



KISC

KAUA'I INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

QUARTERLY REPORT

E ho`a`o no i pau kuhihewa

Try to end the panic

Prioritizing work

It is ever so easy to stress out just thinking about doing a difficult job. The tasks that KISC takes on, especially when deciding on eradicable targets, are all challenging ones. By definition, an invasive species is one that is difficult to control. KISC's target decisions are compounded by many other factors as well; work force strength, available funding, the extent of the incipient populations, how easily the species can spread, and on and on.

By following methodical and scientific protocols, stress and indecision can be minimized to help maximize eradication success.

This quarter KISC focused on Early Detection Priority Species. These are species discovered on the roadside survey (conducted in FY11) and considered to be top candidates for removal.

The first step in prioritizing whether a species becomes a target is to conduct delimiting surveys. Buffers are made around each known plant and surveys are conducted after obtaining permission from the surrounding property owners.

The example on the left is a plant that was spotted, from the roadside, only along the southern portion of the island; from `Ele`ele to Kōloa. Reports have also been made from the private estate-grown coffee plantation of Kaua`i Coffee in Kalāheo, where it is becoming a pest in the coffee fields.

At the time of this report, a final decision has not been determined on *Cissus verticillata* and surveys are ongoing, but KISC has had several other Early Detection species successes which will be mentioned later in the Target Update section of this report.



Seasonvine

Cissus verticillata is a large woody vine, frequently climbing over tall trees. The stems are thick, tough and very flexible. The leaves have large variation, they can be oblong or rounded, coarsely or finely serrated, smooth or with fine dense hairs and are 1 1/2" to 6" long. This plant will quickly blanket forest canopies and restrict plant growth. The plant has many long aerial roots that dangle loosely from the tree branches and will root in the ground.

On Kaua`i, seasonvine has been detected from `Ele`ele to Kōloa.

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Queen Victoria's Profile viewed from the flat pasture land of Kipu.

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Quarter Highlights

- **Jan 12** - Keren presents at a Legislative Invasive Species Update session in Honolulu
- **Jan 19** - Staff and crew attend Trimble and Toughbook training- Going Paperless!
- **Jan 20** - Staff and crew assist the KFBPR in building rat-proof bird nests
- **Jan 24** - Keren attends a Kaua'i Landscape Industry Council meeting and they sign a new Codes of Conduct
- **Jan 30** - Keren is interviewed by MISC personnel filming a video about LFA
- **Feb 4** - Tiffani conducts an Early Detection Workshop at Kaua'i Nursery & Landscaping
- **Feb 6 & 8** - Tiffani, Ray & Pat conduct Early Detection Workshops with Kaua'i County employees
- **Feb 8** - Keren meets with DLNR-DOFAW, Watershed Partnerships, and ISC Managers in Honolulu
- **Feb 10** - Crew helps KFBPR deploy bird boxes in the Alaka'i
- **Feb 21** - Keren attends CGAPS meeting in Honolulu
- **Feb 24** - Tiffani and Pat give presentations at Career Day at Kilauea Elementary School
- **Feb 27** - John and Joe fly HBT miconia reconnaissance with Dr. James Leary
- **Mar 2** - Staff and crew attend RCUH Sexual Harassment/EEO/and Workplace Violence Training
- **Mar 5-7** - John attends the GIS Conference in Honolulu to give a presentation
- **Mar 8** - Pat helps Craig Kaneshige (HDOA) with career day at Chiefess Kamakahele Middle School
- **Mar 13** - Keren gives a presentation to the County Council as part of a Conservation Workshop sponsored by the Kaua'i Conservation Alliance
- **Mar 15** - Keren, Joe, and Mugs attend a safety meeting with RCUH Workers Comp Insurers
- **Mar 15-23** - Crew assist USFWS in Hanalei searching for dead vertebrates to help curtail an Avian Botulism outbreak
- **Mar 16** - Tiffani conducts ED Workshop for KFBPR
- **Mar 28** - Crew installs new Little Fire Ant signage in Kalihiwai

Outreach & Education

EARLY DETECTION WORKSHOPS

This year started out with a Bang! as presentations and workshops were requested from various entities. First came an Early Detection Workshop that was presented as a part of Kaua'i Nursery and Landscaping's Classroom Series. This workshop was open to the public and topics included weed-management, identification of KISC targets, and ways to report new pests. The attendees asked great questions and each one received a KISC Early Detection Field Guide.

Next came workshops for the County of Kaua'i. Attendees included employees from Parks & Rec, Public Works, Department of Water, Building Division, Finance, Transportation, and Solid Waste. Coordination of these workshops was done in collaboration with the Mayor's Office and deemed a priority for those employees who work outdoors. Highlights included information about mongoose reporting, and little fire ant identification.

In March, Tiffani was able to conduct a workshop for the Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project seasonal crew. She reviewed the importance of pest identification, rapid response, and various methods of reporting.

UPDATED CODES OF CONDUCT

This quarter, Tiffani and Keren worked with

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the Kaua'i Landscape Industry Council (KLIC) to update their Codes of Conduct. KLIC originally adopted Codes in 2006 and were examples to the industry regarding Best Management Practices. The updated Codes include recognition and response to the threats that Little Fire Ants pose to Hawai'i as well as newly arrived plants that are deemed High Risk by the Hawai'i Pacific Weed Risk Assessment. The updated Codes of Conduct are a testament to the importance that KLIC places on the biodiversity of Kaua'i. KLIC is interested in making sure that the public is educated regarding invasive species threats and wants to provide them with informed and careful plant choices.

KISC IN THE CLASSROOM

Spring heralded Career Days at both Kilauea and Cheifess Kamakahele Middle Schools. The keiki received hands-on experience with insects, mongoose, snakes, and more. They were shown how exciting a career in conservation can be; working outdoors, flying in helicopters, hiking in areas of the island where few people get to go, looking for tiny insects and slithering snakes, and helping to preserve the parts of Kaua'i that make it special.

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Employee of the Quarter



We are pleased to recognize **Ray Kahaunaele** as our Employee of the Quarter. Ray works as a Project Lead on KISC's Early Detection Project and also helps with scheduling and access. What sets Ray apart is his "can do" attitude. Any task put before Ray gets accomplished. He has managed to get access permissions from some of our toughest landowners; forging relationships where there were none in the past.

Congratulations, Ray!



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Target Updates

- **Miconia** - Kaua'i experienced record-breaking rainfall during the third quarter of FY2012, making surveys dangerous, and thus infrequent. About 21 acres were ground surveyed and 20 plants were controlled. Herbicide Ballistic Technology (HBT) was employed in partnership with CTAHR and Dr. James Leary with 219 acres aerial surveyed and 9 plants treated.
- **Coqui Frogs** - Coqui surveys and rapid response continue to be a priority for KISC as funding from the County of Kaua'i has enabled this type of work to continue. Just over 293 acres have been surveyed with one coqui confirmed and dispatched. Monitoring at the Lāwa'i infestation site is nearing a one-year mark since the last calling frog. If it remains quite at this site, KISC will declare eradication successful and focus solely on new introductions to Kaua'i.
- **Little Fire Ant** - Although eradication efforts at the Kalihiwai infestation site have been postponed due to EPA restrictions, KISC continues to respond to new reports of biting/stinging ants. Crews surveyed one site in Po'ipū with no LFA detected. Outreach and education regarding LFA continue with workshops and signage at the Kalihiwai site.
- **Long Thorn Kiawe** - Access at PMRF and additional funding from NAVFAC enable KISC to continue eradication efforts at Barking Sands. Crews continue to monitor areas for re-sprouts and new plants that were previously cleared by machinery. Approximately 40 acres were surveyed with 595 plants treated.
- **Mongoose** - Response and detection are being implemented by Pat Gmelin, KISC Field Associate. Patha has had a busy time investigating and following up on recent credible sightings in Puhi and Wailua. So far, efforts to detect a mongoose with traps and tracking tunnels have not garnered confirmation of mongoose on Kaua'i, but new surveillance techniques are going to be employed using trail cameras and bait stations. Hopefully these methods will prove to be successful.
- **Arundo, False Kava & Ivy Gourd** - Other priority species work included arundo, false kava and ivy gourd. Remnant populations still exist and work is being done to eradicate these sites. 54 acres have been surveyed and a total of 2,214 plants have been treated.
- **Early Detection Species** - Delimiting surveys have been conducted for Grape Ivy, Season Vine, Rubber Vine, Bing-a-bing, and salt cedar. Surveys and treatments have been made on Glory Bower (pictured below) and Wax Myrtle and were successful in eliminating the only known populations. Treatment was also applied to a small population of Barbados gooseberry in collaboration with the National Tropical Botanical Garden.



KISC crewmembers using their E.D. tools