

**Kauai Invasive Species Committee**  
**Approved Meeting Minutes (19 September 2002 meeting)**

- I. Agenda was reviewed by committee and accepted.
- I. There were no new members at Thursday's meeting.
- I. Review of July 25 meeting minutes.
  - Wayne had questioned whether items in KISC's budget were in the correct categories. These items were checked with RCUH and were in the correct spot.
  - Strategy meeting was changed from Oct 15 to Oct 22.
  - Minutes were motioned by Keren for approval and seconded by David Alexander. The committee approved the minutes.
- I. New Items:
  - A. Transition: Hiring "permanent staff"

There is an 18-week limit as a temporary hire with RCUH. This term ran out on August 9<sup>th</sup> for Keren and Meghan. They were rehired under new NRCS funding being administered through Garden Island RC&D. KISC was hoping to use NRCS money to extend the temporary workers until permanent employees were hired. The NRCS money was to extend them until Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>. The money has not come through despite trying to get it to flow. Without the NRCS money KISC will cease work on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> until they can hire permanent staff or if the NRCS money comes through. Laurie Ho comes back from vacation at the end of the month and will be able to advise KISC as to the funding status. David thanked Keren and Meghan for a job well done in getting KISC started. The committee showed their appreciation with applause.
  - B. Plant Risk Assessment Workshop- Kauai - October 3

The Australian Weed Risk assessment has been adapted to Hawaii by Kurt Daihler who will present the results of their work. Kurt can be reached via the University of Hawaii's website, [www.botany.hawaii.edu](http://www.botany.hawaii.edu) <<http://www.botany.hawaii.edu>>. This Hawaiian Weed Risk Assessment can pick out major invaders and may be over-protective, if anything. It has successfully picked out all major invaders. Each island would have a contact who could use it as a tool for nurseries importing plants. Will this assessment cover mail imports? No. Mail is a huge gap in the system. There is also no animal screen right now.

It would be great if we could get a high turnout for this event. It will be held at the Veteran's Center in Lihue, 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

On a side note: at a talk given earlier today, Jim Space, a volunteer for Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk, said 304 species are now on the list on the PIER website ([www.hear/pier](http://www.hear/pier) <<http://www.hear/pier>>).
  - C. KISC Operations Report - July/Aug/Sept. (Keren)
    - 1) Office
      - a) Submitted budget to RCUH to open all accounts and allocate money.
      - b) Submitted grant request to A&B Foundation for donation of container.
      - c) Working with Laurie Ho on obtaining NRCS money.
      - d) Set up KISC email account ([kisc@lava.net](mailto:kisc@lava.net) <<mailto:kisc@lava.net>>)
      - e) Mailed secondary Miconia mailing with flyers.

- f) Organized Farm Bureau Fair booth w/Ellen and Rob
  - g) Began process for purchasing KISC vehicle.
  - h) Worked on posting jobs with RCUH
  - i) Worked with KCC - RDP on Material Safety Data Sheet updates and protocol.
  - j) Worked on Hawaii Community Foundation end of FY02 Final Report.
- 2) Field Work
- a) Treated and mapped Prosopis hybrid in Bird Sanctuary (approx 28 acres)
  - b) Miconia searched in Homesteads (found 8 immatures in one yard!)
  - c) Fireweed at Halfway Bridge (weekly - total approx 5 acres per week)
  - d) Treated Prosopis juliflora and Klu at Kipu Kai (approx 1 acre)
  - e) Treated Ivy gourd and Arundo w/Craig on East and North side (approx. .75 acre)
  - f) Showed Christy Martin around island focusing on target species.
  - g) Worked in Koke'e (Thistle, pokeweed, Kahili Ginger, strawberry guava).
  - h) Surveyed and treated Cattails and Prosopis juliflora at Mahaulepu (2 acres).
  - i) Worked the Farm Bureau Fair.
  - j) Miconia searched in Wailua River State Park (12 immatures found)
  - k) Checked on Greenhouse frog in Poipu in a private yard in Kiahuna Golf Resort. Still unconfirmed.
  - l) Treated False Kava at Kahili Mountain Adventist School.
- 3) Upcoming
- a) Cattails island-wide (mapping with Adam Asquith and treating)
  - b) Weed Risk Assessment Workshop 10-3-02
  - c) Global Invasive Species Programme 10-15-02 (poster to be presented)
  - d) KISC all-day strategic planning workshop 10-22-02
  - e) C-Gaps and All ISC meeting, Honolulu 10-24-02
  - f) Setting up database with help from MISC.

#### D. Statewide Outreach Coordinator/Christy Martin's Visit

Keren showed Christy and Lelan around the island, visiting most of KISC's target species and discussing Christy's role as Outreach Coordinator.

Allen is still asking the question: What do we want our statewide outreach coordinator to do? He feels she will be a very good resource for us. KISC will be outlining specific ways in which to use her expertise. If anyone has any ideas, please email KISC. Christy will be bringing us tools to use, such as PowerPoint slide shows on Miconia.

Mindy feels that Christy will probably end up serving the ISCs 50/50 (50% of time spent on legislative issues, 50% on individual ISCs). Maui won't be using her, but the Big Island, Oahu and Kauai will.

Margaret suggested that we talk to Representatives *before* they get elected.

Ellen suggested that we get landscapers to come for the Weed Risk Assessment. Margaret has a database of landscapers, which Mindy may be able to find a way to mail invitations to.

#### E. Our relationship with The Forestry Committee (Garden Island RC&D)

To get NRCS money, RC&D had to show invasive pest management was a major issue. A year ago Ron suggested that RC&D put wording in their plan to allow money to be open for those in RC&D. Invasive pest management was put under the Forestry

Committee at that time. Because of this, when KISC applied for the NRCS funding, it was then put under the guidance of the Forestry Committee. They would prefer if we were not placed under their supervision. They don't feel comfortable dealing with the \$20,000 from NRCS because they are not kept abreast of our activities. Allen and others would like KISC to be removed from their supervision as well. Action for this change has to come from RC&D Board. Allen brought up discussion about alternate possibilities.

Ellen questioned if all future funding could be managed by RCUH because of the difficulty operating separate budgets. Answer unknown.

F. Kahili Ginger, is it the major threat to the Alaka'i Plateau?

Allen started discussion on the threat of Kahili Ginger. He wanted to know everyone's opinions regarding it. He asked, "Is it a major threat or not?" And if so, "Is there anything that we can do about it? Is there a way KISC can assist with the battle?"

Rob questioned Wayne what the State's take on it was. Wayne feels that he can only control it in the park and couldn't comment on Forestry's position on this matter. Kahili Ginger is a major target for the Koke'e Resource Conservation Program, which is based in Koke'e State Park.

One committee member described a fungus that can be used on Ginger. It only works for a small area. It requires sufficient hosts to spread it (such as mechanical means - spreading with machete). Wayne thought that it would be unadvisable to use if it is not here yet as it could affect other ginger populations, Mindy concurred. Some members thought that it might be here already. Bob Nishek says there was an infestation at the National Tropical Botanical Gardens that killed all the shampoo ginger. Wayne suggested that the Landscape Industry needs to be brought into the discussion if the fungus is to be introduced.

Allan urged the committee to think about the Kahili ginger threat. How wide spread is it on the north Alakai plateau? The major concern is that native understory plants will get "snuffed out".

Wayne feels that another threat is Clydemia as it may be coming up the mountain from Hanakapiai. Some members agreed that it is a serious threat and is already choking out plants in Oahu. Craig has already released a moth as a bio-control. It is a large job for Craig to harvest the larva, raise, and release them because they only live three days. He released 2000 moths a year ago and Keren and Meghan have collected Clydemia seeds from this area. He is waiting to see if the moth has become established yet. A few committee members said that they would assist Craig in releasing moths in different areas. It also switch hits for Miconia. It doesn't kill the plants; it results in plant suppression because the larva eats the seed. It can change the structure of the population (making them tall and spindly rather than thick and abundant), but does not get rid of it. It is successful in the Big Island.

E. Sea Grant money (\$3000) has come through for work on Cattail and is available through Garden Island RC&D. Thank you, Adam Asquith.

F. Kudzu Report in Koke'e (David Alexander)

David Alexander described the threat of Kudzu in Koke'e. It was recently discovered and covers an area about the size of a large room. There are also rumors about a population in Hanalei and unless this is also addressed, it will be difficult to control. Kudzu is highly invasive. It will grow over and on just about anything. It can grow a

foot a day with roots going down 8 feet. It is spread vegetatively. It was introduced to the U.S. by the Chinese as a food item. It can be fed to Cattle and be used in basket weaving. He believes, in Koke'e, the population is a small enough to get rid of. Escort, Garlon and Round Up are all effective on it. David ~~Laurence~~ Lorence notes that it is mentioned in botanical references on other islands as well. It already exists on Oahu and Maui. David moved to add Kudzu to our target species list and do a preliminary mapping of it. Ron Peyton seconded it. Unanimous approval.

G. ~~Hyptage~~ Hiptage

~~Hyptage~~ Hiptage is spreading along the Healeia stream. It is a large area. The stems are very thick and it is hard to kill. One must treat the main stem in order to be effective. It is a target on Oahu and Molakai. In committee discussion members brought up the points that: It may need a helicopter survey, may be only on Grove Farm land, and KISC could help get the ball rolling by endorsing the eradication of it. Ron said that NRCS is more likely to spend funds for eradication if KISC names it as a target species. The idea for the need to eradicate it will need to be "sold" to cooperators leasing this Grove Farm land. Bob said that there were five plants at NTBG that were treated with Garlon 4, on cut stump, and seem to have been killed. Katie moved to add it to the target species list. David seconds it. Unanimous approval.

I. Updates:

A. Miconia Homesteads Search

Meghan presented a report on the progress for private property searches in the Wailua Homesteads. In her report she stated that she has searched 34 lots, with over 115 acres covered. There were maps attached to her report to show the lots that have been searched and the locations of Miconia plants that have been found. Her report also broke down how many people responded to the mailer sent out in April. Another map demonstrated the estimated manpower for each property. She predicted that if KISC did not have a break it would take about a month to finish most of the searches, although she was uncommitted to that response as she has not been able to see all the lots to determine what the vegetation is like.

She also said that in talking with property owners, they offer information, help, and names/phone numbers for other properties. Being female helps, as it seems to be less threatening. Kim Tavares (Big Island) sent us two Miconia T-Shirts, which help identify the field team. Rob asked if we have been giving property owners feedback after searches. Yes, communication has been good.

B. The Outreach Committee:

Rob Culbertson reported on his talk at the Kauai museum. He said it went well and passed around photos of the event.

Photos from farm fair were also passed around. Turnout was good with 40,000 attendees. During the fair the tape of the Coqui frog was played. It was a great opportunity to contact people.

Rob passed around an article that was published in a Kauai Real estate Magazine. He also reported that newspaper articles about KISC have been published and a sign for the baggage claim areas at the airport are under way. These will be good exposure for KISC at a Port of entry.

C. Farm Fair, August 29 - September 1 (Ellen, Rob, Keren)

All participants felt that the Farm Fair was a great opportunity to make contact and was a lot of fun. The booth was a partnership between KISC, the Kauai Native Plant Society, and the Koke'e Resource Conservation Program. It was a positive partnership and many members felt that KISC should do it again next year. The native plants really brought people into the booth. Three-hour time slots seemed like a good amount of time for volunteers to man the booth.

Someone at the fair asked Wayne about the Thorny Kiawe at St. Theresa's in Kekaha. Staff reported that it has been treated with Spike, which takes a long time to show signs, especially in dry climates, as it requires rain to release it down into the roots.

Ellen gathered a list of 226 people who were interested in KISC, KNPS, and KRCP. She has the list available on Access.

Thank you to Rob for bringing the fan to aid in volunteer comfort.

D. Pampas Grass, False Kava, Fountain Grass.

Pampas Grass: There is one population Pampas Grass in Princeville. After making contact with the property owner, Guy Nagai has suggested that we replace it with something beautiful.

Fountain Grass: Access is difficult for treating the known population of Fountain Grass as it is on private property. It is located on a steep cliff and is surrounded by cat's claw. This will, most likely, require aerial spraying. Some members stated that KISC might want to start with treating A&B properties and then approach Robinson land.

Fountain Grass is on both the leeward and windward sides of Oahu and is now a containment issue for them. It likes open rocky hillsides and covers several hundred acres. On the Big Island it is found from sea level to 4,000 ft. Mindy Wilkinson says it is not a species that you want on this island and that we should act quickly in addressing it. It is a fire hazard. It could someday spread into Waimea Canyon, and the Na Pali, which would be a disaster. Although it has been there for seventy-five years, it has begun to spread to other ridges.

False Kava: The small population of False Kava that Bryon Stevens has been treating and monitoring was located and treated this week. It is at Kahili Mountain Resort and a wider search will take place to ensure that this population has not spread.

I. Unfinished Items:

- KISC has allocated (according to the approved budget) assistance to KRCP. The amount totals \$19,364. The money will be available to KRCP as soon as RCUH designates money to the proper budget categories.
- Allan will be following up with Kamehameha Schools regarding the location for the Base Yard for chemical and equipment storage.
- We still need a container (a grant has been submitted to A&B Foundation).
- Umbrella organization for KISC: Ernie Lau is working on a water shed alliance non-profit organization. There could be some possibility to umbrella KISC. Allan will follow up on this possibility. If this does not work out, KISC will most likely stay with PCSU/RCUH as its administrator.

I. Announcements:

- Mike Maunder will be leaving NTBG and moving to Florida for a position with the Fairchild ~~Botanical~~ Tropical Gardens.
- Applications for positions to be received by RCUH by Sept 27.
- Collaborative Discussions about Invasive Species (Weed Risk Assessment) - Oct. 3, 5:30 - 7:30 pm @ Kauai Vet. Center. (Please try to attend and bring some people with you!)
- HCF grant for FY 2002 due to CGAPS October 10. (Report in progress)
- Global Invasive Species Programme (at Bishop Museum) Oct 15-17 (KISC poster being presented on "Building and ISC")
- Keren and Meghan's last day of work will be Sept. 25
- The next KISC all day workshop - October 22 (please come with weed suggestions and lunch) 8:30 am - 3:00 pm (or pau) KCC Farm Outdoor Classroom - Puhi
- CGAPS/ALLISC Meeting in HNL - October 24

**VIII Next Meeting: November 21. Location to be announced.**

- Pau -

Meeting attendance: Allan Rietow, Keren Gundersen, Meghan Halabisky, David Lorence, Wayne H. Souza, Rob Culbertson, Katie Cassel, Ron Peyton, Ellen Coulombe, Craig Kaneshige, Laura Arnold, Mindy Wilkinson, Kerri Kay, Michelle Clark, David Alexander, Robert Nishek, Margaret Clark (17 total).