

# Kauai Invasive Species Committee (KISC) Approved Meeting Minutes

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

## I. Introduce Guests/New Members

- Welcome from Honolulu: Mindy Wilkinson (DOFAW), Christy Martin and Kim Langley (CGAPS)
- New members: Kenneth Naito, Sherri Paul, Gantt Charping, Gary Ueunten, Ricky Oyama, Mimi Olry, Trae Menard.

## II. Review Agenda Items

- Keren will add an update on Little Fire Ants and a plea regarding the airport signs.

## III. Review and Approve Minutes from April 15 Meeting

- Unanimously approved without change (can be viewed at KISC website: [www.hear.org/kisc](http://www.hear.org/kisc))

## IV. Species Focus: Brown Tree Snake Training in Guam – *Alan Silva, DoFaW*

- Power Point presentation covered general information about Guam, the impacts of the Brown Tree Snake, the Rapid Response Training, and the crew that attended. *An excellent presentation which I'm sure that Al would do again if requested.*

## V. Updates:

- KISC Activity Update and discussion –*Sarah*  
*Miconia* – Wailua River State Park searches continue. On last search a 5ft plant was spotted on a cliff-side across the river. This may require rappelling to kill the plant. Ground surveys in the Wailua Game Management Area have yielded many kills, both flowering and vegetative. A helicopter survey in this area is planned for the fall.

*Arundo* – The crew is still making great progress with this weed. Our method of cutting plants and spraying the re-growth has proven to be an effective method of killing. We are currently in the stage of spraying re-sprouts as all major sites have been treated.

Long Thorn Kiawe – KISC is working in partnership with HDOA on this target. The labor-intensive method of cutting and treating with Garlon has proven to be the best one. We are making slow and steady progress on this. We also have pulled hundred of seedlings in Mahaulepu as we monitor that area. KISC will assist the Army National Guard with removal efforts at the Rifle Range in Kekaha at the end of the month.

Ivy Gourd – We are continuing surveys in the Anahola area after outliers were found. Our goal is to define the infestation area and to create management areas for eradication. Other populations have been discovered at Shipwrecks in Poipu and Moloaa. Work has been accomplished at the infestation site at Keapana. Re-treatment will continue at all sites.

Fireweed – Monitoring continues at Halfway Bridge and Kalihiwai. Very few plants have been found at Halfway Bridge; our methods and treatment schedule seem to be extremely effective.

Cattails – The Koloa population has been eliminated. All other sites are being monitored and treated for re-sprouts. The Makaweli Valley project is still pending.

Pampas Grass – The Kokee populations have been eliminated. A new site has been discovered at Kauai Lagoons on the golf course. KISC will be contacting Kauai Lagoons regarding removal.

False Kava – We are still monitoring the site at Kahili Mountain Park. Small plants are still sprouting and re-treatment continues.

“Manuka” *Leptospermum scoparium* – A survey was conducted near Kilohana Crater after Bob Nishek discovered a population a few years ago. The population appears quite large and possibly is beyond eradication. Some control work was conducted. This is currently a target of OISC in the Koolau Mountains and also of KRCP in Kokee.

Veiled Chameleon – There was a sighting by a homeowner in Lawai. A night-time and early morning search was conducted without locating it. It has not been spotted since the initial sighting. KISC canvassed the neighborhood to raise awareness and to gather sighting information. No new sightings were reported. KISC will continue to search on a monthly basis.

Outreach – KISC conducted presentations to about 250 students at Kapaa Middle School at an all-day event. The Princeville Library exhibited a display during the month of May. We also participated in the Banana Poka Roundup followed by a Conservation Round Table sponsored by Kokee Museum. Kekoa attended the Pest Risk Reduction course and will

be testing for his pesticide certification during July. Keren and Kekoa attended Americorp training and the entire crew attended the Hawaii Conservation Conference at the end of June.

Upcoming Events – Sarah will attend ArcGIS training at the end of July sponsored by OISC. Sarah and Keren will attend an All-ISC Data Hui sponsored by Hawaii Heritage and Pacific Basin Information Node. This data meeting will enable the ISCs to not only centralize data collected but to also help standardize the information to make it easier to share. Eventually this information will be available on-line. Keren will participate in a Kauai Weed Tour hosted by Dr. Phil Motooka in August. Mark your calendars for the Kauai County Farm Bureau Fair at the end of August (a sign-up sheet was passed around – if you are interested in volunteering, please contact the KISC office)!

- Coqui Control in Lawai – *Craig (HDOA)*

Efforts to contain the population in Lawai have been made. Many citric acid sprayings along with hand-capturing have been conducted in partnership with KISC since April. Although the population is seemingly spreading outward, Craig feels that concentrated efforts for eradication are possible. Bob Sugihara with USDA will be sending 600' of hose for use in spraying. Two sprays have been scheduled for the month of August. We will need additional manpower for this operation. We are also planning to create a bigger buffer area to contain the Coqui. On a down-note: HDOA has lowered the priority for Coqui frog on its vertebrate list. [MW: DLNR sees Coqui as a priority and will see that they assist on the planned operations.] [CK: Studies have indicated that for every male you can hear chirping, there are 5 females nearby.] [LN: Maybe we should consider offering a bounty on the frog.]

- Mongoose strategy– *Keren*

KISC compiled all of the Mongoose sightings data beginning with the original one (in 1968) up until the present time. It was entered into a mapping program and it is apparent that the sightings are island-wide. An Inter-Agency meeting was called with participants from USFWS, DLNR DoFaW, DLNR State Parks, HDOH Vector Control, HDOA, The Nature Conservancy, USDA APHIS, USDA Wildlife Services, Kauai County, and USDA-WS-NWRC. A strategy was decided upon: when responding to sightings, either utilize smaller traps, track boards, or set out toxic bait stations. The number one goal is to establish confirmation of mongooses on Kauai. Also, a “Brute Force” effort will take place in a repeat-sighting location in Kapaa. This effort will involve trapping and track boards. USDA research has shown that coconut or hotdogs are the best attractant baits that also are not ravaged by ants. USFWS and USDA are looking into the possibility of staffing this project. Also, a tie-in with a public awareness campaign to solicit sightings will help accelerate the possibility of confirmation.

- Fountain Grass in Hanapepe – *Sarah*

The Fountain Grass population appears to be spreading west from the original site and also down Hanapepe canyon. It can now be spotted from the lookout on Hwy 50, southwest of Kalaheo. HDOA and KISC met with Gay & Robinson to attain access to this area to ground-truth an aerial survey conducted last fall. After the infestation site is mapped, a management plan will be worked out with G&R. Herbicide has been supplied by KISC via HDOA to G&R as well as laminated pictures of this target for ease of identification. G&R has been encouraged to start treating known plants. This species should be moved up the priority list as it is critical to stop the spread west. Treatment will be difficult due to the steep cliff-side locations.

- New home need for KISC – *Keren*

Due to a re-organization of the KCC Farm, KISC will be vacating their office site by the end of the year. The need to combine a base-yard space with the office will help KISC to run more efficiently. An area that is secure and that can provide overnight parking for KISC vehicles is a priority. Please contact Keren if you know of a potential facility for KISC to call home.

- HISC funding from the State – *Mindy*

The Governor has approved \$3 million for the HISC operating budget. This money will be allocated to Prevention, Outreach, Research, and Rapid Response and Control. The amount to be dispersed to the various groups is still pending HISC approval.

Comment:

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- Little Fire Ants – *Keren*

The incipient grant from USFWS for Little Fire Ants has been moved to Kauai from the Big Island. Keren will be Project Coordinator for this project. One new hire to conduct island-wide surveys is waiting to be approved by RCUH. This new hire will also focus their time on outreach as well as helping KISC and HDOA treat the known population in Kalihiwai. The reason that this project was moved to Kauai is that it was felt that the ants were no longer incipient on Hawaii. Also, since there are no *Intra* island regulations, as far as treating nursery stock, the ants are being freely moved around the island in plants. There was also the resistance of crop producers to stop production due to the regulations of using the pesticide, Amdro. We hope to be able to declare Kauai “Little Fire Ant Free” at the end of this project.

## VI. New Items:

- Increasing KISC's profile: State Parks Adopt-a-Trail program – *Keren*

The DLNR Division of State Parks has come up with a new "Adopt-a-trail Program" to increase interest and involvement from the community. Adopting a State Parks trail would be an ideal opportunity to increase KISC's profile and invite community involvement in our conservation efforts. The most traveled trail in the park system on Kauai is the two-mile Hanakapi'ai trail that leads from Ke'e to Hanakapi'ai stream. [WS: About 200 people use that trail per day.] KISC would get to have a 12"x18" sign installed on the trail recognizing their efforts. The work would involve only weed control and some clearing of mud off of water diversion bars. The contract calls for maintaining the trail at least once a quarter (four times per year). Work would not entail trail repairs. [PM: KISC will have to be sensitive to those in the community not wanting herbicides around native vegetation.] [JP: You might be opening yourself up to a flood of complaints regarding the trail's condition.] [EC: This would be a great way to involve the community as volunteers on a work day.] [LN: You could have people stationed at the trailhead with handouts and to answer questions.] [TM: KISC could also do a "boot-cleaning" at the trail head to make people aware of seed spread and contamination.] [KG: Is there anyone opposed to having KISC adopt this trail for one year and then have us re-evaluate our success before agreeing to adopt for another year? Keep in mind that the contract stipulates that it can be terminated by either party at any time.] Adoption was unanimously approved by the committee. Keren will contact Wayne Souza regarding the agreement.

- CGAPS Public Awareness Campaign – *Christy Martin, PIO*

A Coqui frog PSA has been prepared for Kauai, and radio stations have been contacted. KISC will be the contact to receive reported sightings from the community. We hope to one day have a state-wide number to simplify the ad campaigns.

A campaign is underway to produce a "Don't Plant a Pest" Brochure and Poster. This brochure will be very similar to a brochure produced in California. Many different agencies (including landscapers and nurseries) have participated in the process to determine what invasive and native plants are to be included in the brochure. The brochure is still not finalized at this time, as we are still gathering input from various people. [LN: It seems that since Landscapers and Nurseries will be the most impacted by this brochure, you need their total "buy-in" on what is selected to go into the brochure.] [CM: We have gotten a lot of feedback from nurseries as well as from Curt Daehler (UH Botany) who is working with the Landscape Industry Council with the Weed Risk Assessment. I would love to have your comments and invite you to email or call me.] This brochure is being sponsored by the Garden Club of Honolulu.

Also, in conjunction with this project we hope to get TV time for two other campaigns: "Don't Pack and Pest" and "Don't Track a Pest". We have conducted a pre-campaign survey to gauge community awareness to these issues and will conduct another survey after the campaign to gauge the effectiveness of them. *Please contact Christy Martin at christym@rocketmail.com if you have any questions or comments.*

- KISC Committee: Create a process to replace the current Chairperson by June 30, 2005. - *Keren*

Allan Rietow has requested that the committee put in place a process to select a new chairperson. He has not yet said that he is stepping down from the position, but would like to freedom to do so once a process is in place. A rough "job description" outlining the chair's duties was displayed. These duties include: *Supervising KISC Project Coordinator and perform an annual performance review. Assisting in translating action plans appropriately, with the guidance of the KISC Project Coordinator, KISC Committee and partner agencies. The KISC Chairperson will lead regular KISC meetings as well as strategic planning workshops. The Chair lobbies not only the County Council but also the State Legislature with written and live testimony regarding conservation efforts in Hawaii. They also attend regular quarterly CGAPS meetings.* [KG: Does anyone have anything that they would like to see added to the Chairperson's duties?] No additions were made. Keren proposed that by the next regular KISC meeting in October, we could see if Allan has decided to continue as Chair. If he would not like to continue then we will post the job descriptions on the list server and solicit nominations (either self or by others). These nominees will be voted on and a chair elected at the January 2005 KISC meeting. This new chair would then take office at the beginning of FY05 (July 2005). The committee agreed to this schedule of events.

- Airport Baggage Claim Sign – *Keren*

Both of the KISC signs that were installed at each baggage terminal have now been removed from the airport due to "traffic stress". We would like to have new (sturdier) frames built and to reinstall the signs. Anyone wishing to be involved in this project please contact Keren.

## **VII. Announcements:**

- Kauai County Farm Bureau Fair – August 26-29  
Please sign up to work the KISC booth. 3-hour shifts are still available! Volunteers will receive a KISC T-shirt.

**VIII. Next Meeting** – Still to be determined.

*Thank you all for a productive and well-attended meeting!*

**Pau**

**Attendees:** Brenda Zaun (USFWS-Kilauea), John Plews (retired), Christy Martin (CGAPS PIO), Kim Langley (CGAPS Project Coordinator), Jeri Ooka (UH-CTAHR), Al Silva (KDoFaW), Tony Doth (USDA-APHIS-PPQ), Kenneth Naito, Jan Surface (Hanalei Watershed Hui), Kawika Smith (KDoFaW), Gantt Charming (KEBRT), Craig Kaneshige (HDOA), Kekoa Aana (KISC), Sherri Paul (KDoFaW), Jin-Wah Lau (KISC), Mindy Wilkinson (DoFaW), Gary Ueunten (HDOH and GIRC&D), Ricky Oyama (HDOH), Paul Massey (Waipa Foundation & NaPali Coast Ohana), Wayne Souza (DLNR State Parks), Lelan Nishek (Kauai Nursery & Landscape), Thomas Kaiakapu (KDoFaW), Mimi Olry (KRCP), Ellen Coulombe (KRCP), Trae Menard (TNC), Keren Gundersen (KISC), Sarah Newton (KISC), Scott Giarman (United Way).