

Kauai Invasive Species Committee (KISC)

Approved June Meeting Minutes

Date: **Thursday, June 20, 2002**

Time: **5:20 – 7:07 PM**

Location: **Department of Agriculture, Lihue**

I. Review Minutes of May meeting:

- A. Mindy Wilkinson, noticed one mistake: On page 5, item #2 \$50,000 is from Fish and Wildlife.
- B. Rob Culbertson had some final changes to add. He was incorrectly assigned the duty to inquire about sending Miconia flyers in the water and/or electric bill.
- C. The minutes were seconded and approved with the late changes.

II. Review agenda items. No additions were made.

III. Introduction of new members.

- A. Margaret Clark, private citizen, joined us for the first time.
- B. Scott Cheever, with Kaulunani, joined us for the first time.

III. New Items

- A. Keren and Meghan are attending a 3-part Microsoft Access Class at Kauai Community College. Since, technically, KISC is not a non-profit organization, the Garden Island RC&D agreed to “umbrella” us as a non-profit organization so that Keren and Meghan would qualify for financial assistance for the class through Work Force Development. This training is felt to be vital as KISC sets up its database to track incipient weeds, monitor species, and organize collected data. Alvin motioned to approve the Access class Meghan and Keren are taking. Rhoda seconded the motion. Unanimous approval by committee.
- B. Discuss KISC meeting frequency (e.g. meet every other month). Allan wanted to know what people thought about meeting every other month starting after the July meeting. Mindy mentioned that other ISCs meet quarterly. It was generally agreed that KISC needs to meet more frequently than that. Rhoda motioned for the Committee to meet every other month after the July meeting until further determination. It was seconded by Craig and approved unanimously.
- C. Allan would like all willing people to sign a letter to Hawaii Community Foundation giving them thanks for the resources they are providing us. Keren will mail the letter.
- D. Review of poster for Conservation Conference. Various input by committee members. Question was asked if Middleton pictures could be used again in another format. No, they cannot. They are one-time-use only. There is some confusion still as to what is native and what is alien on the poster. The poster committee will continue to work on it although the deadline is approaching for printing.

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- E. Rhoda mentioned that the West Side Rotarians would like to have a speaker from KISC come and address their group. Allan volunteered. Rhoda will coordinate this with him.

IV. Unfinished items

- A. The all-day workshop for discussing KISC's Action Plan for 2004 will be in October. There are not enough members present to determine a date. It is parked until the July meeting.
- B. We still need a container for base yard storage. We cannot store the container at KCC due to chemical regulations on campus. If anyone has any information about locating a container, please let KISC know. We do not need one very large. Alvin said that they bought one 3-4 years ago to use up in Koke'e for \$1500. Keren and Meghan will check on the market price for a container. Craig also offered to check on a container.
- C. Continue discussion concerning an umbrella organization for KISC or other possible options. Allan asked for input regarding this matter. Sue Keller (with the Farm Bureau) replied that we would have to have outside accounting in order to do payroll and such. Caution was offered by the committee regarding the difficulty of breaking away from the Farm Bureau at a later date. A question was raised: Why would we choose to move away from RCUH? Answer: They are understaffed, reporting, and accounting has been slow, and they seem overwhelmed since the recruitment of the Emergency Environmental Workforce. Allan emphasized that KISC is not moving away from RCUH at this time, but would like to explore all of our options. RC&D may be a possibility although they do not do payroll either.
- D. The Action plan was sent around. Some small changes were made. Wayne Souza had some information to be changed regarding information about State Parks. Alvin made a motion to print the Action Plan, Rob seconds motion. Unanimous decision to print pending Wayne's corrections.

V. Announcements:

- A. A Community calendar was passed around and Keren asked if people would add to it. Keren will send it out by e-mail for members to add. The Farm Fair is August 29 – September 1 and Keren asked for volunteers.
- B. We still need photos of our invasive species. Possibly Phil Motooko or Kay Koike would be sources to check. If it is published in a UH publication it is not copyrighted. We need high quality resolution photos for the poster.
- C. FY03 Budget to be discussed and approved at July Meeting.

VI. Updates:

- A. KISC progress report.
 - 1) We now have a computer, office equipment, GPS and some field equipment. Keren and Meghan have been busy setting up a database and talking with other ISCs regarding theirs. Work is being done on the poster, the action plan, meeting with Bryon Stevens re Miconia, meeting with Kerri Fay re the data base, filing purchase orders with RCUH and restoring lost Miconia data. Also, the radio show on KKCR on the 6th of

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June went well, with some actual calls to KISC regarding various sightings.

2) Field work continues with hunting for Miconia in Wailua State Park (three found all non-flowering) and various residences (one found, thought to be non-flowering). Prosopis mapping continues and has been successfully checked from Pakala to Mahaulepu. We will be getting permission from private landowners to continue the mapping. PMRF trials were rechecked with the conclusion that SPIKE was the most effective herbicide used. Keren and Meghan continue to do field work with Craig and the Dept of Ag on Fireweed and Prosopis. We had a successful session with Guy Nagai regarding the use of the drizzle sprayer. Keren and Meghan also participated in Koke'e's Banana Poka Festival and Bounty on a Weed day. There was lower than anticipated turnout, but great displays by all of the participants.

3) Future work will involve working on the FY03 Budget, monitoring with Guy Nagai on the West side, working with Adam Asquith, Craig Kaneshige and the Youth Conservation Corp at Mahaulepu on July 2 and working in Koke'e with Katie on June 25.

B. Reports: Hiring, Budget, Outreach, Aliens (report any progress).

1) Rob reported the progress with the Outreach committee.

- i. He is still working on moving the radio spot forward. Mindy Wilkinson said that Oahu has a radio spot running on Coqui frog in conjunction with the Department of Ag. Rhoda asked for information regarding this thinking that maybe we could use a part of it here. Rhoda will follow up on the radio spots.
- ii. Rob suggested Allan Rietow would be a highlighted person to be showcased in Kaua'i Magazine. He could be a good introduction to KISC. The Real Estate Magazine is another venue to talk about invasive weeds and the problems they may cause.
- iii. Newspaper contacts are Jan Tenbruggencato, environmental writer for the Honolulu Advertiser. Chris Cook, editor with the Garden Island Newspaper. Lelan Nishek's Horticultural group would also be a good contact as Lelan is looking for speakers (their next event is July 31 at 6:30 pm at the Veteran's Center). Dennis Fujimoto, photographer for the GI also wants to do a photo shoot of the frogs at the Sheraton. Craig is trying to coordinate a time to do this.
- iv. Rob mentioned an e-mail sent to the KISC list and the ALL-ISC list regarding Shell ginger. Is this something that should be on our target list? We need to find this out.

2) KISC Funding update. (*Allan*) Nothing new to report the budget looks like it will be around \$160K. We will elaborate on this at the next KISC meeting.

3) Miconia: Craig has asked about the Hapu'u logs with Miconia seeds. Currently there are no regulations regarding bring the Hapu'u logs in. Allan suggested working with the Nursery Industry to help them self regulate. Possibly tag logs with warnings. We need to raise public awareness as to the possible dangers.

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4) Frogs: Rob and Meghan have not heard Coqui near Molo Street. Craig said that there was a frog caught, but he confirmed that it was not a Coqui. There was a confirmed catch of a mature Coqui frog at Lawai Nursery. No new noise has been heard. The Greenhouse frogs have been treated with lime at the Sheraton, but needs retreating.

5) Fireweed: Craig reports that the population at Halfway Bridge is down but monitoring continues. Keren and Meghan will GPS the infested area in early July.

6) NEW SPECIES ALERT: Mike Maunder reports that the green Madagascar Day Gecko has been spotted on Kauai and that we should all be on the alert for it. Its characteristics are that it is Day-glo green and is out during the daytime. A good picture of this can be found at www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/aliens3.html.

VII. New Items:

A. Scott Cheever with Kaulunani, Urban Forestry made a presentation. His group has been working on a Weed Risk Assessment. This is a downloadable fill-in type form that would encourage landscapers and nurserymen to help them asses how invasive a species is. It is not at the UH website yet. It is a modification of West Australia's quarantine. As long as the landscaper went through the weed risk assessment there would be no need to be regulated by the government. It takes six hours per species to assess each species using a spreadsheet formula. Each species is ranked based on a set of criteria (ex: How does it spread? What is the seeding pattern? What is the pH level? Is it a problem elsewhere?) It will hopefully prevent us from going to the nurseries one by one and asking for them to stop selling an invasive weed. Dr. Kurt Daehler, Professor with Botany Department, hopes to meet with the all of the ISCs sometime in August or the Fall to go over this assessment. He can be reached at 808-348-1037, 808-348-1089, or cheeverhawaii@aol.com

Motion to change the July meeting to the 4th week in August. Meghan, Allan, and others will be away at the HCF conference. Rob motioned, it was seconded and approved. Next KISC meeting will be July 25, meeting place to be confirmed.

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Meeting was attended by: Rhoda Libre, Allan Rietow, Alvin Kyono, Mindy Wilkinson, Craig Kaneshige, Margaret Clark, Jeri J. Ooka, Rob Culbertson, Kerri Fay, Wayne A. Souza, Scott Cheever, Laurie Ho, Katie Cassel, Mike Maunder, Keren Gundersen, Meghan Halabisky.