



KISC

KAUAI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

QUARTERLY REPORT

The motto of all the mongoose family is, 'Run and find out'.

Joseph Rudyard Kipling
'Rikki-Tikki-Tavi', The Jungle Book (1894)

No matter what our experience or training is, sometimes what we need to succeed is a bit of luck. KISC was a bit lucky this quarter in many ways: we are lucky we have such outstanding partners, we are lucky because we have employees with unique skills, and we feel lucky because all of our hard work pays off.

Our recent Kia'i moku newsletter focused on successes over the past year and, among those successes, two incredible ones happened this quarter: capture of two Kaua'i mongooses, and the successful completion of the coqui eradication project in Lāwa'i.

Over the last month, the story of Rikki-Tikki-Tavi has surfaced in conversation on more than one occasion. I am realizing that KISC has a similar trait as the mongoose in Kipling's story. We are tasked with being the "front line of defense" against invasive species to Kaua'i. Essentially, that means we are charged with "running and finding out". Whether this involves roadside surveys, aerial reconnaissance, or listening night after night for a calling frog, we are in the business of finding out what has arrived on this beautiful island.

Whether it be luck or dogged persistence, we are proud of what we do and want to share our good works with our collaborators.



ABOVE: Pat Gmelin, KISC Mongoose Response Technician, stands over his quarry, a mature male mongoose. Pat was able to trap the first live mongoose on Kaua'i on May 23, 2012 with assistance from Marriott/Kaua'i Lagoons staff, USDA-Wildlife Services, and Rana Biological Consulting.

RIGHT: KISC crew taking pictures of the captured mongoose. This was the first mongoose seen on Kaua'i by all of the partners involved in this project. Seeing is believing, but many of them could hardly believe their eyes. This capture continues to be big news and has been followed up with another capture of a juvenile mongoose on June 29, 2012 in the Nawiliwili Harbor area.

Something is afoot on Kaua'i,
and apparently it is a mongoose!



QUARTERLY REPORT

First-ever live-capture of a mongoose on Kaua'i
netted a mature male weighing in at 2 lbs 9 oz

Apr 2012 - Jun 2012

2

4th Qtr FY2012



Quarter Highlights

- **Apr 1** - Pat sets traps at Kaua'i Lagoons in response to a credible mongoose report
- **Apr 4** - KISC presented with a Senate Recognition for invasive species work
- **Apr 11** - Keren and Joe attend "Talk Story" with Kaua'i's legislators
- **Apr 14** - KISC participates in the annual Garden Fair at KCC
- **Apr 18** - KISC participates in Conservation Awareness Day at the L'hu'e Civic Center
- **Apr 19** - KISC participates in the KCC Earth Day event
- **May 2** - Tiffani attends POWG meeting
- **May 3** - KISC presents at KCA meeting about ongoing mongoose work
- **May 8** - Keren attends HISC meeting on Maui
- **May 15** - Keren presents at CGAPS meeting in Honolulu about mongoose work
- **May 17** - KISC staff and crew participate in Agriculture Awareness Day
- **May 23** - KISC traps first mongoose ever on Kaua'i with help from Kaua'i Lagoons.
- **May 24** - KISC celebrates successful completion of the Lāwa'i coqui eradication project
- **May 27** - KISC participates in Banana Poka Roundup in Koke'e
- **May 31** - KISC completes annual performance evaluations for all employees
- **Jun 1** - KISC hosts a mongoose strategy meeting with partner agencies
- **Jun 7** - Keren goes on air on KKCR
- **Jun 15** - Keren and Tiffani are guests on Mayor Carvalho's TV show "Together We Can"
- **Jun 26** - KISC hosts a mongoose update meeting with TNC and Island Conservation
- **June 27** - Base-yard and vehicle blessing and KISC team-building day
- **June 28** - KISC hosts a mongoose outreach and funding strategy meeting with conservation partners
- **June 29** - KISC captures 2nd mongoose with help from Young Brothers crew!

Outreach & Education

QUARTERLY REPORT

EVENTS

This spring was a busy one with various events and activities to attend. The 17th annual **Garden Fair**, sponsored by the Kaua'i Farm Bureau, was held at Kaua'i Community College (KCC) in April. This was quickly followed up with organizing and participating in the first-ever Kaua'i Conservation Alliance **Conservation Day** event at Lihu'e Civic Center. This 3-hour event was well attended by both county workers and the general public. The following day, Tiffani and Pat set up a KISC display at the KCC **Earth Day** event on campus and Pat was awarded a Second Place Ribbon at the Hyde Park Speakers Corner for quickly making up and singing a jingle about mongoose.

In May, the entire KISC crew participated in **Agriculture Awareness Day** at the CTAHR campus; spinning the Wheel of Invasive Misfortune for competing teams of 5th graders, and answering questions about mongoose habits. The **Banana Poka Roundup** finished out the month in beautiful Kōke'e.

PUBLICITY AND PRESS COVERAGE

June was busy with publicity surrounding the first live capture of a mongoose on Kaua'i. Keren went on the radio at KKCR, a local public radio station, Tiffani and Keren appeared on the Mayor's "**Together We Can**" television show, and Keren was interviewed by Public Radio

International's **Living on Earth** program which aired on June 26th. Several Hawai'i television news stations picked up the mongoose story as well.

There is nothing so powerful as the written word, and KISC was in full swing with **press releases** during the month of June. Articles were published in the Garden Island News, the Honolulu Star Advertiser, and on many different types of blogs including Hawai'i TV News channels, and **The New York Times**. On KISC's social media site, **FaceBook**, viewing increased by over 3,000 people in one day when news and photos of the mongoose capture was posted.

KISC also had a follow-up article appear in the Landscape Industry of Hawai'i's **Landscape Magazine** April/May issue about the Kaua'i Landscape Industry Council's adoption of a revised code of conduct.

OUTREACH PLANNING

Many hours have been spent editing KISC's newsletter and planning for KISC's upcoming outreach campaign to be revealed at the **County Fair** in August. Look for our new inter-active signature display and a project designed and implemented by the KISC crew!

Apr 2012 - Jun 2012

3

4th Qtr FY2012

Employee of the Quarter



John Chapman, KISC's Operations and Data/Analyst, has been transforming KISC's work. John has been instrumental in moving KISC's field work to a "paperless" system, upgraded and trained the crew on the use of Trimble GPS units, and has given professional presentations at various conventions and meetings.

John has also been able to prove that a GIS-driven work plan is most effective in both time-savings, as well as treatment scheduling. John has also been working closely with James Leary implementing KISC's HBT program and spear-heading miconia strategic planning.

Congratulations, John!



QUARTERLY REPORT

Apr 2012 - Jun 2012

4

4th Qtr FY2012

Target Updates

- **Miconia** - Aerial survey was conducted during this quarter which included utilizing HBT with Dr. Leary (CTAHR). 6 plants were treated during the flight, all of them immature. Following up on the aerial survey, another 12 immature plants, ranging from 1 inch to 2 1/2 feet, were treated during ground reconnaissance activities.
- **Coqui Frogs** - This quarter celebrated the successful eradication of coqui in Lāwa'i. In other places on Kaua'i the KISC crew captured one calling frog at Kukui'ula Golf Resort, surveyed island-wide at high-risk introduction sites, and conducted citric acid spraying at the golf resort as a preventative measure. In total, over 270 acres were surveyed.
- **Little Fire Ant** - Crews expended over 60 hours surveying high-risk sites for LFA including nursery's and greenwaste areas. Samples taken were shipped to HDOA and all results were negative for this stinging ant.
- **Long Thorn Kiawe** - With assistance from Craig Kaneshige, HDOA, crews were able to treat over 600 immature plants at PMRF this quarter.
- **Mongoose** - After nearly a year of intense trapping efforts across the island, a live mature male mongoose was finally captured at the Kaua'i Lagoons. Responding to another report by Young Brother's employees, the crew was able to capture another mongoose, this time a juvenile. Trapping efforts continue and efforts will be ramped up even further with the addition of a KISC temporary hire, and two emergency hires through DOFAW.
- **Arundo, False Kava & Ivy Gourd** - Other priority species work included arundo, false kava and ivy gourd. Property access remains an issue for one ivy gourd site in Ele'ele,

and the crew spotted two new sites in Kōloa and Hanalei. Treatments continue for these species with over 1,040 plants treated this quarter.

- **Early Detection Species** - Delimiting surveys continue, and herbicidal trials for two *Cissus* species were conducted this quarter. The herbicidal trials will enable KISC to make a decision as to whether or not we should take on *Ciccus verticillata* as a priority target. Two out of the four locations of salt cedar have been treated, with the other two on a "watch" list. The salt cedars on Kaua'i were apparently all cloned from the same plant and are not showing any signs of invasiveness.



Salt cedar found in Kekaha (before removal)



Salt cedar with KISC crew (after removal)