



# KISC

KAUA'I INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

## QUARTERLY REPORT

### Greetings from the new manager:



Bill removing KISC Early Detection Target, *Calliandra calothyrsus*, at Half-way Bridge

I'd like to take this opportunity to say I am very excited to embark on a new adventure in Kauai. Over the past two decades I have explored the lands and sea of Alaska, dodging brown bears, putting up moose, deer, halibut and salmon for the winter and working to protect those resources. Kauai has its own unique set of resource challenges to face; high cost of living, food security, endangered species as well as changes being wrought by shifting climate regimes. The KISC, of course, deals with the constant pressure of non-native species trying to cross our borders. Hundreds of new introductions of plant, insect and animal species have occurred in Hawaii over just the past three decades alone. Many of these species are not problematic or don't become naturalized. Several others can take years to reach critical mass where they begin to alter existing systems. Other introduced species are quick to spread and are obviously a detriment to human society and the biodiversity of the island.

The State of Hawaii is taking these risks seriously as evidenced by the substantial dedicated funding for FY2015 Invasive

Species Research, Response and Control. The increasing vigilance by the state agencies and their partners is welcome support for the islands ecosystems increasingly pressured by the globalization of travel and trade. Fortunately, some battles are being won. Kauai is in a strong position to eradicate several invasive species over the coming years. One example is the Long Thorn Kiawe (*Prosopis juliflorae*) that will soon see a concerted effort to remove it completely from the island's ecosystem. Another species with limited tenure is the Little Fire Ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) which is currently contained on two Eastside properties and is entering the final stages of removal in partnership with DOA and the Hawaii Ant Lab. The job is unrelenting but I believe the successes of the past and the dedication of the KISC crew and its partners, in conjunction with the steady increase in public support, paint a bright picture for the future.

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KISC crew on the hunt for miconia joined by  
Chris D'Angelo (The Garden Island) and  
Amanda Skelton (Plant Pono)

April 2014 - June 2014

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4<sup>th</sup> Qtr FY2014



*Photo: KISC*

## Quarter Highlights

- **April 5-** KISC participates in NTBG's Musical Legends in the Garden Concert
- **April 10-** Tiffani attends KCA meeting
- **April 19** - KISC participates in 19th Annual Garden Fair
- **April 11-** KISC participates in KCC Earth Day
- **April 23** - Tiffani and Craig (HDOA) give Bug Presentation
- **April 24** - Chris D'Angelo with TGI volunteers for miconia field day
- **May 1-** Tiffani presents KESRP Early Detection Workshop
- **May 8** - KISC participates in Agriculture Awareness Day at CTAHR
- **May 9** - Tiffani attends KCA meeting
- **May 14** - Ray met with LFA detection dog trainers from Australia (Craig and Tracy Murray) and MISC (Teya, Adam, and Elizabeth) for a walking tour of various Kauai locations
- **May 20-** Tiffani attends KLIC meeting
- **May 25** - KISC participates in the annual Banana Poka Round-up
- **June** - Mongoose Exhibit at Kapaa Public Library
- **June 13** - Keren returns to Kauai
- **June 16** - Bill Lucey starts as new KISC Manager
- **June 16 & 23-** Tiffani presents KRCP/ HYCC Early Detection Workshop
- **June 17** - Bill and Keren attend the HISC Proposal Workshop and meet with KISC Principal Investigator David Duffy and other RCUH and PCSU staff
- **June 17** - Ray and Tiffani attend Offshore/ Incipient meeting
- **June 25** - Bill and Keren attend the HISC Resource Working Group Meeting to balance project budgets
- **June 25** - Ray, Tiffani, and Craig (HDOA) present at HDOT Kauai training for SNIPP project
- **June 26** - Bill and Keren attend HISC Council meeting for final budget allocations
- **June 30** - After two weeks on excellent training by former manager, Keren Gundersen, Bill is on his own

## Outreach & Education

### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

This quarter, KISC focused on Early Detection workshops. Workshops were held for spring interns and seasonal hires from Kauai Endangered Seabird Recovery Project, Kokee Resource Conservation Program, and Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps.

Ray, Tiffani, and Craig Kaneshige (HDOA) presented at the Hawaii Department of Transportation Kauai training for the SNIPP Project. County workers, State workers, and contractors participating in the training recognized the importance of Best Management Practices and pest identification as tools to help mitigate the spread of invasive pests along a popular vector: public roadways.

### EDUCATIONAL EVENT

Spring is in the air on Kauai. This quarter, KISC had booths at the Garden Fair, KCC Earthday, NTBG's Musical Legends in the Garden, Agriculture Awareness Day, as well as Banana Poka Round-up. Information was provided about mongoose, little fire ants, miconia, early detection species as well as KISC's top plant targets.

Over 500 Kauai elementary school students fled into the educational booths and lecture tents at CTAHR to learn about agriculture and conservation at the annual Agriculture Awareness Day. The Wheel of Invasive Misfortune was a

## QUARTERLY REPORT



*Pat and a 5th grader playing the The Wheel of Invasive Misfortune at Agriculture Awareness Day.*

popular activity, as students eagerly waited to spin the wheel to prove their knowledge of agricultural pests and ultimately beat their opponent.

### PUBLICITY AND PRESS COVERAGE

Chris D'Angelo, a reporter for The Garden Island, gained inspiration for an article by joining the KISC crew on a miconia field day. As a direct result from the article, a mature miconia plant was reported by one of The Garden Island subscribers. This was the first mature miconia found on Kauai since 2012. This report highlights the importance of community collaboration, without the media coverage, miconia as well as other pests would be spreading beyond KISC's control.

Education and reporting at its best!

## Employee of the Quarter: Ray Kahaunaele



Mahalo Ray!

Ray rose to the challenge of running KISC operations during the transition time between the outgoing and incoming manager. Everything ran smoothly, targets were being met and the public inquiries were well served. This is proof of Ray's professionalism and his natural abilities as a leader. KISC is lucky to have such a steady, dedicated Field Operations Supervisor.



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April 2014 - June 2014

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4<sup>th</sup> Qtr FY2014

## Target Updates

- **Miconia** - Ground and aerial surveys (utilizing HBT) were conducted during this quarter covering over 401 acres. 27 immature plants were found in known areas and 120 person-hours were expended. 1 mature miconia was found in the Wailua Homesteads area, the last mature miconia plant found on Kauai was in 2012.
- **Coqui Frogs** - Night patrols in high risk areas, such as nurseries, continue on a monthly basis. 97 person-hours were expended covering over 20 acres. 3 coqui frogs were hand captured at a new location. Further night surveys have found no additional coqui in the area. KISC will continue to monitor.
- **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 spot" areas. 44 acres were surveyed and 370 person-hours were expended.
- **Long Thorn Kiawe** - Work continues at PMRF and Kekaha Rifle Range. The crew was able to treat over 1822 immature and 21 mature plants this quarter, covering 57 acres and expending 145 person-hours.
- **Mongoose** - Trapping efforts continue with assistance from DOFAW. Traps continue to be set in 4 high-priority areas around Kaua'i with no new captures. 234 person-hours were expended. During this quarter, KISC received 16 mongoose reports, 10 of them deemed credible.
- **Arundo, False Kava & Ivy Gourd** - Other priority species work included arundo, false kava and ivy gourd. Treatments continue for these species with over 161 plants treated this quarter and 243 person-hours expended.
- **Molucca Raspberry** - KISC and HDOA continue to partner with a landowner in Lāwa'i to control *Rubus sieboldii*. 12 acres were surveyed with 1700 plants treated. 42 person-hours were expended.
- **Early Detection Species** - This quarter, 112 acres were surveyed for E.D. targets. Treatment continued for *Angiopteris evecta*, *Cissus nodosa*, and *Cissus verticillata*, with 188 plants treated and 53 person-hours expended. Roadside surveys mapping *Myoporum* species continued this quarter with over 129 acres surveyed and mapped. Bingabing population delimiting surveys also continued this quarter. The Hanalei infestation stretches over 46 acres with 529 plants found. 120 person-hours were expended on bingabing delimiting surveys.

Photo: KISC



KISC crew assisting HDOA and HAL in LFA treatments