



# KISC

**KAUA'I INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE**

# QUARTERLY REPORT

*To accomplish great things we must first dream, then visualize, then plan, then believe, then act!*

*Alfred A. Montapert*

## Shooting for the Moon with Strategic Outreach

I have always been a strong proponent for effective and strategic outreach regarding invasive species education. If we could equal our outreach budget with what is spent for on-the-ground efforts annually, there would be no doubt that every person on Kaua'i would know and understand the threats that invasive pests pose to agriculture, the ecosystem, human health, Hawaiian cultural heritage, and more.

At the beginning of this quarter, KISC was successful at forming a strong relationship with Hawai'i Department of Transportation (DOT) Airports Division to accomplish the installation of an educational display that will serve to inform residents and visitors alike.

Dennis Neves, Kaua'i Airports District Manager, paved the way for placement of the displays (pictured at left) in the central lobby of the Līhue Airport, as well as in each of the two baggage claim areas. These beautiful signs were originally designed for the Honolulu Zoo but were adapted slightly for Kaua'i. The panels supply educational information as well as what species to report on Kaua'i and who to report them to. These displays have the potential to reach tens of thousands of people each day.

Joe Kona, KISC Field Operations Supervisor (and resident carpenter), built these rocket-ship-shaped displays and the KISC crew helped to install them.



Photo: KISC

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Mongoose technicians, Pat Gmelin and Jamie Harris, have been conducting an intensive trapping effort on the south side of Kaua'i for mongooses.

To date: 0 mongooses, 38 cats

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*Photo: Jamie Harris*

## Quarter Highlights

- **July 1** - Keren attends HISC meeting in Honolulu
- **July 3** - Crew works with Hawai'i Ant Lab to apply last treatment for LFA in Kalihiwai
- **July 9** - KISC installs new educational signs at Līhue Airport
- **July 11** - KISC attends Basic Aviation Safety Training
- **July 12** - KISC attends CPR/1st Aid Training
- **July 16-18** - KISC attends Hawai'i Conservation Conference
- **July 24** - Tiffani give presentation to Princeville Rotary Club
- **Aug 6** - Keren attends PCSU/HISC/ISC meeting (via skype - 3hrs long!)
- **Aug 21** - Keren attends CGAPS Meeting in Honolulu
- **Aug 22** - Keren attends HISC Resource Working Group Meeting in Honolulu
- **Aug 22-25** - KISC conducts outreach at the annual Kaua'i Farm Bureau Fair
- **Aug 24** - Keren attends a Conservation Council for Hawai'i dinner and talk-story
- **Sept 3** - Keren and Joe meet with Thomas Kaiakapu about trapping on south shore
- **Sept 5** - Crew attends Avian Botulism Training
- **Sept 11-12** - Crew assists DOFAW NARS with out-planting
- **Sept 13** - KISC hosts Jeri Konanui for an 'awa harvest workshop
- **Sept 16** - Keren attends HISC Resource Working Group Meeting
- **Sept 17** - Keren and Tiffani attend KLIC Meeting
- **Sept 18** - Keren and Joe meet with Hawai'i Army National Guard at Kekaha Firing Range
- **Sept 19** - Keren attends Feral Cat Task Force Meeting
- **Sept 19** - Keren, Tiffani, and Jackie Kozak host international visitors
- **Sept 23** - Tiffani attends GIRC&D Annual Meeting

## Outreach & Education

### EVENTS

The Kaua'i County Farm Bureau Fair took place at the end of August at the Vidinha Stadium in Līhue. This annual event is a time when KISC staff and crew interact closely with the public showing off interesting and interactive displays that appeal to young and old alike. A favorite at this year's event was a new poster highlighting the KISC superstar team. Over 1,500 people visited the KISC's booth, many of them leaving with mementos reminding them of who to call or report invasive species to as well as educational flyers and pamphlets.

In September, Tiffani and the crew participated in the popular Ocean Awareness Day in Hanalei, sponsored by NOAA. This event attracted roughly 250 elementary students from all over the island.

### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The big news this quarter was the installation of the educational displays at the Līhue Airport. We are excited not only about this new partnership with the Hawai'i Department of Transportation Airports Division, but also about the hundreds of thousands of individuals who will see these signs over the course of the year and become more knowledgeable about what are native and non-native species. Shortly after the crew installed the signs, visitors were overheard looking at the sign and proclaiming, "I didn't know that pineapples weren't native to Hawai'i!" We

are excited for this new outreach venue.

Tiffani also gave a presentation to the Princeville Rotary Club about KISC's target species. This interaction led to the placement of KISC's Early Detection Field Guide into the Princeville Library in both the reference section as well as the general non-fiction section available for public check-out.

### PUBLICITY AND PRESS COVERAGE

KISC was able to garner press time with coverage about the new airport display as well as the informational signs that were installed at Young Brothers at the end of last Fiscal Year. (See: [http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/new-signage-aims-to-protect-kauai-from-invasive-pests/article\\_6cba9ffc-eb6b-11e2-b0d1-0019bb2963f4.html](http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/new-signage-aims-to-protect-kauai-from-invasive-pests/article_6cba9ffc-eb6b-11e2-b0d1-0019bb2963f4.html))

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## Employee of the Quarter: *Pat Gmelin*



This quarter's employee of the month is Pat Gmelin, KISC's Mongoose Response Technician. Pat joined KISC in 2010 as a survey technician for little fire ants but for the last two years has been working tirelessly island-wide on mongoose detection and response; working in partnership with DOFAW and others to capture the first live mongoose in 2012.

Pat grew up in Southern New York, but has called Kaua'i home for the last twenty years. In his free time, Pat performs around the island in the band Island Grass (featuring Island, Blue Grass, and Reggae music), singing and playing the banjo, mandolin, guitar, and ukulele.

Congratulations, Pat!

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## Target Updates

- **Miconia** - Only ground surveys were conducted during this quarter covering over 58 acres. 6 immature plants were found in known areas and 114 person-hours were expended.
- **Coqui Frogs** - Night patrols in high risk areas, such as nurseries, continue on a monthly basis. KISC also responds to new reports and one male coqui frog was captured in Kōloa, imported on orchids purchased from the Big Island. 24 person-hours were expended covering over 19 acres.
- **Little Fire Ant** - KISC crew members continued to assist the Hawai'i Ant Lab and HDOA with treatment efforts in Kalihiwai, with the final treatment taking place at the beginning of July. Monitoring of this site will be ongoing and spot-treatments will be made if LFA are detected. KISC also continues to survey for LFA island wide. 21 acres were surveyed and 190 person-hours were expended. No new LFA were detected.
- **Long Thorn Kiawe** - Progress continues at PMRF and crews were able to treat over 7,000 immature plants this quarter, covering 31 acres and expending 248 person-hours.
- **Mongoose** - Trapping efforts continue with assistance from DOFAW. Traps continue to be set in high-priority areas around Kaua'i with no new captures. 569 person-hours were expended. During this quarter, KISC received 13 mongoose reports, 6 of them deemed credible. 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 436 plants treated this quarter and 180 person-hours expended.
- **Molucca Raspberry** - KISC and HDOA continue to partner with a landowner in Lāwa'i to control *Rubus sieboldii*. 11 acres were surveyed with 1,200 plants treated. 72 person-hours were expended.
- **Early Detection Species** - This quarter, 16 acres were surveyed for various ED species, with a total of 35 plants being treated.
- **Cattails** - We still are pursuing permits from the Department of Health to use herbicide in and around water.

*Can you spot the miconia? The KISC crew did!*



Photo: KISC