



KISC

KAUA'I INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

QUARTERLY REPORT

The reason a lot of people do not recognize opportunity is because it usually goes around wearing overalls looking like hard work.

-Thomas A. Edison

KISC working hard for the money

Jan 2014 - Mar 2014

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3rd Qtr FY2014



Photo: KISC

With the 3rd Fiscal Quarter under our proverbial belt, it is time to start polishing off our draft budgets and renew friendships with funders to remind them of how valuable KISC's work is.

We try to emphasize throughout the year how hard the staff and crew work; often enduring inclement weather, battling swarms of ground-nesting wasps, and navigating rugged terrain.

Weeds are resilient, animals are cryptic, and insects are, well, insects. Day and night (literally), the crew battles onward; measuring success in numbers of species treated and numbers of acres surveyed.

The crew adapts strategies and use their ingenuity to get the job done. They are alert and vigilant; always on the lookout for new infestations (like the ivy gourd on the left).

The work is hard, the rewards are priceless.

KISC crew member assesses a new ivy gourd infestation discovered in Hanapepe

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Gini Kapali, Rep. Derek Kawakami's chief of staff, is amazed when the rain begins to fall during the presentation of certificates of appreciation for Gundersen

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Photo: Dennis Fujimoto

Quarter Highlights

- **Jan 8** - Keren attends Legislative Briefing on Invasive Species - Honolulu
- **Jan 9, 10** - Keren attends CGAPS/HISC Strategic Planning meeting - Honolulu
- **Jan 16** - Meeting with SWCA re: DOT grant
- **Jan 18** - LFA Movie Premier at Kaua'i Community College
- **Jan 23** - Mongoose Strategic Planning Meeting for Kaua'i Partners
- **Jan 24** - David Duffy and PCSU staff visit KISC project
- **Jan 27** - Ray Kahaunaele starts at KISC's Field Operations Supervisor
- **Jan 28** - RCUH Family Leave Policy Training
- **Feb 10** - Keren attends Feral Cat Task Force Meeting
- **Feb 11** - James Leary joins KISC for HBT aerial operations
- **Feb 11** - Keren meets with Council Chair Furfaro re: LFA resolution
- **Feb 12** - KISC staff meets with Laura Arnold, SWCA, re DOT grant
- **Feb 13** - Keren, Tiffani, and Joe attend KCA meeting
- **Feb 19** - Keren and Cali Crampton meet with Mayor Carvalho and Nadine Nakamura re: Conservation activities on Kaua'i
- **Feb 19** - Keren and Tiffani attend KLIC meeting
- **Feb 21** - Bon Voyage party for Keren
- **Mar 3** - Keren attends HISC Awards Ceremony - receives commendation from the Senate
- **Mar 5** - KISC crew participates in volunteer field day in Kōke'e for Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Week
- **Mar 6** - Mayor's Proclamation, Kaua'i Legislator recognition, and Council recognition ceremony for Keren
- **Mar 18, 19** - Kamehameha School project with Field Crew on Kulau Trail
- **Mar 27** - Ray testifies at County Council meeting regarding LFA

Outreach & Education

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The premier of the Little Fire Ant movie hit the stage of the Performing Arts Center at Kaua'i Community College in mid January. The movie followed opening remarks by Mayor Carvalho. Representative Morikawa remarked how important it is to get these messages out to the public. MISC staff coordinated the event and Cas Vanderwoude (HAL) joined on-island experts for a Q&A afterward.

In February, Tiffani lead an Early Detection Workshop for new seasonal hires with the Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Program. KFBRP Coordinator, Cali Crampton, schedules this annual workshop to ensure that everyone knows the importance of invasive species detection, reporting, and identification.

In March, Tiffani and the KISC crew helped with a Kamehameha Ipukukui Spring field trip. Over two days they worked with 55 students on the Kuilau Trail teaching weed identification, specimen-collecting, and giving a general introduction to invasive species detection.

OUTREACH DISPLAYS

The new mongoose "traveling" display was installed at the Kaua'i Community College library, followed by placement at the Lihue Public Library. Check out [KISC's calendar](#) to find out where it will be next!

The informational kiosks that KISC installed at

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the Lihue Airport and Nawiliwili Harbor are still in place and reaching thousands of visitors a week.

February marked the beginning of a new partnership between KISC and the Kaua'i Fire Department. "Environmental Safety" is the new theme that KFD is promoting to grade-schoolers across the island for KISC with their Sparky Truck. New banners were displayed starting with the Waimea Town Celebration. KISC interactive hand-outs will be launched in May as part of this program. Look for them soon!

PRESS AND PUBLICITY

KISC was in the news this quarter with articles about [Keren](#), [little fire ants](#), and ['front line' defenders](#) recognized during Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Week.

Students at Kekaha School line up outside of the Sparky Truck (KISC poster on left)



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Photo: KFD



Employee of the Quarter: **Eric John Garcia**

Although Eric joined the KISC crew in 2013, KISC has had the privilege of working with him for many years. Eric spent 7 years working at HDOA with Craig Kaneshige and working on countless partnership projects including long thorn kiawe, miconia, fireweed, and little fire ants.

Eric always goes the extra mile; making sure all equipment is in working order and the crew is prepared for the day. Congratulations, Eric!



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Target Updates

- **Miconia** - Ground and aerial surveys (utilizing HBT) were conducted during this quarter covering over 280 acres. 65 immature plants were found (9 with HBT and 42 seedlings in the GMA, and 1 in Wailua Homesteads) and 81 person-hours were expended.
- **Coqui Frogs** - Night patrols in high risk areas, such as nurseries, continue on a monthly basis. No new coqui were detected. 64 person-hours were expended covering over 54 acres.
- **Little Fire Ant** - KISC crew members continued to assist the Hawai'i Ant Lab and HDOA with treatment efforts in Kalihiwai, with surveys and treatments in "hot spots" where LFA were detected in treated areas. KISC also continues to survey for LFA island wide. 37 acres were surveyed and 289 person-hours were expended. No new LFA were detected.
- **Long Thorn Kiawe** - Work continues at PMRF and at the neighboring Kekaha Rifle Range. The crew was able to treat over 1,600 immature plants this quarter, covering 22 acres and expending 101 person-hours.
- **Mongoose** - Trapping efforts continue in areas where mongooses have been reported around the Lihue area. No new captures have been made. 125 person-hours were expended. During this quarter, KISC received 6 mongoose reports, 5 of them deemed credible. KISC posts a newsletter regarding mongoose work, sightings, and other items relevant to mongoose work on Kaua'i and it can be found on the [KISC website](#).

- **Arundo, False Kava & Ivy Gourd** - Treatments continue for these species with over 846 plants treated this quarter and 135 person-hours expended. New ivy gourd infestations discovered in Hanapepe and near Shipwrecks accounted for over 500 of these plants.
- **Myoporum spp** - Roadside surveys continue on secondary and tertiary roads for Myoporum species mapping. This mapping is part of a plan being developed for Myoporum thrips response in the event that the thrips is detected on Kaua'i. Over 1,960 acres have been surveyed during this quarter utilizing 214 person hours.
- **Early Detection Species** - This quarter, KISC assisted HDOA in surveying areas for Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) after its detection on O'ahu. Over 55 acres have been surveyed utilizing 68 person hours (combined with HDOA) with no CRB detected.

Photo: KISC



Be sure to check out KISC's new website!
www.kauaiisc.org

*Kamehameha students hike the
Kuila Trail during their Spring term*