OAHU INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

General Meeting

Monday, July 24, 2006
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

HDOA Plant Quarantine
1849 Aiki Street
Honolulu HI 96817

MEETING AGENDA

I. Welcome and sign in. 9:00 – 9:05

II. Announcements 9:05 – 9:20
   a. New OISC staff: (present general structure)
      i. Field Crew
      ii. Coqui crew
      iii. Field leader
   b. Additional announcements:
      i. Other announcements

III. Partner Agency update (3-5min): 9:25 – 9:50

OISC / DLNR Coqui update	MCBH
HDOA –PPQ	Weed Risk Assessment
HDOA – Chem / mechanical	Codes of Conduct
DPW Army Environmental	HISC / Legislature
HBWS	

IV. OISC Summary : accomplishments / roadblocks 9:50 – 10:30
   a. Field Work semi annual 2006 summary
   b. OISC Bishop Museum detection grant

V. Discussion: 10:30 – 11:00
   a. Limiting sale of invasive plants
   b. Bushy beardgrass: range extension

VI. Invasive species project presentation: 11:00 – 11: 30
   a. Tony Montgomery: Aquatic invasive species overview

VII. Calendar of future meetings and times 11:30 – 11:40
   a. OISC strategy meetings (schcon)
   b. General Meeting (future presenters)
   c. Strategy Workshop

VIII. Pau

MINUTES

I. Call to order, welcome, and introductions

Ryan Smith, OISC Coordinator, called the meeting to order and went briefly over the agenda. Attendees gave their names and affiliations.

II. Announcements

A. Ryan introduced Jeremy, Susie and Christian as OISC's new field crew members.

B. Joshua Fisher was recognized for finding a mature miconia tree.

C. Diane Drigot with MCBH Environmental reviewed fountain grass survey at Bellows. OISC is helping with the survey once a year. All military bases are supposed to have natural resource management plans, updated every five years. MCBH's plan recently went to DLNR for comment. There is a lot of focus on invasives in the report and in the next 5-year plan. Diane would like OISC to review and comment on it. It was sent out as CD and hard copy.

MCBH Environmental is very interested in joint projects. The Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (CESU) was recently joined by DOD. The DoD SERDP and Legacy Programs recently cosponsored a meeting in Hawaii for an intensive discussion of what research funding priorities should be in Hawaii/Pacific regarding threatened, endangered, and rare species. The outcome of that June 2006 workshop will have an influence on the structure of the Request for Proposals that both the Legacy and SERDP programs will post on their websites in August/September. Google the names of these programs for further information.

This is the year for a good chance for funding for invasive species. Call Diane if you want a partner.

III. Partner agency updates

A. HDOA, Derek and Becky. Right now HDOA is just waiting for Chapter 469A to come back from the Attorney General's office and then public hearings, for coqui to be declared a pest so there is right of entry. It should happen soon.

B. Army Environmental, Matt. There are two places on Army lands with fountain grass, the East Range and Kahuku, both monitored regularly. The East Range is a one-time thing. In Kahuku, it's been a few years since seedlings or recruitment have been seen. *Tibouchina urvilleana* is at a site at Whitmore, they monitor it every 6 months. One seedling was found two weeks ago. It was an old nursery site, there is lots of weird stuff.

Melochia is also in Kahuku, lately they're finding it further along the road, there was road construction a couple of years ago they didn't know about beforehand.

Rhodomyrtus and Arthrostemma are two priority targets. For Arthrostemma, we're looking for what we can do with the dirt that's graded. Any ideas? Landfill? There is at least one big truckload.

Diane: That is one of the major ways weeds get transported around, moving soil from construction sites happens every day. Everyone says there should be a requirement for sterilizing soil, but there isn't a way to do it on this island. This has to be legislated, a soil reclamation facility.

C. MCBH, Diane. The tentative date for the next fountain grass walkthrough is November 17. The Air Force is involved now, we have a plan for vegetation at Bellows. Shahin at Lyon and Christine are both involved. Once finished, recommendations will come out and we can implement. Diane would like to restore cattle grazing. Looking at lo-tech, hi-tech, no-tech solutions.

D. Weed Risk Assessment. Shahin is doing WRA at Lyon, we can send a list of weeds for screening to her. The priority is the landscape industry, looking at plants to be imported. Some funds are available, they're working toward a WRA web site that will be more usable for the public.

E. CGAPS, Christie. The Codes of Conduct project is trying to get the landscape and nursery industries to sign on, have any newly introduced species screened with WRA first. Second, CGAPS is trying to get agreement on a shortlist of plants people are trying to control on some islands, even though they're popular. Third, CGAPS role as educators; they're trying to work more with botanical gardens and various industry associations.

Joylynn (MISC): We were going to start a coqui-free nursery program, but other frog stuff has put that on hold until the end of the year. We just hired 3 more temps, we're attacking Maliko Gulch, 100-some acres. That's first. We have a good idea which nurseries are already coqui free.

Amy: Do you have a list of plants you're asking nurseries not to sell?

Christie: The list is about 30 plants. Some are widespread, others not. The Oahu group was cut to 10. Hawaii has 14 or 15. It depends on each island's problems. We need one voice together though.

Rachel: How much trouble is it to add plants?

Christie: They are open to adding plants. You have to give them a couple months. Need pictures, where it is, its extent. TNC collected good info and maps of the Australian tree fern invasion on Kauai.

F. OISC coqui update, Brian Caleda. Since 2005 we've been doing active control. We're doing daytime drenches instead of nighttime. Temp crew was hired in May, three people

doing strategic sprays. Soil drenches target hiding frogs, and when they come out they'll contact it.

We've been using a 16% solution to douse the ground. We're spraying 10 acres in Wahiawa twice, and spot-spraying another 5 acres. We're also doing nighttime surveys to listen and determine the efficacy of drenches. We tell the crew and they spray areas where calling males were heard.

We got a new 400-gallon sprayer last week. As of last Thursday, we could hear only 1 persistent calling male in the area where we've sprayed twice and done night sprays. The drenches are working. The projected completion date is September 9. The temp crew is on til Sept. 15.

We've thought about making an Oahu coqui information clearinghouse, working with DOA to get reports. As of June 6, we had 61 reports, 7 verified as coqui; the others were crickets or other types of frogs. All the verified ones have been dealt with. We suspect the 7 new ones were from nursery plants. There are only 4–5 nurseries here we've had problems with, we usually trace reports back to those.

Joylynn: Our crews cleared an acre of tall bunchgrass, then sprayed. For over 6 months, there has been no calling heard there.

Ryan: We've had success with doing that in small areas as well.

IV. OISC summary

A. Semiannual field work summary

Josh: Operations are pretty normal. We've gotten 6 mature miconia and 357 immature. We're working on cleaning out a whole valley before moving onto the next. It gives a better picture of the time it takes to do an area.

In Manoa, we found one from a survey a year ago, it was less than a year from becoming mature. This plant was hacked, so we missed it during our survey. It was just a stump. We saw it from the trail this year, it had resprouted; it already had established root mass and shot up.

Blackberry, we're mostly done surveying, there's still some recon to do. Overall, blackberry is significantly decreased.

Beardgrass. We go to H3 and Temple Valley every month. We've removed almost 5,000 plants and put in 674 people hours. H3 is much decreased, but it's been harder to get into Temple Valley sites in the past. There are fewer matures but there are still spikes of immatures. Up above on the pali we found a new population, which is probably why immatures are popping up down below.

Buddleia. All sites have been adequately controlled. We have to spray resprouts from cuts. We check annually, have surveyed all buffer areas. There were no new ones on the most recent surveys. We've spent 85 hours on that species.

Fountain grass. We're still focusing on satellite populations in the Waianaes. We've taken out 287 plants at the airport, freeways and Punchbowl.

Tibouchina was found during Buddleia survey. We found some in Wahiawa, all in yards, none naturalized. Also H3 and Manoa. H3 was probably from a hapuu planting.

We also found *Rubus elliptica*. The H3 species is *Tibouchina herbacea*. In Manoa it's *T. urvilleana*. The Wahiawa one could be a hybrid.

Rubus elliptica was found above H3 where hapuu were planted. It wasn't known on this island before. There were 10 plants found in 18.5 hours of survey. It is found on the Big Island.

Medinilla magnifica. This was along H-3 near Kaneohe. We saw the plantings along H-3, about 20 plants. They've been there a long time. It was a DOT planting, but they have no record of it. We took them all out with YCC. We don't know if it's spread up into the hills. Sharon's Nursery sells it, we're going to try to stop that. It was naturalized in a gulch in Nuuanu off Judd Trail and has come back full force. There's also a lot in a private planting up above Tantalus. I think it's also at Lyon Arboretum.

Shahin: We do have *M. magnifica*, there doesn't seem to be a problem. Right now we're mapping and watching that population.

Tetrastigma pubinerve, there's huge vine off Likelike. We're still working on the best control method. Garlon didn't work well as a systemic. It's also at Koko Head. Once we figure out the best spray, we'll hit it.

False awa, we're working with DOA in Waihole on that. It was sprayed but it resprouts from runners, we pulled those up by hand. There will be more, but the property owner didn't want herbicide. There are a couple other place we know about that we're slowly working on.

We're still doing volunteer work trips.

B. OISC Bishop Museum early detection grant.

Ryan: Two people were just hired for the detection crew, Danielle Frolic and Alex Lau. They're housed at Bishop, performing systematic Oahu surveys, plant inventory, how to detect arrivals. It's a multi-year process; we have only year 1 funding so far. We hope it will be permanent. Our field crew will work with them to evaluate and do eradication.

Jason: They won't work on existing targets? More model development, or actual survey?

Ryan: The model is one part, how to do island-wide detection. There's also a survey component. It will be site specific at first, then maybe all the roads of Oahu, etc. Potential vector hotspots, unregulated plant trade, old CTAHR stations, old forestry planting sites, working with botanical garden lists, etc.

Comprehensive survey starts with a laundry list of targets, starting with existing ones. Now we're culling existing surveys from the 80s and 90s, what hort plants are here, old surveys, pulling out anything of concern based on that.

This is the overall direction OISC will be moving as our current targets are more on maintenance: rapid response.

Tony: Are there issues with identification?

Ryan: Yes, that's a bottleneck. We're trying to train up current and new staff, trying to get to the family level first if not genus. ID can take months, shipping specimens around the world to experts, etc. Part of this project is trying to speed things up. We're working on a list of experts we can send just a picture to, then follow up with a specimen if needed. The proposal was written as a 3-year proposal, but it should continue on. It needs to get funding for us to be successful, these tasks are major.

BREAK

V. Discussion

A. Bush beardgrass range extension, Ryan. We hit a snag when we found two large new populations in Temple Valley, on both sides of our core survey area. We did aerial survey in the mauka areas and found 6 populations, 30–60 mature plants. We would need to do a lot more survey, at least a couple of more flights to fully assess it. We're trying to decide how to continue. We'll have a working group meeting too in the next couple of weeks, bring in our partners.

Josh: If it was accessible, we could go in and spray and pull. But on these pali ridges, there's no way to get there except by helicopter. From the heli, you can't see the small keiki. On frequency, we've learned that once a month is best. Also it's right above a neighborhood.

We've been working on these other populations for several years now, we have the whole neighborhood on board in Temple Valley. We hesitate to just drop this. The positive is that they're pretty much isolated to the ridges. It's probably midway on the pali. Probably came from construction in the area earlier.

Matt: Maui guys probably have more experience than Richard with this kind of thing.

VI. Tony Montgomery: Aquatic invasive species overview.

Tony gave a presentation on Oahu DAR projects on alien algae, orange keyhole sponge, mushroom anemones, *Elodea* (a freshwater clam), and non-native freshwater fish.

VII. Next OISC meeting: Strategy meeting TBA.

VIII. Pau.

Attendees

Shahin Ansari, Lyon Arboretum
Derek Arakaki, HDOA
Becky Azami, HDOA
Brian Caleda, OISC

Abbreviations

AFB, Air Force Base
CGAPS, Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species
DAR, Division of Aquatic Resources

Diane Drigot, MCBH Environmental
Joshua Fisher, OISC
Jean Fujikawa, OISC
Rob Hauff, DLNR DOFAW
Aaron Hebshi, Hickam AFB
Susannah Iott, OISC
Mary Ikagawa, OISC
Matt Keir, Army Environmental
Greg Koob, USDA NRCS
Jackie Kozac, KISC
Christie Martin, CGAPS
Katy Metzler, OISC
Tony Montgomery, DLNR DAR
Rachel Neville, OISC
Nani Nikcevich, OISC
Joylynn Paman, MISC
Ryan Smith, OISC
Christian Sousa, OISC
Jeremy Spencer, OISC
Jason Sumiye, KMWP
Christine Volinski, MCBH
Amy Tsuyenoshi, HBWS

DLNR, Department of Land and Natural Resources
DOFAW, Division of Forestry & Wildlife
HBWS, Honolulu Board of Water Supply
HDOA, Hawaii Department of Agriculture
KISC, Kauai Invasive Species Committee
KMWP, Koolau Mountains Watershed Partnership
MCBH, Marine Corps Base Hawaii
MISC, Maui Invasive Species Committee
NRCS, Natural Resources Conservation Service
OISC, Oahu Invasive Species Committee
USDA, United States Department of Agriculture