

Minutes of January 10, 2001 Meeting
Kalanimoku Bldg, Rm 322C

Attending: Keahialaka Balaz, Coleen Cory, Nilton Matayoshi, Fred Kraus, Jennifer Garrison, Shannon McElvaney, Michelle Clapper, Mary Young, Amy Tsuneyoshi, George Staples, Greg Koob, Randy Miyashiro, Domingo Cravalho, Jason Sickmiller, Lori Hoo, Brandon Stone, Brent Liesemeyer, Pascual Dabis, Cynthia Rezenles, Charlotte Yamane, Kay Lynch, Shahin Ansari, Dave Gulko, Annette Kaohelaulii, Christina Crooker, Keilani Durand, Mindy Wilkinson, Dan Sailor, Melissa Dumaran, Joan Yoshioka, Jordan Jokiel, Trae Menard, Vickie Caraway

Agenda

1. Welcome
 2. Revisit November Minutes
 3. Work Groups - Progress Reports and Discussion
 4. Volunteer Legislative Network
- Break
5. Frog Control/Salvinia Update
 6. Species Background
 7. Field Work Schedule
 8. OISC Organization
 9. Next meeting

As outgoing chair, Joan Yoshioka was presented with a lei for her leadership and hard work over the past 6 months. Joan thanked the members of OISC for the progress accomplished since the first meeting in August. Comments for the minutes of the November 15, 2000 meeting are due to Vickie Caraway by January 17, 2001.

Working Group Reports/Discussion

- 1) Budget – Rob Cowie
 - The group does not have one-year plan because the work groups have not given the budget work group their Year One plans. All groups should include this plan along with their budget.
 - The work group is meeting with other ISCs and USFWS regarding half time position for coordination of OISC plus funding requests for the education group and computer technical support.
- 2) Policy Group – Fred Kraus
 - Handouts - (1) Draft Policy Statement on Screening Invasive Plants. (2) Draft for two legislative bills: a. Relating to plant and non-domestic animal quarantine. (b) Making an appropriation for the plant and non-domestic animal quarantine. These will be OISC bills and will need member support.
 - Administrative bills (1) gives state rapid response positions and ISC money (one position for each district) (2) Money to deal with frog problems – it is not too late to eradicate these frogs in Hawaii.
 - Received no additions to noxious weed lists. We need plants and reasons

why this plant should be listed; Christina handed out criteria for suggested additions to the state's noxious weed list.

- We need to identify people to testify to the legislature concerning above bills; the commitment would be 20 hours or less per legislative session; some of our participating organizations cannot lobby and OISC members may have to testify as individuals and not as a representative of their organization.

Volunteers:

- (1) Jordan Jokiel
- (2) Sunny Grier (Audubon Society) - suggested by Dan S.
- (3) Hawaii Heritage Program
- (4) Annette Kaohelaulii
- (5) Rob Cowie

Fred can write the testimony but cannot testify.

Suggestion: Having testimony introduced by school kids very effective with Legislators.

Comment: Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology program at UH has K-12 grants for graduate students. Mindy will connect with this group.

3) Detection - Dan Sailer

- A. Goals - (1) Build establish detection system. Some funding is available from Secretariat for Conservation Biology for species detection cards. Training can be conducted next year. Nilton is using his number as pest species hotline on Oahu.
 - (2) Survey to ground truth locations of species.
 - (3) Prioritize list of pests found on other islands but not on Oahu – to be developed.
 - (4) Standardize geographic observation forms
- B. Hawaii Natural Heritage Program (HNHP) - Shannon McElvaney summarized their efforts in the handout - Hawaii Invasive Species Mapping Project. Highlights were
 - In the past, mapping rare species was focus of HNHP
 - Five years ago mapping invasive species was identified as a priority for HNHP
 - Have worked with P. Thomas at Hawaii Ecosystems at Risk (HEAR) and Bishop Museum on the invasive species
 - Proposal attached to handout recognizes needs:
 - 1) Identification of key species
 - 2) Protocol is needed for methods for mapping
 - 3) Program must integrate HEAR, HNHP, Bishop Museum, and personal information
 - 4) Internet map server is needed for interface and download
 - Need funding to accomplish –half-time position helpful, full-time preferable.

- HNHP staff providing testimony can say they are representing OISC.
- Question: Has information sheet been sent to legislature as introduction?
Melissa handed out the fax sheet. People giving testimony should have this to handout when giving testimony.

C. Send new information on invasive species information and location to Dan Sailer (1:24 map) at dsailer@tnc.org Fax: (808) 677-1063. Photo documentation helpful.

4) Control Group - Mindy

- Met with Detection Working Group but will remain a separate group.
- Last *Miconia* trip found no new plants. More volunteers participated but need more trip leaders trained through the Sierra Club. Next trip is February 10, 2001.
- Trails at Diamond Head will be shut down for fountain grass control in January.
- *Rubus* control will begin with 2 OISC technicians.
- Frog surveys need volunteers, contact Laila Gibson, 541-3441. Any nursery is possible entry points for the frogs.
- Fountain grass on Pali has been sprayed.
- Fountain grass on Punchbowl needs control and volunteers.
- Need GPS units to map species.
- Need information on Kim Bridges (UH) and Lyndon Wester (UH) mapping system.
- Next control group meeting February 5, 2001, Makiki Baseyard, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- Mindy will put control trip dates on OISC list serve.

Question: Is there communication with MISC and BISC? Yes.

Suggestion: OISC may want to present statewide mapping proposal and ideas to CGAPS.

5) Education - Melissa

- Logo has been developed with Oahu map from the donations from last meeting.
- Information sheet/fax was developed for Dec 18 display at airport by Leila Gibson.
- For information on fax sheet get suggestion to Melissa quickly.
- Lists (volunteers, journalists, etc.) will be done by Leila Gibson.
- Public Outreach lessons
 - 1) Have to have emotional draw
 - 2) Appeal to the lowest common denominator
 - 3) Must be professional and timely in dealing with the media; need point of contact
- Publications - Hawaii Horticulture articles by George Staples; Bishop Museum Occasional Papers - Survey of Invasive or Potentially Invasive Cultivated Species in Hawaii

6) Restoration - Jennifer

- Project has been planned near Waimanalo Stream with outplantings
- Need other sites with easy public access
- Doing web page of restoration projects, noting:
 - A. Methods of control
 - B. List of native species to plant and their availability

Suggestion: Link this web site with the HEAR site.

Speaker - Laurie Hoo - Volunteer Legislative Network

OISC approach to legislature lobbying:

- School kids can be effective on certain issues but this approach can backfire.
- Action network not new.
- As applied to government, reaching out to grass roots most effectively pushes issues.
- TNC does not use “lobbyist”.
- The Nature Conservancy has a “member base” in each state; sends a flyer to each member asking what they are willing to do to help; the member sends card back stating their interest or areas where they are willing to help. This is the beginning of their volunteer network.
- The database should include address, phone number, legislative district, and neighborhood board.
- Setup the database so when action is needed, you can be selective in who you contact.
- Need to lobby chairs of legislative committees, and the “money” committees (Finance, etc.)
- Contact people that live in the legislator’s district. This is the most effective way to use community members
- Once database is set up, it must be maintained by one or two people who are also the point(s) of contact. This will establish:
 - 1) Good database
 - 2) Dedicated person for database
 - 3) Strategic implementation of database
- Fax sheet is great; the point of contact must be willing to do education of legislators. Invasive species is a good issue with legislators and will continue to get their attention.

Question: What we are doing wrong?

- Lots of e-mails turn legislative off unless issue has a high profile or is controversial.
- Quality and organization counts.
- Need to establish credibility at legislature. MISC has this - one spokesperson represents the group.
- BIISC also has one spokesperson and support from other groups.
- Recommend having one person testify and OISC members can

support that person. Should ride on coat tails of MISC and BIISC.
Question: Can anyone from CGAPS be the spokesperson? Most government employees cannot testify unless as an individual. A key to the effectiveness of MISC and BIISC is that their Senators and Representatives have key Legislative positions. Melissa D. volunteered to be the OISC representative to legislation pending okay from employer.

Frog/Salvinia Control - Fred

1) Frogs

E. Campbell has been doing field trials with caffeine and is trying to get registration as a control for Hawaii only. Stipulations for registration are:

- Statewide work plan is in place for dealing with problem
- When using control, must gather information on pest for registration in all states. Need to pull all industries/government agencies together to share paperwork. Conservation community can provide volunteers for control via OISC. General consensus was for Fred to represent OISC and OISC in turn can provide volunteers for control.

2) *Salvinia molesta*

A letter of support is needed for federal funding for control (one of OISC's top 12 species). Fred submitted a budget for two employees to survey, control, and eliminate the plant from the wild and the nursery trade. Fred will write the OISC letter.

Species Overviews

Use these overviews to determine target species in following years.

1) Thorny Kiawe, *Prosopis juliflora* – Nilton

Largest population 100 ft wide, 2-3 miles long on the beach; identified as one of 67 species listed by DOA as noxious weed. Why concentrate on this species? Safety and health reasons as well as threat to agriculture industries. Department approach is toward economic effect. Now appealing to public to be eyes and ears for locations. DOA has had 24 calls in two days after news article. Need vouchers at Bishop for newly documented areas. The plant seems to be found only on beach areas. This species can hybridize with other kiawe. Thorns are persistent and disposal is a problem. Possible for OISC to have volunteers to rake up cuttings and fruit after these plants are cut and sprayed. Will need more cooperation with City and County and Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawaiian Electric Company. HDOA current emphasis is to determine the state range before deciding to pursue eradication.

Question: Would flyers be good for identification? Money may be available from Secretariat for Conservation Biology for ID cards. Nilton: maybe, should give flyers to canoe clubs for ID as they are around the beaches on all islands.

Question: Was species deliberately planted? Possible cattle ranchers?

Question: Would a letter to editor help Nilton's efforts? Yes, probably.

2) Fern tree, *Filicium decipiens* - George Bishop

Used frequently in landscape, red berries are attractive to birds. This tree is a threat to native areas, and can be spread by humans and birds out of urban areas. For years was recommended as a street tree but presently is not recommended in Honolulu. In the 80's and 90's seedlings appeared in gardens. Have people see it in natural areas? There is no control at this time. This species is incipient; OISC needs more information areas of establishment and how extensive these populations are. On Maui the arborist list includes this species as a recommended tree. George noted the plant is used as a landscape plant in Hawaii only and we cannot assess the impact of the species in other states or countries as an early warning for Hawaii.

Question: If you suspect a plant as being invasive whom do you contact to confirm? Contact field experts - Joel Lau, Steve Perlman, OISC members, Mindy W., Dan Sailor; also, bring in specimen to be checked and/or deposited at Bishop Museum (include label information).

3) Parrots - Fred Kraus

Threat to agriculture and native ecosystems (predation on native flowers, seeds, & trees; killing native birds; dispersal of alien plant seeds; introduction of bird diseases). Sixteen species have been reported loose in Hawaii. Distributions are unknown and the spread is slowly expanding. There are no known control efforts. Parrots are very intelligent and difficult to control. Control efforts may have negative social feedback. Suggested actions are surveys to determine species established, location of populations, reproductive status, and damage. Could possibly contract for live capture or could do lethal control.

Question: Any data from Audubon Bird Count at Christmas? This could be a potential survey source. What can OISC do? Could provide the personnel to do survey (contract). If you have information on parrot populations, contact Dan Sailer dsailer@tnc.org; also use Bob Pyle at Bishop as a resource, his database on bird citing should be available on web at www.hbs.bishopmuseum.org and click database.

Comment: OISC needs a memo with volunteer information dates, contacts, needs, etc. that can be forwarded to other organizations for participation; Hawaii Trail and Mountain Club is a good example. The HEAR web site should provide this information.

Next meeting: March 13, 2001 Tuesday
 Bishop Museum, Atherton Hale - 9:00 a.m.-12 noon
 Free parking