

KISC QUARTERLY MEETING APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 8, 2008
HDOA Conference Room
10:00 am to 12:00 noon

I. Welcome/Introduce Guests/New Members

[Attendees: Allan Rietow (TNC, KISC Chairperson), Jeffrey Herod (USFWS), Chris Mottley (DLNR-NARS), Melissa Fisher (TNC), Wayne Souza (DLNR-State Parks), Joe Kona (KISC), Craig Kaneshige (HDOA), Troy Larsen (KISC), Eric John Garcia (HDOA), Larry Kaneholani (KISC), Kevin Sasaki (KISC), Tysen Rapozo (KISC), Gary Ueunten (GIRC&D, HDOH), Scott Williamson (USDA-WS), Jackie Kozak (HISC), Lex Riggle (USDA-NRCS), Sara Bowen (East & West Kaua`i Soil and Water Conservation Districts), Michelle Clark (USDA-NRCS), Andrea Erichsen (DLNR-DOFAW Kaua`i Shearwater Habitat Conservation Plan), Adam Griessmer (DLNR-DOFAW KSHCP), Keren Gundersen (KISC), Laurie Ho (GIRC&D), Bill Spitz (County of Kaua`i), Mindy Wilkinson (DLNR-DOFAW), Chris Swenson (USFWS)]

II. Review Agenda Items

III. Review and Approve Minutes from February 21, 2008 Strategic Planning Meeting

Minutes were approved without changes. They can be viewed at <http://www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org/iscs/kisc/pdfs/kiscmeetingminutes20080221.pdf>.

IV. Guest presentation: "Update on Lehua Island Restoration Project" – Chris Swenson, Pacific Islands Coastal Program Coordinator, USFWS

This partnership project falls under the Offshore Islet Restoration Committee that is comprised of State, Federal, and Non-Profit groups that focus on islets statewide. The focus of the Lehua Island Restoration Project falls into three categories: Restoration, Research, and Baseline survey data. Please view Chris' presentation at:

<http://www.hear.org/kisc/presentations/20080508lehuaislandrestoration/>

V. Updates:

♦ Partner Updates:

↻ DLNR - Kauai Seabird HCP – Andrea Erichsen, Coordinator

Andrea now shares an office in Lihue with Jackie Kozak (HISC Outreach) and the new USFWS person, Michelle Clark. Her work focuses on incidental take (due to exposed lighting) on Kaua`i. She would like to develop mitigation sites for seabird take and is working on costs for controlling invasive species at nesting sites. A Conservation Plan is being developed and worked on by several entities including the county of Kauai, Princeville, and Norwegian Cruise lines (with the state Department of Transportation). Andrea is working with public and private entities to develop a mitigation plan for bird recovery. Forest plants and birds alike would benefit from this plan. To see more information about this joint project between DLNR-DOFAW and US Fish and Wildlife Service go to: <http://www.kauai-seabirdhcp.info/>

↻ DLNR – State Parks – Wayne Souza

Wayne is concerned with the rapid spread of *Clidemia hirta* along the Kalalau trail. It appears to be moving up the valleys. The legislature cut the general fund operating budget by \$1M so the department will be making adjustments. It will make for some hard times the next 2-3 years. A Koke`e State Park Advisory Committee is being formed. It will be comprised of 9 members (all from Kaua`i), as well as ex-officio members. They will review and assist in updating the Master Plan, as well as enhance outreach and participate in the protection of this park.

↻ NRCS – Lex Riggle

The first announcement is that Michelle Clark is leaving NRCS to take a position with USFWS on Kauai. NRCS has its role in island conservation. Their focus is on production and agriculture (dealing with soil erosion, etc.). Their EQIP program awarded 9 contracts and is helping farmers do a better job of applying water to their land. This is funded through the Farm Bill (which has been extended from 2002 to mid May. The 2008 Farm Bill is not a done deal and still under discussion). Their Wetland Preserve Program and Wildlife Habitat Program used EQIP funds to remove invasive grasses to restore habitat.

↻ DLNR – Chris Mottley, NARS Specialist

The DLNR NARS program on Kauai has been somewhat dormant as positions were vacant. They now have Chris, Mike Wysong (NARS Manager), and a NARS Tech. They are busy taking inventory of exclosures which are protecting pockets of examples of rare species. They are busy assessing program needs. There will be three new NARS fence lines in Kuia NARS (about 150 acres). They are now walking the proposed fence lines. There is one of the tallest examples of Ohia seen there.

↻ KRCP – Katie Cassel (email)

“We’re very sorry we cannot make this meeting, but we support you and all the good work that you do. You have a great staff and we really appreciated the help that you’ve given us in Koke’e. We are very glad that you’re there hammering the miconia, etc., so we can focus on weeding the selected areas of native forest here in Koke’e. Here’s a brief summary of our work so far in 2008: **Incipients:** we found 2,601 privets on 30 acres; 1,049 *Buddleia asiatica* and *madagascarensis* on 77 acres; 1,020 Australian Tree Fern on 148 acres (including acres in the Alaka’i Wilderness Preserve); 317 New Zealand Tea on 1.4 acres. Total acres (including native forest areas from which ginger and guava were removed): 202. Total number of volunteers: 492 (includes 16 school groups!). Total volunteer hours: 1,933. Total number of weeds: 160,311.

↻ DLNR – DOFAW, Na Ala Hele – Kawika Smith (email)

“*Large projects:* We currently are planning a week-long campout in Waimea Canyon to work on a section of the trail in Koaie Canyon. We will be cutting brush along the side of the trail and removing large trees and logs that are hanging over it. We will also be putting in water bars in areas that have a high potential for erosion. Our biggest concern is a few bad sections that need some rock clearing and minor excavation. Assessing the Alakai boardwalk for damages and repairs is another large project. There are some sections that only need planks replaced and some sections that need just the wires replaced. We are still looking at experimenting with different materials that can withstand the wet conditions out there in the swamp. We hope to get this project moving before the end of the year. *Smaller projects:* The usual trail maintenance of NAH managed trails. There is a large rock blocking the Waimea Canyon trail just above the camp one powerhouse. Hikers are able to get around the rock but horseback riders have been taking a short re-route to get around it. We did an assessment and bought the necessary tools to do the job so we will be scheduling a day or two to remove it from the trail. We have been changing some of the old fencing at the Nou nou west easement. We will also be working with KISC to produce more trailhead “boot cleaners” and signage like the one at Kulau trail. It has been a successful project and we hope to spread the success of educating hikers and/or trail users on invasive species and their negative impacts.”

↻ HDOA – Craig Kaneshige

They have been busy setting swarm traps to test for varroa mite focusing on ports of entry. No mites have been discovered on Kauai. They have also been surveying for Nettle Caterpillar and have not found any. The Asiatic Chytrid Psyllid is on Kauai, but no disease.

↻ USDA – Scott Williamson

Scott is new to USDA coming from DLNR DOFAW Oahu about six or seven months ago. He has mostly been dealing with personnel shortages and internal issues. They are still on board with the mongoose response project (a contract and agreement is forthcoming). They still need to iron out kinks with a response plan. USDA is geared for response on invasive vertebrates. Right now they are building infra-structure and getting a solid base set. They will be posting a position in the next few months for a “trouble shooter” position.

↻ USFWS – Jeff Herod

There will be about \$200K for invasive species funding for the ISCs. They are working on a process of distribution for projects. Also, Jeff has about \$3,000K for HACCP projects to

buy equipment to support finished plans. Invasive rodents are getting a lot of focus right now. They are reviewing recovery plans and legal documents as well as putting together a ranking matrix to prioritize rat impacts. They will be asking for input on this. On Friday, August 1, the day after the Hawaii Conservation Conference, there will be a HACCP training.

↖ **TNC – *Allan Rietow***

On April 2 the fence at Kana`ele (Wahiawa) Bog was completed enclosing about 60 to 70 acres. This is Kaua`i's low elevation bog located in the Wahiawa drainage. They will be monitoring and doing fence care as well as removing invasives. They are also working on an East Alakai protection fence project which will involve fencing from Waineha Pali, join the USFWS bog fences, and continue east to below Waialeale. It will enclose about 2,000 acres (about 1,400 on A&B property and about 600 of state lands). The cultural, biological, and archeological surveys have been completed and they are finishing up the draft Environmental Assessment. They also recently went into Waineha valley and trapped and radio collared pigs to test natural fence boundaries. There will be a public hearing. TNC has been working with KRCP and the Kauai Watershed Alliance controlling Kahili ginger and strawberry guava. Further testing is also being conducted on best methods for controlling Australian Tree Fern to reduce collateral damage when aerial spraying. Lastly, an MOU has been signed with A&B to manage an upper preserve in Waineha valley. [MC: Can you tell us more about the radio collars?] [AR: Radio collars were used on pigs in an eradication effort on Santa Cruz island. They were able to collect information on habits, test fences, and to help with the eradication process. We are hoping to see if the pigs are moving up the cliffs from the valley.] [MC: How many pigs did you collar?] [AR: 5] [BS: There has been a dramatic increase in pigs lower in the farmlands. Where there used to be 15 pigs over 5 years, the farmers are now seeing 30 just last year!] [AR: Yes, there seems to be much more in the lower elevations.]

♦ **Coqui Control in Lawai – *Mugs Kaneholani***

We are in the “mop-up” phase at the infestation site in Lawai. The crew works 2 to 3 days per week at the site and occasionally hears 1 to 2 frogs. We are receiving help from the neighbors around the buffer zone who report where frogs are heard because they are so dispersed. Lime continues to be applied as a ground drench for juveniles and citric acid is spot sprayed on calling frogs. Priority is given to anything heard outside the buffer zone. [AE: Was there really a frog at the Hyatt?] [MK: Yes, just one. It was captured by a bar tender. We surveyed the entire site but did not hear any others.]

♦ **HISC Outreach activities – *Jackie Kozak***

At the Garden Fair we were able to use our new display: “Wheel of Invasive Misfortune”. It featured our target species and when the “contestant” spun the wheel we had trivia questions for them to answer. Their prizes were cool give-aways like magnets, calendars, and bumper stickers. This was very popular. Jackie was also able to meet with Dickie Chang (from *Wala`au*) and he is going to do a segment on Invasive Species Issues. She is also working on expanding the Codes of Conduct. Jackie has been working with Chris Dacchus (a landscape architect with DOT, and current HISC Public Outreach Working Group-POWG- chair) and Chuck Chimera (Weed Risk Assessment taxonomist). KLIC adopted the codes two years ago but they are looking to expand with ethics and standards (prevention, promoting labeling, and use of weed-free materials. They are also wanting nurseries to look at different varieties of invasive plants that would not be invasive. There are a lot of new additions to the WRA as well as up for review. The POWG is also looking to update the WRA website to make it more user-friendly. Jackie has arranged with the local community radio station to do an educational program called “weed of the week”. She is also been asked to assist with outreach efforts for the upcoming rodent control project on Lehua. Plans are in the works for another Species Awareness Week. An early detection program with funding from the county is being developed.

See: <http://www.hear.org/kisc/presentations/20080508kiscoutreachupdate/> to see Jackie's powerpoint.

◆ **Early Detection – Jackie Kozak, Troy Larsen**

We have received a grant from the Office of Economic Development (via Bill Spitz) to develop an Early Detection Program. We are calling it *Kia`i moku* (Guardians of the island), like our Newsletter, and are targeting resorts, concierges, purchasing departments, golf course workers, nurseries, ports, etc. to raise awareness about key early detection species like coqui. We are highlighting the pest hotline for reporting and are developing a poster, brochure, and give-aways. We are trying to foster community help on timely reports of key species. "Graduates" of the program will receive T-shirts to help further promote early detection. [CM: Have you thought about doing info-mercials? This is a good way to reach a wide variety of people.] [JK: This would be a great idea, but for now our budget is limited.] Chiefess Kamakahahei Middle School is also going to do another short film segment just on coqui frogs that will involve KISC. This will be shown on Ho`ike community television. The KISC crew is currently re-doing the island-wide Little Fire Ant survey but also including Nettle Catterpillar and coqui frog surveys. Nothing found so far. We are also now in the "follow-up" stage for the roadside survey. We are sorting through the results of the survey, gathering expert input on select species, and will start delimiting surveys soon. Thanks to Laurie Ho who was able to go to various meetings and gather responses from 35 people regarding the limited list of species.

VI. **New Items:**

◆ **Trainings/Workshops – Troy Larsen**

Upcoming events include an Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop that we are organizing. The outline of ideas for this includes a need for exhibits and speakers (covering a variety of topics, mauka to makai, regarding plants, vertebrates, corals, apple snails, economic aspects, etc.). We are trying to schedule this for August and it will be open to all partnerships. We have also scheduled Wilderness First Aid training for KISC and partners. This seems to be very popular as we had to cap the class at 30 and have people on the waiting list. Troy is also helping to organize an "All ISC" service project to be held on Kauai in September. We will be working in Koke`e helping KRCP and there will be about 75 of us.

◆ **Legislative Update/New position – Mindy Wilkinson, DLNR Invasive Species Coordinator**

The Governor has a couple of months to sign Act 40, which makes it illegal to sell noxious weeds, and added restrictions to the plants list. A Bio-security bill is also being discussed that would consolidate HDOA programs, quarantine needs, and promote local agriculture (to decrease importation of pests). Changing a bill that would charge 50¢/1,000 lb on freight (the last bill only charges per container) would help recover costs for inspection and would also cover imports via air cargo. There is also a "Super Sucker" bill that would fully fund a crew to operate the super sucker and super sucker jr. to free up the Aquatic Invasive species team. A bill for coqui funding (\$400K) is under discussion. Mindy will be on a work detail in Washington DC with the National Invasive Species Council. She will still be a Hawaii DLNR DOFAW employee but working for the Secretary of Interior. She will be creating state liaison positions and other projects. She will advocate for Hawaii and be busy making additional agency connections. A priority for her will be working on solid Federal support. She will leave once she finds a temporary replacement.

◆ **Mission Statement/Policy Statement revision discussion – Allan Rietow**

At our last KISC meeting, Chris Buddenhagen made suggested changes to our Mission Statement and Policy Statement (attached). Is the committee interested in these revisions? [LH: I think it is too wordy.] [AR: Is shorter better?] **It was decided to email the suggestions to the committee for comments and discuss at the next KISC meeting.**

VII. Announcements:

- ◆ Ecology, Restoration, and Stream Management of Hawaiian Stream and Riparian Systems Workshop – May 23, 2008, KCC Cafeteria
- ◆ Banana Poka Round Up – May 25, 2008
- ◆ Agriculture Awareness Day – May 28, 2008
- ◆ Landscaping Industry Council of Hawaii Green Industry Conference and Tradeshow – May 28 & 29, 2008
- ◆ Wilderness First Aid – July 8, 9, 10

Next Meeting – Thursday, August 14, 2008

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