

Kaua'i Mongoose Monitor



September 2012



On Track with Zero

On September 3, 2012, Kirk McCarthy and his mongoose-hunting dog arrived on Kauai to prepare for several days of intensive mongoose tracking.

Property access was pre-arranged with the Marriott/Kauai Lagoons, Huleia National Wildlife Refuge, and with a cut-flower farm in Puhi near where several mongoose sightings have been made.

Although no fresh scents were detected by Zero on this trip, one thing was perfectly clear; this is a tool that should be utilized frequently and in all types of scenarios.

Not much distracted Zero from his mission of finding a mongoose. During the three days of tracking in areas that were rife with nenes, moorhens, coots, stilts, and chickens, Zero seemed uninterested in everything but his quarry.

Zero, without prompting from his handler, was also keen to target areas that were likely mongoose hiding spots such as vegetative tunnels, culverts, irrigation pipes and natural burrows.

KISC hopes to partner with DLNR State Parks (McCarthy's employer) in the future to implement a more rapid response to current sightings rather than wait for McCarthy to schedule personal vacation time to help with this project.

Check out the online article at:

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/19487659/dog-joins-hunt-for-mongoose-on-kauai>

Sightings received during September 2012

- Aug 10: Kokee Road past Waimea Canyon Lookout (Credible)
- Sept 9: Wailua near Lydgate Park (Credible)
- Sept 13: Kilauea just north of mile marker 20 (Credible)
- Sept 17: Kapaa by-pass road (Credible)
- Sept 23: Puhi on Halehaka Road (Questionable)
- Sept 26: Wailua Homesteads near the park (Credible)



MARITIME SECURITY TRAINING KEEPS WORKERS SAFE

Port safety was the key focus of this overview provided by the Hawaii Department of Transportation to the KISC staff and mongoose emergency hires given by Robert Cecconi, GP IV, FSO. Understanding security risks and what to watch for were the most important points that Cecconi made. The MARSEC card is a card that tells Security personnel at access points to a regulated facility that the holder of the MARSEC card has had the required training under 33 CFR 105.215.

Current trapping efforts

- Kauai Lagoons - 57 traps. Trapping will continue here until nene chicks begin to hatch. Then trapping will cease to ensure safety for the young birds.
- Young Brothers Harbor area - 20 traps. These traps are dispersed around the perimeter of the yard.
- Puhi area - 30 traps. These traps are focused around an area of repeated mongoose sightings as well as historical sightings.
- Kilauea - 30 traps. After two recent sightings, traps were placed on private property near the highway. This area also has historical sightings.

