

Kauai Invasive Species Committee (KISC) Approved Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 15, 2004
HDOA Conference Room
10:00 am to 12:00 noon

- I. **Introduce Guests/New Members**
 - New KISC interns. 12 month term through Americorp/YCC. Thank you to Alvin Kyono (DOFAW) for passing them along to us.
 - Kekoa A'ana – Kauai native, taro farmer, participated in YCC program summer of '02.
 - Bobby Gomez – BS in Fisheries and Wildlife from OSU, worked in the field in Montana with USFS.
 - Mindy Wilkinson – Invasive Species Biologist, DOFAW, Honolulu.
- II. **Review Agenda Items** (no change)
- III. **Review and Approve Minutes from September 18 Meeting and review Strategic Planning Workshop minutes.** – Unanimously approved.
- IV. **Species Focus: *Miconia calvescens* Power Point presentation - Sarah**

As this is our unanimously decided number one target species, we will be focusing a majority of our work on this for the coming year. We will be deciding what our strategy will be in the game management area around the new outliers. We will first transect around the flowering tree that is surrounded by high canopy. We had a successful field day going after four plants that had been spotted by helicopter. One of the plants had just begun flowering and we were able to locate another plant that had not been previously sighted. MC: Did you find any native plants? SN: Yes, we spotted *Cyanea* sp., mamaki, papala kepau. MC: Are they in the infestation area? SN: Yes. EC: What are you waiting for with the helicopter survey? KG: We have completed the helicopter survey and will plan on re-surveying in 8-10 months which will be a yearly basis.
- V. **Updates:**
 - **KISC Activity Update and discussion – Keren/Sarah**
Long-thorn Kiawe – Re-surveyed trials at PMRF and found that Spike was the most effective, some non-target kills, and seed bank re-sprouted. Anything that was sprayed with Garlon was growing back full strength. CK: At Mana, using mist blower with 2% Garlon or Remedy in FCO, clearing out the canopy and prevent from seeding. Makes it easier to see and work in, reduces density. Mahaulepu had 2000 seedlings when they went back, so spraying or pulling all the seedlings they can. Some seedlings are easy to pull, but roots are very long.

Fireweed – Still pulling at Halfway Bridge; interns found two in last search. Craig is spraying up in Kalihiwai. KISC is using a flagging method to evaluate dormancy and seed viability. We are finding that seeds can stay dormant for up to six months, with low viability.

Fountain Grass – Sarah, Keren, and Craig conducted heli-survey and found that it is spreading. Need to gain access to G&R land to do some ground surveys; Katie has been in touch with Allan Kennet (sp?) for possible access. MW: Fountain Grass will not respond to herbicide treatment unless it is sprayed on actively growing leaves. TM: Velpar will stay in the soil and kill fountain grass any time. GN: Velpar is not an effective herbicide in wet areas but would be perfect on this population.

Pampas Grass – Kokee populations are controlled. Some re-sprouts are being treated.

Ivy Gourd – Still treating, seedlings coming up, so we need to pull seedlings. KISC has been notching and applying Garlon which seems very effective at killing the plant.

False Kava – Still treating at Kahili Mtn. Park; found two re-sprouts on last visit. Access and security are becoming stricter.

Cattails – Re-treating Niupalu, Omas, Mahaulepu and Koloa population (which is larger than originally thought). There is a new population in Kapaa which we have permission to access and treat. AA: Makaweli Valley this is a great opportunity to work with landowners for land management. Quite a while ago a ditch was blocked which has flooded the area; since the area was not being worked, 4 acres of cattails have popped up. Any clearing that is done yields cattails. If KISC, or another funder, can donate an excavator, the taro farmers are willing to put in the in-kind time to run the machinery and drain the ditch. A long term plan would be better land and water management to avoid using herbicides.

Arundo donax – New method: cut down, then wait for re-growth and treat the fresh vegetative growth. This is a method used in California and seems to be very effective.

Little Red Fire Ant – We re-surveyed the Kalihiwai historic ant infestation site with Popsicle sticks dipped in peanut butter and found a resurgence of LRFA. Need to work with Craig and HDOA on Amdro application.

Other Activities – Presentations were made to schools, Princeville Library, Cattlemen's Association and Garden Island RC&D Pac Rim

conference. Keren and Sarah completed 1st Aid, CPR and Hunter Safety Training. We have begun training our new Interns.

Side Note:

Mongoose – There was a flurry of activity on the list server rehashing old mongoose sightings. **There have been no new recent sightings.** We will need to come up with a management plan addressing a more pro-active stance.

Cactus – Craig has found out that the bio-control once released on cactus, here on Kauai, will not work on the species that is currently growing out of control in the Poipu area.

- **Ginger Survey** - *Ellen/Sarah* Continuing with aerial survey; bad weather prevented flying so no new flights have happened in a long time. AR: Need to note Clidemia infestation; how far up has Clidemia gone? There is quit a lot in the back of Wainiha Valley and Lumahai Valley. SN: A bio-control moth has been released by Craig up Kuamoo and Kahuna. Allan would like to release in the back of Lumahai. JP: Once a fungus for Clidemia was released, need to find a source of that and release more.
- **Coqui Control in Lawai** – *Craig* Weather is cold and the frogs are hibernating. Eric caught the frog at the Marriot next to Duke's. They went to Lawai and didn't even hear any crickets. It is very quiet. Craig estimates 10 male frogs left, females unknown. Honolulu tried a new method of capturing male frogs and putting them in a screen box. Then the calling males' chirping attracted the females, who perch on the side of the box and were easy to catch. This was implemented by a nursery that did not want to spray citric acid, so they were looking for something organic.
- **Field Tech position** - *Keren* We are still trying to hire; the first person we offered the position to turned it down. We are waiting on RCUH to complete paperwork so that we can offer the position to another applicant.

VI. New Items:

- **\$5M for invasive species** *Mindy Wilkinson* DLNR has asked for \$5 M for invasive species work from the Legislature (\$5M/yr for 4 yrs). This funding would add to prevention actions, add two ten-person crews to Kauai for rapid response work, fund research, screening, and outreach (through Dept of Health and CGAPS). Testimony happening today, both republican and democratic delegations, and Gov. Lingle support this. This will be in addition to the State Pass thru, needs to be matched 1:1 by non-state sources. The match requirements still need to be worked out. This will be a

good opportunity to get counties and boards of water supply involved. A good opportunity to get things done that we have been saying needs to be done. Goal for first year would be to make a significant difference on the ground, then for the next five years get long term plans in place. AK: The ultimate dream will be to get the environmental workforce, which will be turned over to KISC to manage for a greater on-the-ground impact for all invasives. Some funding will go to equipment, helicopter time, vehicles. Covers the whole scope of invasives from pathogens, to aquatics, to other invasives. TM: One bottleneck could be the administrative costs and time. MW: Admin support is written in to the grant and will be handled through RCUH. This funding could be applied to just about anything related to invasive species. Funding would start July 1st (FY05). Mindy says that New Zealand is using dogs for detection of invasives, rare plants, and animals so perhaps some funds could be focused in this area. There will also be a new program of Forest Service funds, through Forest Health, providing \$250K for all aspects of invasive species work: prevention, detection, rapid response, outreach and education. New \$250K for Forest Health will start Oct. 1.

- **Review completed Action Plans with addendums** (*Copies available at KISC office*). This action plan incorporates original Action Plan with addendums from Strategic Planning Workshops in 2002 and 2003. TF: Has anyone proposed managing areas instead of weeds? KG: Yes. Although some of our funders have certain restrictions on the use of our budget, we have kept the idea of management areas open. An example of this would be controlling and eliminating Australian Tree Fern on certain parts of the island. AR: The back of Lumahai Valley is threatened to the max, monotypic forests of Australian Tree Ferns. Other weeds like Rhodomyrtus will do the same thing that Miconia will do. TM: ATF can only be addressed through helicopter spraying. What is the cost of spray ball operations, how effective is it? How many times do you have to go back? GN: We have treated ATF in the past and I would be happy to give you the information that we have gathered.
- **Chrysanthemum White Rust Alert** *Guy Nagai (USDA-APHIS)* This has recently been found in Hawaii. It can be devastating to any plant in the Chrysanthemum family. USDA will go after it, and wipe out any place it is found. It was found in Hilo, but plants have been shipped from that nursery to Kauai. We want to keep our status as "Rust-free" so we don't run into quarantine problems for our ornamental nursery. TF: Rusts can be identified: they form pustules that open and spill out spores.

- **Airport signs** – *Keren* Our airport signs have fallen apart, so we need someone to make new signs for us. We would like to reuse the plexi-glass covered poster portion of the signs but have the frame and base rebuilt to withstand the rigors of the baggage claim area. If anyone knows someone who would be interested in this project, please contact the KISC office. We would like to get these signs back to the airport as soon as possible.

VII. **Announcements:**

- Habitat Restoration and Protection Grants offered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, available through the Hawaii ESA Community Conservation Initiative. The Service will be looking to fund projects that enhance public hunting opportunities, populations of listed species, or benefit both game and listed species. Meeting Feb. 6th 7-9pm Kalaheo neighborhood Center: hunters and conservationists welcome to attend.

VIII. **Next Meeting** – Thursday, April 15, HDOA, 10 am to noon.
Announcements will be posted.

Pau

Attendees: Allan Rietow, Adam Asquith, Alvin Kyono, Tim Flynn, Guy Nagai, Alan Silva, Eric Garcia, Michelle Clark, Craig Kaneshige, Sandy Jansen, Wayne Souza, Bobby Gomez, Keren Gundersen, Kekoa Aana, John Plews, Mindy Wilkinson, Rhoda Libre, Ellen Coulombe, Trae Menard, Scott Giarman, Margaret Clark, Sarah Newton.