

KISC MEETING

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 21, 2005
HDOA Conference Room
10:00 am to 12:00 noon

[Meeting was chaired by Chair Emeritus, Allan Rietow, as newly elected chair, Tim Flynn, was unable to attend.]

I. Welcome/Introduce Guests/New Members

- Mindy Wilkinson – Oahu DLNR, DOFAW Invasive Species Coordinator
- Leslie ? – USDA-APHIS
- Andrea Ballinger - TNC

II. Review Agenda Items

- Add discussion about setting date for Strategic Planning Meeting in the fall.

III. Review and Approve Minutes from April 21, 2005 quarterly meeting

- No changes were made to the draft minutes. Minutes were approved unanimously. They will be posted on the KISC website hosted by HEAR.

IV. Featured Species: “*Carijoa riisei* (Snowflake Coral): Stopping the Tropical Snowstorm” - Jackie

- We wanted to focus on *Carijoa* because, as we are receiving funding from the State through the HISC, we have been directed to be more inclusive of marine aquatic pests. We will be contributing labor toward a project that is based on Kauai with *Carijoa*.
- *Carijoa* is like underwater *Miconia*. It is fast growing, crowds out natives, reproduces continuously and takes more than it gives.
- It is easy to identify. It is soft with flexible branches, white with yellow-red stems. It has 8 tentacles, doesn't like direct sunlight and likes a habitat with a good current flow.
- This soft coral can be hard to spot and shallow divers won't usually find it. It hides in tunnels, under arches, on shipwrecks, in harbors and under piers. It can be found up to 380 ft. deep.
- Snowflake coral is a huge threat to Black Coral. Black Coral is our State Gemstone and a \$30 Million industry, providing hundreds of local jobs. Snowflake coral is invading the Black Coral forests that are the seed bank for collection sites.
- It is here on Kauai. It was first sited in Pearl Harbor in 1972. By the 1980s it had spread to Molokai, Maui and the Big Island. It is believed that it was introduced to Port Allan, on Kauai, in 2002. It is also found at a popular dive spot called “Zach's Pocket” where removal efforts by divers have not yet been successful in eradicating it.
- There is a lot at stake regarding the impacts of *Carijoa*. Not only will it hurt our economy, harm the health and biodiversity of our reefs, but also, if it escapes beyond Kauai, it will invade the more pristine NWHI.
- There is hope yet that it can be eliminated from Kauai. We have the smallest population and the only one that the state is working on.
- A Rapid Response Team has been created that works on marine invasives. They are based on Oahu and are already running *Carijoa* trials. Keren is meeting with them to discuss KISC's involvement in their project. We can be the “land-based” crew to support the Division of Aquatic Resources.

- Jackie has made several presentations, raising awareness and training people on how to identify *Carijoa*. She is hoping to co-author an article in SkinDiver Magazine this fall.
- When DAR makes the “Big Pull”, we hope to be there! You can help too by spreading the word and by reporting any sightings.
- **Discussion:** Perhaps we can get someone from DAR or the new Aquatic Response team to address the committee to tell us more about the underwater realm of what is being protected from marine invasives. [MW: Addressing aquatic invasive issues is about 15 years behind terrestrial side.] [BS: Where does it come from originally?] [MW: I think it comes from Tropical Asia.] [BS: Has Kauai Electric been informed about *Carijoa*? They ship something like 60% of their oil directly from Indonesia. Perhaps this will be an ongoing issue due to hull fouling of these ships.] [MW: The aquatic team has been wrapping the pilings with tarp. Due to the fact that the coral is a “filter feeder”, the coral essentially gets deprived of food and dies. It does, however, kill everything on the piling, but there are a lot of other invasives on the pilings as well. They have found that recruitment happens on the pilings.] [CB: Carl Berg noted that the wrapping of the piling actually deprives the piling surface of oxygen, it goes anoxic, killing everything but using no toxic chemicals. When tarp is removed dead stuff falls off and new recruitment begins.]

V. Updates:

- Staffing updates – *Keren*
 - **FILLED POSITIONS:** The KISC **Data Tech** position has been filled by Jeff Schlueter. He is a recent college grad and is very enthusiastic about joining our team. He will be starting Sept. 12. We are waiting to hear back from our selected candidate for the **Field Supervisor** position. She would potentially start in September as well. We have completed the hiring for Amos Arashiro for the **Pest Survey and Response Tech for Mongoose**. He will be starting next week. We will concentrate his efforts on “hot spots” and following up on sightings.
 - **OPEN POSITIONS:** Jin Wah will be leaving at the end of July to pursue other interests. She was awarded an internship with NTBG which she will be doing in the fall. Paki is also leaving and his last day will be tomorrow, July 22. He will be devoting more time to Fire-fighting and personal time. We are having a “going-away” party for them both at our base-yard tomorrow, pau hana. Please join us in wishing them the very best.
- Coqui Control in Lawai – *Craig*
 - The Kauai Coqui Working Group has been making progress on a plan to clear under-story and install roads/transects at the site in Lawai. By modifying habitat, and parceling, it will be easier to manage the area. We are trying to utilize every tool we have for eradicating this coqui population. We will be modifying habitat, spraying with both citric acid and lime, and eventually we hope to do a controlled burn. The schedule for work was passed out to review. A budget is being worked to estimate investment. A&B and DMB (Developers of Kukuiula) are involved and doing much of this preliminary planning. We are also involving the adjoining landowners/leasers as well as DOFAW. We have gotten semi-confirmation that the County of Kauai has given KISC approximately \$69K for Coqui and Miconia work. KISC will also be receiving \$50K from the State, through the county for Coqui control/eradication efforts.
Ed Piccup (HDOA- Plant Quarantine) also mentioned that they will be surveying as many certified nurseries as possible this weekend. They are getting assistance from the Oahu and Hilo branches. They do not

need any volunteers at this point. Carl Berg asked if there were any electronic sound monitors for coqui that could be placed at nurseries and that would be activated to record only at the sound frequency of the coqui.

- Targets – *Keren* (All figures are based on the last 6 months).
 - **Miconia:** Approx. 55 acres have been worked in WRSP and Wailua GMA. We have also begun spraying *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides. f.sp. miconiae* (Cgm) in the GMA. TNC rappelled to cliffside trees (3) in WRSP. In addition to the county funding, we received a \$12K grant from NFWF which will be held by Garden Island RC&D.
 - **Fountain Grass:** Approximately 52 acres worked and 301 person hours were spent on this target. Treatments are apparent but with continued rain, new growth is prompting additional effort. We are investigating Heli-ops as a possible management plan for the outliers in Hanapepe Canyon.
 - **Long Thorn Kiawe:** With HDOA we are focusing effort makai of Mana Drag Strip. We also continue to monitor all areas and pull seedlings and treat any re-growth. A total of 73 acres have been controlled. A partnership with DOD is being made to address LT on the base (more about this later).
 - **Arundo:** All known patches have been treated and are now being monitored (except one new one). Approx. 4 acres are being monitored. Treatments are working well.
 - **Ivy Gourd:** KISC continues to work in Moloaa, Anahola, Shipwreck's, and by the Airport. Methods and treatment are improving. 31 Acres have been treated and the core in Anahola is looking much better.
 - **Fireweed:** A total of 9 plants have been pulled during the last 6 months from Halfway Bridge indicating that eradication from this site is possible. KISC is still expending weekly monitoring at this sight. The population in Kalihiwai has been eradicated. No new reports have been made.
 - **Pampas Grass:** Kauai Lagoons is using this plant as feature planting. KNL has agreed to work with them selecting a new feature grass at a discount. We are continuing to monitor in Koke`e which shows very little re-growth.
 - **Cattails:** We are still maintaining the excavated ditch-line to improve drainage in Makaweli. 2nd phase of ditch excavation will begin soon. New population at Wailua Golf Course will be treated. This will be a challenge due to the koi in the pond surrounding the population. 114 person hours have been expended on Cattails island-wide.
 - **False Kava:** KISC continues to monitor at Kahili Mountain and Kalihiwai. We are still finding occasional re-sprouts. No new reports have been made.
 - **Coqui Frog:** Keren and Joe attended a state-wide Coqui Frog Strategic Planning Meeting in Hilo on June 1. This was a good time for various groups to share what was being done around the state. Our Coqui Working Group is making progress on a plan to use various tools and methods for eradication: Habitat modification by clearing understory, parceling and creating cleaner access to the site, continued spraying, and hopefully, an eventual controlled burn.
 - **Mongoose:** Amos has been hired and starts Friday. He will be focusing on response to reported sightings and "hot spots" of repeated sightings. Responses will increase with added publicity.
 - **Little Fire Ant:** Monitoring continues (with HDOA) at the known population in Kalihiwai. Paki's position will be filled and the grant will be expended in a timely manner. We only have one new questionable report

in Kalihiwai that needs to be followed up on, but no new reports of LFA have been made.

- **Adopt-a-trail**: Work continues quarterly to maintain the Hanakapiai Trail. Response from hikers has been positive and there have been no incidents. The crew has done wonderful public-relations work while on the trail.
- Outreach activities – *Jackie*
 - **Fairs, etc**: Kawamura Farm Expo was good exposure for KISC. It was advertised in the paper & on the radio. Banana Poka Roundup (thanks crew!) was a great time. Displays at KCC, Waimea, & Princeville Libraries have been happening. The KCC display that had been up since March was used by school professors for extra credit. The Farm Bureau County Fair will be a big one! (Please sign up on attached sheet). We are hoping to get new display boards from HISC funds by then!
 - **Outreach Target- Nursery and Landscaping Industries**: Jackie has been focusing a lot of outreach targets, and she has been having a lot of involvement with the Kauai Landscaping Industry Council. She is also planning many cooperative projects as well as a brochure/survey to nurseries.
 - **Outreach Target – Community Organizations**: This was a great suggestion given during her last update. Jackie said that she agrees that public awareness is strengthened as we reach out to more community organizations (this way, we are teaching the teachers). Since then, she has met with many groups tapping into the common vision to share our resources & help each other out. KISC can continue to have a really positive role in our community. Some of the groups she visited are: Sierra Club, Reef Check, Rotary Club, Hanalei Watershed Hui, Malama Kalihiwai, Garden Island Arts Council, and the Aloha Center.
 - **Idea! – Kauai Conservation Gathering!**: There has been a lot of interest and enthusiasm expressed to get us all together find out what we are all up to, teach each other what we have learned, and form more partnerships. Please let me know if you have any suggestions/ideas!
 - **An exciting road ahead**: KISC on German TV!!! A filmmaker will be coming at the end of August, and will be filming TNC, NTBG, Hanalei Watershed Hui, and us! We will be taking them on the wild work adventures with Miconia and Long Thorn Kiawe. Jackie has also arranged for KISC to have a monthly column in Kauai Business Journal, Fall articles in both the state Landscaping and Agricultural issues, as well as the SkinDiver magazine. We are getting new design programs and have found on-island printing! So...expect to see some fancy posters out there! Also, temporary tattoos and more bumper stickers are on the way! Jackie is also planning on developing an art & science curriculum with Garden Island Arts Council and Island Schools on invasive species, as well as helping Malama Kahiliwai with an experiential education curriculum. And, there is not a set date, but we have all been working hard through the final edits of our new website!
 - Thanks for all your support, and please, always feel free to contact me (Jackie) with requests, suggestions, etc.

VI. New Items:

- Election of Chair-Elect: At the last KISC meeting, the committee decided that we would adopt having a three-tiered supervisory panel: “Chair Emeritus” (Chair that just finished their term), Chair (current position), and “Chair Elect” (Person who will become chair next). We would like to elect the next chair at

our next Meeting on Oct. 13, 2005. So far, we have interest from Jayme Patrick, Guy Nagai, and Sherri Paul. Others who are interested can contact the KISC office. We will be sending out a notifying email to the KISC members within the next couple of months.

- **Base-yard expansion:** We will be expanding our base-yard by 40' to accommodate our vehicles, equipment, and staff. Quotes from fencing companies have been high. We are considering doing the fencing ourselves; any input, donation of materials, manpower, etc, would be greatly appreciated.
- **Partnership Project with PMRF:** KISC was contacted by PMRF's new Environmental Coordinator, John Burger, regarding the removal of the Long Thorn Kiawe on the base. We have entered into a cooperative project involving eradicating this species from the base. PMRF is willing to spend quite a bit of funding (\$30K) of this project, and is asking KISC for our expertise and support with monitoring and methods. Work is projected to begin in August.
- **Annual KISC Strategy Meeting:** A date was set for the Annual KISC Strategy Meeting. It will be Thursday, October 13. Time and place will be announced. This is the annual meeting where we will discuss progress on our targets and determine priority, as well as add or drop target species from our Action Plan. Please plan on attending this meeting.
- **Animal Rights Activists in Hawaii:** Mindy reported that the HISC Working Group on Established Pests meeting was disrupted by an Animal Rights Activist regarding concerns on not only the legality of the ISCs but also their funding and their reporting responsibilities. Care should be taken regarding these types of questions, and any information given out should be accurate and passed through the proper channels.

VII. **Announcements:**

- Kauai Farm Bureau Fair: August 25 to 28 *PLEASE SIGN UP!!*
- Keren off-island August 22 to 31
- Hawaii Conservation Conference July 28, 29
- Quarterly CGAPS Meeting on Oahu July 27.
- "Remains of a Rainbow" exhibit is now installed at KCC.
- The HISC Resources Working Group will discuss budgetary items at the next meeting on August 1.
- The HISC Prevention Working Group, discussing introduction and prevention, will be meeting on August 2.
- The HISC General Meeting will meet later in August. Time and date will be announced.

VIII. **Next Meeting – Thursday, October 13, 2005** (Announcements will be sent). This meeting will replace our regular Quarterly Meeting and become our **Annual Strategic Planning Meeting**. Please plan on attending.

Pau

Attendees: Mindy Wilkinson (DLNR, Oahu DOFAW), Sherri Paul (Kauai DOFAW), Bill Spitz (County of Kauai, OED), Al Silva (Kauai DOFAW), Craig Kaneshige (HDOA), Eric Garcia (HDOA), Sarah Newton (TNC), Joe Kona (KISC), Allan Rietow (TNC, KISC Chair Emeritus), Carl Berg (Hanalei Watershed Hui), Wayne Souza (DLNR, State Parks), Andrea Ballinger (TNC), David Neville (KISC), Joseph Aguon-Kona (KISC), Jennifer

Cole Conner (KRCP), Keren Gundersen (KISC), Tony Doth (USDA-APHIS), Leslie ? (USDA-APHIS), Matt Rosener (Hanalei Watershed Hui), Lelan Nishek (KNL), Jeri Ooka (CTAHR).