

KISC Approved Meeting Minutes

Date: **Thursday, March 20, 2003**

Time: **10 – 12 noon**

Location: **HDOA Meeting Room**

I. Review agenda items.

II. Introduction of new members.

III. Review Minutes of January Meeting.

Motion to approve minutes by David Alexander: approved by committee.

IV. New Items:

Mongoose report (by Thomas Kaiakapu, DOFAW): Jack Harter saw mongoose run across the road at 11am, Wednesday March 19, in the Kapaa bypass area. This area has had two reports in the last year; all along Coconut coast. When past reports came in, DOFAW set up traps, but haven't caught any mongoose yet, just cats and rats. On this reporting, Jack Harter said he was 100% sure it was a mongoose. Need to set 22 traps, flag all the traps. Same people need to set and monitor traps. Make a good map of each trap location. This area has a low depression area with a couple of creeks, prime mongoose habitat. Some gates, Allan Rietow will help with access. Set traps in a web out from sighting. Creek could be trap line. First four days, check every day. Let rats go. Take cats to Humane Society. Be consistent. Close if can't check on weekend. Sometimes traps get stolen, \$40 each. Watch for activity. David asks about sign on trap to tell them that it is for mongoose, maybe they won't steal it. Peter says they will take it anyway. They don't care. People can use the traps, so they take them. Peter says that even the larger feral pig cages walk away. Mindy asks about bait. Peter recommends cat food, dog food, eggs, sardines. Depending on bait, you might have to check more often. Have to carry old bait out with you. Wildlife Services has contracts with KFC for old chicken to use for bait. Allan asks what a mongoose's range is per day. Half mile? A male will move a lot if he is looking for a mate. Allan says... lots of food in the area with all the birds. Thomas says trapping project can go on forever. Also recommended Diphazanone in bait boxes.

Action Item: KISC agrees to take the lead on this trapping project. Alan Silva will assist.

Species Focus – *Salvinia molesta* (Keren and Sarah w/Power Point)

- Also called Giant Salvinia, Kariba Weed, and Aquarium watermoss.
- It is a water fern that can reproduce extremely rapidly, doubling its numbers in 2-10 days.
- Extremely small fragments are viable propagules.
- It is native to Brazil

- The plant is federally prohibited in the US, and is therefore illegal to sell or possess.
- *Salvinia* arrives by the garden pond and aquarium trade, or small fragments accidentally introduced into water bodies in aquatic ornamentals.
- *Salvinia molesta* alters productivity of fresh waters, reducing fishery yields; thick mats prevent oxygen absorption into water, and block light, shading out underwater plants and killing fish.
- It can be identified by oblong floating leaves, 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches long. Young plants have smaller leaves that lie flat on the water surface. As plants mature and aggregate into mats, leaves are folded and compressed into upright chains.
- Leaf surfaces have rows of cylindrical hairs topped with four branches that are joined at the tips to form a "cage" (view with hand lens). These hairs give a velvety appearance and repel water. Distinguish from common salvinia, *Salvinia minima*, which has leaf hairs with branches always free at the tips.
- Underwater root-like structures conceal stalks with egg-shaped spore cases attached. Spore cases are not found on young plants.
- Early detection and prevention are crucial to controlling *Salvinia* without chemical methods

Current Issue – *Salvinia molesta* (Craig and Mindy) - According to Craig's boss, there is no confirmed population of *Salvinia molesta* on Kauai because no samples have been collected and sent to Honolulu. Need to collect and send to Bishop Museum. Need to GPS use NAD 83. There are unconfirmed reports of *Salvinia* in Kilauea. Suspected in ponds at NTBG visitor center. State has treated 180 acres in Honolulu. There will be a fish kill following the killing of *Salvinia*, as there is a big oxygen deficit as it decomposes. Tim Flynn showed an example of water lettuce to compare with *Salvinia*. Nurseries are giving it away. Q: How does the follow-up work? Who closes the loop? A: KISC and HDOA will close the loop. Allan explains KISC prioritization. We have limited resources, and we have to prioritize what can have an impact on. Q: Have we gone to hunters and bikers to let them in on information about invasive species? A: Plans for outreach include Hunter's association. Thomas Kaiakapu: they do water-bird surveys twice a year and they have not found *Salvinia*. Mindy: looks really upright when mature. Need to scoop out of water surface and let dry, then non viable. Also, salt water kills it. Need to follow up and make sure it is all removed.

Action Item: KISC to assist HDOA in collecting samples of *Salvinia molesta*.

Outreach committee- do we need one at this time?- Rob C. moving to the Big Island. Do we need one or not? Sarah and Keren to be the core, then hopefully have volunteers to help. Lots of opportunities for outreach. Question: Isn't there an agency that should take care of this? Why does there have to be a community group to take care of this. Allan answers about govt. shortfalls, budgeting restrictions.

Legislative report – Invasive issues – Allan reviews senate and house bills; 1) increase tax on real estate transactions (conveyance tax), to go toward natural areas, 2) indemnify invasive species work on private landowners, 3) set up Hawaii Invasive Species council as legislation, 4) increase access to private land for DLNR and HDOA 5) prohibiting sale of Salvinia.

V. Unfinished Items:

Request for accounting of in-kind hours by committee members. Please submit your hours (by month).

Action Item: KISC members to email hours to staff.

Species Prevention List – want to put together a list of what we don't want on Kauai. It is a matter of public education to keep these things off our island. Please submit suggestions. (ex: Himalayan Raspberry)

Action Item: KISC members to email suggestions to staff.

VI. Announcements:

- CGAPS/ALLISC Meeting in HNL – (Thursday, April 24th). Allan & Keren attending.
- Letter to Gov. Lingle sent/ response received.- According to Alvin, some DLNR positions have been released.
- Thank-you to Kauai Freight for moving our container from Nawiliwili to KCC.
- Earth Day Fair (April 26th).-KNPS, KRCP and KISC may coordinate for both fairs. David A. and Jon Schlegel volunteered to help.
- Garden Fair 2003 (Sat., April 26, Kukui Grove Pavillion, 9 am to 4 pm)
- Conservation Conference – Poster status - Christy Martin is doing an all-ISC poster with Miconia being the focus.
- Notice of designation of Critical Habitat by FWS- About 52,000 acres on Kauai and Niihau. Alvin has ordered GIS shape files for critical habitat. Each species has a map.

VII. Updates:

Ginger Survey. (Alvin, Katie, Wayne, Allan, Keren)- At last meeting, Kahili ginger was added to Action Plan. We have joined in a partnership with DOFAW, KRCP, KISC, State Parks, and Kauai Watershed Alliance to fight ginger in Alakai Wilderness. If we do not go after it, it will inhibit recruitment in the native forest and have negative effects on the watershed. Products of the Ginger Survey Project will be a survey, map, and Strategic Plan for fighting ginger in the Alakai. Alvin can't touch the Kauai Watershed Alliance money until the agreement is signed. Helicopter safety helmets very expensive and Alvin is waiting for return of bids. We also need to get gloves. Katie got flight suits donated from military. KISC is a participating member, will help with helicopter survey

and mapping. Maybe have another island ISC member come over to help with surveys, someone with Miconia aerial survey experience. Want to use money wisely, since helicopter time is so expensive.

USDA greenhouse frog control program on Kaua'i. (Peter Silva)- Is it dead yet? We have greenhouse and coqui on Kauai, and we have a bigger population than we thought. Lawai, Lihue (terminated), Princeville? Total of 25 sightings for Coqui and greenhouse. Coqui – five areas (3 for sure, 2 no longer, one to be confirmed, Hanapepe?) In total for both frogs, 19 out of 25 sightings have been confirmed. One in Kapaa turned out to be crickets. People are coming from Big Island, to spray with citric acid. Need to do this soon. Spraying areas with Eucalyptus, hau, Octopus tree. Citric acid does not seem to have negative environmental effect. Insect populations did not even dip in the Lava Tree State Park project on the Big Island. Wildlife Services is working on greenhouse and coqui frogs. Maybe won't control within this year. Suggestion from Margaret Clark that tourism industry and nursery industry get involved. Infestations will hurt nursery industry if it gets to be more of a problem. Some people may not think they have frogs as they are very hard to see during the day. Peter handed out materials, pest alerts, etc. Mindy said newspaper article misrepresented the frog situation on Big Island. Money is still being sought for CONTROL on Big Island, and a Coqui Frog Working Group is forming on Big Island. There was some hope with the Chitrid fungus – a bio-control for frogs possible, but maybe requires tadpole stage (it is a water-born fungus). There have been kill offs of buffo toads in the last 10 years being attributed to this fungus. There is a group that stops all research on vertebrates at the university, so they have to get past that obstacle to do more research on this possibility for bio-control. Coqui frogs are a major threat to our endemic invertebrate communities, they have been found up to 4000 ft. on big island. People should call hotline if they hear or see frogs, agencies need to track and confirm and map populations.

Letter to/from Gov Linda Lingle. Allan received a response letter from the Governor regarding the filling of positions within DLNR. Alvin shared what positions have become open for DOFAW and Wayne said that he knew that a full time maintenance person was approved for State Parks. He was unsure at this time about the botanist position.

Base yard space at HDOA. (group discussion)- KISC still homeless as HDOA is hesitant on allowing KISC in at this time.

January 16, 2003 CGAPS/ALLISC meeting report. (Mindy W) West Nile Virus... found in Jamaica, still quarantine in Hawaii. BTS – rethink action plan. Aquatic nuisance species – Andy Schlucker has been hired by TNC to devise a strategic plan for aquatic nuisance species. WRA Lyon

Arboretum Plant Sale has volunteered to pull plants from sale that they feel are invasive. Brief update on Fire Ants, Kahului Airport Risk Reduction study.

KISC Activities update/discussion. (Keren & Sarah w/Power Point)

- Ivy gourd – working on sites in Anahola area and maintenance in Niupalu.
- Miconia - 2 Wailua River State Park searches were conducted with 4 immature plants found. Continued monitoring in Wailua Homesteads have produced no further findings to date.
- Fireweed - Monitoring continues at Halfway Bridge with new findings weekly.
- Cattails - Surveyed Hanalei River, retreated population at Omao, treated Niupalu and Puhi populations
- Pampas Grass - Removed large portion of remaining population at Pratt's cabin in Kokee with assistance from State Parks, foliar sprayed another population in Kokee.
- Long Thorn Kiawe - Retreated population in Mahaulepu with Craig. Notched w/Garlon, Retreated population at St Theresa's, Completed monitoring of hybrid population at Bird Sanctuary as county has bulldozed (and removed) existing population, monitored eradicated population in Kipu Kai.
- Arundo - Continued re-treatments in Kekaha, Mapped new findings in Kekaha.
- Klu - Assisted with trials in Kipu Kai with HDOA.
- Office Activities - Met with USDA re collaboration on frogs, attended pesticide Risk Reduction Class, Completed Pesticide Certification Exams, Completed Helicopter Safety Training, Addressed County Council, Participated in Family Ocean Fair, Received T-shirts and Posters.
- KISC has been able to produce publicity and educational materials: KISC T-shirts, KISC Most Wanted Posters, Power Point presentations to schools, KISC Banner, KISC magnets, Invasive Species Coloring Sheets, Honu Helper and Weed Warrior Stickers, Target species informational cards.
- KISC future activities - C-Gaps/All ISC Meeting (April 24), Earth Day Celebration (April 26), Garden Fair (April 26), Banana Poka Festival (May 25)

Website update. – Parked until next meeting.

Meetings with Mayor and County Council. (Allan & Keren) Allan and Christy met with the Mayor. Two weeks later Allan and Keren presented a Power Point presentation about KISC and their activities to the Council. We were very well received with many questions asked from the Council. It was then televised on HOIKE with positive response from many citizens. The Council is considering a line item amount for KISC.

Update on KISC funding (Mindy) State Funds flat or down 5%, USFWS about twice as much, and if there is incipient species that you think you can eradicate, you can go for this separate pot of money for that \$750K. New funding through NRCS Farm Fund some can be used for State Parks.

VIII Next Meeting: Thursday, May 15, 2003. Time and place to be announced.

- Pau -

Meeting Attendees: *Tim Flynn, David Alexander, Margaret Clark, Rachel Ross, Jon Schlegel, Katie Cassel, Mala Pfahla, Laurie Ho, Harold Taira, Jeri Ooka, Wayne Souza, Keren Gundersen, Alvin Kyono, Mindy Wilkinson, Thomas Kaiakapu, Craig Kaneshige, Peter Silva, Don Heacock, Lelan Nishek, Alan Silva, Sarah Newton, Allan Rietow.*