



# KISC

**KAUA'I INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE**

## QUARTERLY REPORT

*"Throughout history, great leaders have known the power of humor."*

- Allen Klein



*Our fearless leader, Dr. David Duffy, dons the miconia hat, showing unconditional support for KISC's eradication efforts.*

### A New Year Dawns

Another new year has begun, and with it came a realization that we still have so much to do as far as discovery and understanding. We (collectively here at KISC) have decided to dub this the "Year of Learning".

We are expanding our GIS skills and ability. We are building complex, angled, 5-sided displays that involve tons of geometry learned in grade school (in other words, not in our brains any longer). We are renewing our pesticide applicator's certifications. We are discovering what does and does not work when treating new species. And so on.

In other words, we can never assume that we have reached the pinnacle of understanding. Because when we do, we are swiftly reminded by the swift hand of fate that there is plenty still to learn.

We are also learning humility and gratitude for our partners and community. In March, along with Craig Kaneshige (HDOA), we shared public recognition of the hard work and continued efforts expended on priority target species. KISC may have received the award, but we are only part of the invasive species work on Kaua'i; our partners and collaborators are the heart, soul, and backbone that help make everything happen.

So, here's to a great new year! May it be filled with new perspectives and insight.

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*Kaua'i Mayor Bernard Carvalho Jr. acknowledges the work and efforts of the Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee as well as the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture's Craig Kaneshige and the County Office of Economic Development, with a proclamation celebrating the month of March as Invasive Species Leadership Month.*

Jan 2013 - Mar 2013

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3rd Qtr FY2013



Photo: Dennis Fujimoto/The Garden Island

## Quarter Highlights

- **Jan 11** - Keren presents at Legislative Briefing in Honolulu
- **Feb 7** - Keren presents to USFWS in Honolulu
- **Feb 14** - Keren and Tiffani attend Kaua'i Conservation Alliance meeting
- **Feb 25,26** - Keren attends ISC Manager Meeting and meets with DLNR Deputy Director, Esther Kiaaina
- **Feb 28** - Crew works with Dr. James Leary conducting HBT surveys for miconia
- **Feb 28** - Keren and Tiffani attend Mongoose Outreach Working Group meeting (MOWG)
- **Mar 4** - Keren and Joe accept the "Greatest Hits of 2012" award from HISC in Honolulu for KISC
- **Mar 7** - Crew works with KRCP in Koke'e as part of the Hawaii Invasive Species Awareness Week (HISAW)
- **Mar 9** - KISC receives award from Mayor for our good work and declares March 2013 "Invasive Species Leadership Month"
- **Mar 9** - Keren meets with Island Conservation, HISC, and HDOA to discuss Lehua Islet
- **Mar 11** - Crew works with Kaua'i Endangered Forest Bird Recovery Project in Koke'e on their predator-proof nest boxes
- **Mar 20** - David Duffy (KISC's Principal Investigator), Linda Hara, and Lynnette Kinoshita (PCSU staff) visit KISC
- **Mar 26** - Prince Kuhio Holiday
- **Mar 29** - Good Friday Holiday

## Outreach & Education

### EVENTS

This is the season to prepare for new events and to re-organize from past events. Our outreach campaign that was introduced at the County Fair late last summer, continues into this year. “Admit None”, supported with B-Horror Movie posters with an invasive twist continue to entertain and educate the public.

This is also the time of year when brainstorming new ideas for the coming fiscal year take place. Preparations are being made for a new mongoose display that will “travel” from venue to venue across Kaua’i. It will have a natural history flavor and definitely attract a lot of attention.

The next event is the annual Garden Fair which will be held at Kaua’i Community College in mid April.

### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

This quarter, Tiffani had the opportunity to educate one of our partners who uses seasonal hires, the Kaua’i Forest Bird Recovery Project. Each year, KISC is asked to present to their new-hires an Early Detection Workshop. Tiffani shares what makes a species invasive and which target species to be on the lookout for. Each attendee was given **KISC’s Early Detection Field Guide** as a reference and to use in the field, as well as a boot scrubber.

# QUARTERLY REPORT

### PUBLICITY AND PRESS COVERAGE

KISC received accolades this quarter during **Hawai’i Invasive Species Awareness Week**. First, KISC was awarded, from the Hawai’i Invasive Species Council, “Greatest Hits of 2012” for work contributing toward island-wide coqui frog eradication, capturing Kaua’i’s first mongooses, and our partnership work. The next award came from the County of Kaua’i as the Mayor acknowledged KISC, Craig Kaneshige (HDOA), and the Office of Economic Development in his proclamation celebrating the month of March as Invasive Species Leadership Month.



*Representatives Tokioka and Kawakami (far left and far right) award KISC with “Greatest Hits of 2012”. Joe Kona and Keren Gundersen accepted the award.*

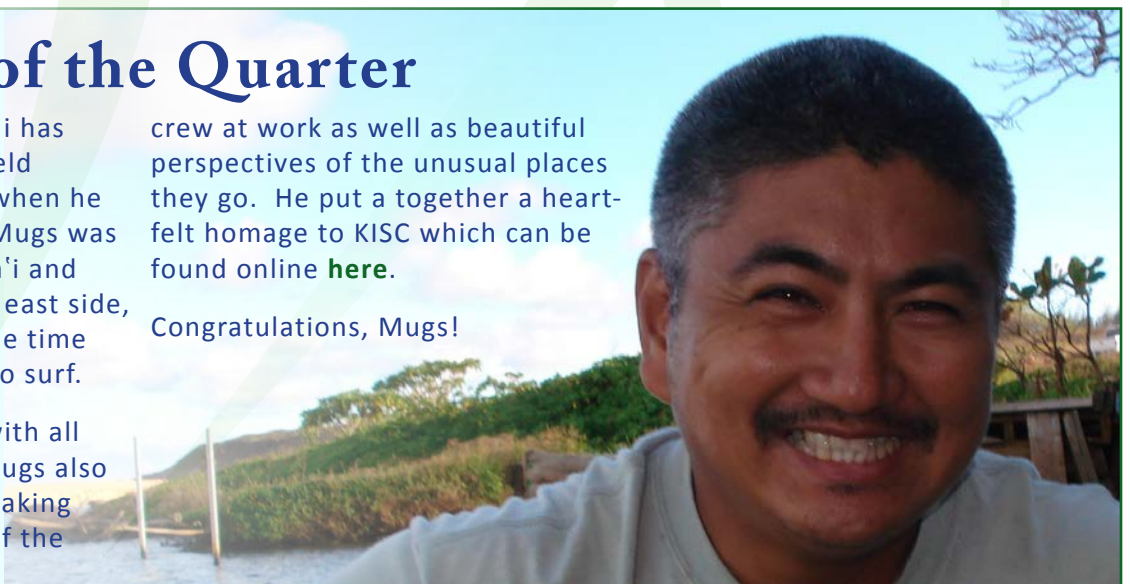
## Employee of the Quarter

Larry “Mugs” Kaneholani has worked as the crew’s Field Supervisor since 2007, when he joined the KISC family. Mugs was born and raised on Kaua’i and continues to live on the east side, spending most of his free time finding the best waves to surf.

Besides being familiar with all aspects of field work, Mugs also excels at photography; taking breath-taking pictures of the

crew at work as well as beautiful perspectives of the unusual places they go. He put a together a heartfelt homage to KISC which can be found online [here](#).

Congratulations, Mugs!



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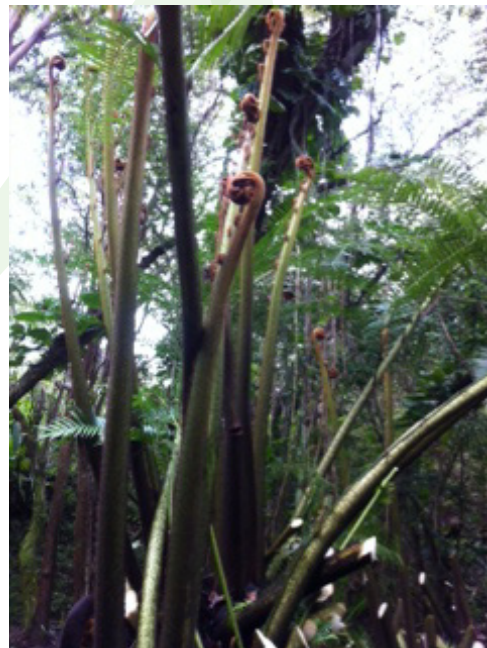
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## Target Updates

- **Miconia** - One aerial survey was conducted during this quarter with HBT. 330 aerial survey acres were covered with 3 immature plants found treated using HBT. Ground work covered an additional 39 acres finding and treating 58 immature plants. 107 person-hours were expended.
- **Coqui Frogs** - KISC also continues to be the primary responder to new reports on the island and the crew regularly schedules night-work to listen for new coqui introductions at high-risk areas (nurseries and big box stores). Crews responded to 2 new reports, monitored 3 sites that had coqui in the past, and monitored 1 site that had reported hearing coqui in the past but never confirmed. No coqui were heard.
- **Little Fire Ant** - KISC crew members continued to assist the Hawai'i Ant Lab and HDOA with treatment efforts in Kalihiwai. KISC also continues to survey for LFA island wide. 56 acres were surveyed and 90 person-hours were expended. No new LFA were detected.
- **Long Thorn Kiawe** - With assistance from Craig Kaneshige, HDOA, crews were able to treat 61 immature plants at PMRF this quarter, covering 42 acres and expending 116 person-hours.
- **Mongoose** - Trapping efforts continue with assistance from DOFAW Emergency hire, Jamie Harris. Traps have been set in high-priority areas around Kaua'i with no new captures. Over 521 person hours were expended. During this quarter, KISC received 18 mongoose reports, 12 of them deemed credible. KISC posts a monthly newsletter regarding mongoose work and it can be found online at: <http://www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org/iscs/kisc/pests/mongoose/mongoosemonitor.htm>.
- **Arundo, False Kava & Ivy Gourd** - Other priority species work included arundo, false kava and ivy gourd. Treatments continue for these species with over 465 plants treated this quarter and 169 person-hours expended.
- **Molucca Raspberry** - KISC and HDOA have agreed to partner with a landowner in Lāwa'i who has received a NRCS grant to control *Rubus sieboldii*. This grant will cover herbicide used. This rubus species is found only in this area of Lāwa'i and in Kīlauea. 4 acres were surveyed with 2,100 plants treated. 66 person-hours were expended.
- **Early Detection Species** - Herbicidal trials continue for two *Cissus* species with unfavorable results to date. *Clerodendrum macrostegium* is responding well to treatments and delimiting surveys are pushing this species toward becoming an adopted target. Delimiting surveys and opportunistic treatments are being conducted for mule's foot fern at an abandoned nursery on Grove Farms property near Halfway Bridge, just south of Līhue. This quarter, 54 acres were surveyed for various ED species, with a total of 248 plants being treated.
- **Cattails** - We still are pursuing permits from the Department of Health to use herbicide in and around water.



Mule's foot fern found at an abandoned nursery near Halfway Bridge on Grove Farm Property.