

KISC Quarterly Meeting

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 18, 2007
HDOA Conference Room
10:00 am to 12:00 noon

[Attendees: Allan Rietow (TNC), Jeff Heron (USFWS), Duane Patricio (KISC), Joe Kona (KISC), Jeff Schlueter (KISC), Kevin Sasaki (KISC), Tysen Rapozo (KISC), Joseph Aguon-Kona (KISC), Kawika Smith (DOFAW), Michelle Clark (NRCS), Kristin Hall (KISC), Nicolai Barca (TNC), Cherylann Lemalu (KISC), Larry Kaneholani (KISC), Gary Ueunten (GIRC&D), Craig Kaneshige (HDOA), Scott Giarman (Kauai United Way), Tad Nakamichi (USDA-APHIS-PPQ), Keren Gundersen (KISC), Trae Menard (TNC), Jackie Kozak (HISC), Sherri Paul (DLNR-DOFAW), Thomas Kaiakapu (DLNR-DOFAW), Nick Holmes (DLNR-DOFAW-SOS), Eric Garcia (HDOA), Wayne Souza (DLNR-State Parks)]

I. Welcome/Introduce Guests/New Members

II. Review Agenda Items

III. Review and Approve Minutes from July 19, 2007 Quarterly Meeting

The corrected minutes were unanimously approved by committee and will be posted on the KISC website.

IV. Guest presentation: “Kauai Endangered Sea Birds” – *Nick Holmes*

Nick gave an interesting presentation focusing on the endangered A`o (Newell's Shearwater), and the `Ua`u (Hawaiian Petrel). He discussed their breeding habits, threats by predators and other influences, and what kind of activities the Seabird project is conducting. [\(This presentation will be posted online when ready and be included in the final minutes.\)](#)

V. Updates:

◆ Partner Updates:

↯ DLNR – State Parks – Wayne Souza

Conservation officers are cracking down on off-road vehicle activities at **Polihale State Park**. Not only is there reckless driving endangering people, but there has been sand dune destruction where known endangered plants reside. The **Koke`e Master Plan** development is coming to a close. It is hoped to be presented to the DLNR Board before the end of the year. It will focus on improving the resource management at the park including a new nursery position. **Recruitment for a Parks Interpretative position** is currently ongoing. A **small thicket of Buddleia** was found in Kalalau near Kolea falls. They will be working on removing this.

↯ KRCP – Katie Cassel (email)

“We had a fantastic summer with **8 excellent summer interns**, all of whom were very keen on conservation and very hard working. They came from Canada, England, the mainland and here locally. One of the interns will be returning in January to help us for another 4 months until he starts school. From January to September, KRCP staff and **1,058 volunteers and interns cleaned 386,535 weeds on 586 acres**. Notable volunteer groups were the University of Bristol (students from England), the Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps for a week, Adventures Cross Country, Punahou Schools and other school groups and individuals. Work is progressing on trials being done on various incipient species. *Buddleia madagascariensis* is difficult to eradicate. We are **testing with new adjuvants** from Dr. James Leary, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human

Resources. A big **MAHALO** goes to The Nature Conservancy and DLNR on helping us with the Australian Tree Ferns and KISC for their kokua with Buddleia.”

↻ **DLNR – DOFAW – Thomas Kaiakapu**

Updates were provided on the Mana Sanctuary Development, Lehua Island restoration Project, Kauai Seabird Projects, Puaiohi Recovery Project, the Nene Program, and the Hunting program. Please see the [hand-out](#) at the end of this document.

↻ **DLNR – DOFAW - Kawika Smith**

Recent new hires include a new Botanist, Mike Wysong, and a new Horticulturalist, Linlee Waimao. They will be **opening positions** for a carpenter and mechanic. A non-game **Wildlife Biologist position and a NARS position** are still open (there is currently no one in either the NARS tech or specialist positions). We have experienced **a lot of fires this year**. This season we have had the most fires ever that the old-timers can remember. Fire prevention messages have been conducted with the Kauai fire department, Project Wet, and Smokey the Bear in schools and at events. A recent **fencing contract for the Kuia NAR** was awarded to John Hinton (from New Zealand). They will have one year to complete it. **Na Ala Hele** will be missing Craig Koga who will be retiring on October 31. A recent trash run from remote ridges was conducted with **Windward Aviation**. It went well, but presented new challenges as everyone got used to the new heli-contractor. The recent passing of **Patrick Costalas**, DOFAW branch manager, followed his recent retirement and he will be missed. DOFAW would like help from the public in **reporting dead and down logs** to help prevent illegal harvesting. Permits are currently being issued and proceeds stay on Kauai.

↻ **HDOA –Craig Kaneshige**

A lot of plant hosts are being discovered for the now wide-spread **papaya mealy bug**. This infestation is expected to worsen. **Surveys for nettle caterpillar** are currently underway (none have been detected). HDOA is also helping out USDA by surveying for the **Asian citrus physillid**. [AR: Can these agricultural pests go into the forest?] [CK: Yes.]

↻ **USFWS – Jeff Herod**

Just this last Monday, October 15, a **Draft Mosquito-Borne Disease Management Policy Pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997** was posted. The deadline for comments is November 29. USFWS proposes to establish policy that refuge managers will follow concerning mosquito and mosquito borne disease management on units of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (Administration Act), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Improvement Act), provides the Refuge System mission. For more info on this or to submit comments please go to: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-20201.pdf>. A **Brown Tree Snake (BTS) Draft Control Plan Update** is also being worked on and they will be meeting in Saipan in November. Karl has just returned from a 3 week **BTS Response training** in Guam. Jeff reports that they have successfully **submitted comments to HDOA** regarding restricting importation of myrtle species that would be hosts for the **Puccinia psidii rust** that can affect `Ohi`a. Comments were also submitted and they were successful in prohibiting importation of a **killifish** species. USFWS has **Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Planning** training available and are looking for groups to conduct training to minimize non-target impacts and invasive pathways. Jeff will be following up on this to try to arrange training on Kauai. Resource management work often creates open pathways that could spread invasive species to unique and critical habitats for already endangered species. Next to habitat loss, invasive species are resource management’s biggest challenge. Executive Order 13112, 1999, directs agencies to prevent the spread of invasive

species in their work but few management tools exist to implement this Directive. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) planning has been modified from the food industry for natural resource work. Around the world industry uses the HACCP planning tool to remove product contamination. In natural resource pathways, hitchhiking species are considered contaminants. HACCP's comprehensive planning identifies these species and the risk of contamination while documenting the best management practices used to prevent and remove hitchhikers. HACCP planning focuses attention on critical control points where non-target species can be removed. Documenting risks and methods used to remove non target species gives managers a strategic method to make consistent decisions based on identified risks. Planning builds a logical framework of information to weigh risks for species spread against management benefits. (See <http://hacpp-nrm.org/> for more info.)

↻ **NRCS – Michelle Clark**

It was a busy end of their fiscal year and they are working on wrapping up contracts. They have been authorized to continue the **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)** and are just waiting for the Farm Bill to be signed. There is an October 26 deadline. Please let others know, like ranchers, who might be interested in this program. Check out the [Fact Sheet](#) as well as the [Sign-up Information](#) sheet at the end of these minutes. Please contact her for more information (Michelle.Clark@hi.usda.gov).

↻ **DLNR/HISC – Mindy Wilkinson (email)**

“EARLY DETECTION: A GOOD IDEA SO NOW WHAT? FOUR MODELS FROM HAWAII (Wilkinson, M., Ansari, S., Buddenhagen, C. Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, HI 96813 Mindy.M.Wilkinson@Hawaii.gov)

With an estimated 20-50 new species becoming established in Hawai'i every year an effective system of prevention and early detection must be developed. The island-based Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) have proven to be an effective mechanism for rapid response to, and control of, incipient pest species. Each ISC has a voluntary board and chair along with a paid coordinator and staff to implement on-the-ground work. As these teams were developing, the voluntary board and participating committee members suggested targets for control. Even when the target species were ranked using the 'Eradicate this weed or not?' model developed by the New Zealand Department of Conservation most of the targets were already fairly widespread and potentially already having management impacts. As more information has become available on the variables influencing the success of eradication efforts it is clear that management strategies should emphasize detecting incipient populations at very low levels to increase the probability of island-wide eradication.

Over the past seven years, island-wide early detection projects for terrestrial plants have been developed for each of the four counties of Hawaii including the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Oahu and Kauai. The original island wide vascular plant survey for newly establishing introduced species was carried out on Maui under the auspices of the US Geological Survey. Two highly trained parataxonomists developed a list of about 100 target species and drove all public roads resulting in a linear survey effort of 1,246 miles, 16,031 survey target locations. Target locations were reviewed with the local ISC and 8 species were prioritized for island wide eradication. Now there are three additional road side surveys taking place under contract on the Island of Hawaii, by Bishop Museum staff on Oahu and planned surveys on Kauai utilize the expertise of the local staff of the National Tropical Botanical Garden. The advantages and disadvantages of each of the four roadside survey strategies as well as the model for deciding which of the newly detected incipient plant species to target for eradication are discussed.

This talk and subsequent discussions led to the creation of a global Early Detection Hui under the Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) of the ICUN. Hawaii, along with AUS, an NZ will be one of the case studies on how to develop a program.

Other substantial news from the EMAPI9 was that there will be a move to have standardization of the Weed Risk Assessment so that it becomes the standard tool for making decisions about plant import and be in compliance with the International Plant Protection Act protocol.”

↖ **TNC – Nicolai Barca**

TNC has been busy working with Koke`e Conservation Resource Program (KRCP) conducting **kahili ginger control** at Camp 10, Mohihi drainage area, and Halepaakai. They do not seem to know where the source plant is, even after conducting a heli-survey of the area. Katie has heard that there has been an outbreak of ginger on Gay & Robinson land so this may be the source. Katie is working with them on this. After conducting more **Australian Tree Fern (ATF) trials** with James Leery, it is looking like the product *Habitat* has good potential for control. **Two pumps** have been received and they await custom frames to be built so that they can be flown to remote spots via helicopter and used for ATF control. An **extension of a contract with USGS** will allow further weed mapping of the Alakai and Wainiha. Remote Fencing Outfitters has been contracted to erect the fence at **Kanaele Bog**. TNC has been gearing up to conduct a **live capture of 7 pigs** from East Alakai. They will be fitted with trackers and they will monitor their movements. They will then take 3 of these boars and re-locate them to upper Wainiha to monitor their movements. The **Alakai fence-line** has been re-aligned and flagged. TNC has been conducting a botanical survey with Ken Wood and has scheduled archeological and cultural surveys next. Nicolai has been working on an **Alakai goat-presence shape file**. It looks like they are using the bog fence as their corridor through the forest and the more rugged the terrain, the more populated the area. **Other shape files** that have been started are for an East Alakai pig trail and heavy pig sign as well as for black tail deer presence. Nicolai is interested if anyone has seen any signs of black tail deer in Kalalau Valley.

◆ **Coqui Control in Lawai – Keren Gundersen**

Please click on this link to view the presentation on what is happening at Lawai: <http://www.hear.org/kisc/presentations/20071018coquiupdate/>. Progress has been outstanding. As of last night, the crew heard only two calling frogs when they left. The temporary crew has started their day early today to be at this meeting and be introduced to the committee: Duane Patricio, Cherylann Lemalu, and Kevin Sasaki (Robert Diaz couldn't be here). Kudos go out to all of them as well as their fearless leader, Joseph Aguon-Kona. Great job!

◆ **HISC Outreach activities – Jackie Kozak**

Thank you to everyone who worked at the **County Fair**. We had over 800 people visit the booth and everyone had fun with the inter-active components of the display. **NTBG has just signed the Codes of Conduct**; being only the 2nd Botanical Garden in the state to do so (Lyon Arboretum was the 1st). They have also signed on as a member of the Green Industry. The HISC Outreach Working group has been working with the **SuperFerry** on signage at the harbors regarding preventing movement of invasive species. Other educational topics they have been emphasizing are: wash your car, scrub your boots and gear (including dive gear and fishing nets), having all plants certified by HDOA prior to movement. They are also providing internet links for more information about neighbor islands and what to expect. Jackie has just finished up a **cooperative project with DOFAW** to keep pets contained. She designed a flyer with Thomas Kaiakapu and distributed it door-to-door in neighborhoods in Poipu and Moloaa. This was to follow up on recent

incidents where shearwaters were attacked by loose pets. This project was so well received that it is going to be used across the state. Jackie has been working with Carol Yotsuda on an **airport display** that is currently being installed. It focuses on stewardship projects across the island. At an **upcoming school event**, Jackie will be telling kids about conservation opportunities as careers. A **Garden Ghoulish Bash at NTBG** for Halloween will be an educational opportunity to teach about invasive species and endangered plants. **Arbor Day**: this year, they are promoting “plant native” and will be giving away 2,600 native plants! She is doing press releases and will be on KKCR’s Garden Show to promote the event. It will be a “Learn to Earn” event and patrons will earn an additional plant by listening to presenters at various booths. DOFAW’s plant sale will take place on Friday, November 2, the Arbor Day plant give-away will be on Saturday, November 3, and then there will be a workday event with NTBG at Limahuli on Sunday, November 4.

◆ **Early Detection – Kristin Hall**

What started out as a volunteer effort, has culminated in contracting NTBG to conduct an island-wide roadside survey. They are working off of a plant target list of likely invaders. This list may change as they spot new introductions or if anyone knows of incipient concerns they can be added (contact Kristin at kristinhall@hawaiiantel.net). The Garden has three people working on this survey (they are in Koke’e today and cannot be here). Originally, they had six months to complete the survey, but because of delays getting the contract finalized, they are trying to complete it by the end of November. There are approximately 265 miles of road on Kauai (this figure was gotten from Kauai’s office of public works) and we have prioritized highways, primary and secondary roads. This survey will provide both distribution and presence of species. The first survey the crew undertook was of Nawiliwili and surrounding area to detect harbor influence (i.e. the SuperFerry). They will also survey 15 nurseries taking note of any invasive plants used in the horticultural trade. [WS: I have been noticing that Kahili Ginger is not really selling at Wal-Mart. Maybe people are beginning to understand about how this plant spreads.] [TK: Is the survey just on the roadside?] [KH: Yes, the focus is on the roadside because it is easiest to see. We had thought about surveying natural areas, parks, etc., but it is such a huge task.] [TK: If we know if some of these target plants are outside of the roadside should we let you know?] [KH: Yes! This survey will be followed up with expert interviews for input to estimate spread. The results of this survey will influence the direction of KISC and what targets we take on.]

VI. New Items:

◆ ***Salvinia molesta* discovery**

While crabbing on Kapaa Stream, members of the KISC crew discovered an infestation of *Salvinia molesta*. It seems to be a small population, and we have scheduled a return trip to collect it and survey further up the stream (sample passed around).

◆ **KISC Staffing Update**

We will be posting a field crew position to replace Ronson Arakaki who left in July, as well as another position funded by the county for coqui control. This latter position will be for 12 months, depending on whether we get further funding at that point.

◆ **Training**

The KISC crew received **Nettle Caterpillar** detection training from Craig Kaneshige and Eric Garcia of HDOA. They will incorporate a survey for this pest while re-surveying for Little Fire Ant (LFA) at island nurseries. Adam Radford, from MISC, came to Kauai and provided **Rappelling Training** to the KISC crew and also to Nick Holmes and one of his crew with the Seabird project. Click on this link to view photos: <http://www.hear.org/kisc/presentations/20071018crewtrain/>.

- ◆ Miconia surveys
We are in the process of re-surveying for Miconia in Wailua Homesteads. This area was originally surveyed in 2004 due to its proximity to the original introduction and historic findings of plants. We have divided the area into priority and secondary mailings. For the priority mailings (106 properties) we are asking for permission to search their lots. For the secondary mailing (386 properties) we are asking them to be aware and look at their own lots or call us if they need help.
- ◆ KISC Meeting Schedule
 - ☞ February 21 – *KISC Strategic Planning Meeting*
This is an important meeting and will be facilitated by input from our partners. We encourage everyone to attend. We will be evaluating the road-side survey and its direction on our management strategies. The meeting will be from 9:00 am to pau. Venue to be announced.
 - ☞ April 17 - *KISC Quarterly Meeting*

VII. Announcements:

- ◆ DOFAW plant sale – November 2
- ◆ Arbor Day plant give-away – November 3 (10:00 am to 1:00 pm)
- ◆ Limahuli work day – November 4
- ◆ Pau Hana Party for Coqui Crew – November 9
4:30 to pau, KISC Base-yard
Come say good-bye to our coqui heroes!

**VIII. Next Meeting – Strategic Planning Meeting
Thursday, February 21, 2008**

Pau

Kauai Division of Forestry and Wildlife
KISC Quarterly Meeting – October 18, 2007
Project Updates

Mana Plains Wetland Sanctuary Development: A second grant from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) for \$250,000 was approved in May, 2007. The grant will be used to complete the habitat restoration of the Kawaele section of Mana Plains Wetland Sanctuary.

Lehua Island Restoration Project: This is long-term habitat restoration project is in its fourth year will be DOFAW's first offshore sanctuary to undergo a full-scale restoration. Our next project in 2008 will be to eradicate rodents using a proven aerial dispersal technique. The aerial dispersal method has been successfully done on offshore islands in the south Pacific and off the coast of California. Partners in this project are the USFWS and USDA-WS.

Kauai Seabird Projects:

1. Andrea Erichsen, DOFAW's Kauai Seabird HCP Coordinator continues her work with government agencies and local businesses to address the seabird light attraction problem on Kauai.
2. Nick Holmes, DOFAW's Kauai Seabird Recovery Project Coordinator continues to conduct surveys to assess the population status and trends of Newell's shearwater, Hawaiian petrel and Band-rumped storm petrels.
3. SOS Program – Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) partners with DOFAW to continue operating the program as part of their ongoing mitigation and Habitat Conservation Plan with USFWS. A makeshift seabird rehabilitation facility was established to care for injured seabirds picked up during the fledging season (September to December).

Puaiohi Recovery Project:

Pauline Roberts, DOFAW's Kauai Forest Bird Recovery Project continues her work on the Puaiohi (Kauai Small Thrush) recovery in the Alakai Wilderness Preserve. The recovery project is in its 7th season in partnership with the Zoological Society of San Diego (ZSSD) to raise and release captive/propagated Puaiohi into the wild. A fall release project is currently in progress.

Nene Program:

We conduct year round population monitoring of Nene on Kauai. The Kauai population is well over 700 birds.

We are currently focusing our attention on the Kauai Lagoons population where birds are flying over the Lihue Airport. The issue has raised concerns for public safety with the Department of Transportation, Airport Division and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

We plan to continue our translocation project to north Kauai and possibly to the neighbor islands if they pass malaria quarantine procedures.

Hunting Program:

1. Deer hunting season is in progress to the end of the year.
2. Game bird hunting season commences in November 2007 and ends in January 2008.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program 2008

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Contacts:

Aiea Field Office

99-193 Aiea Heights Drive,
Suite 109
Aiea, Hawaii 96701
Phone: (808) 483-8600

Hilo Field Office

154 Waianuenue Avenue,
Room 322
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Phone: (808) 933-8381

Hoolehua Field Office

4101 Maunaloa Highway
P.O. Box 396
Hoolehua, Hawaii 96729
Phone: (808) 567-6868

Kealahou Field Office

81-948 Waena Oihana Loop,
Suite #101
P.O. Box 636
Kealahou, Hawaii 96750
Phone: (808) 322-2484

Lihue Field Office

4334 Rice Street, Room 104
Lihue, Hawaii 96766
Phone: (808) 245-9014

Wailuku Field Office

210 Imi Kala Street, Suite 209
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
Phone: (808) 244-3100

Waimea Field Office

Kamuela Business Center Bldg.
P.O. Box 1089
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743
Phone: (808) 885-6602

Am. Samoa Field Office

Pago Plaza, Suite 211
P.O. Box 4078
Pago Pago, AS 96799
Phone: (684) 633-1031

Guam Field Office

Barrigada Plaza, Suite 101
494 West Route 8
Barrigada, Guam 96913-2011
Phone: (671) 735-2111

Saipan Service Center

DY Bldg, Beach Road
South Garapan Saipan, MP
P.O. Box 5082-CHRB
Saipan, MP 96950-5082
Phone: (670) 236-0888

www.hi.nrcs.usda.gov



Technical and financial assistance is provided through EQIP to install conservation practices that address identified natural resource concerns.

Purpose

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) conservation program that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals.

Farmers and ranchers may receive financial and technical assistance to install or implement structural and conservation management practices on eligible agricultural land.

Person and Land Eligibility

Eligibility is limited to persons who are engaged in livestock or agricultural production. Eligible land includes land that is used to produce agricultural commodities or livestock for food or fiber such as cropland; rangeland; pastureland; private, non-industrial forestland; and other farm or ranch lands. Applicants must have uninterrupted control of the land for the contract period.

Selection Process and Contract Requirements

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will evaluate and rank applications based upon the environmental benefits to be achieved and the cost-effectiveness of the planned conservation practices.

If selected to receive funding, the length of a contract is from two to ten years. The contract will list and schedule all practices to be installed and cost-shared on an EQIP Plan of Operations.

All conservation practices must meet NRCS technical standards and be maintained for the lifespan of the practice. A comprehensive nutrient management plan must be developed for all contracts that will contain structural livestock waste management system practices.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program 2008

Farm Service Agency Contacts:

Hawaii County Office
Phone: (808) 933-8381

Honolulu County Office
Phone: (808) 483-8600

Kauai County Office
Phone: (808) 245-9014

Maui County Office
Phone: (808) 244-3100

American Samoa Office
Phone: (684) 633-1031 ext 21 or 26

Guam and Saipan
Phone: (671) 472-7359

In Partnership with Soil and Water Conservation Districts:

Big Island

Hamakua
Ka'u
Kona
Mauna Kea
Puna
Waiakea

Kauai

East Kauai
West Kauai

Maui

Central Maui
Hana
Olinda-Kula
West Maui

Molokai

Molokai-Lanai

Oahu

South Oahu
West Oahu
Windward Oahu

American Samoa

American Samoa

Guam

Northern and Southern Guam

Saipan

Saipan

Identified Natural Resource Concerns

- ◆ Animal Waste from Confined Livestock Operations
- ◆ Sedimentation from Accelerated Erosion
- ◆ Noxious Weeds
- ◆ Insufficient Water Supply for Livestock or Irrigation
- ◆ Pesticide or Nutrient Contamination of Ground or Surface Waters
- ◆ At-Risk Species Habitat
- ◆ Invasive Species (Coqui Frog, Little Fire Ant, Nettle Caterpillar)
- ◆ Ground and Surface Water Conservation

Eligible Practices

Structural and Incentive Practices include:

- ◆ Manure Transfer, Waste Storage Facility, Waste Utilization
- ◆ Cover Crop, Critical Area Planting, Range Planting
- ◆ Diversion, Grassed Waterway, and Terrace
- ◆ Fence, Pipeline, Watering Facility – Tank or Trough
- ◆ Pond, Water Harvesting Catchment
- ◆ Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment
- ◆ Brush Management
- ◆ Nutrient Management, Pest Management
- ◆ Prescribed Grazing (Grazing Management)
- ◆ Wildlife Habitat Management

Program Payments

Cost-share reimbursement payments will be made to the program participant upon: 1) successful completion of the practice; and 2) submission of documentation of expenses. Limited resource producers and beginning farmers or ranchers may be eligible to receive higher cost-share assistance.

Incentive payments may be made for up to three years to encourage producers to adopt land management practices that they may not otherwise implement.

An eligible producer may receive up to \$450,000 per individual or entity from 2002 through 2007. An individual or entity with an average adjusted gross income of over \$2.5 million for the preceding three years may not receive EQIP payments unless 75% of that income is from farming, ranching, or forestry interests.

Application Process

Interested agricultural producers may obtain applications at any USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office, USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office, or Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) office.

Application Deadline for 2008 1st Signup EQIP Ranking Period

The deadline to submit application forms for the 2008 1st Signup EQIP ranking period for Pacific Islands Area Service Centers and Field Offices is **October 26, 2007**.

EQIP 1st Signup Information for Fiscal Year 2008

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS FOR THE 1st FY-2008 EQIP SIGNUP
October 26, 2007**

Are You Eligible?

To determine if you may be eligible for financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), please review the Pacific Islands Area EQIP Fact Sheet and answer the questions below. You may contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office for assistance in determining program eligibility.

1. Are you an agricultural producer engaged in livestock or agricultural production? If yes, you will be required to:
- ◆ Show documentation of a minimum of \$1000 or more of agricultural products produced and sold for the past year – if not, then records from 2 of the past 5 years may be used; or
 - ◆ Show an IRS Schedule F form showing profit or loss from farm operations; or
2. Do you have an interest (i.e., share in the profits and losses) in the farming operation associated with the land being offered for enrollment in EQIP?
3. Are you in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance provisions?
4. Are you within appropriate payment limitation requirements?
- Note: Participant cannot receive EQIP payments from 2002 or newer contracts exceeding \$450,000.
5. Are you in compliance with the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements?
- Note: No individual or entity with an average adjusted gross income of over \$2.5 million for the preceding 3 years may receive EQIP payments, unless 75% of that income is from farming, ranching, or forestry interests.
6. Is your land currently being used to produce an agricultural commodity or livestock for food or fiber? This includes:
- ◆ Cropland
 - ◆ Rangeland, Grassland, Pastureland
 - ◆ Private, non-industrial forestland
 - ◆ Other land where livestock or crops are produced and poses a serious threat to soil, air, water, or related resources
7. Do you have control of the land for the contract period (between 2 to 10 years)? Evidence may include, but is not limited to:
- ◆ Deed or other evidence of land ownership
 - ◆ Lease
 - ◆ Historical use of the land
8. If you do not own the land, do you have permission from the landowner to implement practices on the land?
- Note: Concurrence letter from the landowner must be received by the last day of the sign-up period stating that you have permission to install practices on the land.

9. If the land being offered is currently enrolled in other conservation programs, does it meet the following requirements?

- ◆ EQIP does not pay for the same practice on the same land;
- ◆ Land enrolled in CRP may only be offered for enrollment during the last year of the contract and no EQIP practices shall be applied on that land until after the CRP contract has expired or has been terminated; and
- ◆ EQIP practices do not defeat the purpose of either EQIP or the other conservation program.

10. If you are requesting cost-share assistance for irrigation related practices, has the land been irrigated for two of the last five years prior to application for assistance? If yes, you will be required to complete a self-certification form and provide evidence.

Note: Land must have been irrigated by one of the following methods: furrow, sprinkler, drip, or trickle.

11. **Do you have any of the following identified resource concerns?**

- ◆ Animal waste from confined livestock operations
- ◆ Sedimentation from accelerated erosion
- ◆ Noxious weeds
- ◆ Insufficient water supply for irrigation or livestock
- ◆ Pesticide or nutrient contamination of ground or surface waters
- ◆ At-risk species habitat
- ◆ Invasive species (Coqui Frog, Little Fire Ant, Nettle Caterpillar)
- ◆ Ground and surface water conservation

12. Are you willing to complete or start at least one financially assisted practice within the first 12 months following contract approval?

13. Are you willing to install or implement conservation practices to NRCS standards and specifications in order to address your resource concerns?

14. Are you able to finance the cost of the practice(s) until the EQIP cost-share reimbursement payment is authorized?

Note: Payments are authorized when: (a) the practice is completed and meets NRCS standards & specifications; and (b) documentation of expenses has been submitted.

15. If your project is funded, will you allow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to be informed about the location of the project and the practices to be installed to determine their possible effects on threatened or endangered plant or animal species?

Note: Consultation requirements are conducted in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

16. If you are planning to install an animal waste storage or treatment facility, are you willing to develop and implement a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) and have it reviewed by the appropriate local government agency?

Note: A CNMP identifies practices to address natural resource concerns dealing with soil erosion, manure, and organic by-products and their potential impacts on water quality.

17. Are you aware that all payments received as part of an EQIP contract are reported to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service on form 1099-G?

Note: For information related to tax liabilities, consult with a tax accountant or refer to IRS publication 225, Farmers Tax Guide.

18. Are you aware that if you violate the terms of an EQIP contract or if the contract is terminated with just cause, you may be required to refund payments and/or cost recovery payments?

If the answers are all "yes", you may be eligible for EQIP financial assistance. Please continue on to the next section on the following page.

What Forms Do I Need To Submit To Apply For EQIP?

The following documents listed below must be submitted to your local NRCS field office, FSA county office, or SWCD office by the close of business on the dates listed below. If appropriate forms are not received by the deadline, the application will not be processed until the next sign-up period.

Form	Instructions	Deadline for Submission
NRCS-CPA-1200 Conservation Program Application & NRCS-CPA-1202 Appendix	<p>Submit the original signed and completed NRCS-CPA-1200 & NRCS-CPA-1202 Appendix in hard copy no later than the close of business of the last day of the signup period.</p> <p>NRCS-CPA-1200 Conservation Program Application</p> <p>a. Sign and date block 7. Check the box next to "Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)."</p> <p>b. Sign and date block 7a if you qualify and wish to be considered a "Limited Resource Producer" and/or "Beginning Farmer/Rancher". If certifying as a "Limited Resource Producer", for more information, refer to the web-based tool at: http://www.lrfatool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tool.asp</p> <p>Appendix to Form NRCS-CPA-1202</p> <p>a. Read Appendix to NRCS-CPA-1202.</p> <p>b. All Applicants must read and initial Cost Recovery Section in the NRCS-CPA-1202-Appendix.</p> <p>c. After reading the Appendix, the applicant(s) must sign & date the last page of the Appendix.</p>	10/26/2007
Agricultural Producer Eligibility Self-Certification	Complete, sign and date form.	
Irrigation History Self-Certification	Complete, sign and date form.	
Limited Resource Farmer, Rancher, or Forest Owner Self-Certification	Complete, sign and date form (if applicable).	
Beginning Farmer or Rancher Self-Certification	Complete, sign and date form (if applicable).	
PI-SCIMS Applicant Information for USDA Programs	Fill in information on the sheet titled "Applicant Information for USDA Programs." Applicants should be aware that payments received under an EQIP contract are reported to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service on form 1099-G.	
Concurrence Letter	If the applicant is a lessee, the landowner (and fellow lessees as applicable) must provide written permission to allow the installation of conservation practices funded by EQIP. Sample concurrence letters will be posted at: www.hi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs .	
Proof of Control of Land for Length of Proposed Contract	<p>Submit one of the following documents as proof of control of land:</p> <p>a. Copy of deed or lease</p> <p>b. Real estate tax statement</p> <p>c. Statement from the lessor showing acres, term of lease (years), and identification of acres (i.e., tax map key number)</p>	

Form	Instructions	Deadline for Submission
CCC-501A Member's Information	If you are applying as a joint operation or entity (e.g., business, trust, corporation), you must complete and submit form CCC-501A. For assistance in completing form CCC-501A, please contact your local FSA county office.	10/26/2007
AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land & Wetland Conservation Cert.	For assistance in completing form AD-1026, please contact your local FSA county office. If you do not own the land, you may be required to obtain the landowner's permission to conduct a wetland determination via submission of form NRCS-CPA-38.	
CCC-526 Payment Eligibility Average Adj. Gross Income	For assistance in completing form CCC-526, please contact your local FSA county office.	
Signature Authority	<p>Each joint operation or entity (e.g., business, corporation, trust) must submit the following as verification of individuals authorized to act on its behalf:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. FSA-211 Power of Attorney (This form must be used for all FSA forms. FSA cannot use the NRCS-CPA-09.) b. NRCS-CPA-09 Power of Attorney (notarized) c. Entity Paperwork (i.e. Copy of corporate charter, by-laws, trust agreement, articles of incorporation or partnership agreement, which clearly designate who has signature authority for the entity or joint operation). At sign-up, check to see if producer's land is on the Common Land Unit (CLU) GIS layer. If not, they must go to FSA to get this done (unless the CLU layer is incomplete). 	
Direct Deposit form SF-1199A	Complete, sign and date form SF-1199A. If requesting a waiver to the electronic funds transfer you must file FFAS-12 - Hardship Waiver Request form.	
Facsimile Signature	NRCS will accept participant's signature sent by facsimile (fax) for processing forms AD-1155, AD-1156, NRCS-CPA-1200, NRCS-CPA-1202 Appendix, CCC-36, CCC-1245, and SF-1199A. For application deadline purposes, faxed signatures on the NRCS-CPA-1200 and NRCS-CPA-1202 Appendix will be accepted; however, the original signed application and appendix must be provided to the NRCS and postmarked no later than 7 calendar days after the application deadline. Applicants that fail to meet this deadline will not be considered for the 1st Signup for FY-2008 EQIP.	