



KISC

KAUA'I INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

QUARTERLY REPORT

"The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks, and then starting on the first one."

-Mark Twain



Preliminary results of herbicide trials on Season vine. The herbicide does not appear to be translocating throughout the plant.

KISC Management of Invasive Species

Each target that KISC takes on must go through a selection process and each species must meet certain criteria for feasibility of eradication. To look at only one aspect of an infestation may have it appear to be an overwhelming task.

Feasibility of eradication includes multiple factors:

- Is there an eradication method?
- How widespread is it?
- What does it threaten?
- How does it reproduce?
- Seed longevity
- Etc.

Once adopted as a target species, KISC has found that breaking up the task not only makes the likelihood for success greater, but aides in communication with staff as well as with partners.

For example, by breaking up the Lāwa'i coqui infestation site into management units allowed for easier strategic planning and communication. Naming each population work site allows for planning strategic re-visits.

The work that we do is long-term. Repeated treatments followed up by years of monitoring is the way to ensure eradication successes. The more we break up the tasks into "doable" portions, the more we can strategically plan our actions.

QUARTERLY REPORT

*Rep. Morikawa joining KISC during
Dr. James Leary's HBT Training class*

Oct 2012 - Dec 2012

2

2nd Qtr FY2013



Quarter Highlights

- **Oct 4** - Keren attends Kaua'i Conservation Alliance Meeting
- **Oct 9** - Keren participates in a Rain Follows the Forest state-wide conference call
- **Oct 17** - Keren meets with Ann Kam, HDOA Pesticides Branch to review compliance
- **Oct 18** - Miconia heli-ops with Dr. Leary using HBT
- **Oct 25** - Crew works with Hawaii Ant Lab and HDOA applying ant bait for LFA
- **Oct 25** - Mongoose Outreach Working Group meeting (MOWG)
- **Oct 26** - Keren and Joe meet with Chris Lonie at PMRF regarding LTK project
- **Oct 30** - Crew works with Kapa'a High School JROTC at Makauwahi Cave Reserve
- **Oct 30** - Keren attends CGAPS meeting in Honolulu
- **Nov 1** - Keren and Joe attend Kauai Conservation Alliance Meeting
- **Nov 3** - KISC staff and crew participate in the annual Arbor Day event
- **Nov 15** - Dean Gallo (CTAHR) visits KISC
- **Nov 16** - Matt Kirk's last day as temporary hire for mongoose work
- **Nov 29** - MOWG meeting
- **Nov 30** - Crew visits Hindu Monastery and surveys grounds for ED species
- **Dec 6** - Keren gives presentation at the Hanapepe Library
- **Dec 7** - KISC Team-Building Day

Outreach & Education

EVENTS

One of the most popular events of the year is the annual **Arbor Day Free Tree Giveaway**. Over 700 community members attended this event, stopping by the KISC educational tables and learning about mongoose, early detection, KISC priority target species, and viewing first-hand a miconia plant. Although this event lasts only four hours, the KISC crew gets to interact with people that have a keen interest in preserving Kaua'i's bio-diversity.

To follow up on Tiffani's Early Detection Workshop held last quarter with the **Kapa'a High School JROTC** Platoon, the KISC crew had a work-day at Makauwahi Cave Reserve with the students. 30 kids worked hard to remove invasive weeds to make way for native plant restoration.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

This quarter, while Tiffani was on family leave, Keren gave a presentation and Early Detection Workshop at the Hanapepe Library as part of the monthly Marine Environment Lecture Series. "Invasive Species: from plants to ants" was the title of the talk.

PUBLICITY AND PRESS COVERAGE

The Hanapepe Library talk was well publicized by the Friends of the Library which resulted in a full house (http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/invasives-from-plants-to-ants-topic-of-thursday-talk/article_6f794f88-3de6-11e2-8814-0019bb2963f4.html).

QUARTERLY REPORT

http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/pacific-chorus-frog-hitches-ride-to-kaua-i-in-shipment/article_c73d695e-392f-11e2-a42c-0019bb2963f4.html).

In December, as Christmas trees rolled into the state, KISC retrieved two Pacific Chorus frogs and turned them into HDOA for identification and follow-up. KISC released a press release, focusing on the hard work that HDOA was doing to prevent unwanted pests into the state (http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/pacific-chorus-frog-hitches-ride-to-kaua-i-in-shipment/article_c73d695e-392f-11e2-a42c-0019bb2963f4.html).



CTAHR Dean Gallo signing KISC's "Admit None" movie marquee

Employee of the Quarter



Joseph Aguon-Kona has been with KISC since 2005, when he joined KISC's ranks as a Natural Resource Field Technician. Joseph's outstanding qualities include the ability to navigate through thick forests and difficult terrain as he leads crew members through the Wailua Game Management area as the miconia project leader.

Joseph also took the supervisory role while leading a crew of

technicians working on the successful Lāwa'i coqui frog eradication project.

Congratulations, Joseph!



QUARTERLY REPORT

Oct 2012 - Dec 2012

4

2nd Qtr FY2013

Target Updates

- **Miconia** - Two aerial surveys were conducted during this quarter, one with HBT, and one without. Covering 810 aerial survey acres, 14 immature plants were found and 12 were treated with HBT. Ground work covered over 47 acres finding and treating 17 immature plants. 111 person-hours were expended.
- **Coqui Frogs** - KISC also continues to be the primary responder to new reports on the island and the crew regularly schedules night-work to listen for new coqui introductions at high-risk areas (nurseries and big box stores). Crews responded to 3 new reports, monitored 2 sites that had coqui in the past, and monitored 3 high-risk nurseries. No coqui were heard.
- **Little Fire Ant** - KISC crew members continued to assist the Hawai'i Ant Lab and HDOA with treatment efforts in Kalihiwai. KISC also continues to survey for LFA island wide. 42 acres were surveyed and 171 person-hours were expended. No new LFA were detected.
- **Long Thorn Kiawe** - With assistance from Craig Kaneshige, HDOA, crews were able to treat over 300 immature plants at PMRF this quarter, covering 45 acres and expending 115 person-hours.
- **Mongoose** - Trapping efforts continue with assistance from a DOFAW Emergency hire. Traps have been set in high-priority areas around Kaua'i with no new captures. Over 738 person hours were expended. During this quarter, KISC received 13 credible mongoose reports. KISC posts a monthly newsletter regarding mongoose work and it can be found online at: <http://www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org/iscs/kisc/pests/mongoose/mongoosemonitor.htm>.
- **Arundo, False Kava & Ivy Gourd** - Other priority species work included arundo, false kava and ivy gourd. Treatments continue for

these species with over 433 plants treated this quarter and 122 person-hours expended.

- **Early Detection Species** - Herbicidal trials continue for two *Cissus* species with unfavorable results to date. *Clerodendrum macrostegium* is responding well to treatments and delimiting surveys are pushing this species toward becoming an adopted target. The crew continues to conduct roadside surveys for priority targets as well as delimiting surveys for several roadside-detected species including a clerodendrum species and honeysuckle. This quarter, 109 acres were aerial surveyed for Mule's foot fern near Half-way Bridge around an abandoned nursery. Several plants were discovered. Ground surveys continue in this area.
- **Cattails** - We have been working with Rob Hauff with DLNR to get permits from the Department of Health to use herbicide in and around water.



Baby feral pig trapped in a small mongoose trap by Jamie Harris, DOFAW Mongoose Tech.