

O'ahu Invasive Species Committee
May 15, 2002 - Minutes
Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden, Kaneohe

Attendees: Coleen Cory, Robert Cowie, Domingo Cravalho, Christina Crooker, Melissa Dumarán, Leilani Durand, Clarice Hashimoto, Mike Leech, Nilton Matayoshi, Randy Miyashiro, Lydi Morgan, Joshlyn Sand, Jason Sickmiller, Ryan Smith, George Staples, Jason Sumiye, Amy Tsuneyoshi, Mindy Wilkinson

1. WELCOME (Coleen Cory, OISC chair)

2. Approval of past minutes

3. OISC STAFFING

- Status of OISC Coordinator – Mike Leech was hired as coordinator in March
- Field Technicians – Lydi Morgan and Ryan Smith started in January
- Emergency Environmental Workforce – reapproved for next fiscal year, OISC will hopefully gain 2-3 EEW workers in June/July
- New OISC Chairperson – Coleen Cory is stepping down after this meeting. Mindy Wilkinson has volunteered to take her place. Thoughts about asking for a one year commitment and rotating the position yearly.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- OISC is setting up a new baseyard in Pearl City/Waimano (top of Waimano Home Rd.) and will probably be moved in within the next month. The field crew and coordinator will be sharing the office with Jason Sumiye, the Ko'olau Watershed Partnership Coordinator. Phone and internet connections are yet to be installed; address and phone number will be distributed at the next meeting.
- An invasive species pamphlet produced by CGAPS was distributed at the meeting. This pamphlet was designed for the education of legislators and others interested. They are available in large quantities to anyone who would like to distribute them (contact Coleen Cory).
- CGAPS and each of the ISC's will have posters displayed at the Hawaii Conservation Conference in July. Mike and Melissa are heading OISC's poster and will have a draft out within the next month. Posters will display the same logo format at the top, indicating that the groups are all part of a larger organization.
- Leilani distributed instructions for accessing a hidden HINHP-NBII draft website and asked for feedback on the site. Go to <http://63.174.232.85> to view the site, and please send comments to ldurand@hawaii.edu or mcelvane@hawaii.edu.
- Coleen will send out information to the OISC list serve with instruction on how to subscribe to and unsubscribe from the various ISC listservers.
- Vickie Caraway is stepping down as minutes-taker and Lydi Morgan was nominated to take over.
- The Plant Quarantine Branch (Domingo) is moving out of their Kalihi location in August and the new office in the Kapalama military area may be available as a site for future meetings with its new larger conference space.

5. WORKING GROUP REPORTS

- **Budget/Funding** (Christina Crooker)
 - \$45,000 from USFWS for OISC Coordinator (therefore funded until February 2004)
 - Funding will be available for a state-wide ISC Public Outreach Coordinator to be hired this year. The funds must first be deposited with RCUH and the position opened for recruitment. The coordinator will be based on Oahu, potentially at the new Waimano baseyard.
 - \$15,000 from NAP for frog technician
 - DOFAW is hiring an invasive species technician who will work with DOFAW and OISC. The position has been advertised and Brent Liesemeyer (DOFAW) is waiting for the list of applicants.
 - \$6000 to the education working group for trail signs and species ID cards
 - \$30,000 from NAP for a statewide parrot survey/control effort

- \$20,000 from NAP for DOFAW tech operation support (\$5,000 to each county)
 - \$25,000 from NAP for State invasive species coordinator operation support (Mindy's position)
 - \$50,000 from NAP for melastome biocontrol, this funding is still pending approval and can be used for other purposes if not approved.
 - \$4,000 from NAP for CGAPS operation support (Steve)
 - \$50K (amount not yet confirmed) from HCF, \$40K from DOFAW, and \$50K from USFS are available for flexible use (staff/supplies etc.)
- **Outreach/Education** (Melissa Dumaran)
 - Signs – We will soon be able to produce trail signs to be posted at state trails in order to alert the public to the presence of Miconia. They will be standard Na Ala Hele size (18/20”), in color, and fade and graffiti resistant. The signs will display a picture of Miconia, some basic info about the plant, and a phone number to call (Nilton's). Aaron Lowe (NAH) may be contributing up to half of the funds for the signs.
 - ID cards – Annette from Sierra Club approached Melissa about producing ID cards for invasive species for hikers/volunteers. The cards will have a color photo and description of the species in lay terms. They would be small and put together on a ring so that they could be clipped to a backpack. Up to 1000 sets will be made, and we do have the money to begin work on them. Melissa will put Mike in touch with the vendor who would produce them. The invasive species cards can be modeled after the endangered species cards that the Army National Guard has already produced. The invasive species cards would be the first of their kind to be widely produced and distributed.
 - Lyon Arboretum Seminars (Mike) – The field crew will be leading three workshops (2 hrs each) at Lyon Arboretum this summer, one each month in June, July, and August. They will consist of hands on learning about invasive species. The first workshop will be open to 2nd through 6th graders, and the last two will be open to students in 7th grade or higher, and adults. See the Lyon Arboretum class schedule for more information, and please contact Mike with any ideas or resources (handouts, specimens, etc.).

- **Policy/Lobbying** (Clarice Hashimoto)

This legislative session was a relatively good one for us. A council for invasive species was created, and though the bill lacks administrative “teeth”, it shows there is an awareness there. There needs to be discussion about what the relationship between the council and CGAPS will be before the council is formed. The legislative session was also relatively generous in allocating funds to our cause; \$5.5 million is pending approval for the Paradise Park project. The issue is unresolved as to whether or not Gov. Ben Cayetano will veto the bill. Steve Lohse emailed Coleen with the information that a total of \$864,000 was given to the ISC's statewide! Over half a million of this money is a new line item, meaning that it will be harder to take away this money in coming years. And Clarice reminds us to VOTE, because it's going to be important to have people in office who are supporting our issues. She will be sending out information on the list serve about how to find out what your candidates stand for.

- **Plant Control** (Ryan Smith; reporting on control work since January)

Miconia – total of 334 acres surveyed, more than 3000 plants found, including 33 mature trees. Future goals are to revisit population hot spots, determine infestation boundaries, and survey additional areas where Miconia is not now known to exist. *Manoa*: 156 acres surveyed, 2800 plants found, 12 mature trees. Two aerial surveys conducted: in April, the left half of the valley was surveyed and two mature trees were found; in May, the right half of the valley was surveyed, with a focus on the more inaccessible areas above the waterfalls and approaching the summit, and no plants were found. During a snail survey in April (Army Enviro.) Mike Hadfield reported finding a 7ft. Miconia plant near the summit of Konahuanui. OISC staff have not verified this, but have planned a 3 day trip in June to thoroughly survey the summit area. Just recently, a new infestation of Miconia was found in Manoa in an area that has never been searched by previous Miconia surveys. 11 mature trees have been killed as well as over 2000 plants and seedlings. *Makiki*: one immature plant has been found (since January). *Nu'uuanu*: 77 plants, including 17 mature trees have been killed since January. Future goal is to continue survey work on both sides of the Pali highway. *Kalihi*: 50 acres surveyed, 33 plants killed, none of them mature. *Kahalu'u*: 4 immature plants were found

by Joby and Kapua (of Army Environmental) below their neighbor's property. The origin of these plants is unknown. Further surveying in the area found no other plants. Kaalaea streams were also surveyed (above where a mature tree had been found growing at a nursery) and no other plants were found. *Maunawili*: 7 acres surveyed, no plants found. *Waimanalo*: no other survey work has been done.

Fountain Grass – Goals are to contain large infestations (Lanikai and Diamond Head) and to eradicate satellite populations. *Diamond Head*: the largest infestation on Oahu. In April the park closed for 3 days and a group representing OISC, HIARNG, DOFAW, NAH, and DOA was able to treat more than 6000 plants in the vicinity of the trail. Future goals are to treat plants outside the crater, and determine a containment strategy. *Lanikai*: Plants along the trail up to the second pillbox on Lanikai ridge have been treated. Future goals will be to determine a containment strategy and to get the community involved. A presentation will be given to the community before commencing off-trail spraying. HIARNG previously treated more than 100 plants at Bellows AF; this spring the area was revisited and 57 plants were found and treated in one location, no plants were found throughout the base.

Rubus discolor – Two populations: Lanipo trail and Palolo valley. Surveys since January found no plants remaining in Palolo, and no population corridor between the two locations. Work on treatment and mapping of the Lanipo population will continue.

Manuka – Two populations: Lanipo trail and Waialae Nui trail. All known plants in each population (approx. 100 each) have been killed. The areas will be revisited next quarter.

Thorny kiawe (Nilton) – there are ~ 200 smaller plants at the state park at Sand Island; volunteer work trip coming up.

- **Animal Control** (Domingo Cravalho, Nilton Matayoshi)

Coqui Frog – over 100 reports since October (through the PEST line), 50 on Oahu. In 2001 there were three known populations: 1) Wahiawa Heights: 2 sites, one treated with hydrated lime last June, no calls heard since then. 10 frogs removed from the other site (including babies), approx 3 frogs remaining there. 2) Iwalei Home Depot: 2-3 frogs are left in landscaped area outside of nursery. Eggs were collected from the Bromeliad trap. 3) Kahalu'u nursery: 6 individuals were removed, and probably none remain though follow up is needed. Since then two more sites have been reported: 1) Haleiwa nursery: 20+ frogs removed. These frogs reportedly will stop calling as you approach (smarter?/been there longer?). It was discovered that this nursery was purchasing plants from the same Big Island supplier as the other infested nursery in Kahalu'u. The Big Island grower will pay for control measures at the Haleiwa nursery. 2) Waimanalo nursery: a landscaping company. Over 30 frogs removed. These frogs reportedly do not stop calling as they are approached. The nursery workers here have been very eager to help out with the eradication effort. 17 cases of individual frogs at residences have been reported. One was in St. Louis Heights where a frog was found in the greenhouse rafters (unusual). 7 reported cases need following up (not all are verified). USFWS, USDA, and nursery workers have been volunteering. It has been found that frogs will call in response to tapping on the lens of a flashlight, but not to whistling. No one has applied for the caffeine special use permit because of the requirements: 1) # of frogs must be counted before and after spraying (though it was mentioned that this requirement may have been dropped); 2) requires 24 hour no-entry zone after spraying, which involves having to hire security guards. The treatment is also expensive, and is a potential health hazard to pregnant women and people with heart conditions. Test plots determining effect of caffeine on frogs will be set up in Hilo at the end of May. Hydrated lime is approved as a soil amendment, and is caustic to frogs.

6. FIELD SCHEDULE

Coqui Frog Hunt: Friday night, May 17, 2002, 7pm, meet at 41-540 Makakalo St. in Waimanalo

Miconia: next Sierra Club trip is Saturday, June 8, 8am, meet at Church of the Crossroads

Thorny kiawe: upcoming date TBA

Rubus: volunteer work days being put together for this summer

7. SPECIES BACKGROUND (Nilton Matayoshi)

Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) – Native to West and Central Europe, introduced to Hawaii in 1910 with the establishment of the wool industry (as forage for sheep). Now listed as noxious weed here; in California, it is the “most unmanageable weed”. Gorse fixes nitrogen, thereby changing soil chemistry, and has a high oil content and is therefore a fire hazard. It can grow in soils ranging from sandy to heavy clay. Has very sharp spines and grows in dense thickets up to 30ft in diameter. It has been naturalized in Australia and New

Zealand for more than 150 years; most of the research on gorse has been conducted in these countries. *Molokai*: gorse has been eradicated. *Big Island*: Gorse became a problem when sheep (who kept the plant under control with grazing) were replaced with cattle. In 1997, a total of 20,415 acres were infested in Mauna Loa area. Three large ranches infested (Parker, Pu'u O'o, Pua akala) on Dept. of Hawaiian Homelands leased land. Leases are running out soon meaning that all occupants must contribute to the land improvement effort (the control of gorse). *Maui*: 14,800 infested acres, in Olinda area. Biological Controls: gorse mite, gorse thrips, spine feeding moth, and gorse seed weevil were all introduced to Hawaii ('90s). All except weevil became established and have had some effect. No further biocontrol research is being performed. Chemical use is minimal due to high cost. Reforestation efforts are underway on Maui and Big Island to outcompete and buffer the populations.

Next meeting: Mindy will present on *Medinilla* (has been found naturalized in Nu'uuanu; bring specimens to Bishop Museum for species ID).

Other weeds: *Schizachyrium condensatum* – beardgrass, little bluestem; a problem on Big Island only (?); found by Joby and Kapua on H-3 on May 13, 2002. Needs detection work on Oahu. George will check Bishop Museum herbarium specimens for locational information.

8. PRIORITIZATION WORKSHOP

August 7, 2002 9am Lyon Arboretum

Reevaluate species list; address other concerns/ideas:

- Concern was expressed that we are not strictly focusing on the eradication of incipient invasive species and are spending too much time on large established populations. May need to focus on having a rolling list of target species that is updated often as small populations of incipients are eradicated. May also need to reevaluate mission statement with respect to whether or not our mission involves eradication and control (current wording), or strictly eradication.
- Reestablish Detection Working Group. Maui and Big Island ISC's have people dedicated to mapping new weeds. Ex: on Oahu, *Oxyspora* is now out of control, though this could have been avoided with detection. Get experienced hikers/plant IDers involved because they know the most about what's out there.
- Increase # of people involved in decision making. Ask for input from list serve on pending decisions (hiring, budget, etc). Get more people involved; actively recruit new members?
- Monthly one page newsletter on list serve for updates on control and other information.

9. NEXT MEETING

August 14, 2002 Wednesday

9am – noon

Lyon Arboretum