

OISC Committee Meeting
May 1, 2008
Windward Community College
45-720 Kea'ahala Street, Kane'ohe
Akoakoa Building, Room 103
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Notes

I. Welcome and introductions. Rachel opened the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.

II. Partner updates

A. USFWS: Karl Buermeyer. Avian influenza: Hawaii is fourth in the nation for number of samples collected, we just wrapped up the season and found no positives. We just found out we got over \$300,000 for invasive species partnerships. We will be looking at priorities with our partners and do some project-level funding. Jeff Sherrod is giving an Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point workshop at the Hawaii Conservation Conference, you can sign up for that at their web site. Jeff would like to know if there are any freshwater aquatic species on your target list? Rachel: Not at the moment.

Mindy: There are a few species here on Oahu like Sylvania that the county participates in. Karl: Jeff's specialty is freshwater species.

Jeff Harrods is in our office, he was previously the aquatic nuisance coordinator for California and Nevada. He is doing Hazard Analysis, Critical Control Point (HACCP). This is a structured, documented process that works like what you do for miconia.

Josh: It formulates your procedures into a document, for example it is something you can give to volunteers and they can see reason and flow in the control effort. It records your effort.

B. Army Natural Resources: Jane. One new thing is that I'm the new ecosystem restoration program manager for the Army. I mostly deal with weed issues. We're hoping to have more of an emphasis on that in the coming years. Other highlights, we've been sending OED lots of samples, one *Paspalum*, *Sideroxylon*, some interesting things popping up on our training ranges. Two days ago we went on a weed survey with OISC. There are a lot of trees on base, some things in the residential areas we're starting to look at. We hope to work more with Alex and Danielle to survey more there at Schofield, also Wheeler and Shafter.

PenSet: We have several sites where it has been found on Army land, but none has been found in quite a long time. One site is on a six month check, we haven't found anything recently.

We found a new *Senecio madagascariensis* in the east range in our annual survey. It may have come in on a vehicle, we'll visit Schofield quarry next week. There was just one plant. The south range is still mostly covered by training structures, which prevents a lot of things from coming up.

We've been monitoring for *Buddleja madagascariensis*, nothing has been found. *Melochia umbellata* is another species of concern. We have been to that site several times in the last 6 months. Nothing has been found off the road in an aerial, there were several right along the road. KMWP is looking at the other large population, in Punalu'u, that was considered too widespread for OISC to target.

Coqui has been eradicated from Wahiawa, there have been no frogs heard for quite a while. We'll be doing some monitoring with digital voice recorders, working with OISC.

They think the Kahuku *Melochia* came in from the Big Island with Army training. Drum Road goes right through there. They're doing construction and wanted to move that dirt somewhere else, we said no. One of our biggest concerns is not spreading it along Drum Road.

Acacia mangium. Large phyllode koa. This was planted in Kahuku for reforestation, we're continuing to monitor that. It's the largest population on the island, 106 immatures were controlled at the largest site in Kahuku. Mindy: I suggest getting with Rob Hauff. Christy: Paul Singleton was experimenting with that, he may know of other plantings.

Jane: It grows really fast.

Rachel: We had thought *Melochia* was pretty isolated, but one of our volunteers found one near Waiawa. Two weeks after we brought it up at the strategy meeting it turned out that Punalu'u Valley is filled with it. We do work exchanges with KMWP so we'll probably all participate in it.

Jane: We'll join them for an aerial survey, what we find will determine the action plan.

D. SWCA: Shahin Ansari. We'll be contacting you as soon as we get going with the SNIPP program [Invasive species along roadsides, HDOT program].

Rachel: The best practices manual is coming out too.

Deleted: ¶

- E. CGAPS: Christy Martin. Some of the top projects have been to work more internally with CTAHR and try to help them realize they need to develop some guidelines for outreach. Some of their recommendations have included even ISC target species. We're going to revise the Silent Invasion booklet. It will be a glossy format, about 25 pages. It will feature a wide variety of invasives. Another important thing is the 50-cent-per-ton cargo inspection fee, HB2843. It looks like one of the problems we've had is that the airlines have opposed it, but the shipping companies have been okay with it. The Legislature has supported it. As individuals we can support it.

It passed final reading and is posted. The governor has until the end of June or the beginning of July to sign, not sign, or veto. Mark Fox has developed a package of materials.

Rachel: At the brown tree snake meeting, Domingo gave a presentation about inspection. Organic stuff always has the most bugs. It is important to have enough inspectors.

Christy: Also at the brown tree snake meeting, we talked about the Guam military buildup when they move from Okinawa. They expect to see a 600% increase in cargo.

- F. DOFAW: Dave Smith. We're working with OISC to try to get them consolidated at the Kawainui baseyard. We're working through the archeological sites at the spot, but there is a lot of space there, we'll work something out. We're doing the same thing with KMWP, getting OISC out of Waimano will help, and now NARS is filling their empty positions so it's getting tight there. A lot of it is capacity building at our end. Cooperative work projects with OISC and KMWP, we did one last week at the [Manana?] burn site, pulling *Melaleuca*. We can do a lot of the projects that need saws and heavy equipment. We're finalizing an MOU with Army for an implementation plan. A lot of this is on state land—Forest Reserves and other DOFAW land. There's an economy of scale, a more cooperative relationship with Army, invasive and T&E species work. Ryan Peralta is on as protection forester. A lot of his time is taken up by fire. Also surveys and goat control. We're looking to expand that section so Ryan will have an assistant forester. Still trying to hire Scott Williamson's position, Scott did a great job on coqui. It's a Protection IV position for invasive species control with the branch, working with landowners, forest management, T&E species protection and invasives control. A lot of the money is state money that's not matched against grants. We'd like to talk with FWS about matching, an umbrella grant for T&E species management. We're also working on establishing a Waianae Mountains Watershed Partnership grant. It would probably be the last one added in the state. TNC did a study looking at the potential for it. It might be unique, more like ahapua'a lands, all the way down to the ocean.

G. HISC, Chris Buddenhagen: My latest project is a needs analysis, like a gap analysis for invasive species with Christy and Susan. We'll involve as many agencies as possible. I'm up to \$30M including a \$10M biocontrol facility for DOA. We'll probably pass the estimate from a few years ago of \$50M.

Christy: We need to really push for the items on that list, to prioritize and go after them.

Rachel: Will that include policy needs?

Chris: It's more an infrastructure needs list.

Christy: In 2000, the needs assessment also included major legal needs.

Rachel: Josh Atwood is working on a paper to identify things we've found coming in that we didn't know about and compare Hawaii with other states.

Christy: Sharon, Mark Fox's assistant at TNC should be able to give you what they did.

HISC, Stephanie Joe: With the Weed Risk Assessment (WRA), Chuck and I are still working on various lists. They will start to be posted faster, we're working with Curt Daehler to speed that up. You can email us requests for assessments at hpwra@yahoo.com. I'm going to be returning to the Army in August, we'll be posting my position.

Rachel: The WRAs have been super fast coming from Alex and Danielle, it's been very helpful for us.

Stephanie: Chuck just gave a presentation on Kauai on biofuels. Chris B. was there. Unthinking adoption of some species could be a risk, a number of them are promoted because they grow fast under any conditions. We need to think about the invasiveness of these beforehand.

Rachel: At the 06 Conservation Conference, I remember that someone did a presentation in New Zealand and if people want to farm something that's invasive they have to come with mitigation funds to survey and control plants coming up outside their farms. I think she said this in reference to kiwi fruit.

Chris: So many are experimental, it's likely that many will be abandoned.

Katy: I don't think Forestry even knew the WRA was available. We need a connection or outreach by WRA to people like Ryan Peralta, people who have that kind of job. They'll use it if they know it's out there. He was using the noxious weed list.

Jane: Another source of new grasses coming in is feed stores. My uncles are farmers, they often ask me about some new plant they've heard about. That might be a good place to survey. One was a *Brachiaria*, a South American cattle feed. Also *Panicum maximum*. I'm not sure where checking with feed stores would come in. Joby and Kapua are always vigilant for weeds. They found a couple things at Home Depot that they gave to Stephanie.

Chris: If it's a grass, it will probably naturalize. They often become weeds and rarely turn out to be useful.

Evelyn: Has anyone in this group been contacted by the woman growing vetiver grass [*Vetiveria zizanioides*] on the North Shore?

Julia: I've sent emails and called her, but she doesn't call me back. It might be a good replacement for Pampas grass.

Rachel: There are a lot of native grasses that are also useful and pretty, native *Eragrostis*, if watered it's very nice.

Chris: Vetiver has a tap root. It was considered for a couple of projects on Kauai, Shahin ran it through and had some concerns.

Shahin: A lot of times it's because there is a lot that's not known about it, or whether the correct cultivar has been identified.

HISC, Mindy Wilkinson: We're trying to work with Bishop to get all records of species in the state online asap. It's probably a couple years down the line. Chris is working with them. We need to develop capacity via funding. Non-ISC data needs to be included. Legislative update: Right now DOA can't ask shippers to have a detailed manifest, it can say "Freight, All Kinds." HB 2843 would not only increase funds from \$700,000 to \$7M, it would force shippers across the board to provide a detailed manifest. It would also add an inspection facility so inspections aren't taking place right on the tarmac. If planned in advance and funded, it won't be a hassle for shippers.

Other bills that have moved through: Coqui frog, control will be required to take place near residences. The noxious weed bill has passed, it will be illegal to sell noxious weeds. It also allows adding species to the restricted list to stop imports. There wasn't a way to do this before unless plants were carrying pests, not if the plant itself was possibly invasive. That list was last updated in 1981. This will require constant support and effort from DOA. HISC is still at \$4M, DOFAW's invasive species program is still at \$400,000. Frog funding, the Senate has put in \$400,000 for frogs. Oahu was left out, they may be able to make it up from HISC funds. Mindy is leaving for a detail with the National Invasive Species Council, lobbying for Hawaii for about 1 year. They finished interviews a couple of weeks ago.

H. Department of Transportation: Chris Dacus. DOT is still working to start their programmatic invasive species program. The SWCA contract will probably be finalized in the next month. Also we're starting a policy of naturalizing some of our rural roads instead of just mowing. We're trying it on H2, where we cut the *Albizia* down, letting it grow wild right to the edge of the road. It may cut down on erosion and maintenance. There is mixed feedback from the public so far.

J. Marine Corps Base Hawaii: Todd Russell. The Marine Corps is working with Ag on snakes. We recently got a call on a snake sighting. Domingo and their crew are really helpful, they came out but we haven't found it. We are looking forward to cooperating with people in Guam on the potential buildup, the airfield. Guam is working on an invasive species management plan. Fountain grass for November, Diane asked me to ask you about that. I'll get with Katy on the date.

We have sent an email to every Marine Corps resident about the snake. We're happy with DOA's effort. They also do the inspections for the planes that come in. Awareness of brown tree snake on base is better now than it was 2 weeks ago because of the mass mailing.

We do an orientation briefing, each department gets 10 minutes for every new marine that comes on the base. We tell them you can't have any snakes as pets. The airfield is different. How that will shake out with the increase in traffic, with DOA, I don't know.

Rachel: 643-PEST is staffed 20 hours a day. If you see an OISC target, they will tell us about it. If you're going to memorize any phone number, memorize that one.

Josh: Because of the increase with the military expansion in Guam, Kaneohe is a port of entry, so that's a concern.

K. The Nature Conservancy: Evelyn Wight gave an update on TNC's Forest Recovery Project. TNC is sponsoring an ungulate issues symposium at the Hawaii Conservation Conference that will include updates on that project as well as information from other ungulate control research and projects in Hawaii and nationally.

III. OISC 2007 year-in-review summary and highlights. Rachel. (See handout for species activity.)

A. Nettle caterpillar: OISC has been helping DOA, setting traps over a large area. It was found in Waianae and on central Oahu. DOA got rid of it in Waianae, there has been nothing in the traps for a while. It's spreading in central Oahu.

HDOA is monitoring, as is APHIS. It's an interagency effort. It's all around the Mililani ag complex, in residential neighborhoods and in a gulch.

- B. Fountain grass: There is still no fountain grass in the Waianae. Alex found some at the intersection of Puuloa Rd. and Salt Lake Blvd. Our strategy for that is to keep it off the leeward side. This was the largest population west of Diamond Head, on private land.
 - C. *Cortaderia*: The handout shows matures and immatures for *Cortaderia*, they're really just smaller-looking plants, there is no confirmation that it is reproducing on this island. If we find that it does, we'll set buffers.
- IV. OED highlights. The two botanists at Bishop are assessing plants for weediness, looking at what should be rapid response species. They started with nurseries and botanical gardens. They have also been doing road surveys, driving really slow. A lot of things are really widely established. They started with 300 species that they didn't think were widely established. That was cut to 130, and they're finding that a lot of them are widespread. We're not getting new alerts from them often for that reason. When they're done with the list, we'll have a long list of plants. We will need to prioritize, as many will take a lot of time.

They found kudzu, three in Kaneohe and one in Pearl City. We have removed the ones on public land. The ones on private land are cultivated. We think people brought them from Japan, people have told us they're growing it for food. Keep your eyes open for it.

Mindy: Maybe hit Japanese Cultural Center events. It's on the federal list, not state lists as far as we know.

Julia set up a booth on Ag Day at the legislature. Someone told her they were selling fountain grass at Navy Exchange. Thirty grass species were being sold, 4 never formerly collected on Oahu, 23 never in the state. *Cortaderia selloana* is on OISC's target list, and if growing from seed, you'll have reproduction, males and females.

Derek of HDOA went to the Exchange and explained the seed rules to the vendor, they did take it down.

Medinilla heterophylla. This scored high on the WRA, we removed it. This is an example of rapid response that worked well.

Josh is working on a virtual detection community. When Alex and Danielle find something they think is actionable they'll post it, and hopefully others will respond with information about other parts of the island and help decide if we should go after it.

<http://www.hear.org/oisc/oahuearlydetectionproject/>

If someone sees a plant on the list of potential targets that they really think is useful, they can send the info to Alex and Danielle, they're trying to get all information about these plants.

- V. Vertebrate operations. Brian's last day was yesterday. We're looking for a vert ops supervisor. We have some very good resumes. Part of Brian's job was managing the intensive sprays at Wahiawa, but we don't need to do that this year so the person will have time for other projects. We'll be asking for input on priorities. Please send me an email if you have any ideas.

We'll be using the remote monitoring device invented by KISC. There's a small recorder set with a timer inside a piece of PVC pipe. There is software that will search for the coqui call. HDOA has been sending us a priority list of nurseries. This way we can put out a lot of these and don't have to sit out at all these nurseries. The range for the recorder might be about 50 feet, according to Jane.

- VI. Outreach update. Julia. So far we've attended 7 large outreach events and done three presentations. We reached almost 2,000 people. Major ones were Bishop's Mad about Science and Honolulu Ag Day at the capitol. I gave two class presentations, one at the CTAHR invasive pest course, and one here at Windward CC. I also met with the Golf Course Superintendents Association, and spoke with people from each island about Pampas grass. The largest populations on Oahu are found on golf courses, we've removed several tons so far. We have had several successful volunteer trips so far this year, ginger removal on Manoa Cliffs Trail, 'ihi 'ihi habitat, the Kalihi stream restoration project.

- VII. OISC 2008 activity highlights. (See chart.) Thanks to Julia's efforts, we have literally removed tons of Pampas grass. We did a little less miconia than average in the first quarter because of the increased Pampas grass work. We usually offer people a replacement plant, which helps. Maui apparently did find a keiki *C. selloana*.

The beardgrass pali population: It would take several helicopter sprays to take care of that. We were asked to do more surveys outside the area to see how widespread it is. We contacted the condo owners below the site to ask about aerial spraying, and BWS. Their answer will probably be no.

We did not find large populations outside what we already knew of. We found something but we couldn't tell what kind of grass it was with the spotting scope, we will need a helicopter survey to fly over to make sure. Before we spend the money for that, I want to wait to see what BWS says.

This species is costing about \$64,000/year. It would be another \$50,000–60,000/year to do the sprays and extra time working with the neighborhood to do the spraying.

Miconia. No matures were found this quarter. There are 877 acres of initial ground buffer remaining, 1,822 resurvey acres, 6,912 acres not up for resurvey. There were 393 acres added to initial acres in October with the find of the Maunawili tree. Given current staffing levels and our acreage per hour, we probably will not be able to complete all of the resurvey acreage this year. However, we will prioritize whatever we don't do for the first part of 2009. The crew will probably fly the ground buffer around the Maunawili tree because the cat's claw is thick and in some places gets as high as 60 feet.

Aerial: 9,366 acres have been done in the buffer, there are 6,168 remaining. We can survey about 60 acres in one aerial hour. We'll need about \$40,000 year for '08 and '09 and we could pretty much finish that aerial buffer. That wouldn't cover anything outside the buffer.

We're not finding much in Wahiawa. There was one mature in the botanical garden, and a neighbor had a plant, that was it, historically.

We need to run a model for what's due in 2009 to know about keeping on track for resurveys for '08 and '09. If we don't find anything on two resurveys, do we drop that area?

Mindy: MISC is planning a meeting for '09 to revisit the '97 conference in Tahiti. MISC and Lloyd Loope will bring up Jean-Yves Meyer and a crew from Queensland. They found that post-typhoon they got a lot of miconia sprouting, so we need to be on top of it now.

- VIII. Wrap-up discussion. When you get the announcement for the next meeting, please let us know if this is the sort of information that's useful to you, we do these meetings for you.

12 pm The meeting was adjourned.

Attendees:

Shahin Ansari	SWCA Environmental Consultants
Jane Beachy	Army Natural Resources Program
Karl Buermeyer	USFWS
Chris Buddenhagen	DLNR/HISC
Chris Dacus	HDOT
Joshua Fisher	USFWS
Jean Fujikawa	OISC
Mary Ikagawa	OISC
Stephanie Joe	HISC
Keoki Kanakaokai	OISC

Zach Luechauer	OISC
Katy Metzler	OISC
Christy Martin	CGAPS
Melissa Miller	OISC
Julia Parish	OISC
Lara Reynolds	OISC
Todd Russell	MCBH
Dave Smith	DOFAW
Ryan Smith	OISC
Evelyn Wight	TNC
Mindy Wilkinson	DLNR/HISC