



**O'AHU INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE**

(808) 587-0164

Oahu Invasive Species Committee Minutes

March 13, 2001

Bishop Museum, Atherton Halau, 9:00 a.m.-noon

1. Welcome -Fred Kraus - Chair
2. Minutes from 1/10/01 approved.
  - Announcements - Dorothy Vale of the Hawaii Federation of Garden Clubs needs a speaker for April 6, 2001 meeting on invasive species.
3. Work group reports & progress:
  - **Budget/Funding** - Fred K. – Working with an OISC budget \$165K. Work groups that have not turned in a budget should contact Rob Cowie ([rhcowie@bishopmuseum.org](mailto:rhcowie@bishopmuseum.org))
  - **Policy** – Fred K.
    - o The application for a U.S. Forest Service grant for a screening system for alien species was denied; Teresa True-Madriaga, with assistance from Fred, is pursuing funding from another source.
    - o The bill to provide Department of Agriculture (DOA) an enforcement arm to target smugglers of illegal animal and plants was submitted but held up at legislature due to lack of support from the chair of DOA.
    - o Rapid Response bill was cut from \$400K to \$200K, a reduction from previous year by the House. This bill includes *Miconia* control.
    - o Steve Montgomery is providing testimony to the Legislature for OISC.
    - o Only two suggested additions to DOA Noxious Weed list have been received, will be asking for volunteers to make additions to the list at next OISC meeting. To add to the noxious weed list the following should be considered: 1) Is it incipient? 2) Growth habit, 3) Method of dispersal, 4) How it is disseminated, 5) Control methods, 6) Detrimental effect, 7) limited distribution (5 square mile area or less)
    - o Question: Do we need OISC members to e-mail legislators? Best to make appointment with your representative/senator and talk personally to them, especially if they are on the Finance or Ways and Means committees. We need to support invasive species issues; this is especially important due to funding teacher/state employee pay raises this year. Support received so far from ten people who volunteered to lobby is appreciated but need more: Christina Crooker has list of contact people and will send it out again.
    - o Suggestion: field trip for legislators to educate them about invasive species.
    - o Funding from US Forest Service supporting ISCs will give \$30K for Oahu but we will need a source for matching. We need to state what the funding will accomplish (assigned to Fred, Brent L, Jordan, Mindy, Christina)
    - o Teresa Trueman-Madriaga of Kaulunani was denied a grant to get funding thru NUCFAC. She is setting up a workshop in June to bring industries and weed risk assessment persons together. The workshop will target education of nursery industries, involve them plant screening assessments and legislation going on this year so they will not be blind sided with new regulations.
  - **Detection** – Dan Sailer
    - o Goals update:
      1. Building existing detection systems: Working on invasive species identification cards and building a template. At the information gathering stage now.
      2. Centralizing Geographic information: Hawaii Heritage Program is working on standardizing their database with targeted species; Also the group is working with MISC and BIISC
      3. Survey/Ground truthing locations of invasive species: To be used for prioritizing target species,

*Informal partners include: Bishop Museum \* Hawai'i Army National Guard \* Hawai'i Department of Agriculture \* Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources \* Hawai'i Office of Environmental Quality Control \* Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club \* Hui Ku Maoli ola native plant nursery \* National Park Service \* The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii \* U.S. Department of Agriculture \* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \* U.S. Geological Survey \* Secretariat of Conservation Biology \* University of Hawai'i \* U.S. Army Garrison*

relaying survey info to taxonomic experts, and updating location of targeted species. Heritage is finalizing an invasive species observation form.

- **Control** – Mindy Wilkinson
    - o *Miconia* - Volunteer control trips are continuing next April 14, 2001. Check HEAR web site.
    - o Nilton - Thorny kiawe is not found past Waianae Boat Harbor but is also found at Kuliouou, and Hilo Airport. One of the heaviest concentrations is at Sand Island – a Chaminade University group working on fountain grass control.
    - o Blackberry - OISC technicians can control this species.
    - o Parrots - No actions this year due to lack of support. The issue of control was not pushed, as it will be controversial. MISC is actively working on parrot control.
    - o Control group meeting will be April 9 at Makiki Baseyard
  - **Education**
    - o No activity
  - **Restoration** – Colleen Cory
    - o Molokai has an active MoMISC group that is doing invasive species identification cards the size of business cards.
    - o Working on website for
      1. OISC Restoration projects – located on Waimanalo stream bank; the restoration workgroup will put out a call for participation
      2. Marine Corps base wetlands
      3. Kanepuu on Lanai
      4. Alien invaders
      5. Garden plants to avoid
      6. Alien plants species control
      7. Native plants
      8. Volunteer opportunities
      9. Links
  - **Aquatic**
    - o USGS is looking at distribution of alien species in streams to determine if channelization of streams is detrimental to native stream species
    - o Stream restoration group started by Terrell Kelly, NRCS, which will continue meet every 2 months.
4. **Field Crew Activity Report** - OISC crew-Fred K.
- Control efforts have focused on *Miconia* and fountain grass (50% *Miconia*, 30% fountain grass, 20% other)
  - 12 control operations have occurred several areas from leeward side to Maunawili
5. **Frog control** – Leila Gibson
- 40 nurseries have been checked with no populations found.
  - Some frogs were found at a Kahaluu Nursery, need to keep monitoring this location.
  - Have 15 nurseries remaining to check.
6. **Guest speaker** - Nat Pak TNC Volunteer Network Malama Hawaii
- The idea of the Volunteer Network is to link volunteers with like-minded organizations. This idea is based on an Illinois model
  - Have found that generally there are two types of volunteers 1) Casual one time only, 2) Site stewards - committed to goal
  - A volunteer ladder will match individual volunteers with organization according to age skill level of commitment.
  - The Volunteer Network will provide resources for volunteers through 1) Training to increase the skill level of the volunteer 2) Information and referral services through Malama Hawaii website (www.malamahawaii.org) provides a calendar of opportunities in addition to providing a volunteer database
  - The Network is setting up volunteer workshops to provide leaders for volunteer groups. The workshops will be 4 all-day sessions on May 26, June 9, June 23, and June 30. Contact Malama Hawaii website or npak@tnc.org to participate and also to submit volunteer needs.
  - Question: What about liability of when using volunteer labor? Risk management and training will be

provided through the workshops. Most accident or liability insurance will cover volunteers if training has occurred.

- Will signing a waiver cover liability? Usually does not. Sierra Club provides training and they are covered for \$1 million.

## 7. Species Background Reports

### a. *Citharexylum spinosum*: George Staples

There are two species in Hawaii but this one is commonly grown as a street tree. This species was recently removed from street tree list due to maintenance problems, not due to the invasive aspect. Fruit-eating bulbuls, cardinals, and other birds easily spread the seeds. The plant is drought tolerant and will root sucker easily after the trunk is cut. Leaves change to orange when stressed. The tree is still incipient at this point and control is possible. The plant is functionally unisexual; it would be possible to use only male trees for landscaping. It is a common street tree now on Oahu and on Maui it is still recommended as street tree. No control efforts are being presently used and there is no history of invasiveness in other areas. Recommend mapping of spread on Oahu. This is a different species than the plant that is already naturalized

### b. *Kappaphycus* - Dave Gulko

One of five alien algae that is invasive. This plant is found mainly on Oahu and was introduced into Kaneohe Bay. It is native to Southeast Asia and can quickly kill endemic coral. It has become a problem with marine tourist industry and commercial fisheries. Hawaii lacks herbivores that feed on this algae and it is spread by fragmentation. Distribution is limited to Kaneohe Bay at present. This species was introduced in 1970s by a researcher; and presently control efforts are minimal. Best control would be to encourage natural herbivores in bay via fishing controls. Research needs include determination of which herbivore prefers the invasive algae to other algae. Support for invasive marine species legislation is needed and welcomed. Spread from Kaneohe Bay could occur via the sales of fish caught in the bay and transferred to other areas.

### c. *Melastoma candidum* - Kapua Kawelo

The threat for Oahu is from a large population on the Big Island and Kauai, particularly in wet boggy sites. It does not depend upon disturbed sites and can invade native areas. Birds disperse berries. It is a shrub to small tree and native to Southeast Asia. The plant has been documented in Kalihi Valley, Maunawili Board of Water Supply Rd; Waihee Road (Board of Water Supply) and can spread easily below 2000 feet. Control - possibly biocontrol, 2 moths introduced for control were not effective. On Oahu control is manual (pulling out plants) but not effective with larger trees. Surveys are needed to map total range and detect spread.

## 8. Field Work

- Sierra Club April 14 *Miconia* hunt at Maunawili
- April 7 service trip to Kaena
- May 19 and 18 University of Hawaii - Marine invasive workshop
- New sightings of invasives – contact Dan Sailer: dsailer@tnc.org
- Volunteer needed for next 3 species background reports  
Fred - *Hiptage*; Christina - *Leptospermum*; Joby - ?

## 9. Next Meeting

- Location Atherton Halau, Bishop Museum - May 15 - 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon
- Volunteers for refreshments - Moani Pai – Juice, Jordan – Pastries