

# Kaua'i Mongoose Monitor



[www.kauaiisc.org/mongoose](http://www.kauaiisc.org/mongoose)

May 2013



## The long, lonely road

Trapping continues on Kaua'i for the ever-elusive mongoose. Reports of observations increased this month and all but one of them was deemed credible. Currently, Pat Gmelin (KISC), and Jamie Harris (DOFAW) are busy trapping in three separate areas on Kaua'i; at the port (Young Brothers and Matson), on Grove Farms property in the Kīpū area, and on Hawai'ian Homelands makai of Kālepa. In the coming months, we will be busy strategizing on priority areas of response as well as outreach and how to solicit sightings from the public.

At the end of this month, we received a report of mongoose scat on the Kuilau trail about 1/2 mile in from the trail-head. The observer was from the Big Island and had experience with actually raising a mongoose pup. He was positive it was mongoose scat. We retrieved the scat and sent it to Honolulu. Thomas Kaiakapu has offered to finance the expensive DNA test, with DOFAW funding, that would could confirm whether or not this is the "real deal". More information will be posted about the DNA results next month. A quick dissection spotted rat teeth and bone fragments.

## May 2013 Mongoose Sightings

- **Apr. 28** - (Reported in May) Līhue. While driving down Rice St. toward Kalapakī, observer saw the mongoose run in front of his car, stop and look at him, and then continue across the road. (*Credible*)
- **May 16** - Līhue. Observer was traveling on Kapule Hwy toward Nāwiliwili and saw the mongoose chase a chicken into the road. It ran back into the bushes. (*Credible*)
- **May 18** - Wailua. Coconut Grove area. Observer saw **TWO** mongooses run across Aleka Loop, running makai. (*Credible*)
- **May 23** - Wailua Houselots. Observer said animal ran across road in front of her car. (*Questionable*)
- **May 26** - Alaka'i. Observer saw mongoose while hiking toward Waialiali on the Mōhihi Trail. (*Credible*)
- **May 27** - Alaka'i. Observer (different from above) saw the mongoose while hiking from Waialiali on the Mōhihi Trail. (*Credible*)
- **May 29** - Koke'e. Near Sugi Grove. While hunting with dogs, two people saw the mongoose cross the stream and look back at them. (*Credible*)

# PROTECT KAUA'I

**KNOW** Know what plants & animals you are shipping. Are they invasive? Are they known to be here? Will they harm Kaua'i?



Clean your muddy tires, outdoor gear, and lawn equipment to stop the spread of seeds from plant-pests on other islands.

**CLEAN**

**WATCH** Keep an eye out for unwanted hitchhikers (mongooses and other creatures) hiding in cargo shipments.



Carefully inspect all materials and plants for unwanted pests, such as ants and other insects, including eggs and larva.

**INSPECT**

**LISTEN** Listen for coqui frogs after you bring your cargo home. It takes 6 - 9 months before froglets can call. Keep listening.



**REPORT**

Report pests: 643-PEST  
Report mongoose: 821-1490  
Call 911 for snake reports!



## New Signs at Young Brothers

After collaborating with Young Brothers, Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, and Department of Transportation Harbors Division, we are just about ready to install educational and information signs at the Young Brothers facility in Nāwiliwili.

When the signs go up, KISC will be giving a brief Early Detection Workshop to Young Brothers workers so they can also serve to educate the public. This workshop will cover the basics; why invasive species are a concern for island ecosystems, what to look for, and how they can report any unwanted pests.



Loading up traps to relocate