

Prevention/EDRR Working Group
Meeting Notes January 10, 2023, 1:30 to 3:30pm

Participants: Helmuth Rogg (HDOA), Mike Melzer (UH-CTAHR), Dan Jenkins (UH), Roberto Rodriguez III (UH-Hilo), Rebecca Chong (CBP), Dorothy Alontaga (APHIS), Roshan Manandhar (UH-CTAHR), Helen Sofaer (USGS), Forest & Kim Starr (MISC), Franny Brewer (BISC), Nate Dube (OISC), Chuck Chimera (HISC/HPWRA), Chelsea Arnott (HISC), Elizabeth Speith (HISC), Kailee Lefebvre (CGAPS), Darcy Oishi (HDOA), Jonathan Ho (HDOA), Janet Matsunaga (HDOA), Josiah Marquez (HDOA), Kamran Fujimoto (HDOA), Arisa Barcinas (HDOA/CRB Response), Keith Weiser (CRB Response), Janet Ashman (Hawai'i Farm Bureau) Rob Hauff (DLNR), Lorraine Shaughnessy (US Navy), Leyla Kaufman (HISC), Stephanie Easley (CGAPS)

Meeting Notes:

1. **Introductions:** Co-chairs Mike Melzer and Helmuth Rogg welcomed the Prevention/EDRR Working Group. We did introductions.

2. **Regulatory Updates.**

a. Rebecca Chong provided an update on recent Hawaii Risk Assessment Committee (HIRAC) Pest Risk Committee activities. HIRAC continued with joint agency quarterly operations and will continue to partner with HDOA for appropriate operations.

b. Dorothy Alontaga provided an APHIS update, including:

- Noting that APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) makes some of the rules that CBP enforces.

- Suggesting signing up for the APHIS Stakeholder Registry to receive the latest updates and information about APHIS activities and proposed activities. Registry members receive notices of changes to the Hawai'i Manual and information regarding foreign imports and exports, including requests for U.S. market access. U.S. market access considers the United States as a whole, and it might be helpful see if there are specific concerns for foreign imports into Hawai'i that are not concerns for mainland producers. You can sign up here:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/subscriber/new>

- Providing information about *Acalolepta aesthetica*, a long horned beetle native to Australia that is established on the Big Island. It is something to watch for in Hawai'i as it is impacting cacao growers and other crops on the Big Island. Dorothy suggested this beetle would be a good topic for a grad student to study. Helen Sofaer noted that USGS has done some work on this beetle including host preference research and working with impacted growers.

c. Helmuth Rogg provided an update from HDOA-Plant Industries, including:

- At the end of 2022, Becky Azama retired as Plant Pest Control Branch Chief. Helmuth is the acting manager of Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB). He is still trying to find permanent managers for Plant Industry branches.

- PQB continues to inspect almost 99% of the air and sea vessels arriving from Guam for brown tree snake, including the use of 3 detector dogs.

- In 2022, PQB: monitored almost 8 million passengers using the Ag Declaration Forms; inspected approximately 16 million parcels; handled more than 44,000 ship vessel arrivals; and had 125 nurseries participating in their certified nursery program.
- PQB continues to detect invasive animals in the State, including skunks, snakes, and other kinds of reptiles. There was a skunk reported in Hilo in January and PQB is trying to catch it.
- PQB is participating in joint inspection operations with CBP and other Federal counterparts to prevent the import of restricted species or pests, including working to prevent smuggling.
- PQB is working with CDFA on nursery exports from Hawai'i to California.
- PQB continues to have compliance agreements with Oregon and Washington for Christmas tree imports. This year an issue arose in Oregon with Christmas wreaths from North Carolina that were boxed up and infested with scale.
- The Kupono system is moving forward. HDOA staff has received training on the system and the public is using it.
- PQB's general funds were reinstated last year for most PQB staff.
- PQB is having success filing vacancies for inspector positions. PQB has hired 7 new inspectors for Oahu, after losing 3 inspectors to retirement. They are actively recruiting more inspectors – 3 for Oahu, 2 for Maui, 2 for Hilo, and 2 for Kona.

3. Speakers: Dr. Dan Jenkins & Dr. Roberto Rodriguez III attended the meeting to present information about the use of unmanned aerial systems in EDRR. Dr. Rodriguez gave a very informative presentation on the use of these systems for the following purposes: remote detection for pests (imaging sensors, artificial intelligence); chemical applications (granular bait, liquid insecticides); and biocontrol (release of sterile insects) which, interestingly, does not require the same certifications as pesticide applications. He talked further about the complex licensing and certification processes for pesticide uses. He noted that unmanned aircraft can be as effective as manned aircraft in applying pesticides. He addressed questions from the group, including regarding the use of devices around private property and the attendant privacy and trespass issues.

4. New Pest Alters: Janis Matsunaga presented information on HDOA's new pest advisory for *Macrohomotoma gladiata*, a psyllid that was first reported in November 2022 but was probably around for much longer. Its primary host is Chinese Banyan. You can recognize the damage by the white secretions in shoot tips.

5. On-going Tasks:

a. CRB Task: Helmuth provided an update on the revision of chapter 72, Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR), which will include a permanent CRB quarantine rule to regulate the movement of CRB host material on and from Oahu. Compliance agreements are required for Oahu businesses that work with CRB host material. The CRB Interim Rule (22-1 HAR) will expire on June 30, 2023, so HDOA is racing to get the permanent rule through the review process. HDOA's current proposed draft of the chapter 70 HAR revision clarifies: (1) that HDOA has the authority to prevent the movement of nursery plants and any other merchandise that is infested with a pest within the State; (2) that HDOA may require treatment of a commercial area where infested plants or merchandise is stored; and (3) that a person who transports pests or infested items within the State is subject to penalties. Helmuth noted that there still some outstanding issues with the rules, including the definition of what is a "pest." The draft rules will be considered by Plant and Animal Advisory Committee and the Board of Agriculture and subject to public comment and other review early in 2023.

Stephanie Easley noted that HDOA has three statutory authorities to regulate pests and pest host material moving within the State: §141-2 Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS); §150A-8 HRS; and §§150A-52 and 53 HRS, HDOA's Biosecurity Program laws enacted in 2008 and not reflected in the current intrastate administrative rules.

Arisa Barcinas provided an update that CRB Response is continuing to do outreach to businesses impacted by the CRB interim rule.

b. Firewood Pathway: Helmuth provided an update of the progress to adopt a firewood quarantine rule that will require firewood imported into Hawai'i to be heat treated and labeled to prevent the introduction of pests. Adding the firewood quarantine will require HDOA to update all of chapter 70 HAR, the plant import rules.

As part of the update, HDOA hopes to include a new subchapter to prevent the introduction of citrus diseases to Hawai'i. Mike described the growing citrus industry on Maui, which now has thousands of acres being planted in citrus, including the largest lemon field in the United States. He also described the threats to citrus from diseases that are regulated by USDA, including citrus black spot, citrus canker, and most importantly citrus greening (or HLB). Citrus greening is a devastating disease decimating citrus production on the mainland and around the world. It is present in all but two states, one of which is Hawai'i. HDOA's proposed revision of chapter 70 HAR will contain a new subchapter that mirrors the federal quarantine rules to prevent the citrus diseases from entering Hawai'i. HDOA will begin rulemaking for chapter 70 after the CRB rulemaking (chapter 72 HAR) is further along.

c. Communications Protocols: The first HDOA/CTAHR meeting to carry out this task was held in March 2021. At that meeting protocols were developed for the sharing of new pest finds between HDOA and CTAHR. Those protocols have been put in place and are working well.

The second HDOA/CRAHR meeting was held on May 21, 2021. That meeting included a presentation by an HDOA Education Specialist regarding general requirements for moving species and samples.

The final meeting of this task to discuss the specific requirements for the movement of species and samples by UH researchers was scheduled for November 16, 2021. It had to be rescheduled because of coffee leaf rust meetings. We have never been able to reschedule the final meeting.

Mike developed a list of scenarios involving the movement of plant, animal, and soil samples. HDOA is working on providing the permit and other requirements a researcher would need for each of the scenarios. Jonathan Ho provided HDOA's update of this task. Jonathan Ho said that he is finalizing a document similar to an SOP that CTAHR and other UH researchers can utilize to ensure they obtain all needed permits or other approvals prior to moving species or samples. He stated that document will include the changes included in the new chapter 72, HAR.

d. Pathways Task: Helen Sofaer presented a preliminary draft of the Hawai'i Limited Distribution Priority List. This is a non-regulatory list of impactful invasive species that are already on one or few islands. Experts have added species and identified the pathways for introduction and their mechanism it spreads interisland. The task group needs to decide if there is more information to add (such as relevant regulations that apply for some species).

Helmuth provided an update on the interception data. There are two sets of data, the federal data (CBP data – international import to Hawai'i) and the domestic import data (currently stored in the Kupono database). Helmuth needs to get approval to get more detailed data of the federal interception data. Helmuth is looking into recovering records from the old HDOA Invicta database.

This task group will meet on February 1st to review the progress.

e. Noxious Weed Task: Stephanie stated that HDOA's noxious weed authorities prevent the importation or sale of any taxa on the State noxious weed list and are intended to facilitate HDOA working with landowners to control and eradicate listed noxious weeds on private property. She noted that the list of noxious weed species and their infested areas in chapter 68 HAR is now more than 30 years old and totally out of date. This Working Group had a noxious weed/seed task group that worked very hard to prepare a revision of the noxious weed administrative rules. That draft permits HDOA to maintain a list of noxious weed species that could be changed by action of the Board of Agriculture. HDOA is interested in building on the work of the task group to create an updated noxious weed list and administrative rules. We are looking for people with expertise in noxious weeds and their distribution in Hawai'i to keep this task moving forward.

f. Ports of Entry/Exit Pest Monitoring Program: This program was formerly known as Mamalu Poepoe. The program is no longer operating with HDOT funds. The current funds are FY23 HISC funding and FY23 federal funds (Congressional Direct Spending). The federal funding has allowed for an expansion of efforts to seaports and for the addition of a new target (Japanese beetle). Helmuth added that there is National Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan and most of that Western states hold in Category 1 (non-infested) with a few states currently dealing with high infestation (such as Washington State). All states need to complete surveys according to the national harmonization plan to maintain their category and avoid quarantine regulations. Hawai'i will be able to fulfill that requirement now that this target is added to the port of entry program.

6. Other Discussion: Kailee Lefebvre provided an update on the new interactive biosecurity display at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport. This display will be set up January 25th at the new section of the airport (near DKI desk display). CGAPS is coordinating a press release for this display. This press release will be used to kick off of the Invasive Species Awareness Month (HISAM) that is during the month of February. Kailee thanked everyone who provided input and comments on the draft display content.

7. Next meeting: Helmuth and Mike wrapped up the meeting, thanked participants, and indicated we will set a date for the next quarterly meeting which will be in May 2023.