

Kauai Invasive Species Committee

Strategic Planning Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 13, 2005

Time: 9:00 am to 12:45 pm

Place: HDOA, Pua Loke, Lihue, HI

Approved Minutes

Attendees: Tim Flynn (NTBG), Mindy Wilkinson (DOFAW-Oahu), Christy Martin (CGAPS), Mike Hawkes (US Fish & Wildlife), Jayme Patrick (USDA-WS), Signe Opheim (CGAPS), Craig Kaneshige (HDOA), Joseph Aguon-Kona (KISC), Ronson Arakaki (KISC), David Neville (KISC), Keren Gundersen (KISC), Joseph Kona (KISC), Amos Arashiro (KISC), Kristin Hall (KISC), Paul Massey, Sherri Paul (DOFAW), Kawika Smith (DOFAW), Ellen Coulombe (NTBG), Katie Cassel (KRCP), Jeri Ooka (UH-CTAHR), Jackie Kozak (KISC), Ed Pickop (HDOA – PQ), Alan Silva (DOFAW), Allen Rietow (TNC), Tony Doth (USDA-APHIS)

I. Welcome

II. Introductions and Announcements

KISC's new staff members: Ronson Arakaki (Field Assistant), Jeff Schlueter (Data Tech), and Kristin Hall (Field Crew Supervisor).

III. Review / approve July meeting minutes

Minutes approved unanimously with changes.

IV. Review agenda

No additions

V. Review Process for target selection/retention – Keren

As we review our current targets and when we consider new ones, we will be evaluating three main criteria: Feasibility of control, Threat or Risk, Cost of control. For each of these we will be ranking them: High, Medium, or Low.

VI. Review for Committee – Tim

(http://www.hear.org/kisc/presentations/KISCOMMISSIONSTATEMENT_files/v3_document.htm)

- KISC Mission Statement
- Policy Statement
- Rules of order
- 2004 Strategic Planning Meeting results

(<http://www.hear.org/kisc/pdfs/20031119kiscstrategicplanningmeetingminutes.pdf>)

VII. Discussion points

- Rapid Response targets and responsibilities – *Mindy Wilkinson*

Currently there are people working on state-wide decision-trees for various specified targets such as Brown Tree Snake, Red Imported Fire Ant and West Nile Virus. Mindy is interested to see KISC set up an early detection and rapid response plan for new species that arrive to the island; find it before it gets established. There needs to be a systematic way to look at high risk places for invasive species. We especially need to look for more consistent entomological, mollusk, and vertebrate surveys. Mindy's focus is to develop systematic web of early detection and have a rapid response plan ready. Kauai is looking good on the ant front due to the LFA surveys that are being conducted. We need to decide: what triggers a response, what kind of threat is it (agricultural, ecological, human, etc), is it controllable, and is action

warranted. We need to be on the ground responding and assessing as we go. [AS: What about Mongoose?] [MW: I strongly support detection of low-level populations like on Saipan with BTS.] [TF: Is there a state-wide plan for any species?] [MW: There is a Memorandum of Understanding between DLNR & HDOA for vertebrates. Depending on the threat, different agencies respond. KISC's value is the coordination & communication on rapid response (it pulls the net closed).] [TF: Is there an agreement on Kauai between agencies to notify KISC in the event of a sighting?] [KG: No. We do not have any kind of response plan or decision tree for reports. However, we do have pretty good communication between the players that results in notification. This definitely is an area that needs tightening. KISC is putting together a draft Snake Response Plan and two more Snake Interview Kits (for a total of three) to be presented to the various agencies here. We will start with snakes, and work our way to other species.] [MW: There should be no legal restrictions among cooperators. I would like to see KISC budget and plan for early detection and rapid response.] [TD: Doesn't it make sense that instead of focusing limited resources on surveying the island for species that *might* be here (which would require expertise that KISC does not possess), focus should be on not allowing them to come? Tighten intra-island movement of things as well as prevent them from being allowed into Hawaii.] [MW: This type of thing is addressed by HDOA and perhaps an invitation should be sent to have someone from Honolulu participate in this discussion at a KISC meeting.]

- **Site specific targets vs. island-wide incipient targets – *Allan Rietow***

Allan would like to consider KISC's role in the weed battle in conservation areas. KISC has been primarily focused on site specific targets but he would like the committee to consider site specific targets; in other words, a weed that is incipient in certain areas. This would not be adding targets as KISC's primary focus but have KISC assist other partners in removal efforts like with Kahili ginger or other targets in the eastern Alaka'i. KISC has been instrumental in the initial surveying of the watersheds, but has not participated in on-the-ground efforts this last year. [WS: Would this decision to look at site specific targets include work in the State Park? We have sites in the park that need work.] [AR: I was thinking, as an example, Privet in Kokee and Ginger in the Alaka'i. To *assist* another agency already engaged in the removal efforts.] [MW: Because of specified funding, island-wide incipients should be the focus of KISC. KISC does have certain funding that would allow it to help with surveys and offer technical assistance to site-specific targets.] [TF: Are there reciprocal funds or work available to KISC from these other work groups?] [AR: KRCP has been a huge contributor in the past on Miconia work done.] [KC: Yes, and we (KRCP) thank KISC for their past work on both Privet and Ginger. Ginger is considered more incipient here than Miconia is on Maui and Big Island and is as great a threat. Ginger will grow under Miconia, but Miconia will not recruit under Ginger. Privet has been reduced in the Park and can be eliminated. It is in the fringe of the Forest Reserve but harder to kill than guava. It might also be a good target.]

The committee agreed, in consensus, to do work on site specific targets in the form of support or technical assistance. This work will be done under funding that is not specific to island-wide incipient work. KISC will also lend support in the form of outreach.

VIII. Progress/status report

- **Infrastructure, Training / certifications – *Keren***
(http://www.hear.org/kisc/presentations/2005kiscinfrastructure_files/v3_document.htm)
- **KISC Outreach and Public Awareness Activities – *Jackie***
(http://www.hear.org/kisc/presentations/KISCO OutreachStrategy_files/v3_document.htm)

- KISC field activities – *Jeff*
(http://www.hear.org/kisc/presentations/2005kiscannualtargetdata_files/v3_document.htm)

IX. Update Target Species

- Discussion of new targets
A motion was made to drop Ivy Gourd as a target to free up time to work on Kahili Ginger and Privet; to save the forest vs. working on lowland weeds. Discussion ensued regarding the invasiveness of Ivy Gourd (there was consensus that is extremely invasive) and the status on Kauai of the infestation. It was decided that since major headway has been accomplished on this target and it is within sight of realistic eradication, it would be left on the target list.
A motion was made to keep KISC's target list "as is" was made and approved by consensus.
- Add/drop target weeds/animals
No new targets were brought up for discussion. It was decided, however, that KISC will begin posting monthly images of species to watch for. This can be incorporated into a plan for early detection.
- Categorize (action target/ monitor-map-trials/ education-further study)
All action targets are to remain the same. KISC will continue to be opportunistic in dispatching any new species as they are found. Jackie will be focusing on community education via school curriculum projects, public presentations, new products (brochures, posters, etc), partnership projects, and nursery surveys (which will also be incorporated into an early detection plan).
- Prioritize
Because of dedicated funding this year KISC will be prioritizing time and helicopter surveys on Miconia, as well as working to eradicate Coqui frog before the end of this fiscal year. KISC is also partnering with PMRF to work on eradication of the core infestation site of Long Thorn Kiawe. We will be stepping up efforts to put together a program for treating Fountain Grass and addressing a new infestation site on the North Shore. Helicopter surveys are also planned for this target. Work will continue on all other targets that are mostly in a monitoring stage.

X. Announcements

- Training opportunities – *Mindy Wilkinson*
I would like to not only hold Snake Training but also expand it into a vertebrate ID class. This would be advertised to the group and open to those who are interested.
- Ocean Fest – October 15
- Robert Pitman will be at NTBG tonight and speak at 7:00 pm. He is a seabird expert.
- **HDOA** would like to have the committee aware that a Funnel Web spider was discovered in Haena. It was called in a couple of months ago and apparently came in on construction materials from Australia. This spider is extremely poisonous. The web of this spider is spun as a funnel.

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