

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry
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Subject: Big Island Invasive Species Committee Meeting (BIISC)- June 16

Dear BIISC member,

Our next BIISC meeting will be in Hilo on June 16 from 9 to noon at the conference room in the Division of Forestry and Wildlife office at the intersection Kilauea and Kawili Streets.

Guest speaker, Dr. Julie Denslow of the US Forest Service, will discuss "False sakau (*Piper auritum*), a threat to the environment, culture and economy of Pohnpei" and the implications for Hawaii. This plant, established on the Big Island, is a major concern to local awa (*Piper methysticum*) growers, so the topic should be of broad interest in the local community.

Agenda and action items:

- False sakau, a threat to the environment, culture and economy of Pohnpei (Dr. Julie Denslow)
- BIISC Database and Mapping- (Kealii Bio and Michele Clapper)
- Proposal to USDA for \$4.9 million funding for alien species prevention/rapid response and other funding opportunities (Joan Canfield)
- Funding for BIISC mapping of priority species near Hawaii Volcanoes NP (Tim Tunison)
- State funding for Miconia control (Fred Kraus)
- Updates on other island invasive species committees (Duane Nelson, Joan Canfield)
- Biocontrol in Hawaii, results of a workshop on Oahu (Joan Canfield)
- Updates on coqui frogs and little fire ants (Earl Campbell and Pat Conant)
- Report on the first annual (??) BIISC workday at Hale Pohaku (Duane Nelson)
- Reports from working groups and progress on Strategic Plan action items
- Other business.

Many of you provided testimony to the state legislature to provide support for funding of Miconia control on Hawaii, Maui, Oahu and Kauai. Before the close of this year's session, the legislature included \$500,000 for Miconia control in the budget passed on to the Governor. This funding is a modest increase from state funding for the last fiscal year. This funding will help keep Operation Miconia moving forward with operations to contain and control Miconia and will fund new efforts to find effective and safe biocontrol agents to fight the "Purple Plague. These local funds will also provide potential matching funds for federal and private grants that we are actively pursuing. Thank you for your support and assistance. Should you get a chance, please thank our Big Island legislators for their support.

Duane Nelson

Forest Health Coordinator and
BIISC Chair

enclosures