

KISC DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 18, 2003
HDOA Conference Room
10:00 am to 12:00 noon

I. Introduce Guests/New Members

II. Review Agenda Items

III. Review and Approve Minutes from July 17 Meeting. Minutes approved with spelling corrections.

IV. Species Focus: Cattails - Sarah

Cattails are invasive wetland rushes with thick spongy linear leaves, and an underground stem arising from thick creeping rhizome mats. Cattails produce a brown, cigar shaped inflorescence that becomes a velvety cluster of wind dispersed seeds that breaks open when mature.

Cattail facts:

- One flower head can produce 250,000 wind-born seeds.
- Seeds are viable in the seed bank for up to 100 years.
- Seeds need to be saturated in at least 0.5 – 1 inch of water to germinate.
- Cattails also reproduce vegetatively. During the first few months, rhizomes can grow two feet in length and new shoots arise from the rhizome.

Negative effects of cattails:

- Cattails can quickly dominate a wetland plant community and produce monotypic stands that reduce overall habitat value.
- Cattails form dense rhizome mats that impede growth of other plants.
- Cattails can hinder taro farmers, out competing taro.
- Cattails modify and reduce habitat for water birds including endangered Hawaiian stilts and Koloa ducks.

Cattail control options:

- Hand pulling: Pull new shoots out by hand, as soon as they have emerged and are large enough to grip. Be sure to remove the entire root, or as much as possible.
- Cutting: Continuously cut off new green shoots as they emerge from the water using hand clippers or a weed-whacker. This prevents leaves from reaching maturity at which point they produce and transport large amounts of food to the root system. A root system deprived of its food supply will eventually die.
- Herbicide treatment: Cattails can be treated with a foliar application of a glyphosate-based herbicide that is approved for aquatic use, following label instructions. This herbicide is translocated to the rhizome mats and kills them. Care must be taken to avoid spray drift to non-target plants.

V. Updates:

- **KISC Activity Update** (*Miconia*, Fire Weed, etc.) - Keren/Sarah
 - MICONIA
 - County fair yields two reports, one new, one historical.
 - Follow up survey on new report on Sleeping Giant turns up *Clidemia*.
 - Wailua River State Park still sprouting *Miconia*. 86 new plants were discovered on our last search.
 - Helicopter survey scheduled for Wailua Game Management Area.
 - IVY GOURD
 - Continuing treatment in Anahola with cut stump method. This method is proving to be very effective.
 - Moloa'a population has been eradicated.
 - COQUI FROG
 - USDA funding ends Sept. 30.
 - KISC and HDOA to take over frog control.
 - We are working on Public service announcements for radio stations.
 - THORNY BAMBOO
 - Bamboo with long stout thorns spotted in Kalalau.
 - Keren and Sarah went in with State Parks to dig out the roots.
 - The plant had mostly been removed already by people in the valley; "residents" are monitoring.
 - LONG THORN KIAWE
 - HDOA is making great progress using chainsaw technique with herbicide.
 - KISC is still trying to get access to PMRF to inspect trials.
 - CATTAILS
 - Treated rest of cattails at one Niumalu site.
 - Still working to secure landowner permission to treat other major Niumalu site and Waimea valley cattails.
 - Retreated new sprouts and re-sprouts in Koloa.
 - GINGER SURVEY
 - Helicopter survey has yielded two outlier locations of Kahili ginger. Ground truthing has proven that the heli-surveys are an effective method for this area.
 - Further surveys have been delayed while funding for helicopter time is being processed by DOFAW.
 - KRCP, KISC, Army Environmental, and other volunteers have started working outlier sites.
 - Flower and seed heads removed as top priority.
 - HIPTAGE
 - Most drainages in Kipu area are infested.

- Full extent of population is still not known.
 - Oahu Invasive Species Committee has been conducting trials, cut stump painted with 20% Garlon 4 has been 90% effective thus far.
- **INCIPIENT REPORT – *INGA CHARTACEA***
 - John Edson reported possible incipient tree in Lawai.
 - Missouri Botanical Garden identified it as *Inga chartacea*.
 - Species native to Brazil (not much information found on this species even after posting to the Alien List Serv).
 - A request for a Weed Risk Assessment on this species is pending.
- **PUBLIC OUTREACH**
 - KISC has a display at Princeville Library through the end of September.
 - Keren gave a talk at Princeville Library last night. Good turn out.
 - KISC had a booth at the County Farm Bureau Fair.
 - KISC got media time on KKCR and KONG radio shows.
 - Mailings to elementary, middle, and high schools has gotten response with a request to speak at Kauai Christian Academy to two classes.
- **OFFICE ACTIVITIES**
 - Keren has been working on a Mongoose management plan with Thomas Kiakapu.
 - Helicopter training will be scheduled for sometime in October
 - Bumper sticker: “INVASIVE PESTS, EVERYONE’S RESPONSIBILITY” is now available.
 - KISC Field Assistant position description approved by RCUH and will be posted soon.
 - KISC Strategic Planning Meeting is tentatively changed to Wednesday, Oct 15 pending confirmation of helicopter training.
 - Helicopter Training is tentatively scheduled for the week of Oct 20.
- **Ginger Survey - Ellen/Sarah** – Ginger survey ongoing, delayed due to break in funding. Two satellite populations discovered. Ground truthing and control activities already taking place. Ropes training is being looked into to be used to control the more inaccessible populations. Work parties are being planned before the weather gets too wet. Look for postings from KRCP.
- **Coqui Control in Lawai - Craig Kaneshige** **Coqui is not eradicated on Kauai.** After USDA did their first thorough spray of the

area, a lot of mature frogs were killed. Now, hatched frogs are maturing and starting to chirp. Craig and Eric have been hearing an increase in frogs in Lawai: heard about 20 last week and caught 13. USDA to do another citric acid spray on Sept. 23. Winter is coming, as cooler temperatures happen, the frogs will quiet down and will be harder to locate. It will be critical for us to carry on USDA's work so their efforts to eradicate the frogs will not go to waste.

Christy Martin notes that the threat to native invertebrates is greater with Coqui than greenhouse frogs. She notes that, in unpublished data that was gathered, the stomach contents were collected from both species. Because the Coqui frogs can reach higher elevations than greenhouse frogs there was a higher percentage of native invertebrates found. What is the highest elevation they can go? Volcano Nat'l Park is at about 4000 ft and there are Coqui there. Both species are associated with human environments so much is still unknown on their independent spread.

- **Media Campaign** – *Christy Martin, C-GAPS PIO*- Trying to raise statewide awareness of invasive species. Big media campaign to highlight two major pathways of invasive species. People need to make better choices of what they plant in their yards. A commercial for TV is being worked on: “Don’t plant a pest” – look for signs and stickers at your nursery that says this plant is safe to place in the ground. CGAPS has funding to put the commercial on TV; she is seeking grants for signs and stickers. These commercials will be statewide. She is also working on a campaign to focus on: “Don’t pack a pest”. This will urge people to fill out the declaration forms on planes and to not move pests around the islands. A large public survey is being conducted to determine what words will work best that the public will associate with: a media study will be conducted in October and in January. The filming will be done in February, and will air in the spring and then again in the fall on prime time. If you have input on this campaign, Christy encourages you to call her at 722-0995, or e-mail her. She is also putting together a brochure for all the ISCs. John Plews says that “alien” is too nice a term. Christy says they are trying “INVASIVE PESTS”. People already know what “pest” means. Allan brings up a discussion about cleaning shoes, especially when traveling inter-island. Christy is trying to figure out a way to get the “clean your shoes” message out. Hopefully the PR campaign will be ongoing. Plews suggests a “Pest of the week” in The Garden Island News just as they have been promoting a native species every day.

- **Field Tech job posting** - *Keren* KISC put together a tiered position that has been approved by RCUH and we can hire someone at a pay rate which reflects their experience. The job posting will run in the Honolulu Advertiser, in The Garden Island News and on the RCUH website. The posting should close on October 10th.

Jan Surface, with Hanalei Watershed Hui, says that they got a grant from EPA. They will be doing helicopter surveys with USGS BRD, aerial imaging and will have an intern position for ground-truthing. Their intern could coordinate with KISC to have an eye on the ground for invasives.

- **FY 04 Budget update** – *Keren* No accounts have been set up with RCUH with our FY04 monies yet. We have gotten our funds (\$5,000) from the County of Kauai and they are being handled by Garden Island RC&D.

VI. **New Items:**

- We would like to propose **changing** the KISC meeting schedule from every other month **to a quarterly meeting**. There was a consensus agreement.
- Members are encouraged to look into **new funding sources** for next year as Federal and State funding gets tighter.
- Beef-up Miconia crew (long term volunteers – 2 to 4 needed). The loss of KRCP folks helping with Miconia hunting has impacted Miconia efforts. **We need good, safe volunteers** that can endure the terrain of Wailua River State Park.
- **Frogs – Volunteer needed** to coordinate with KISC and HDOA to monitor major hotels and nurseries. Jan Surface asks why people never talk about the roosters. Frogs are incipient on Kauai, wild chickens are not.
- Question about **Fountain Grass** – What is happening? Helicopter survey scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 24 with Craig. Looking to see if it is spreading and how we can access it.

VII. **Announcements:**

- **All-Day KISC Prioritization Workshop:** possibly switched to Oct. 15th. KISC will post the date on the List Serv.
- **Helicopter training – sling loads:** week of Oct. 20th tentative.
- Don't forget to ask for the **New KISC Bumper Sticker!!**
“Invasive Pests: *Everyone's* Responsibility”

VIII. **Next Meeting** – To be announced.

- PAU -

Attendance: Jahmaal Rebb (DOFAW), Kawika Smith (DOFAW), Alvin Kyono (DOFAW), James Beardmore, Guy Nagai (USDA-APHIS), Keren Gundersen (KISC), Ellen Coulombe (KRCP), Wayne Souza (DLNR-State Parks), Christy Martin (CGAPS), Jan Surface (Hanalei Watershed Hui), John Plews, Craig

Kaneshige(HDOA), Rhoda Libre(KWWC,GIRC&D), Sarah Newton (KISC), Allen Rietow (TNCH, KISC), Jeri Ooka (UH-CTAHR)