



Partners in Invasive Species Work: Who does what? How is it all coordinated?



COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

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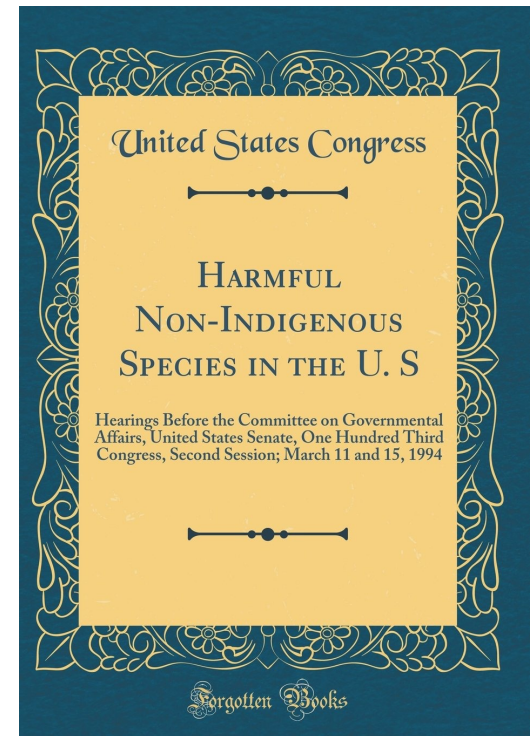


Why are there so many groups working on invasive species?

In 1992 The Nature Conservancy & Natural Resources Defense Council documented the invasive species issues in Hawaii, including gaps in prevention, control, and public awareness (see below for a partial list of findings).

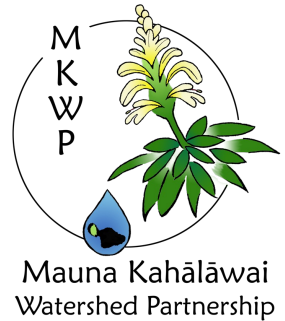
In 1994 the U.S. Office of Technology Assessment documented issues nationwide, concluding, “...few economic or non-economic activities in Hawaii are unaffected by the influx of alien pests. The Aloha State is a case study of what happens when alien pests run wild.”

- Agencies’ jurisdictions and mandates don’t meet needs for addressing invasive species—gaps
- Outdated laws or complete lack of laws—more gaps
- Agencies don’t have adequate capacity and funding—gaps
- Extremely limited **rapid response capability for a variety of pest species**—another gap



Examples of projects that fill gaps and work across property lines

- 1991 Watershed Partnerships began forming to control invasives and manage water across property lines
- 1995 CGAPS formed to facilitate interagency communications and improve policies and public engagement; 2002 HISC was established for state policy-level direction and gap-filling funding
- 1997 Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) started forming to fill gaps in early detection/rapid response and public engagement
- 2008 Hawaii Ant Lab (HAL) formed; 2015 the CRB Response established for specialty work



Who does what?

In general:

HDOA (civil service) works in areas where their regulations are (e.g. Plant Quarantine staff at ports for inspection, and for certain pest issues they may work at farms/nurseries/ranches). Unless a pest is an extremely high priority for eradication, HDOA does not tend to work on pests on public or private properties (Plant Pest Control staff are extremely limited in numbers on each island, no outreach).

ISCs (RCUH projects) view the entire island as a management unit. The staff work wherever there is an infestation of a high-priority invasive pest with the goal of island-wide eradication where possible. They also have outreach staff and programs.

HAL and the **CRB Team** (both are RCUH Projects): provide specialized research, management, and extension services statewide. The CRB Team is led by an HDOA staff.

HISC (civil service and RCUH) and **CGAPS** (RCUH project) staff try to coordinate communications, plans, and needs, and fill gaps.

How is it all coordinated?

All groups try to work with HDOA to understand where HDOA is and is not working because HDOA is the sole agency that has regulatory authority over Little Fire Ants, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles, coqui frogs, and some other pests.

The “lead” agency on each island differs for each pest based on the following:

- Capacity of HDOA
- Capacity of the ISC (or HAL, if ants)
- Where the infestation is and if it is a high-priority for eradication
- How established a particular pest is (and if it is an eradication target or something that will need to be controlled by the public in perpetuity)

Filling gaps requires flexibility, communication, and coordination!

Where we see strategic investments:



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- **Support for DAR** to address aquatic and marine invasive species and the vectors of **ballast water & biofouling**
- Create an **invasive species emergency response revolving fund**, similar to §128D-2 *Environmental response revolving fund*
- Recognize and **invest in gap-filling functions** such as the Invasive Species Committees, Hawaii Ant Lab, Mamalu Poepoe Port Monitoring, the Birds, Not Mosquitoes project, and the many researchers at UH and other public and private institutions that help develop management techniques and tools, and engage the public. Many of them (CGAPS included) apply to the HISC for funding, and as you've heard, the problem and needs are much bigger than the pot. Additional **funds through HISC or the agencies** are desperately needed.

