

KISC VISION MEETING APPROVED MINUTES

Thursday, June 10, 2010
KISC Headquarters, CTAHR Kaua'i Ag Research Center
10:00 am to 12:00 noon

I. **Welcome/Introduce Guests/New Members**

Attendees: Amanda Skelton (KNL), Craig Kaneshige (HDOA), Mugs Kaneholani (KISC), Jerry Ornellas (HDOA Board), Cleve Javier (KISC), Richard Agor (KISC), Keren Gundersen (KISC), Sherri Paul (DOFAW), Jerome Dotimas (DOFAW), John Gordines (UH-CTAHR), Pat Porter (DOFAW), Jason Vercelli (DOFAW), John Chapman (KISC), Tiffani Keanini (KISC), Joe Kona (KISC), Carolyn Lum (Garden Island RC&D), Lelan Nishek (KNL), Tony Doth (USDA-APHIS-PPQ), Val Jackson (KISC).

II. **Review Agenda Items** *No additions to agenda*

III. **Review and Approve Minutes from November 19, 2009 Quarterly Meeting**

These minutes were approved and are now posted online and can be reviewed at: <http://www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org/iscs/kisc/pdfs/kiscmeetingminutes20091119.pdf>.

IV. **Partner Updates**

DOFAW (Wildlife) – *Jason Vercelli*

Plans are moving forward to expand Kawailele Bird Sanctuary in Mana. They are working on the EA and are developing ways to make sure that it is not ground-water fed so that they can drain it occasionally to rid talapia from the ponds. Mongoose trapping has also been performed around this area after a report. 15 days of trapping has trapped 8 cats, but no mongoose. It was actually good timing as it is nesting season for the wetland birds. [AR: This is important because Kaua`i has more ground nesting birds than all of the other islands combined.]

UH-CTAHR – *John Gordines*

On behalf of Roy Yamakawa (CTAHR Kauai Island Administrator) and myself (KARC Farm Manager), I would like to welcome KISC to CTAHR. We are grateful to have KISC up here at the Kaua`i Agricultural Research Center and since they are also part of the UH Botany Department, it is a nice fit. It has been really nice to be able to supplement manpower to help each other out on various projects.

HDOA Board – *Jerry Ornellas*

I have been elected to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture, effective July 1. I am looking forward to developing a better working relationship between KISC and HDOA. I see a future of sharing resources, not duplicating work. It will be many years before appropriations come up to the levels we like, so working efficiently will be very important and I will be working with Sandra Kunimoto (HDOA Chair) and Keren on this.

CGAPS – *Christy Martin (via email)*

The strawberry guava draft EA will be posted for comments starting June 23. DLNR will send out a press release announcing it on the day it is posted (and not before). If you can mention it so that folks can be ready to send letters, that would be great. Also, we are gathering a packet of information w/ key points to send out to supporters (like you folks, who will probably get lots of questions). If you can forward this to other supporters in your network, that would be good as well. I am trying to schedule an editorial board meeting with the new editors of the Star Advertiser, the day before the posting so that they have the facts in hand to prevent any mis-information. Thanks in advance.

TNC – Allan Rietow

The East Alakai fence project (enclosing 2,000 acres between the Waineha pali and Waialiali) is moving along. The fence itself will be only about 4 miles long. Stuart Wellington and his crew started in November of last year and are about half-way done doing this difficult work. This fence will keep feral pigs from coming from the west side and will have hunter cross-overs and gates. This area is extremely remote and hunters are a part of this process. We also have circular silo traps installed with feeders. The feeder holds enough food for 30 days. They are placed on the fence-line so that the pigs can enter from the inside of the enclosed fence area and exit to the outside. We are also using a technology called Tele-Sense where we can see the trap and arm it remotely.

Australian Tree Fern is also being treated in Waineha. We are heli-spraying plants with an aerial applicator, the "Stinger". It treats about 15 ml on top of each plant. We estimate that our costs are about \$25 per plant. We are also seeking a permit for 0.3-mile fence in back of the valley to keep the pigs out. The Environmental Assessment is complete and we will be seeking public input and testimony at a hearing on July 26 at King Kamehameha elementary school. A&B owns the land and this area is quite unique. It is extremely remote and has no legal access by the public, so this fence should not impact anyone. The fence is designed to protect the watershed and the native plants found there. This area also has the greatest concentration of shearwaters and petrels in the state.

HDOA – Craig Kaneshige

A bio-control has just been released to control nettle caterpillar. It is a wasp that injects its eggs into the caterpillar and then hatches in two days. They have been working on this for six years and it was found in Taiwan. HDOA is also looking for bio-controls for guinea grass, maile pilau, and other invasive weeds. They have also been working on a bio-control for fountain grass for about 4-5 years.

V. Administrative Report – Keren Gundersen

Budget summary, infrastructure, and staffing were reviewed. View the presentation here: <http://www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org/iscs/kisc/pdfs/kiscadministrativeupdate20100610.pdf>.

VI. Outreach Update – Tiffani Keanini

Focus on Outreach has been on updating pest alerts, working with Ele`ele Elementary School on their Service Project, an Early Detection Field Guide, and a coqui display for nurseries. View the presentation here:

<http://www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org/iscs/kisc/pdfs/kiscoutreachupdate20100610.pdf>

VII. Target Species Update – John Chapman

A comparison chart showing the work hours spent on each target over the last year shows that the top priorities were Miconia and coqui. We were able to partner with both BIISC and MISC to get a lot of survey work done for Miconia in the Wailua Game Management Area as well as Wailua River State Park. We were disappointed to discover a few mature miconia plants, but grateful that we had the opportunity to conduct aerial surveys that pinpointed them. This method of surveying is extremely important due to the impenetrable habitat that our miconia infestation resides. Maps showing all of our miconia surveys as well as summaries of all of our targeted work can be viewed at:

http://www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org/iscs/kisc/pdfs/kiscupdate20100610_2.pdf.

VIII. Early Detection – Keren Gundersen

Highlights of Roadside Survey II: Our island-wide roadside survey is nearly complete. We have had the opportunity to have Alex Lau and Danielle Frohlich (the OISC Early Detection Team) conduct this survey for us. They are extremely familiar with not only invasive species in general, but what invasive plants are already on other islands and have a greater risk of

arriving (or already being) on Kaua'i. They have made many interesting finds as well as some of our current active targets. The next step, after the survey is complete, will be to evaluate their findings and determine which species should be surveyed further and possibly added to a list for eradication. Weekly summary reports can be found on the KISC website at: <http://www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org/iscs/kisc/ed.html>. A short PowerPoint shows their process:

<http://www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org/iscs/kisc/pdfs/kiscupdate20100610.pdf>.

IX. Vision/Goals

Early Detection Workshops: To follow up with our Early Detection Field Guide, we will be conducting monthly workshops to introduce the community to the Early Detection Network which provides them an easy way to report priority species. We will begin with a trial workshop, conducted by Elizabeth Speith (USGS-PBIN), for the KISC crew and follow-up with workshops in our community and with our partners. If anyone is interested in participating in a workshop or has ideas as to groups that we can reach out to, please contact Tiffani at tkeanini@hawaii.edu. The Kaua'i ED Field Guide can be viewed online at: <http://www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org/iscs/kisc/pdfs/kiscfieldguide2010.pdf>.

Target species strategic planning: To utilize field time more effectively, we will be reviewing all of our target populations, visitations, and infestation status. Better scheduling on target re-visits will allow the KISC crew to follow up on the new species found on the road-side survey as well as allow us to possibly add several as new priority targets.

Roadside survey follow-up (FS Competitive Grant): To couple with the delimiting surveys of species found during the roadside survey, nurseries and botanical gardens will also be surveyed under the statewide Forest Service Competitive Grant.

Island-wide Invertebrate survey (USFWS Grant): We will be hiring two temporary employees for a period of six months to conduct an island-wide survey for little fire ant, nettle caterpillar, and naio thrips. These surveys will be comprehensive and include all importing nurseries, resorts, ports, and green-waste areas.

LFA eradication at Kalihiwai: We are planning on assisting HDOA with LFA eradication efforts in Kalihiwai. Cas Vanderwoude, the state-wide ant coordinator, has devised a method for treating these ants, in this wet habitat, and he hopes to deploy it summer of 2010. We hope to also be able to use the Invertebrate Survey Team to assist with this operation as well.

Next Meeting – September 16, 2009

Pau