

Big Island Invasive Species Committee Meeting
April 14, 2000
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Waimea Community Center
Minutes

Agenda:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Koke`e State Park- Weed Control through Volunteerism (Katie Cassel)
- BIMAC Database and Inventory (Kealii Bio)
- Little Fire Ant Update (Pat Conant)
- Legislative Update (Fred Kraus)
 - HB2973

- Reports from Working Groups
 - Education
 - Mapping/ Database
 - Miconia
 - Planning and Budget
 - Integrated Control Methods
 - Plant Materials

- BIISC work day logistics
- President's Invasive Species Advisory Committee update (Fred Kraus)
- New/Other Business
- Next Meeting and location

Attending: Duane Nelson, Jim Jacobi, Deborah Ward, Jeff Burgett, Bill Stormont, Stephen Hight, Lisa Hadway, Katie Cassel, Michael Richardson, Fred Kraus, Dave Broyles, Steve Skipper, Gary Kam, Mary Ellen Wong, Christy Martin, Jack Peterson, Heather Cole, Earl Campbell, Tonnie Casey, Kealii Bio, Michelle Clapper

Koke`e State Park- Weed Control through Volunteerism (Katie Cassel)

- Katie Cassel presented a slide show about their efforts at Koke`e State Park to use volunteers to control invasive weeds.
- She "self-started" the program with a small amount of seed money and volunteering many hours of her time.
- Many slides were shown of the various rare and endangered plants of Koke`e
- Some of the weed problems include ginger, honey suckle, banana poka etc.
- Volunteers from many sources have been recruited to help control the weed problems in the park and it is estimated that they have killed over 1 million weeds
- 700 students from 14 different schools have been involved in the program. Young children are usually set out to cut ginger while the adults follow behind with herbicide (Escort) to treat the cuts (Over 2 years 14 acres of ginger have been killed).

- Volunteers also include international groups, local Kauai groups, and organizations from around the state.
- A success story includes the removal of blackberry from the base of the endangered *Solanum sandwicensis*. The slides demonstrated that the plant's vigor increased dramatically after the blackberry was killed in place with Garlon.
- Nearby lease-holders to the Park have also had volunteers come to their land to help control their weeds so they do not further encroach into the native forests of the Park.
- Volunteers are housed at the historic CCC Camp which is in the process of being renovated.
- The Koke`e Museum serves as the non-profit organization that houses the volunteer program
- Man hours of volunteers since January 1998 = 15, 000 hours
- The program includes 2 full-time staff...but Katie wishes there were more.
- They get many repeat volunteers
- If you are interested in helping out...call: Katie Cassel, Project Coordinator, Resource Conservation Program, Koke`e Natural History Museum (808)335-0924
- The BIISC group agreed that this type of program could serve as a model for weed control programs for some special areas (e.g. Kalopa State Park) on the Island of Hawai`i.

Legislative Update Bill HB2973 (Fred Kraus)

- Bill HB2973 to allot \$500,000 for Miconia control statewide passed in Conference Committee with no opposition.
- This bill was legislatively sponsored....it did not take lobbying by an ISC to get it rolling
- The Senate is well educated on the issues and there are high hopes that Miconia work will continue.
- Sam Slom's bill to introduce biocontrol agents without testing died but State Ag is reviewing their process for screening...
- Maui county council has recognized the threat of alien plants and passed a resolution #00-24 encouraging the use of native species and avoidance of invasives for public projects in Maui county. The resolution was passed around to the group. It was thought that something like this should be encouraged for the Hawai`i County Council.

President's Invasive Species Advisory Committee update (Fred Kraus)

- As part of Clinton's Executive Order on invasive species, a council was created to over-see the invasive species program for the country.
- Twenty-five people from around the country are part of the Advisory Committee to this council. Mike Buck is Hawai`i representative on the Committee.
- The Advisory Committee is set to meet four times a year, and have had one meeting so far.
- A final report is expected from the Committee by August.
- Six additional working groups have formed of 40-50 people each that are open to the public for comment.
- The working groups communicate via e-mail and conference call. The process is moving along but there has been no real progress to date.
- Fred mentioned that anyone can contribute to these working groups via a link on the HEAR website.
- Mike Buck will post working group reports on the site as well.

- Lloyd Loope is on one of the working groups...and he is trying to pitch Hawai'i as a model that could be applied nationwide and hopefully increase interest here.

BIMAC Database and Inventory (Kealii Bio and Michelle Clapper)

- Kealii put up 4 maps for 4 species of concern (Pampas grass (*Cortaderia jubata*), Smoke Bush (*Buddleia madagascariensis*), California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), and Yellow Himalayan Raspberry (*Rubus ellipticus*)) The group was asked to place dots on the maps with their initials where they knew these plants exist. He asked the group to help and be the “Eyes and Ears” for the mapping committee.
- Kealii also passed out Invasive Species Distribution Report Forms created by the mapping committee. These reports ask for information on location, elevation, status (flowering etc.) and asks for the name and phone number of the individual making the report. All reports will be confirmed by the mapping committee. This process has been successful for the Miconia program.
- Samples of Species ID cards were also passed out to the group. Michelle asked the group to review them for the next meeting.
 - Contact number on the card will likely be the Miconia hotline.
 - cards are intended to be portable so the amount of information given on each needs to be selected carefully.
 - We do not want to go public with these until the content is figured out. Dave Broyles suggested that he could use his Lions Club as a test group for the cards.

Fire Ant Update (Pat Conant)

No update given

Tree Frog Update (Earl Campbell)

- Earl and his team have been screening possible control techniques for the tree frogs
- Educational posters are being made that will be distributed on Maui and the Big Island.
- Using the Miconia Hotline to call in sightings has been working very well so far.
- May 1, Earl was going to give a talk at the Puna Community Center. Rene Siracusa helped organize this.
- There are now 40 sites on the Big Island where the frogs are found....including WalMart and the KTA grocery store in Hilo.
- The population in Keaukaha has expanded substantially from 15 months ago.
- It is a violation of State law to move these frogs around, and it was noted that DOCARE under DLNR should have some jurisdiction to prevent this but it is very difficult to enforce.
- In the early stages of infestation the best hope to minimize the population is to hand capture the males.....caffeine is looking promising as a control but it is still in the testing phase.

Reports from Working Groups:

Education (Lisa Hadway):

- A grant proposal was submitted to NRCS via the various Soil and Water Conservation Districts and BIISC to provide educational workshops for participants in NRCS' EQIP

program. Workshops will include Noxious weed identification and control methods. Gary Kam mentioned there is no news yet as to whether this has been funded.

Miconia (Duane Nelson):

- The Kona crew is now working in Honaunau where they have killed 130 plants so far.
- In East Hawaii, Volunteer efforts have helped to clear 4 acres.
- The data base that Kim Tavares and Nelson Ho have developed is turning out to be a good planning tool and they have come up with an 18 month strategic plan.

Planning and Budget (Duane Nelson):

- This committee has not met since the last time.
- BIISC's Strategic Plan was handed out at the last meeting where working group assignments were highlighted. Every meeting we should check the progress of these assignments.

Integrated Control Methods (Stephen Hight):

- Stephen passed out the minutes from their meeting held April 7.
- Dr. Pemberton has initiated a bio control program for Maile Pilau in Florida and prospects for expanding the program here look good.
- They reviewed many high priority weeds (see handout).
- They reviewed the legal aspects of Bio-control and it was discovered there is no actual law, as previously thought, that prevents bio control programs on grasses.
- They also reviewed other issues that relate to the integrated control committee (see handout)

Plant Materials Committee:

- At the last meeting Garrett Webb was listed as a possible person to head this committee. Duane has not yet spoken to Garret, but will do so before the next meeting.

BIISC Work Day

- The group will meet at Hale Pohaku on Mauna Kea at 9:00 am to work on the population of California Poppy.

New/Other Business

- Duane mentioned that he had done some surveys in Koseri, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Rota and Guam to help those communities to increase their capacity to deal with their own invasive species problems.
- Duane passed out a copy of an article from the Island Tribune highlighting the problem of False Sakau (False Awa- *Piper auritum*) in Pohnpei.
- This plant seems to be very invasive in Micronesia and could pose a threat to the Awa industry there and could potentially be invasive here.
- *Piper auritum*'s root smells like rootbeer and the roots do not contain Kavalactones.

- In other business Duane reminded the group that the conservation conference will be held in Honolulu from Aug 17-18.
- MIISC members attending the meeting (Jack and Christy) gave an update to the BIISC group on their progress.
 - They believe they have eradicated fountain grass in the Kanaio area where they have been conducting aerial surveys and believe they have a good chance of eradicating it from the whole island.
 - The MIISC staff continues to grow (5 people) and they will be continuing aerial surveys for their top three species: Miconia, Pampas grass, and Fountain grass.
 - Mark White is shopping around for Statewide IISC support from Private Foundations (\$700,000).
 - A grant to the National Park Service will be used to set up an alien plant swat team to target incipients. The crew will work on Maui first and then come to the Big Island.

Next Meeting:

June 16, 2000 (9:00am-12:00 pm) at the DOFAW conference room in Hilo