that since the HDOA regulations were last updated in 1992 many of the provisions are out of date and different than the realities on the ground in 2020. Currently, the task group is working on updating the geographic distribution of the species on the current noxious weed list and reaching out to growers and ranchers to discuss noxious weed seed species that impact agricultural and vegetable seeds.

5. New task

- a. Modify the non-regulatory list to add pathways of introduction.

Helen Sofaer provided her vision for this potential task. Helen suggested going back to the non-regulatory lists that Kevin put together and adding the potential/major pathways of introductions for the species in those lists. By doing that we can create an explicit link to policy, diagnostics, surveillance strategies, or management approaches. This may also broaden the value/reach of the lists by making some of the species flagships for a pathway and therefore representative for a broader set of organisms.

There was no time for discussion after Helen's participation. Please follow up with an email to the group if you have questions, ideas or if you are interested in working on this task.