

MEETING NOTES
MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE
December 8, 2006

ATTENDANCE: Randy Bartlett, Mach Fukada, Fern Duvall, Forest Starr, Kim Starr, Nathan Varns, Bob Yonahara, Teya Penniman, Mike Ade, Aaron Kogan, Joy Paman, Carl Martin, William Midgley, Chris Candito, Elizabeth Anderson

- The meeting was called to order by Randy Bartlett, ML&P/Chair at 9:15am. Introductions were made around the room.
- Minutes from the October 13, 2006 meeting were approved. They will be posted on the website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Christmas/Holiday Party

- MISC's holiday party will be on Saturday, December 16 at 5pm at Steve & Elizabeth Anderson's house. Come and join us!

Brief Updates:

Staffing

- Teya: Mike is back to work part-time on light duty. We attempted to hire a temporary crew this summer to ramp up on coqui frogs in Maliko Gulch. Of the three people hired for the temporary crew, one individual only worked for a short period of time. Sarah, a second member of the crew, had to take time off for family matters. Sarah is now on intermittent status and will be helping out with administrative tasks on an occasional basis. With the funds saved on these two positions, we were able to keep the third member of the crew (Chris Radford) on the vertebrate crew longer term. In reality, our "vertebrate crew" doesn't just work on vertebrates. They also work on banana bunchy top virus and miconia peripherals. We have allocated funds for a part-time administrative position for Molokai.
- Shannon will be leaving MISC at the end of January to pursue her writing career full-time. She has been half-time at MISC for the past couple of years working with the Hoike curriculum, doing teacher workshops, leading field trips, editing our newsletter and other documents, developing our volunteer program, and helping with administrative tasks. We hope to keep her on intermittent status to continue assisting with the newsletter. We did have some dedicated funding for the Hoike project in the past but those funds are pau. We need to make a decision regarding how to continue the work. The Hoike curriculum is a wonderful platform and has given us a good tie to Maui teachers. The curriculum is available electronically on the HEAR website and is being used widely on Maui in both secondary and middle schools. Shannon and Philip are currently working to update the website. Shannon's most recent teacher workshop had 16 attendees. The teachers that complete follow-up assignments from the workshop receive DOE credit. As far as the volunteer program goes, we aren't ideally suited to have volunteers because of the nature of the work we do. We hope to still be able to do occasional group volunteer trips for things like miconia. Seabury has requested another Winterim trip this year that we will accommodate.

Lanai

- Teya: thanks to Hank Oppenheimer we learned that the small patch of ivy gourd we controlled by the commercial harbor was not the only ivy gourd on Lanai. The known area is now 91 acres and that may not be the full extent. We sent a four-person crew over for a day to do initial control work and discovered a lot more ivy gourd than we expected. Stephanie: the population is in the golf course area. We started working and kept finding more and more. There are huge cables and keiki. There were a couple of clusters as big as this yurt. It is covering the kiawe trees. It would take months to control all of it. We started to try to control it and Brooke and Bryan Plunkett (Lanai Company) went around and GPS'd it all. We searched the nursery. I've never seen cables that big. Randy: we need to evaluate what is being threatened. Fern:

heading along the coast from the harbor is the biggest and best native cotton stand (ma'o) I've ever seen and there are dense stands of senna. The shore is really rugged and is used by nesting seabirds. The area is mostly native vegetation and the ivy gourd invasion could potentially impact nesting seabirds. Teya: given the size of the cables it has probably been there for a long time. Fern: I didn't realize that we didn't know it was there. I have seen it during bird surveys. It may be planted along the golf course where there is a lot of water and fertilizer. Mach: beyond the golf course boundary we are looking at rough terrain so we can't really say it isn't there without surveying.

- Fern: in Kihei do deer eat ivy gourd? Mike: I would guess they would eat it. Fern: on Lanai it may be limited to places where deer are controlled - like along the golf course. Mike: we've been on the ground a lot in the Kanepuu area and we haven't seen it out there. Forest: if we go for biocontrol, it will always be there on a low level. Mach: if that won't be acceptable, then we are wasting our time. I would need to send people to Kona to collect the biocontrol agent. We don't have any in the lab right now. I would recommend rearing the beetles and taking them rather than taking infested material. Moving live insects between islands is illegal unless it is done by HDOA. The moth was definitely the best of the biocontrol agents. Forest: it is not in quarantine anymore. Mach: priorities have shifted. All of our lab space right now is devoted to nettle caterpillars and the gall wasp. After something is released, if it does well, it is left out. Randy: we need to do more surveys to determine the true extent. We also need to contact Lanai Company and see if there is local buy in. Mach: we are looking at releasing things for clidemia on Lanai and the local people have not responded. Forest: it sounds like it is beyond chemical/mechanical control. Shipping people over there every quarter isn't going to do it. Mike: they won't let us do a widespread foliar spray on the site because of the golf course. Forest: it is a noxious weed so they have to cooperate. Mike: the spraying issue is a cosmetic thing. Randy: we need to find out where the periphery is and what the distribution is and then we need to find out the Company's stand on it. Stephanie: initially we were doing normal basal bark treatment with G4 at 100%. Bob: sometimes it is more effective if you dilute it. Mike: the bigger the vines are, the easier they are to kill. We start with 2% G4 foliar to knock it back and then we can see the cables better. Teya: Forest and Kim will be doing roadside surveys on Lanai this spring.

ACTION ITEMS

- *Survey to determine the extent of ivy gourd on Lanai.*
- *Contact Lanai Company re: ivy gourd control options.*

Superferry

- Teya: I went to the Superferry hearing yesterday morning. Judge August is reconsidering whether the plaintiffs have standing. The hearing was continued until next Monday - no decision made. The judge asked some very interesting questions. The fact that the County intervened added significant political weight to the proceeding. A working group on invasive species has been established for the Superferry. We have met twice now. There is also a working group on education. I think good things will come out of both working groups. Joy: the Superferry will have an onboard video that will include a 1-2 minute invasive species message. There is also discussion of having information on the web - when people purchase their ticket, they will check off the purpose of their visit (hunting, camping, etc.) and they will be directed to an area with tips on preventing weed spread, etc.
- Teya: we developed a matrix of priority pests, likely vectors and preferred mitigation/alternatives for addressing each. The ideal mitigation for a lot of the species of concern would be an undercarriage wash and I am doubtful that will happen. Plants and plant parts can't be moved without an HDOA inspection sticker. This is good for noxious weeds, but it doesn't help with our targets that aren't listed. There are a lot of gaps. This process is pointing out the gaps that exist in our interisland quarantine system. There are concerns about over-fishing on the outer islands by people from Oahu. Fishing nets are another issue that has come up. The nets typically get tossed in a cooler. There has been some talk about not allowing nets although you can take them on an airplane.

Public Relations

- Joy: we are already working on our next newsletter, which is scheduled to come out in late March or early April. A big thank-you goes out to Tri-Isle for their help in getting a non-profit bulk mailing permit. Forest: who is on the mailing list? Did you target people? Joy: Yes. We plan to publish the newsletter twice a year. Randy: it would be good to have the next one out by late March before the Legislative session is pau. This next session will be important for Maui. There are a lot of Maui people in powerful positions.
- Joy: we are continuing to do a monthly Maui News column. It comes out on the second Sunday of the month. The article is not on-line with Maui News, but I have been making pdfs and posting the articles on the HEAR website. Forest: could you send the link to the pdfs out to the list when you post them?
- Joy: William Jacinto was the winner of this year's Malama Award. He is an MCC instructor and also has a nursery and cattle operation. The Lawn and Garden Fair was a successful event. The Mayor and Senator English attended. Senator English's office sent out letters to all the nominees. Our booth won second place at the MALP Fair. The vertebrate crew staffed our booth at the Maui Nui Botanical Garden Arbor Day event. Teya and I went to the Realtor's Association and gave a presentation on coqui frogs.
- Joy: The HISC PR/Outreach Working Group is helping the Department of Health with its West Nile virus campaign. There is a central number (211) to call for reporting dead birds. We are creating a newspaper ad that will run in the major newspapers on each island. The 211 number only works on some cell phones and it won't work from a pay phone. They don't want all birds - no doves, pigeons, etc. and they don't want road kills. They have a flow chart. You get a real person, not a recording, when you call. The 211 call line is run by Aloha United Way - they serve as a clearing house. Fern: if the person calling in can't identify the bird, then there is a person who goes out and picks it up. Teya: we recently were given \$10K from the HISC for Joy's position.
- Joy: Teya and I have been working to schedule meetings with Legislators in preparation for the upcoming budget session. We want to make sure we introduce ourselves to the newly elected folks. Teya: Charmaine Tavares is swamped right now so I don't think it is a good time to visit with her. Nathan and Stuart just met with her and we have a good relationship with her already. Randy: let me know when you do those meetings. I will try to join you when I can.

ACTION ITEMS

- *Send links to pdfs for Maui News columns out to the MISC-I.*

PARTNER UPDATES

- Teya: this is a new concept - we want to try to give our partners an opportunity to share what is new in their operations.
- USGS, Forest & Kim: we are being paid by the Fish & Wildlife Service right now to look for the little fire ant. We are identifying all of the ants we find. So far, we have identified 24 different species - one was a new island record. To date we have not found any little fire ants. We are looking specifically at new landscaping projects, new developments, nurseries, etc. Historically ant surveys have been done around ports. The material that comes in to the ports gets sent out to developments.
- DLNR, Fern: it would be good to get an update from John Neizman since his job is invasive species. He reports to Glenn Shishido. I will be involved in bird flu sampling and am on the West Nile virus county-wide working group. We are also branching out into avian flu. DOFAW has hired two technicians to work with FWS. They will be sampling a variety of migratory shorebirds. If we get an ill bird, we switch to Tyvek and respirators. It is thought that the smuggling of game cocks is one of the most likely vectors based on a risk assessment that looked at the genetics and flow of the virus.

- HDOA, Mach: questions have come up regarding a heat treatment facility for the Kahului Harbor. We had a chance to see the Oahu facility. The temperature needed to kill the nettle caterpillar pupae was more than the plants could take. 113 degrees for five minutes will kill ants and coqui and it will kill nettle caterpillar adults and larvae but not the pupae. The pupae will probably not be killed by contact insecticide either. Fern: does anyone know how far the adults fly? Could they be blown between islands? Mach: I don't know. I could see them infesting the harbor in Hilo and flying onto a cargo ship and hanging out. Teya: where is the heat treatment facility on Oahu? Mach: at a nursery. They retrofitted a Matson container. It is not really portable. Fern: there is still an increased probability of kill even if it isn't perfect – it is better than nothing.
- ML&P, Randy: clidemia is spreading. It is still at fairly low elevations. We need more biocontrol. For the fungus, it is probably easiest to go out to Hana and just collect leaves. Mach: Eloise will be retiring soon. I know the fungus has taken along the Hana Hwy. and it is abundant there, but it may never actually make a difference on the Hana Hwy. Even if we get rid of 50% - it is only 50% of an infinite amount. Free water is needed to move the fungal spores.
- Tri-Isle RC&D, Nathan: we may want to reconsider reapplying for CDBG funds this year. We tried two years ago. There are some changes going on and it may be a good opportunity. The deadline is fast approaching. Teya: our best fit is the Hana crew. I will check on the deadline.

PRIORITY SETTING MATRIX

- Teya: I am not actually going to go through this line-by-line right now. What I handed out is a draft for your review. We talked about wanting to have more rigor in our analysis for our annual priority setting meetings. Much of what I've pulled together is based on the New Zealand system. One of the first things we need to look at is species-led vs. site-led approaches. We currently have a site-led approach for arundo. Kim: I thought MISC's priorities were more along the species-led line. If a species is site-led, it shouldn't be on the list. Teya: within DOFAW there is some thinking that some of the site-led species should be the focus of work by the watershed partnerships. Fern: whether it can be eradicated is a crux question. Teya: maybe we don't need to focus on the species vs. site-led issue so much. The goal of the matrix lies in the prioritization process. Typically we go through all the species each year and then we say we will keep doing all of them. If you follow the New Zealand approach, you get a priority ranking based on all the considerations. We currently approach the process in an *ad hoc* manner. We are trying to develop a more codified approach that better documents our process. Mach: you could apply this model for vertebrates and invertebrates too.
- Teya: moving through the matrix, seed set is another factor. How many seeds are produced? Mike: it is also important to look at how many times a year seeds are produced. Teya: we can get the Weed Risk Assessment (WRA) scores, but I don't know if we can get the actual numbers for the various criteria. We could just use the WRA score, but this is not really a valid use of the WRA. Randy: we could incorporate the WRA rank within our matrix - a hybrid. This would make it more comprehensive. Fern: or you could have a separate matrix that would make more sense for Maui and find the differences between the WRA and our specific scoring. We could look at how our score compares to their score. New Zealand is taking a country-wide approach. If we are looking at a Maui-centric approach, we need to include the probability of reintroduction (for example saffron finches are constantly showing up in Kula). Teya: in New Zealand they begin by going through the scoring process and then they look at the eradication vs. containment question. The first score tells you how bad the species is and then you look at things like reintroduction.
- Forest: if something is a weed elsewhere, it is going to be the highest weighted in biological success score. Mach: whether there has been successful biocontrol of the organism should be factored in. A species should be higher priority if there is no history of biocontrol success. Fern: another factor that Lloyd always brings up is whether there is a native congener. Is hybridization an issue? Kim: that is a huge issue and should be addressed up high. Forest: the potential for human health issues or industry impacts should also be factored in.

- Teya: are there other things to include? Randy: the weediness score should incorporate the WRA ranking and whether the species is on the noxious or injurious species lists. Forest: the practicality of control is better for noxious weeds. Teya: OISC was trying to have HDOA help with enforcement on tibouchina and go through the court order process. The Deputy Attorney General said they aren't likely to be successful at getting a court order because the ISCs aren't state agencies making it hard to say it is a state action. I think this issue could be overcome by showing where our funding comes from. It is disheartening that there wasn't more support at the Attorney General's office. Teya: I will incorporate comments from today's meeting and send the matrix out via email for further comments. Fern: we may need to add separate categories that are specific to vertebrates.

ACTION ITEMS

- *Revise prioritization matrix and send out for review/comment.*

HAWAII'S LEGAL & REGULATORY STRUCTURE FOR INVASIVE SPECIES

- Fern: this topic merits a separate meeting. Randy: we need to come up with the top 2-3 things for this Legislative session. There are a number of Maui Legislators in key positions this year. It would be nice if we could get some laws passed. Fern: the congener issue should be fairly straightforward because we have so many obscure genera. Randy: we should establish a subcommittee or email back and forth to flush out an outline. Fern: we need to look at the county, state, and federal level. The state level is where a lot of this should happen. At the county level we are talking about home rule. Teya: one bill that never went anywhere last year was the idea of having our own county rules and plans for invasives. It seems like it would be good to resurrect that bill. Focusing on our gaps would be the most productive approach. Mindy is focusing on interisland quarantine.

ACTION ITEMS

- *Summarize priorities for this Legislative session at the county, state and federal level and then prioritize within each category and move forward.*

MISC MEETINGS – PROPOSED 2007 SCHEDULE AND TOPICS

A.	February 9	Other Islands (Molokai, Lanai, Kahoolawe)
B.	April 13	Strategic Planning
C.	June 8	Vertebrates
D.	August 10	Priority Setting
E.	October 12	Miconia
F.	December 7	Open / TBD