



**Aloha Arborist Association
Monthly Meeting
March 16th, 2022 at 6:30pm**

In attendance: Desiree Page, Carol Kwan, Justin Barrios, John McComas, Dudley Hulbert, Sergio Vasquez, Rebekah Morton, Steve Connolly, Tylor Schwartz, Sophia Colella

1. Call to Order 6:38PM

2. Welcome Guests

- Guest Speaker- Darcy Oishi & Koki Atcheson, State Proposed Composting and Green waste compliance agreement discussion with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Darcy Oishi- Hawaii Dept of Ag. Biological control section chief. Incident commander for CRB—Darcy's title for the purpose of this discussion.
 - Conducting consultations for next phase in project. Talked about ideas back in 2015 at the Old Spaghetti factory.
 - Things have gotten worse with CRB. Populations spreading. Higher concentrations of beetles in less areas. High Detection areas: Mililani, Kunia ag park, Wai'anae coast. Catch numbers reduced at: Iroquois Point; Pearl City Peninsula. But having detections pop up on North Shore associated with movement of green waste. First breeding site in North Shore detected today. That's SIGNIFICANT!
 - Detections are popping up on new parts of O'ahu, seems to be spreading by movement of green waste.
 - But we do have more tools within the department and program. Arborjet – imidocloprid and acephate injections. Fumigating breeding sites. Early on only had composting and burning. Now treating breeding sites before routing for incineration.
 - Department had a meeting about issue. Advisory Committee made recommendation to BOA to approve Interim Rule to Administrative Rules to declare Oahu as CRB infested area. Allows HDOA to have stronger teeth to prevent movement of CRB from Oahu to other islands. Movement of compost, potential host plants, etc. across the board. Gives HDOA regulatory power to implement comprehensive management plan. Sets precedent for using for future invasive species as well.
Submit feedback on requirements through this [Google Form](#)
 - Lots of composting rules moving forward through Legislature. Want to minimize vectoring of invasive species through compost.
 - Create cooperative agreements with generators and movers and recyclers. Also, categories for nurseries and landscapers.
 - Want to create language that is concise easy for everyone can understand
 - Agreements unfortunately focus on stick end of equation instead of just cooperation – enforcement/penalties.
 - Don't want to empower a monopoly (who won't be named here) – helps to have distributed sites from different companies that can take the waste.
 - Stamp out the breakouts on different parts of the island so HDOA can focus on hot spots and bring those populations down.
 - With injections, record low numbers detections after the injections (Iroquois Point test site). Just need a little more time. But have to stamp out small little fires to be able to actually stamp out this invasive species.

- HDOA fronted program but have engaged broader partners to help address. Koki's team helping to collect info feeding into agreement/interim rule. Will have 1 year to implement permanent rule once interim rule passes BOA.
- Primary focus now is to exploit opportunity in having receptive leadership and excellent support staff to help move these issues forward. Broader groups – HISC, CGAPS, assisting also. Team effort lead by HDOA. Some confusion over that, but HDOA is the lead.
- Room to make changes, want to hear the concerns. Want to make this doable, not something people are going to ignore/not comply with and then we lose the battle with CRB.
- Not everybody has access to a rough draft – Desiree. Is there something we can look at?
- Koki will forward over the latest draft to AAA for dissemination to the membership for review. AAA collect input, forward to HDOA as a package. Then future meeting to discuss concerns.
- Will supply a cover letter explaining where we are in the process, that HDOA wants input from the industry to make this livable.
- HDOA wants to establish procedures. What happens when removing coconut material? When can it stay in one place? Some contractors dealing with large landowners – military bases different than a small homeowner. Whole range of scope, HDOA not in the field enough to know what the issues are. Want industry's input for that.
- Steve Connolly – easier if just lay down material (whole material). Darcy - Chipped material is more risk.
- HDOA has had conversations with DOH. Violations of DOH rules as it relates to solid waste.
- Facilities are under constraints that they can't reasonably do. When they're shut down, then those that feed into that facility also become a concern.
- Dudley example – prune Ficus at E-W Center, moved it to Lyon Arboretum the next day. How would it work with that?
- Movement is fine as long as Lyon Arboretum is under the compliance agreement, so they do what needs to be done with what they received.
- Latest version – can dump waste within 30-days without having to be at an approved facility. But timeframe might change.
- Key thing what happens in a chip truck is that the heat from all that chipped material spikes, so that's not attractive to the adult CRBs. Timely transport is an issue for HDOA. What happens when it's received is the most critical part. If a farmer gets it and immediately tills it into the soil, that's low risk. But if he stockpiles it, that could be more of a problem.
- See stockpiles in a school setting commonly. But some other settings/environments, more problematic because HDOA doesn't know where it is or that those stockpiles exist.
- These rules are happening because of a few bad players. It's going to take a huge outreach/education campaign to get the industry on board.
- This makes the BMPs more transparent, disseminated to everyone. Having teeth in it will help because it impacts all of the tree care contractors. That means competitors are pricing jobs on equal footing.
- Document focuses on the “stick” element. But HDOA wants contractors to take the training to heart and help HDOA and create a system that highlights the bad actors so HDOA can act on it.
- Darcy – this is a process.
- Don't want to create a situation where more people go underground with their activities and make the problem worse. Want to strike a balance.
- Darcy – even bigger, figuring out preventing movement between islands of green waste/invasive species in general
- Dudley – invasive species – thanks, Darcy, for approaching it from the big picture perspective
- Sergio – are people taking CRB to the site or are the CRB finding the sites?
- When it makes the big jumps, almost always assisted by people movement – infected tree or material. The beetles aren't flying on their own.
- Sergio's nursery – constantly searching through mulch on site, incorporating into soil. Darcy – that's good in uninfested areas and reduces risk of breeding.

- Early days – chipped/stockpiled material was infested. Manually turning it every 2-3 weeks, eliminated the breeding site. Movement disrupts the cycle, makes material less attractive to CRB.
- If you find Oriental Flower Beetle (OFB) larvae in your mulch, then it's an attractive breeding site for CRB too.
- Main thing is to keep turning your mulch.
- Mamala Bay golf course – early days of detection, undisturbed mulch under banyans was a huge breeding site.
- Are the injections harmful to the palms long-term? No research available on that. Short term – the injected coconuts look very healthy because the pesticides also work against Brontispa beetle.
- Koki – good outreach opportunity – to check with landowners to do a tour and see impacts of the injections.
- Injections limited to palms. Not doing injections on deciduous trees for CRB.
- Main issue with injections – if not following sanitation protocols, can spread disease.
- Koki – CRB Outreach – her sole job is talking about CRB. Her contact info: crbhawaii.org | @crbhawaii (instagram) info@crbhawaii.org 808-679-5244 She likes getting email and feedback.
- Koki is developing some guides to explain the purpose of the agreements too.
- Steve Connolly – doesn't have any questions, Darcy covered everything relevant to the group.
- Desiree – appreciate the opportunity for the general practitioner to provide feedback before it gets finalized/implemented.
- John – will we post links on our website? Yes, if OK with HDOA – latest draft of the rules for review.
- Darcy had a Samoan guy ask around 2000 how to bring in CRB because he wanted to farm/eat it. But that's not how CRB got to Hawaii.
- How did it get here? Probably came in around 2010 based on infestation levels found in 2012. Ground zero either Mamala Bay golf course or Iroquois Point, probably hitchhiked on a plane from Guam. There were a series of United aircraft that usually flew back/forth to Guam that were in the hangar for a long time. Might have been from one of those.
- Military – because of brown tree snake, haven't been loading aircraft at night, so probably not from a military flight. CRB most active at night.
- Sergio – any CRB on east side? Darcy - No, haven't found it there.
- Rebekah – CRB response team – is there a way for people to get the traps? Koki – over 3,100 traps deployed around Oahu plus around airports and harbors on Neighbor Islands. Where mulch will be collected, good to add more traps, contact Koki to ask for them.
- Delimiting surveys – after a catch, more traps deployed, looking around where they can for mulch locations. Trap detection tells the team that there's a problem, then there's a series of steps to assess the problem. Sometimes 1-off detections. Step-by-step guide on what to do for escalation/de-escalation of the team's response.
- Koki – add social media info to the email
- Koki- will contact landowners of the injection sites to do a tour to see the trees.
- CRB outreach has a Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/crbhawaii>
- Possibly have Darcy back for CEU opportunities. Plan out and send an email in advance.

3. Committee and Officer Reports

- Training
 - i. Asplundh requesting ISA certification testing on the Big Island.
 - Certified Tree Worker- climber specialist
 - Must have at least 6 candidates send request to western chapter

- ISA will make arrangements
- Evaluators & trainers
- ISA- no longer offering Aerial lift specialist. (Will be discounted end of September)
- Need multiple trees
- BYM- willing to host again- speak to Justin Barrios.

ii. Nicolette Van Der Lee, Program Manager of Hana Career Pathways at University of Hawaii Community Colleges- requesting help with a certified arborist prep course - [tabled](#)

- Best possible instructors
- ISA lesson plan

4. Unfinished Business and General Orders

- Annual Meeting

i. All positions up for reelection

Nominations:

- President – Tylor Schwatze
- VP – Justin Barrios
- Secretary – Angela Liu
- Treasurer – Carol Kwan
- Director – Dudley Hulbert
- Director – Sergio Vasquez
- Director – Will Loomis
- Director – Steve Connolly
- Past President – Desiree Page by automatic succession
- Desiree nominated the slate of candidates, Carol seconded

5. New Business

- 2022 Regional Conference – John Ball/safety? Other topic/speaker?
 - August 2022
 - Safety talk in August? What other presentation does he have?
 - TO DO Carol or Desiree- ask John Ball about Safety talk & what else he has to offer.
 - New people always coming in who have not younger generations who have not & need it Safety talk.
 - Dudley- would appreciate a new flare on the Safety
 - Carol- Catering to the core group is okay. Lesser turn out, is okay. John Ball will draw a crowd no matter what the talk is.
 - Carol- John Ball helps companies with OSHA compliance.
- 2023 Regional Conference- topic/speaker tour across major islands
Western Chapter- new policy need to decide for the next 2 years.

- August 2023
- Mike Raupp
- Janice Matsunaga- (invasive pest)
- Pathology (disease) is a possible topic.
- Jessie Glaesser- fungi (invasive fungi)
- Local people speak regarding topics pertaining to Hawaii specifically. Will wait to speak to local people until after the main speaker is confirmed.
- **Carol**- will speak to John and Jesse

6. Pest of the Month

- Passionvine hopper (PVH) (*Scolypopa australis*)- *save for May 2022*
<https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/files/2022/01/22-01-PVH-Scolypopa-australis.pdf>

7. Announcements

- Kaulunani Canopy Viewer

Meeting end at 8:21PM

Join us for our next monthly meeting!

April 20th at 6:30pm via Zoom