

**MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE
MEETING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2001
9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON**

ATTENDANCE: Lloyd Loope, Fred Kraus, Renate Gassmann-Duvall, Melissa Dumaran, Dan McNulty-Huffman, Kim Martz, Forest Starr, Paul Higashino, Bill Evanson, Allison Loomis, Randy Bartlett, Pat Bily, Hans Schopen, Christy Martin, Jack Peterson, Bob Hobdy, Philip Thomas, Gavin Shea, David Duffy, Leilani Durand, Tracy Johnson, Nathan Varns, Tracy Johnson, and Mike Richardson

?? Call to Order by Randy Bartlett; MPC/Chair at 9:12 am

VISITOR INTRODUCTIONS: Leilani Durand, UH-CCRT Hawaii Natural Heritage Program and Tracy Johnson, USDA Forest Service - Weed Biocontrol Entomologist

NEW BUSINESS

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

?? Minutes from the December meeting were approved. They will be posted on the HEAR website.

HAWAII NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM (Leilani Durand)

?? Since 1980's this program has mapped rare and endangered species information for all the islands. The Heritage Program would like to work with Bishop Museum, HEAR, and the ISCs to develop a statewide picture of invasive species. This would help to reduce redundancy by having one center for vouchers and one center for data and mapping. They are not trying to take over anyone's data or database, but want to use what data are already available from different organizations. The information would be available/accessible at no cost and they are planning on making CD-ROMs. Leilani added that there might be ways of using public input in mapping species although voucher specimens would still need to be collected.

?? Renate raised a concern about the sensitive nature of information on animals like parrots and Fred added that it might give people locations to get frogs and spread them around. Fred reported that Shannon (from the Heritage Program) addressed this at the OISC meeting by saying that we may have to be less giving with the animal information. Randy suggested that there are ways to limit access to web pages and Lloyd indicated that we might need to identify the species where issues like these exist and decide how the information will be addressed.

?? There was considerable discussion regarding levels of data access and availability --- what will be available to whom. The information would be available on the web and on CD-ROM with the CD level information available only to the ISCs. The Heritage Program is privately funded so the issue of public freedom of information does not apply initially. David added that the data remain private until regulatory actions are planned and then it becomes public information.

?? Fred asked what this proposal gains us that we don't already have? Why do we need a statewide mapping database if the controls are island-based? Philip countered that we really need a statewide picture and there is nobody that does that now on a statewide basis. We need to provide a statewide picture especially for the Legislature. Dan suggested that there is value in a central repository where someone can gather and process data and that management is just one use for these data. Education, funding, and public awareness are also good uses.

TRACY JOHNSON, USDA FOREST SERVICE

- ?? Tracy has been in Hawaii for the past three years learning about collaborative biocontrol efforts to deal with invasives --- one about strawberry guava, one about the pathogens of Miconia, one in Brazil working on Tibouchina, and one in Central America working on biocontrol for Miconia. Since he is new here he is interested in gathering information from everyone. Anyone is welcome to stop by --- he is in the Magma House at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.
- ?? The HDOA exploratory entomologist in Madagascar has found a Lepidoptera that defoliates German Ivy. USFS at HAVO is keeping a colony going in their quarantine as a back-up. The USDA in Albany, CA is also rearing what we think is the same moth, but they are using a different name. Host specificity tests are being done in quarantine.
- ?? Banana poka has not been a high priority and they don't have anything on Ardisia. Bill asked about the average quarantine time for new biocontrol agents. Tracy responded that three years is the bare minimum, but 5-6 years is more realistic. Fred asked if there are there any plans to do anything about the grasses and Tracy replied that he didn't know if they had the money and political drive to do that.

BUDGET/FUNDING REPORTS

Coordinator's Status Report (Jack Peterson, MISC)

- ?? We haven't heard anything yet regarding the NFWF 2001 proposal status. There are a couple of extra copies available.
- ?? MISC 2001 Action Plan Status: The NFWF proposal will serve as our 2001 Action Plan without the vertebrates. The vertebrate plan still needs editing. The budget has been reworked from last year. Copies of the draft projected 2001 budget were sent around. Considering what we have committed and only working on plants, we have a \$141,252 shortfall. If we get the \$60,000 (see below), we will have \$100,000 to do vertebrate work.
- ?? Fred explained that there is a line item for \$400,000 --- \$60,000 of which would go to MISC. Requests for increases may be directed to the members of the two money committees, but there is no opportunity for submittal of public testimony because hearings are not held on the Governor's budget. We have two possible ways to get more money. We can lobby to get them to increase the \$60,000 or get someone to introduce a new bill for rapid response, or Miconia, or frogs. Fred suggests we do both. Morita introduced a bill last year. We need to check on who else introduced bills last year. We can rewrite a bill from last year to cover rapid response, using Miconia and frogs as examples, and focusing on the whole problem, not just single species. The fact that there is a placeholder for the money as a line item is good, but we need to request that it be increased.
- ?? It looks like legislators will introduce frog control work money. OISC will introduce a bill that will fund a three-person enforcement crew that can bust people for smuggling things in. OISC drafted and found legislators to introduce the bill in the House and Senate.
- ?? The ISCs need to get someone to introduce bills and lobby. Melissa will send out a key contact list for legislators, with contact numbers, so we know who to target. We can put together a network of people who will contact legislators, as their constituents.

?? Randy mentioned that in the past we have gone to the County Council for money for the Hana crew. That money does not go into the MISC budget.

?? Rep. Brian Schatz has said that we could possibly get 2 million this year from the legislature.

CGAPS Update (Fred Kraus, DLNR)

?? The advertisement for CGAPS coordinator/grant-writer position will go out at the end of the month.

?? The blitz inspections at the Kahului Airport have turned up large numbers of new insects. California Ag was alerted to the problem, they got on the exporters (mostly organic farmers), and things cleaned up right away. The HDOA blitz will continue for a year, seasonally at intervals.

?? TNC has written a bill that would bring Noxious Weed Laws in line with Federal bills. The bill would bring increased opportunities for federal grant money.

?? The Governor sent a two-page letter to the National Invasive Species Prevention Council program supporting Hawaii as a model for quarantine efforts, etc. Copies of the letter would be good to send with our information packet to the legislature.

?? The Capacity Project: the numbers are largely figured out. It would take \$50-60 million per year to protect Hawaii from invasive aliens in a comprehensive fashion. We should also use these figures to educate legislators.

?? Lloyd suggested that it seems like the timing is good to sponsor a forum for legislators. We need to get the information from the airport blitz out and a forum would provide a good venue. Lyle could speak on the airport insect situation, Ellen on RIFA, etc. The purpose would be to inform folks about the legislative issues to push this season. We should have a short ending with “this is what you can do, how you can help.” Melissa suggested that maybe we could do this ISC-wide on each island. Pat agreed look into the possibility of Castle Theater for the venue. Christy will assist once the Hula Bowl wraps up. Fred, Lloyd, and Christy will work on an outline.

Hana Crew Budget Status Report (Nathan Varns, Tri-Isle RC&D)

?? We have applied for \$100,000 from the Board of Water Supply --- we may find out in late April. Combined with the Community Development Block Grant (\$100,000), which we are starting to spend out now, we could be set for the year and then some.

PR/EDUCATION STATUS REPORT (Christy Martin, MISC)

Hula Bowl Media

?? Philip provided an update on the HEAR web-site. At this time, the CGAPS brochure will be put online as a graphic. We will need to put the text in and reformat it so it will download faster.

?? Melissa added that she has been doing the PR for OISC and has used Christy's models. She is looking into large billboards about invasive species for the airports, but the project is stalled at the moment. They are planned as 3.5-ft. boards with back-to-back panels.

News Media

?? A press release was sent and printed on Hula Bowl media and the Hawaii Community Foundation grant.

?? Christy spoke to Jay April who shot and edited the Miconia commercials for Tri-Isle, he gave permission to use them. The Miconia video has been re-edited with MISC's phone number added at the end. Christy has all of the original Beta footage from Jay April and he would like to put together new commercials and/or use the footage somehow to get the word out. We also have a 30-second frog video.

?? Philip added that the CNN mention of the frogs caused a huge spike in hits on the website. Several letters that came in were people asking advice on whether to buy land.

?? School outreach has slowed down for the winter break. There is a presentation scheduled for the Kula Community Association, with Jeremy and Steve in February.

FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE FUNDING PROPOSAL (Fred Kraus, DLNR)

?? Christina Crooker is coordinating with Steve Miller for a \$180,000 statewide coordinated ISC proposal. MISC asked for \$46,000 for the PR/education position

MOLOKAI- MISC SUBCOMMITTEE (Jack Peterson, MISC)

?? Tina Lau has had a few meetings with key people. They have identified species and discussed getting a GPS. Jack will post email from Tina to the MISC list.

?? Fred suggested that we really need frog surveys on Molokai and education in the nurseries.

RED IMPORTED FIRE ANTS (Lloyd Loope, USGS/BRD)

?? We took the Federal funds difficulties to heart and were able to have Na Kumu o Haleakala and others make the match, with the assistance of Dave Duffy.

DOA POSITIONS (L. Loope, USGS/BRD)

?? Grant resigned and Ed Tamura is working on contract. DOA may lose two positions. MISC needs to speak up regarding saving the positions and make the case for DOA working with MISC. Randy will look at the issue next week and send a letter to Jimmy Nakatani with a copy to the Legislators. DOA is where we want support from for rapid response.

MISCELLANEOUS NEW BUSINESS

?? Fred mentioned that there is a person from Ft. Lauderdale who is putting together a request for a nation-wide program to control Salvinia. They have asked for Hawaii's participation. Fred put

together a proposal requesting two full time staff, for 5 years for Salvinia survey, education, and control in Hawaii. The plant in the hippo pond at the zoo may be Salvinia. Christy will contact Zoo personnel.

- ?? Fred reminded everyone that they need to send in candidates for addition to the Noxious Weed List and include supporting evidence.
- ?? Fred will speak to the Maui County Arborists Committee in March. The meeting is open to the public. Fred's web-site lists many of the trees that they promote. Philip added that he has been pleasantly surprised at their response to the whole issue. They recognize that some of the things on Fred's list are weeds and they are amazingly receptive to hearing about it. Nobody wants to intentionally hurt the environment. In some cases they don't see some plants as harmful, don't believe they are harmful, or are in plain denial. This is an education problem.
- ?? Bob stressed that we need to make sure whatever we pick really is a weed or serious weed. If we list some things like monkeypod as a serious weed, the whole list loses credibility. They are willing to accept that African tulip is a weed.
- ?? Randy suggested that it would be nice to have links to more information on the HEAR web-site.

OLD BUSINESS:

See the attached Activity Summary for an overview of the MISC crew's schedule since the last meeting.

PLANT UPDATES (J. Peterson, MISC)

Operational Details

- ?? Jack and Hans met with the new Haleakala swat team and will be coordinating activities.
- ?? MISC has been able to switch helicopter operations to the MISC base-yard rather than the airport. We have run six operations out of the base-yard so far.
- ?? We are now growing Miconia in a locked grow room for the Discovery Channel use in recording time-lapse growth.
- ?? We need to buy a 4-door crew cab for hauling and disposal. We have been using the crew's personal vehicles for this purpose.

Miconia Peripheral Populations

- ?? We got EMI approval to spray Miconia from the air in the watershed area. We had one spray operation to take care of 58 trees (7 seeding) that had been there for a long time.
- ?? The MISC crew has put in five days of Miconia work since the last meeting --- three ground days in the periphery, one day of aerial recon, and one aerial spray. We are doing a lot of work around the dots, contacting the landowners, and working the periphery. We have found seeding trees and many keiki. Pat talked to Eddie Olivera. He found two seeding trees and keiki in Nahiku.

- ?? We have been finding a lot of trees around the area Hana core periphery. MISC crewmember Bruce Lind went hunting and found a lot of trees in the Kawaipapa area. There seems to be a big discrepancy between what we see from the air and what we find on the ground. The periphery around Hana alone is a full time job it seems. We want to work more closely with Glenn to find out where they are spraying and what the Hana crew's plans are. We need to take a hard look at where they are working so that we know what is being called the core and the periphery.
- ?? Considerable discussion followed regarding strategy and crew dynamics. Bob summarized that when they first went into the upper road area it wasn't a huge area and when they got done hand cutting the area, it looked like a lot. Their guys kill a lot of plants, perhaps 50,000 per day, but they kill everything, even the little ones. It's a huge job. Just controlling what they do control, is a full time job. Its tough terrain and they work 40-hour weeks. We all need more manpower than we have.
- ?? Randy brought up the point that he thought we were going to get away from the practice of spraying all the small ones. Bob countered that it is hard to re-train the field crew. Jack commented that it doesn't matter if we have a clean area in the center. We need to be much more effective in working with the Hana crew. Randy summarized that MISC should work more closely with Glenn, and have the crew work with the Hana crew on a larger area, focused on the adults. We will lose funding for this in a few years.
- ?? A question was brought up regarding the morale of the Hana crew. Nathan and Bob responded that it is OK. For the Hana crew it is the same thing everyday. The MISC crew gets more variety. They just put together a personnel policy and met with the crew. They do tend to burn out, but they've got one guy that has been there for the full four years.
- ?? Melissa asked if we need to back off and do more survey work and whether we need more people? Fred suggested that this should be included with the Miconia bill request for funding. Ask for what we need.

Miconia, Hana Crew and Bio-Control (Bob Hobdy, DOFAW; Tracy USDA)

- ?? According to Pat Conant the fungus results in 20% defoliation on infected plants compared to control plants. There is data on increased growth in infected plants. The data is statistically significant, but may not be biologically significant (the differences were very small). Julie Denslow of USFS is working with us to use more precise measurements in greenhouse experiments.
- ?? There are 12 sprays planned this year, one per month.
- ?? Pat Bily suggested that if someone asks us how much herbicide is used each year, where, etc., we need to have that answer ready. This is something he recommended years ago. Pat would like to see some transects set up in the area south of the periphery to be reviewed for baseline, frequency, rate of spread, negative (absence) data, etc. Philip responded that APCHUL is designed to address the herbicide question. We need DOFAW & TNC to have a compatible data records system.

Pampas Grass

?? The MISC crew has put in 15 pampas grass days since the last meeting. Ten days were in residential areas and two were in outlying populations. We did an aerial survey in Polipoli and did not find any pampas.

?? Fred suggested that we contact Lyle and Myron Isherwood of HDOA for permission to burn the pampas grass at the incinerator. Randy will call Myron.

Fountain Grass

?? Sweeps at Waiehu have yielded 20 plants, 18 were flowering. No vouchers taken.

Ivy Gourd

?? The crew has spent two days on ivy gourd since the last meeting. We found a new population in Kahului. We also worked in Kapalua --- a 2200 square feet area. We definitely underestimated this population. A foliar method with Round-Up Pro was used.

Arundo

?? One day since the last meeting.

Cryptostegia

?? The population in Kaanapali has been removed. The material will be sent to Maui EkoSystems to be ground and composted. Twenty-five hundred seed-pods were removed.

VERTEBRATE UPDATES

Caribbean Frogs (F. Kraus, DLNR)

?? Earl and Fred met with Bob Boesch and Lyle Wong of HDOA about the caffeine field trials. They will go for an emergency use registration with EPA. Drawbacks to this approach include the temporary nature of the registration and the need to show continuing research. There will be a meeting January 24 at Hilo Dept. of Ag. with a variety of stakeholders to get the work plan off the ground. There is a need for development of a network of Agriculture and conservation community help. They will also need MISC to contribute field time and personnel.

?? The field trials are going well. There is total silence the day after treatment. Caffeine also kills toads, slugs, and skinks.

Parrots (Renate Gassmann-Duvall)

?? Public attention was generated by an article by Tim Hurly in the Honolulu Advertiser. There were some phone calls and some people concerned about MISC killing the birds.

?? We may need to make a flyer for pet shops encouraging people to be responsible and not release birds. There is no law in Hawaii making it illegal to release animals bought in a pet shop.

?? Karla Kishinami from Bishop Museum contacted Renate about writing a segment about parrots. They would like to feature the mitered conure. Anne and Renate can do a parrot poster for the upcoming Conservation Conference if MISC can take care of the fee. Dave suggested that if you volunteer, your conference fee is waived. Anne is giving the MISC presentation with parrot information to Mark Tobin and Mike Avery at APHIS in Ft. Collins.

?? Fred reminded the group that we need to make sure we get this issue out to the public. We need to build on it and keep it in the media as a problem. He has received calls of new parrot populations on the Big Island.

OTHER BUSINESS

?? Philip needs people to review the APHIS publication. Also, need a review of the “Pest Risk Assessment for Importation of Solid Wood Packing Materials into the United States”.

Next Meeting Date/Time: RESCHEDULED to Friday, March 23, 9am-noon

M.I.S.C. Activity Schedule
Dec. 8 – Jan. 12, 2001

- 12/8: MISC Meeting; HALE NP/MISC Staff Christmas Party
- 12/11: Heli-Ops: Recon – Honomanu Pampas
Ivy Gourd – Kapalua (foliar test plots and new sites)
- 12/12: Heli-Ops: Spray – Honomanu Pampas, LZ Prep.
Pampas/Ivy Gourd: Ground Recon – Haiku
- 12/13: Pampas: Ground Sweeps – Poli Poli Outliers (3 found of which 2 flowering)
- 12/14: Heli-Ops: Recon – Upper Nahiku/Wailua Miconia
Arundo – KAH Airport rvst
Meeting: HALE Swat team/MISC
- 12/15: Pampas: Ground Sweeps – Poli Poli Outliers (none found)
Frog Filming (PM) Howards Nursery with Les Matsuura
- 12/18: Pampas: Residential – Kula
- 12/19: Helicopter LZ Safety Prep: Water systems / Spill control / Tree cutting
- 12/20: Heli-Ops: Spray – Miconia:Wailua Nui, Hanawi Pampas: Residential - Kula
- 12/21: Pampas: Residential – Keokea
- 12/22: Heli-Ops: Recon – Poli Poli Pampas Outliers
Pampas: Residential – Keokea Transport
- 12/25: Christmas Day Holiday
- 12/26: Pampas: Residential – Kula
(Hans on vac. thru 1/5)
- 12/27: Miconia: Moo Moo Nui (finished core sweeps)
- 12/28: Miconia: Lower Nahiku
- 12/29: Heli-Ops: Spray – Honomanu Pampas
Miconia germination experiment initiated.
- 1/1: New Years Day Holiday
- 1/2: Pampas: Residential – Makawao
- 1/3: Pampas: Kula Keiki Zoo Miconia – Lower Nahiku
- 1/4: Pampas: Residential – Kula
- 1/5: Fountain Grass: Waiehu Dunes (20 found of which 18 flowering)
Rubber Vine: Kaanapali (30 plants, start removing seed pods)
Ivy Gourd: Kapalua
- 1/8: Rubber Vine: Kaanapali
- 1/9: Heli-ops: Miconia Recon-Hana Core mauka, Wailua.
- 1/10: Miconia Recon– Nahiku Makai east (infestation found)
- 1/11: Honomanu: Pampas (control & vouchers)/Cooperative mission with EMWP/HALE RM (fence completion)
Decon., maintenance, errands, data.
- 1/12: MISC meeting