

Prevention/EDRR Working Group  
Quarterly Meeting Notes  
June 30, 2021 1:30 to 3:30pm

**Attendance:** Becky Azama (HDOA), Mike Melzer (UH-CTAHR), James Aut Fleming (HDOA), Helen Sofaer (USGS), Rebecca Chong (CBP), Springer Kaye (BIISC), Randy Bartlett (HISC), Tiffani Keanini (KISC), Elizabeth Speith (MISC/HISC), Tony Palermo (USFWS), Chelsea Arnott (HISC), Kamran Fujimoto (HDOA), Danielle Frohlich (SWCA Consultants), Jonathan Ho (HDOA), Craig Kaneshige (HDOA), Janis Matsunaga (HDOA), Chris Kishimoto (HDOA), Chuck Chimera (HPWRA), Darcy Oishi (HDOA), Cheryl Young (USDA APHIS), Adam Radford (MISC), Forest & Kim Starr (MISC), Kailee Lefebvre (CGAPS), Dion Dizon (CGAPS), Leigh Greenwood (TNC), Stephanie Easley (CGAPS), Leyla Kaufman (HISC)

1. Co-chairs Mike Melzer and Becky Azama welcomed the Prevention/EDRR Working Group (WG) and we did introductions.

2. Regulatory Updates.

a. Rebecca Chong provided a Hawaii Risk Assessment Committee (HIRAC) update, including:

- CBP worked through HIRAC to conduct special operations while passenger arrivals from foreign countries are still low.
- CBP and HDOA worked together to look at cruciferous vegetables to share best practices.
- Another operation was to take a closer look at Federal States of Micronesia mail.

b. Dorothy Alontaga provided a written update from APHIS which Mike Melzer read. The update provided reminders of APHIS authorities and duties, including:

- Regulating plants, cut flowers, fresh produce, animals, animal products, and miscellaneous products.
- APHIS PPQ and HDOA revamped a post-entry program requiring regulated foreign propagative plant material to be grown under confinement with surveillance for pests that may not be visible or expressed at the time of the entry inspection.
- The NAPPRA (Not Authorized Pending Pest Risk Analysis) process and that the public is invited to participate in that process.

c. Jonathan Ho provided an update from HDOA-PQB, including:

- The budget issues facing HDOA and he indicated HDOA projects could be impacted.
- The discovery of coqui frogs in a remote area of Waimanalo. HDOA PQB is working on a multiagency effort to eradicate the frogs. He described methods being used to capture the frogs. It is not known how the frogs arrived in the remote location.
- Beetles were detected in firewood imported into Hawaii from another State.

3. New Tasks

a. Firewood Pathway: Leigh Greenwood from The Nature Conservancy's Don't Move Firewood campaign gave a short talk on the risks of insects, fungus, and other invasives moving on firewood. She stated that all foreign firewood imported into the United States is required to be heat treated. Firewood imported into Hawaii from another State is not required to be heat treated. While on Big Island in 2019, she found firewood for sale that was grown in Estonia and the States of New Hampshire and Georgia. Firewood sellers said tourists purchase firewood for beach fires.

- Leigh explained that firewood can be infested with pests (pests that utilize the tree when it was growing) and can be cut, even heat treated, put in the supply chain, and subsequently contaminated with hitchhiker pests or pest eggs, etc. She listed a variety of pests that could be transported into Hawaii on firewood.
- Jonathan clarified that HDOA has the authority to inspect all firewood imported into Hawaii from another State.
- Rebecca noted that no firewood is directly imported into Hawaii from foreign countries.
- Anyone wanting more information can email Leigh at [lgreenwood@tnc.org](mailto:lgreenwood@tnc.org).
- Springer suggested to put together a list of invasive pests that can be potentially dangerous if they get to HI with firewood, the list should be compiled by State of origin.
- The new task is an open-ended task. It could just be something with one or two meetings to discuss the issue and what's happening with it in Hawaii. Hopefully, the discussion will lead to steps the group can take to address the firewood pathway. Anyone interested in joining should let Stephanie know.

b. Pathways of Introduction: Helen Sofaer described the new task to modify the non-regulatory Hawaii Prevention Priority Distribution List and the Hawaii Limited Distribution List that Kevin Hoffman put together to refine the lists and add the potential pathways of introduction for each species. The goal is to validate the lists and make them more representative and useful beyond just checking on their status every year (introduced or not introduced).

- Danielle Frohlich has put a lot time and research into identifying sources to confirm the presence of species on the list and to remove species from the prevention list that are present in Hawaii, like water hyacinth. Species already present will be placed on the “limited distribution list”.
- Danielle, Helen, Chuck, Leyla, and Stephanie have divided up the prevention list and are doing on-line research to add a Convention on Biological Diversity pathway label for each species.
- Leyla noted that hopefully this project will lead to a horizon scanning project for Hawaii, but that decision will be made by the HISC Council.

c. Diagnostic Tools for Early Detection: Mike Melzer discussed his work on this task. The task goal is to develop a list of plant, poultry, and livestock pathogens, and arthropods, plants, and other pest species that pose a high risk to Hawaii’s agricultural and terrestrial ecosystems and to determine if there are diagnostic capabilities for these high risk pathogens somewhere in the State. He is working with UH, HDOA, and HDOH to identify these diagnostic capabilities.

#### 4. Current Tasks

a. Communication Protocols Task: Task Description: Develop communication protocols between HDOA & UH-CTAHR Extension to promote timely collaboration on prevention/EDRR. Mike Melzer described the task progress.

- A meeting was held on March 24, 2021 to discuss new pest reporting. Becky Azama, Darcy Oishi, Chris Kishimoto, Janis Matsunaga, Jordie Ocenar, Lance Sakaino, and Wil Leon Guerrero participated for HDOA. Mike Melzer and Roshan Manandhar participated for UH-CTAHR. Stephanie and Leyla attended for the Working Group.
- That meeting resulted in UH-CTAHR and HDOA developing protocols to share information about new pest finds in the State
- The issue of interisland movement of material requiring permits was also raised during the meeting. This led to the task group scheduling another meeting on May 21, 2021 with CTAHR, UH Office of Research Compliance, HDOA, including an outreach and education specialist, to discuss requirements for interisland movement of materials. CTAHR and HDOA agreed to work together to ensure all

material is properly permitted and inspected when moved interisland and to meet every six or 12 months to keep the channels of communication open. Mike is Melzer is compiling a list of materials that is typically moved interisland and will send that to PQ to double check on the permitting process. Some training to CTAHR and other UH staff will follow, as well as regular annual meetings.

b. Mamalu Poepoe Task: Leyla Kaufman presented results from the feedback requested from State, Federal, and project partners (ISCs and HAL). The intention of the feedback was to identify things that worked well, identify aspects of the project that needed improvement, identify potential overlap with other programs/projects, need to expand efforts to seaports, and the need to update the list of invasive targets. Leyla updated the group on the funding status (current funding from DOT set to expire March 31, 2022) and shared the pending/potential funding opportunities.

c. Noxious Weed/Seeds. Task Description: Update to the Noxious Weed Seed Rules (Chapter 4-67 HAR) & the Noxious Weed Rules (Chapter 4-68 HAR). Stephanie provided the update.

- The task group has been meeting for a long time because there have been many complex issues to discuss, including how species are designated as noxious weeds, access to private property, and how control and eradication projects are selected.

- The group has developed a conceptual outline for the noxious weed rules. Stephanie is in the process of writing it up as a proposed regulation.

5. Joint HDOA-BIISC *Chromolaena* (devil weed) control on Big Island: Springer Kaye (BIISC) and Kamran Fujimoto (HDOA PPC) gave a presentation on this joint control effort. The current infestation on Big Island includes three treatment sites: Hilo motocross, Hawaiian Paradise Park (shoreline), and Leilani Estates (residential). BIISC and HDOA are splitting efforts to control this noxious weed. It is important to do long term control since it is determined that this species has a 5-year viable seedbank. Dogs trained to detect *Chromolaena* may be used in the response on Big Island (this is already happening on Oahu).

6. New pest advisories: Janis Matsunaga provided two new pest advisories. The first new pest is Cuban brown snail (CBS). This pest has been detected on Oahu. CBS can be a voracious feeder. It can hide in soil and potted plants and can easily go undetected. For more information, see the HDOA new pest advisory for CBS, which may be found [here](#). The other new pest is the Bronze Bug, *Thaumastocoris peregrinus* (Hemiptera: Thaumastocoridae). This a sap-sucking pest native to Australia that has been reported on Oahu. It has a recognized host range of over 30 species and hybrids in the genera *Eucalyptus* and *Corymbia* (Myrtaceae).

7. Mike wrapped up the meeting, thanked participants, and indicated we will set a date for the next quarterly meeting which will be in October 2021.