

**ANNUAL KISC
STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, October 12, 2006
HDOA Conference Room
8:00 am to 12:00 noon

I. Welcome/Introduce Guests/New Members

[Attendees: Keren Gundersen (KISC), Mindy Wilkinson (DLNR-DOFAW), Allan Rietow (TNC), Eben Manini (KRCP), Sarah Newton (TNC), Sherrie Paul (DLNR-DOFAW), Jonathan Tacata (KISC), Jeff Schlueter (KISC), Ronson Arakaki (KISC), Joe Kona (KISC), Craig Kaneshige (HDOA), Paul Massey (Roots Botanical Garden), Amos Arashiro (KISC), Mike Hawkes (USFWS), Lehua Prevez-Lafayette (KISC), Kristin Hall (KISC), Jackie Kozak (KISC), Wayne Souza (DLNR-State Parks), Laurie Ho (Garden Island RC&D), Tim Flynn (NTBG), Ellen Coulombe (NTBG)]

II. Review Agenda Items

III. Review and Approve Minutes from August 17, 2006 regular meeting.

Minutes were approved unanimously by committee. Please see <http://www.hear.org/kisc/pdfs/20060817kiscmeetingminutes.pdf> for the posting.

IV. Americorps Projects:

Native Plants at KISC Target Areas – *Lehua P. Lafayette*

Check out the presentation at:

<http://www.hear.org/kisc/presentations/20061012LehuaAmericorpsProject>

Lehua's project was to produce a Native Plant Field Guide to be used by the KISC crew when working on our target plant species. She took amazing photos of many native plants and arranged them in a guide by target area as well as by each species. She has Hawaiian names, scientific names, short descriptions as well as practical uses of the plants. Great job! *[Several members of the committee would like copies of Lehua's field book, including Mike Hawkes and Mindy Wilkinson]*

Trailhead Kiosk in partnership with DOFAW – *Jonny Tacata*

Check out the presentation at:

<http://www.hear.org/kisc/presentations/20061012JonnyAmericorpsProject>

Jonny's project was to build a trailhead sign to post Miconia information on. He was able to assist Joe Kona with building this sign, designed from photos of other trailhead kiosks used by the Forest Service. DOFAW was instrumental in making this happen by paying for the materials and designating a perfect location for this sign at the base of the Kuilau Ridge Trail. Wonderful project!

[EM: trailhead sign should include information for horse maintenance for decreasing seed dispersal, such as check and clean mane.] [KG: Trailhead sign will instruct people to scrub boots before AND after hiking.] [JKozak: Boot scrubber is modeled after TNC's Waikamoi Preserve station, with some more guides from New Zealand models to create the most effective boot scrubber.]

V. Review for Committee – Allan Rietow, for Tim Flynn

- KISC Mission Statement
- Policy Statement

- Rules of Order (see <http://www.hear.org/kisc/presentations/20061012KISCMissionStatement>)
- 2005 Strategic Planning Meeting results

See: <http://www.hear.org/kisc/pdfs/20051013kiscmeetingminutes.pdf>)

[Summary: In 2005, the KISC target list was agreed to keep “as is” with no new targets brought up for discussion. Action targets were to remain the same. Funding dictated prioritizing helicopter surveys for Miconia as well as Coqui eradication efforts.]

VI. Nominate Chair Elect

This item was tabled until next meeting when more committee members are present.

VII. FY07 Budget – Keren

See <http://www.hear.org/kisc/presentations/20061012KISCbudgetstatusreport>

Major points: HISC general fund cut in half which trickles down to the Rapid Response (or ISC) groups. Also, \$42,000 was moved to USDA-WS to take over the response program for mongoose (Amos is pau at the end of October). Frogs will definitely be a focus of the coming year with \$50,000 coming from the State through DOFAW and county funding may increase to a total of \$329,000 all for Coqui work.

VIII. Progress/status report

• Infrastructure – Keren

See <http://www.hear.org/kisc/presentations/20061012KISCbudgetstatusreport>

We are busy hiring field crew to replace Dave. Bill Null finished up his island-wide Little Fire Ant survey (no other infestations found) in June. Amos will be finishing up at the end of October due to funding being switched to USDA-WS. We also will be hiring a crew with county funds to work on frogs. Kristin has become our temporary “Project Specialist” and has already produced our KISC Field Handbook, made headway on organizing the island-wide roadside survey, conducted an inventory of the base-yard, and much more.

• Training/certifications – Keren

See <http://www.hear.org/kisc/presentations/20061012KISCbudgetstatusreport>

The highlight this year was the basic aviation safety class offered to all Kauai agencies. We had a good turnout for this. Also, the crew went through Defensive Driving last fall. Keren, Joe, and Jackie attended Incident Command Training sponsored by USDA-APHIS.

• Early Detection – Kristin

See <http://www.hear.org/kisc/presentations/20061012EarlyDetection>

Work is underway to plan and implement an island-wide roadside survey. Roadside surveys have been shown to be an effective method for detecting plants early. Early detection equals a more efficient use of limited funding by rapidly responding to species while they are still incipient. We will be basing our survey on protocol developed by Forest and Kim Starr when they conducted their surveys on Maui and Molokai. So far we have formed a Working Group and are working on compiling our list of survey species. We will also be tailoring the protocol to fit Kauai’s needs. This survey will provide baseline data that will be useful to many conservation groups as well as state and county agencies. If you are interested in helping out or joining the Working Group please contact Kristin at kristinhall@hawaiiintel.net.

[PM: Surveying only on the roadsides seems narrow, as it will be limited to a certain ecological niche, plants that like a lot of sunlight and disturbance, which will not catch things invading in a closed canopy situation.] [KH: This will just be a start, then we can progress to expert interviews for more areas. We chose roadsides because they are likely introduction pathways.]

[MW: What is the goal of the workshops? Report species to KISC?] [KH: Yes, to report to us and other organizations. The workshops will be geared for not only the public but for KISC crew as well as allied work forces who may, for example, work in the forest and not know what certain species look like. We are also going to educate people working in the ports of entry to look out for invasive species. The workshop will probably only focus on about 24 species not the entire list.]

[MW: There was a grant given from the federal highways to create a handbook for contractors. Chris Daccus is working on it. It is in the beginning stages and KISC should be in contact with him during the mutual processes. You may want to add web reporting like Maui's PBIN.] [KH: We are also trying to follow up on suggestions that were raised in the small working group at the Hawaii Conservation Conference last July.]

[AR: Since you will be working on major highways, you should speak with the businesses and organizations that adopt sections of the highway. They would be great eyes.]

- **Outreach and Public Awareness- Jackie**

See <http://www.hear.org/kisc/presentations/20061012outreachstrategy/>

So much has been accomplished this past year with public events, presentations, media coverage (Print, Radio & TV), Educational Products, and programs. As far as state-wide HISC objectives, we are focusing on several priority, one-sentence messages such as "Don't pack a Pest", and "Report a Pest" which advertises the new Pest Hotline. We also have prioritized target audiences as well as methodologies such as workshops, partnerships, PSAs and educational materials.

[PM: What happened to the invasive species film shown on airlines?] [MW: CGAPS produced it, and it is shown on a voluntary basis by the carriers. Now it is somewhat hit-or-miss.] [PM: We need to advocate for that, perhaps have it as a focus of our workshop efforts.] [JS: It is a captive audience!]

[WS: As a target audience, we need to consider the squeaky wheels.] [JKozak: Addressing people's concerns directly is the best way. Perhaps follow up on the movie with an article in the airline magazine. Transparency is important.]

[WS: We want outreach to be based on facts, not misinformation. These audiences may not fit into any of your traditional groups, you have to go and look for them.] [KG: On that note, we will be hosting a neighborhood meeting at the Coqui site because we had a "squeaky wheel" there and feel the need to make sure that everyone is informed as to our activities.]

- **Field Activities – Keren Gundersen for Joseph Aguon-Kona**

See <http://www.hear.org/kisc/presentations/20061012fieldactivitiesupdate/>

Our focus this past year was on Miconia and Coqui frogs. With grant money from the National Foundation of Fish and Wildlife (NFWF), we were able to aerially survey by helicopter over 4,200 acres in the Game Management Area. No new mature plants were discovered either by air or when ground surveying. Over 2,000 labor hours were spent on Coqui frogs. Major vegetation clearing with heavy machinery has proven to help control this population. Our goal is to

have no calling frogs by fall of 2007. Most of our other targets are in the monitoring stage.

IX. Discussion – Keren Gundersen

see <http://www.hear.org/kisc/presentations/20061012discussion/>

- Criteria for control: Feasibility of control, Threat or Risk, Cost of control
- Review of Target Categories:
 - Early Detection
 - Active target
 - Maintenance target
 - Partnership project
 - Funding-dictated target

[KG: Although we don't have a large turn out we do want everyone's input on our strategies for the coming year. After reviewing the discussion points, we will review different strategies for our active species.]

[MW: Can we have a recap of the Coqui working group project, specifically funding?] [KG: The coqui working group was formed in the spring and a plan was formulated as well as a budget. We focused the work on habitat modification with vegetation clearing, herbicide control, improving access, the use of citric acid and lime, and discussed the possibility of a controlled burn (which was later tabled due to liability issues). This past year we received \$50K from the State Legislature, \$60K from the county of Kauai, and \$50K from Kukuiula Development. We feel that we have been successful at controlling the Lawai population as well as decreasing the density of frogs.]

[RA: It is very difficult with a small crew. We need more people!] [JKozak: What are the official numbers that can be expected for our crew size?] [KG: The money from the County is not finalized yet, but with the full funding, we could create a Coqui crew, which would mean 4-6 people for just frogs. Our main crew and interns will work on our other targets, and if it rains we could use the frog crew on these targets as well.]

[KH: How long until this temporary crew is hired?] [KG: This depends on the weather, when we get the funds and how long it takes to get them hired. I do not see this crew starting until after January.]

- Species Discussions

Miconia

[SN: I think we should re-do the survey in the homesteads and an electrical bill handout. Another concern is all of the construction and movement of soil from infested areas. We need to build awareness about that too.]

[MW: Have you covered all of the high risk/probability areas for the species?] [JS: We don't have a map here, but we have established a buffer zone. We have flown the entire 500m buffer and haven't found anything outside the two adjacent drainages. The residential area is a hole in the surveying, however, since it hasn't been surveyed since 2003.] [KG:] Jeff and I met with Alvin Kyono, DLNR, about our survey strategies and he is in support of our current direction.]

[MW: How are you making sure that there isn't a population in other places, like the north shore, where you don't expect it?] [KG: We are relying on our partners, like Hanalei Watershed Hui and the Nature Conservancy, who aerially survey the north shore valleys. TNC surveyed 15,000 acres this past year and Hanalei Watershed Hui is also doing remote sensing of the Hanalei Watershed system.] [MW: I trust TNC's eyes, but the remote sensing is not a great detection method.] [SN: Jim Jacobi is working on them with that, and he knows what to look for.]

[EC: It looks like the area to Waialeale is not covered. [JS: We heli-surveyed all the way to the cliff edge.] [EC: You should give the search image to tour operators who fly this area all the time.] [KH: The species index database that I am working on with Jeff and Aaron should give us the hot spot areas to search. We can then see if there are areas that we are missing.] [JS: We are trying to find the most efficient way to survey; it seems pretty contained.]

[PM: I went to Tahiti and hiked in places with 100% Miconia cover before I knew about the problems here. We need to have outreach on planes arriving from that area about not dispersing seeds.] [KG: Which will be an issue on the Superferry as well. Miconia is along the roadsides on the Big Island.] [MW: Most of the oddball outliers of Miconia have been pointed out by individuals.]

[KG: We only have 3 more hours of flying left in the budget.]

Committee Decision on Miconia (in priority order):

- 1. Redo homestead survey and mailings**
- 2. Continue surveys in Game Management Area (focus on areas not surveyed)**
- 3. Continue status quo in State Park area**

Fountain Grass

[KG: This is a problem target, which everyone agrees is a high risk, and so I suggest that we form a working group to strategize and lay a foundation for an aerial-operation.]

[PM: Has land permission been challenging? Is there any legislation to give you authority?] [KG: Fountain grass is on the noxious weed list, and so HDOA has the legal right to take it out **if** they have a management plan. Most of this population is on land owned by A&B, Gay and Robinson, or land leased by G&R.]

[PM: Do they do aerial sprays on fountain grass on the other islands?] [MH: In other states, it is the landowners' responsibility.] [KG: They do aerial work on pampas grass and the federal government does it on fountain grass on the big island. For our infestation, topography is a big challenge.]

[KG: Perhaps the objectives of the working group could be to answer the 3 criteria for control.] [EC: That sounds like something that is up to KISC management.] [KG: It's beyond a KISC management decision. It may span from Haena to Limahuli; maybe more. KISC staff doesn't have the time or the capacity to develop a management plan on its own. We may have time to implement one.] [KH: We need to reevaluate our strategy. We need to get a voucher from the north shore and survey to see what the extent of the infestation is.]

[TF: How long have you known about it on the north shore?] [CK: For about one year.] [TF: I urge you to make a voucher and take a GPS point if you are unsure whether or not it is Fountain grass.] [KG: We may have seen it on the cliffs at Haena.] [TF: Well there is a lot of *Eragrostis variabilis* up there too.] [KG: It may be in Limahuli too, but it is hard to distinguish from so far away.] [EC: I will get Ken Wood to help ID it during his next trip up there. Next we survey. Then we decide if it is feasible.]

[TF: Do we have a good idea of the south shore population? How has the treatment gone?] [CK: You walk through the fountain grass and you spread it. You can see it as you pass by the Kauai Coffee sign.] [RA: It is all along the side of the mountain, at least 6 acres.][KG: We surveyed the surrounding cane fields and did find it in one small valley, surrounded by sugar cane. The cane acts as a good buffer.]

[TF: Has that all been treated?] [KG: No. There are many areas that are inaccessible because of the terrain.][TF: There are some rare and endangered plants in this area, so these will be a concern if aerially treating.]

Committee Decision on Fountain Grass:

- 1. ID/Collect Vouchers**
- 2. Form a working group**
- 3. Conduct a survey**

Long Thorn Kiawe

[KH: We need to figure out how to get rid of the debris piles we are making during the clearing process at the Mana site outside the drag strip.] [PM: What about a controlled burn?] [KG: Permitting and extinguishing would be difficult.]

[WS: How much debris is there?] [KH: At least 2 miles.]

[MH: Can you use heavy machinery to dig it up?][KG: No, this coastal strand has cultural restrictions.]

[EC: Could we remove it as a target?] [KG: If we don't continue to monitor seedlings, it will grow back into a mess. We have seen this happen at PMRF after we conducted the trials and didn't go back for a couple years. It looked like we had not even worked there.]

[TF: Can you just work with PMRF? How well does PMRF deal with the problem?] [KG: Great! PMRF has been investing a lot of money into this clearing project. We can keep the PMRF project alive and continue monitoring. We have been working with them to clear it with machinery (hydro-axe to cut it down, bulldozer to scrape the surface of debris without digging in the sand). The debris is then moved into piles.]

[KG] The only effective method to kill it is by cutting, if we don't cut, we leave an impenetrable hedge.] [CK: We had the same thing at Mahaulepu; now there are only seedlings.] [RA: We used to pick about 100 seedlings each time we went, now we see only 5-6.]

[KH: We should cease treating until we get rid of the debris, but shouldn't give up on the project now.] [JS: Using big machinery is a much better use of time.]

[WS: Can you contract chipping?] [KG: We don't have the funding.]

[PM] A measure of success is to be able to actually eliminate a species. Is LTK one that we could eventually say "it's gone"? [TF: Seeds bank persists for a long time.] [KG: But, we are close to plant eradication.]

Committee Decision on Long Thorn Kiawe:

- 1. Partner with PMRF**
- 2. Figure out solution for debris**
- 3. Monitor seedlings and re-growth**
- 4. Halt new treatment**

Ivy Gourd

[KG: We could do an educational mailing by zip code, we have reduced populations by maintenance with retreating once a month.] [KH: We can survey for this on the roadside.] [TF: We could do some PR on it in the local paper too.]

[CK: There are no fruits on the outliers because of separate male-female plants.] [RA: The airport population has fruited, but the landowner has helped us with treatment.]

Committee Decision on Ivy Gourd:

- 1. Educational mailing by zip code**
- 2. Continue treatment at sites**
- 3. Include in roadside survey**

Coqui Frog

[KG: We have a working group that has decided our strategy for this species. We are considering vegetation management with sheep, which would be the first in the state to try this method.]

[MW: One priority should be to educate people that are importing goods that are a source of frogs.] [KG: Bill talked to every importer on the island when he was surveying for ants and always mentioned coqui in addition to LFA.]

Committee Decision on Coqui frogs:

- 1. Continue with Working Group Plan**

Hiptage

[KG: At our Strategic Planning Meeting two years ago we agreed that we would 'keep an eye on' Hiptage. Perhaps it is time to re-survey this species to see what the spread has been over the last two years and then decide if it is a significant threat to address with our resources.]

Committee Decision on Hiptage:

- 1. Re-survey current extent of Hiptage**

Tea (Camellia sinensis)

[KG: We were thinking of adding this as a target 2 years ago. We saw it naturalizing up in Kokee. It was introduced 20 years ago, but seems to have invasive tendencies. Developers are now planning to plant it on the eastside for an industry on Kauai.] [TF: Talk to Peter Townsend (sp?) about their experimental planting at the Wailua station to get an idea as to its nature. We have to be careful with the label of "invasive", as to whether or not it spreads.]

[KG: It hasn't yet been screened by the Weed Risk Assessment.] [MW: The WRA is working on protocol to prioritize species because they are really backed up, but all of the forms are available for anyone to screen.] [PM: I will do the screen for tea through the WRA.]

Committee Decision on Tea:

- 1. Submit Tea for screening through WRA (Paul Massey)**
- 2. Share information with Agricultural Development**

• Concluding Discussion

[SN: Hats off to the crew...they have done a lot of great work!

[TF: We should continue to form partnerships, work with school groups.]

[KH: We will be pushing early detection, and although we can't have volunteers, maybe we can have a working party.] [KG: We just have to partner with another group.] [JKozak: The Early Detection workshops can utilize NTBG for volunteers.]

*[KG: We can now adopt everything we discussed for KISC's strategy...all in favor?] [Unanimously **APPROVED**]*

X. Announcements:

- Early Detection Working Group Meeting – October 24
- A Hui Ho Party for Americorps Interns and Amos – October 27
- Taro Festival – October 28
- Arbor Day – November 4

XI. Next Meeting – January 18, 2007

Pau