

OISC AWARD

Priscilla Pérez Billig
8-27-08

The Environmental Systems Research Institute presented the O‘ahu Invasive Species Committee with the Special Achievement in GIS Award in August at the 28th Annual ESRI International User Conference in San Diego, California. The award honors organizations that make significant contributions to society through their use of a geographic information system, or GIS, a technology which captures, stores, analyses and manages earth data. ESRI designs and develops GIS modeling and mapping software and technology.

“At ESRI, we are always deeply impressed by the innovation of our users,” said Jack Dangermond, ESRI president. “We want to recognize the efforts of these individuals with our Special Achievement in GIS Award. This recognition is well deserved for how they've applied geospatial technology to address the needs of their industries and communities. They are defining GIS best practices.”

The O‘ahu Invasive Species Committee, or OISC, is a partnership of public and private organizations and individuals that work together to control incipient invasive plants and animals on O‘ahu. Field crews survey forested terrain, as well as residential areas, for plant pests, such as miconia, bush beardgrass, pampas grass and other invasives.

OISC crews also respond to coqui frog reports. Collaborating with the Coqui Frog Working Group, crews have conducted systematic treatment for coqui frogs and managed to eradicate infestations of O‘ahu’s only naturalized population. OISC continues to respond to calls from residents and nurseries.

Accepting the GIS Award for OISC was GIS/Database Manager Jean Fujikawa. Her efforts in automating OISC’s GIS processes and getting GIS into wider use in their field operations led to the group’s nomination.

“One model I created calculates the number and location of miconia acres we have left to survey and re-survey,” Fujikawa said. “The output from the model is used in all facets of our operation from informing our field crew of where to survey to reports and grant applications we write.”

Working with the Bishop Museum, OISC’s Early Detection Project surveys nurseries, botanical gardens and agricultural experiment sites to help locate possible weed introductions. OISC catalogs new plant introductions to Hawai‘i and assesses their potential to become a problem using the Hawai‘i Weed Risk Assessment.

“We’re happy to have our work recognized and having the award come from ESRI tells us we’re definitely where we want to be,” Fujikawa said. “We use GIS to plan, track and report on our work and our field crew has been great at learning and using GIS.”



ESRI President Jack Dangermond and OISC GIS/Database Manager Jean Fujikawa at the 28th Annual ESRI International User Conference in San Diego, California.

OISC also conducts volunteer work trips on O‘ahu each second Saturday of the month. Volunteers will experience rugged hikes and are asked to bring water, bag lunch, sunscreen, protective clothing and raingear. The public may call 286-4616 to sign up. Learn more about OISC and invasive species online at <http://www.hawaiinvasivespecies.org/>