

Hawaii Department of Agriculture - Pesticides Branch
4th Quarter Report; EPA Region IX
July – September 2017

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Attended Out of State Travel by Staff:

- July 23 – 26, 2017; North American Chemical Residue Workshop. Naples, Florida (S. Knutson, Chemist)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Personnel:

- While there has been an attrition of numerous staff positions in the past 6 months, request to fill positions are ongoing with our personnel department.
- A conditional offer to hire a Case Developer was made in July, however the applicant declined the offer. A request for a 2nd list of applicants was made to our personnel department.
- Mr. Leslie Wynne was Interview for a Kauai EHS III, enforcement position and was hired in August 2017.
- A 2nd recruitment list for a Maui enforcement position was processed, with no viable candidates. A request for a 3rd list of applicants was made to our personnel department.
- An interview was held for the Neighbor Island Inspector Supervisor - EHS V position. Awaiting status of the recommendation to hire.
- Steven Ogata, Senior Enforcement Inspector, EHS IV – Oahu, retired at the COB September with 32 years of service. A request to fill this position has been initiated.
- Cheyenne Barela, 89 day hire in the Education/Certification section since January 2017 transferred to another department within the Plant Industry Division.

Consulting Services.

- Meetings continued between Data House Consulting, Inc. and the Pesticides branch staff. A 12 month service maintenance support contract for the Integrated Pesticides Information System (IPIS) was proposed by Data House and is under consideration for approval by the Plant Industry Administrator.
- Data House Consulting, Inc. has completed setting up computer a database in the education, enforcement and registration sections for staff to use in the office and field.

Lehua Rat Eradication Project:

- Three (3) aerial application permits were issued by the HDOA Pesticides Branch to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to conduct applications of Ditrac D-50 rodenticide bait; EPA Reg. No. 12455-147 over Lehua Island on August 24rd, August 31th and September 12th. The outcome to create a better nesting habitat for a number of endangered or protected bird species from rodent predatory activities.
- An Oahu enforcement inspector monitored the first application by boat and the third application while present on Lehua Island. There were no reportable incidents.
- A Hawaii Island enforcement Inspector monitored the 2nd aerial bait application. There was a reportable incident of 45 dead fish and 2 dead birds 3 days after the occurrence of the 2nd aerial application. A “high level episode” was reported to EPA Region IX and an investigation opened for this incident.
- Fish Samples were received and were being analyzed for the active ingredient Diphacinone in DITRAC D-50 Pellets (EPA Reg. No. 12455-147). Lab results are included in the case folder being put together by the enforcement section and will be forwarded to the Case Developer for initial review then to the Deputy Attorney for review.

Rapid Response Protocol (RRP):

- The Kauai Joint Fact Finding Study Group (KJFFSG) provided a recommendation to the Governor's office that a Rapid Response Protocol be developed when pesticide odors cause emergency evacuations from schools. The Pesticides Branch, DOH Hazard Evaluation Emergency & Response (HEER) Office and a consultant are conducting a series of workshops on each island to look at responses and protocols by agencies involved in pesticide odors and school evacuations. I.e. Hazmat, emergency medical staff, police, hospitals, schools, 911 dispatch, poison control center, pesticides branch.
- A pesticide incident scenario is being used to glean out responder's protocols and to look at how/if information is being shared between agencies. Participating agencies get a better understanding of each other's protocols as well. Workshops were conducted in August on Oahu and in September on Kauai. RRP workshops have been scheduled for Maui in October and Hawaii Island in November.

US Geological Service (USGS) Grant.

The HDOA provided \$500,000 to the USGS to conduct water sampling for pesticide detection in areas not previously sampled in the 2013-2014 DOH/HDOA pesticide sampling pilot project. USGS staff provided new updates on sites where water sampling devices were deployed on Kauai and Oahu and inquired about additional sites to test on Oahu. Also discussed were possible sites for water sampling on Maui and Hawaii Island near big and small Ag locations.

Development of Managed Pollinator Protection Plan (MP3)

No amount of time spent on the development of the MP3 as other work demands are taking precedence.

Registration/Licensing:

Licensing:

- A total of 247 licenses were processed during this quarter with fees collected totaling \$37,290. New licensed products were for 245 general use and 2 federal restricted use.

Special Local Need (SLN) registration: One issued this quarter.

SLNs are active this quarter – 19.

SLNs expiring his period:

- HI-120003. Milestone; Eradicate albizia & other woody species in natural areas.
- HI-12-2004. Evik DF Herbicide; eradicate grass and broadleaf weeds in sugarcane.

FIFRA Section 18 Specific Emergency Exemption Label for use in the State of Hawaii:

- Torac[®] Insecticide, EPA Reg. No. 71711-31; to use on Watermelon for control of thrips.
- Effective Use Date: 8/28/2017 Expiration Use Date: 8/27/2018

State Experimental Use Permits (EUP): 2 issued this quarter.

- EUP-17-01; Contra Pest, EPA. Reg. No. 91601-1– Bait Station to reduce populations of Rattus rattus for protection of endangered species.
- EUP 17-02; Siesta Insecticide Fire Ant Bait EPA Reg. No. 7969-232; Use on banana crop for efficacy test for ant baits against Little Fire Ant (Wasmannia auropunctata).

EUP applications pending:

- TMP – 16003 – Zoecon Altosid for use to control little fire ant near waterways. Working on SLN.
- TMP – 16004 – CFT Legumine Fish Toxicant for use to control tilapia in anchialine ponds. Request use in 2018.

Groundwater Reviews/New Actives status: None conducted this quarter.

Endangered Species Review Requests (Section 7): None requested.

Chemical Analysis Laboratory (CAL):

- A total no. of 406 tests were run for 41 samples pertaining to 9 enforcement cases and were finished by utilizing both GC/MS and LC/MS equipment.
- A total of 64 tests were run for 8 samples pertaining to 1 batch FERN P samples. Samples were finished by the LC/MS equipment.

Education/Certification:

Applicator Certification and Training Work plan:

- A total of 15 statewide certification examination sessions were held.
- One hundred forty eight (148) examinees were tested in private applicator or commercial applicator categories.
- Out of these examinees, 87 individuals became newly certified applicators and another 18 individuals were re-certified in their appropriate work profession categories.
- Certified applicators collectively earned 124.5 recertification credits by taking quizzes.
- There were 3 major conferences held:
 - Hawaii Pest Control Association – 930 attendees
 - Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii - 141 attendees
 - Crop Production Services – 163 attendees
 - In total, 25 CET training classes were held and attended by approximately 1,234 certified applicators. These attendees collectively earned approximately 13,610 recertification credits.

Consultative visits:

- WPS training provided to:
 - Kaanapali Coffee Farm (Maui) ~20 (handler and worker training
 - University of Hawaii CTAHR (Oahu) faculty and grad students. ~11 worker training.
 - JH Hawaii Produce (Oahu) ~7 handler and worker training.
 - Contemporary Landscaping (Oahu) 1 handler

Enforcement Highlights.

Oahu:

- Complainant called about a Malathion odor around her house. The suspected applicator did not consent to an inspection. No further action taken.
- A referral came from the DOH Sanitation Branch about dimethoate found on cucumbers during their Raw Agricultural Commodity sampling protocol. A follow up with the farm was conducted.

- Complainant called about a strong Clorox odor coming from a neighbor's apartment. The applicator used a Clorox product to clean bird droppings off of jalousies in the apartment.
- Complainant called about a strong unknown chemical odor coming from a neighboring residence. The applicator denied inspection. No further action taken.
- [REDACTED]
- Complainant alleged that his neighbor's sprayed an herbicide over his water supply water line and now the complainant's drinking water was tainted. The enforcement inspector observed that there was a backflow preventer pressure regulator on the waterline in question. No further action taken.
- Complainant reported a strong pesticide odor in front of his house. The applicator had an unknown chemical in an unmarked container which had broken. The applicator contained the spill and disposed of the broken container and spill material into a trash can.
- Complainant reported a strong chemical odor coming from a house undergoing roof renovation activity. The applicator refused to be interviewed but did show the inspectors a wood preservative product he used to treat cut ply wood sheets. The product was identified as Copper-Green Brown wood Preservative (EPA Reg. No. 66591-1) containing petroleum distillates. No further action taken.

Maui:

- In June 2017, a complaint was initiated by a resident living in the Wailea gated community. A follow up investigation was conducted with the supervisor of the landscape maintenance company for this gated community. This supervisor signed an attestation denying that there were any pesticide spray applications made during this time period in the Wailea area.
- A complaint came from a nursery owner who alleged that his plants were being affected by very recent applications of ametryn. A follow up was made with two agriculture companies located about five miles of the affected nursery and known to apply ametryn in the past. One company stated that their last application was about 35 days prior to the complainant filing this complaint. The other company's last application of ametryn occurred about two to three years ago. The complainant disclosed that about one month prior to filing this complaint, he applied minute amounts of ametryn to two seedling plants to observe the symptoms of ametryn damage.

Hawaii Island:

- Complainant operates an organic coffee farm in south Kona and alleges that his neighbor applied Roundup in a manner that drifted onto his property. The neighbor denies applying Roundup in the area described by the complainant and believes that another neighbor was responsible for drifting Roundup onto the complainant's property. Complainant said he would survey his land to determine the actual property boundaries.
- Complainant alleged that a private estate road maintenance crew have been spraying Roundup on roadsides in front of his property, killing Ohia and Koa trees. The road maintenance crews pointed out the actual property lines for the private estate subdivision and it appears that the complainant had planted trees on the estate's property.
- Complainant reported a strong chemical odor in her house and she believed it was coming from someone's application of Malathion. The inspector arrived on site about 20 minutes later. Both complainant and inspector could not detect the odor.
- A health aide at Keaau High School reported that a student came in complaining about a chemical odor emanating from her next door neighbor's house. The child's parents informed the inspector that the chemical next door had been moved that morning and they declined filing a complaint.

- Complainant reported that someone was burning pesticides near his home. Neighbors were interviewed and did not recall smelling any burning chemicals in the area.
- Complainant said her neighbor was applying unknown chemicals to the complainant's property. Samples from her property came back negative. Neighbor said he had sprayed the fence line with Roundup but was careful not to go onto complainant's property.
- Complainant was concerned about the use of Roundup in the Hapuna Beach Recreational Area. A use investigation was conducted, the applicator appeared to be following all label directions.
- A complainant said she was smelling a pesticide like odor near her property. A response was made about 20 minutes later and upon arrival the complainant said that the odor had dissipated. Inspector also could not detect any chemical odor.
- Two separate complaints about pesticide drift were filed against a coffee farm grower from the farm's neighbors. The applicator said that the only pesticide they used was Botanigard a product that contains Beauveria bassiana a naturally occurring fungi. Noted is that petroleum distillate is a carrier in Botanigard products.

Kauai:

- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- A [REDACTED] complained that their [REDACTED] employer had the complainant apply pesticides and that often the applicator did not feel well after spraying. The [REDACTED] quit working for the farmer [REDACTED]. The employer claimed that no pesticides were being used, however several pesticides were found and were being used.