

OISC General Meeting  
August 13, 2009, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
at the  
YMCA of Honolulu  
1441 Pali Highway  
Honolulu, Hawaii

MEETING NOTES

I. Welcome and agenda

Rachel opened the meeting and went over the agenda.

II. OISC update

Rachel gave an OISC update. We are okay on money til December. We have some money coming from FWS, and some Recovery Act money. We still don't know how much we are getting from HISC, we asked for \$250,000, which is 40% less than we got last year. If we get that we will still have to raise \$20,000 to have enough money for 12 months. But we are still understaffed and we are way behind in acres. If we want to get to a place where we are at capacity, we need to raise \$200,000.

Species updates:

A. Miconia. You all heard about the three mature miconia trees we found in Kaalaea Valley. We went back and looked at why there are mature trees there. One looked quite old. We found that we should have done that valley in August of '08, so we were a full year behind in getting to that. So looking at how behind we are now, there are 3,539 acres that should be done by the end of 2009. Our average is 2,600 acres/year. There was a lot of rollover from 2008. The red on this map is what we have prioritized. There are less than 100 acres that have never been surveyed. We are prioritizing to within 400 acres of mature trees, that is what we can finish by the end of 2009. We are going to roll over 70% of the acres that should be surveyed in 2009. We usually have a strategy meeting in the fall, we will show another prioritized, updated map then. The backlog is due to several factors. We did not replace staff when they left because of worries about budget cuts, we contracted out staff to projects like Kipapa, and we spent more time on Himalayan blackberry work that was not getting done.

Susie: The delay in getting to Kaalaea was all a matter of getting access, we'd been working on it for about a year. That valley is all privately owned. We had interns

in June and July this year, and have made some pretty good progress since then. We have not found any more big trees, just seedlings.

Rachel: The good news is that the stimulus package is bringing us two Americorps interns.

We'll probably still be doing fountain grass. Other things that need a lot of monitoring like firetree and *Senecio*, Lanky is helping with those in the Forest Reserves, so thank you Lanky, that is a big help.

There was a question about volunteering. Rachel explained the different ways to help with OISC's surveys.

Dan: Have you thought about getting some help to catch up on miconia, like a big blitz, borrow some gear from KISC and get for example some FWS people for a few days, see if OISC can catch up a little?

Susie: What could be an issue is that most of the areas are steep, so you need people who are physically fit, can climb waterfalls and steep slopes, and also people who can spot miconia. We stopped using volunteers for miconia since people we so busy hiking the steep ground they weren't even looking for the plant.

Josh: In the valleys sometimes you only have room for a limited number of people.

Dan: Maybe with some planning it could be worked out.

- B. Blackberry: In the past couple of years, the crew was finding other patches of blackberry. OISC did an aerial survey but we found some on the ground after, so it's not that detectable from the air. We think we have a handle on the population now, this is what it looks like [map slide]. There is a hole in the survey area where the person who planted it lives. Its reproduction seems to be mainly vegetative. We think that the other populations we've found were planted. So we would like to stop surveying and concentrate on control. We don't have time to survey out to a 400m buffer.

Susie: A lot of the area is densely populated with guava. It likes open areas at the edges of uluhe, places that are easy for the guy who planted it to access it.

Jane: It seems like you've covered the high-priority areas and can concentrate on the known sites. When there is more money available maybe some of the lower-priority areas could be surveyed.

Rachel: We could put it on our to-do list. I haven't graphed it yet to look for a decline, we should see that after December.

Josh: The question is, is the treatment effective? What we are seeing is mostly runners. Is there something that would really kill it?

Susie: Jean graphed the Maumae population. We haven't gotten to zero, but where we're using Escort it has significantly dropped. The new site though, it rains every time we treat.

Rachel: We are also cooperating with an organic farmer where we only pull keikis, he has been really helpful so we are trying to work with him. At the last meeting, I had been talking with Amy about using pesticide on BWS land. USGS had written a report about finding metsulfuron methyl in groundwater, which comes up every time I talk to BWS about using herbicide. We could do it if we would buy pollution insurance, which costs as much as half someone's salary.

Rob: There was a dispute about whether that was a positive hit or not. It is also used to clear right of ways.

Rachel: It's not going to happen, and I'm not going to pursue it any longer with BWS.

Does anyone have any objections to us not surveying all the 400m area?

Danielle: Does the guy who planted it have it on his property?

Rachel: If we get to the eradication point, I'll approach him again and ask if it is on his property and where else he may have planted it.

### III. Partner updates

A. USFWS, Josh Fisher: I don't have anything major. As far as WNV/AI, I made that \$3,000 available for all dead birds and not just chickens. I am a little concerned about the continuing ability of the lab to test. I am going to a national meeting on avian health and disease, and hoping to talk to someone about transitioning toward WNV, there's a lot lacking in that department. There are ongoing talks about where to sample.

#### B. DLNR

Mindy Wilkinson: General funds are all frozen. We still have HISC funds, which we are trying to get encumbered in early October, if we get the governor's permission to roll over the first quarter into the second quarter. Rob has been dealing with the American Recovery Act and Forest Service funding.

Rob Hauff: Hopefully that will be in your account in October. The first reporting will be in January. Also I've been talking to Jay Deputy, Darcy and I will do a talk at the LICH conference in October about their continuing education credits, what to look out for with certain pests.

Lanky Morrill: Dealing with weeds in the forest, I've been working with NARS on silk oak, paperbark on Manana Trail. We are now wrapping that in groundcloth to keep the seeds from blowing away. At another site below Tripler belonging to Damon Estate we're doing restoration, rubber vine, planting kou. We have been working with Army. Jane: There were only about 8 very large plants, crew was briefed on [avoiding contact with] the sap.

Priscilla Billig: I have been working on articles about ants and biocontrol. Jackie Kozak and Patrick and myself were involved with a Pacific Island biocontrol workshop and I wrote that up in June. We're going to use that in an electronic newsletter. We stopped using Constant Contact, we are working with Philip Thomas on a new format. There was an article on the zoo: HISC granted a student with the Zoological Society some funds for designs. Christie worked with us and we made 5 stand-alone panels geared toward educating students and tourists about invasive species. We will get the electronic version of these panels. There was someone at UH who has done photos like this on vinyl. It will be a portable version of that standing display. There are definitions, discussion of invasive species, where they come from, etc. They cost only \$200 to produce and have a 5-year lifespan. The ISC brochure is not going to cost as much as we thought. But it is delayed. KISC is moving their office, so that phone number will change, and we won't know the new one until the

end of December. We had an activity book for children planned too. Jackie and I will be putting that together.

Rachel commented that Bishop Museum has coloring pages of miconia and coqui.

Patrick Chee: I'm full time doing HISC coordination, working on the HISC report to the Legislature, things of that nature. We are trying to finish that report by the end of September.

Dave Smith: I've just been working with Mary on the baseyard at Kawainui.

Rachel updated everyone on the new baseyard. The office building is in place but there is considerable work remaining on infrastructure.

- C. Oahu Army Natural Resources Program, Jane Beachy: We work on a lot of the target species. We continue to have a lot of access problems to the *Senecio* site because of training. We can almost go only on Christmas. We have not found any more fountain grass in the east range or Dillingham Field. *Melochia*, we're still working along Drum Road. We found one mature. It is a small population but it keeps coming back. We are controlling *Acacia mangium* in Kahuku. It is not widespread, but immatures keep coming up steadily. *Tibouchina herbacea*, we will fly again in October/November, if you guys want to put someone in the bird. *Verbena bonariensis* showed up at our west range baseyard. This is easy to check, I can do it on my lunch break. We are still looking for it in those sites where fill is piled up or gear is stored.

Drum Road is that gigantic road from Helemano to Kahuku, it's going to be a major construction project. It should be drivable by us by September/October, we'll survey it then. It should be completed by March, but it is a training area road and maybe not an OED road, but you can come with us if you want. None of the stuff I have found looks very problematic. We will be working with OED on non-training roads on Army bases. They'll start on Friday. Army is supposed to be washing all its training vehicles, but there has been an issue with the contract, it may be operational in September.

We are entering an aviation agreement with A&B, so Joby is interested in talking flight time with you.

- D. DOW chemical, Roman Dycus: If there's anything our chemistries may help, we'd be happy to help out.
- E. BIISC, Page Else: BIISC is getting closer to hiring a new manager. The early detection crew is about a third of the way through the road surveys. They have done three of nine districts, primary roads only, not residential. We hope to do outreach at Ocean View, get volunteer backup.
- F: USFWS Ecological Services, Dan Clark: We have a new boss, Loyal Mehrhoff. He has a solid invasives background. He is mission oriented and should be a big influence for all of us, work with HDOA. We have the ISCs way up on the priority list for funding. We are working a lot with Army on rats and rodenticide, working on outreach. Our office is heavily involved in snake prevention. The Guam office is ramping up with review of 12 volumes of environmental documents, moving 40,000 people to Guam is a big project. Dog teams with HDOA have been cut by the

legislature. The USGS dogs in the woods for rapid response have also been cut. The Western Pacific region has some funds for training people for rapid response. I don't think there is funding for here for this year. As more time goes by the need for that may come to the top.

We had our Regional Law Enforcement officer here at the Hawaii Conservation Conference, he is looking for some dogs, so this may resurrect in a law enforcement capacity inside FWS. We are still working on aquatic invasives stuff with the Division of Aquatic Resources. There is training on Kauai in two weeks for Hazard Analysis for anyone who wants to go. The office staff is helping out with refuges, working with Jason Hanley. Hopefully we will work on Guam for *Leucaena* control in bird habitat. There is the potential for one or more of our office staff to go to the April [February Island Invasives Conf.?] conference in New Zealand. I have an invitation to give a talk on something else but I am interested in trying to do something on the ISCs. I will coordinate with Mindy.

Josh: There is an upcoming motorboat open ocean training hosted by the Department of the Interior, maybe some DOFAW people could use it. It's free, a week long.

There was a question about naio thrips. Rob: I think it will be detected first in urban areas, but you guys should be alert for it. So far it is only on the Big Island, South Kohala and Waimea. HDOA has pictures of the galling it causes on naio.

- G. CGAPS, Christie Martin: My job has morphed over the years to coordinating more than outreach. CGAPS is trying to focus more on statewide issues, what we have to do as a state to protect ourselves. We need better biosecurity through increased capacity for DOA, which is now consolidating, going the other way. We are trying to support their need to have cargo inspection fees released so they can use it to fund inspectors. A couple years ago we tried to put in a bill pushing for the ability to charge for incoming cargo. That bill finally passed, it was supposed to include joint state/federal facilities for a well-lit room with tables and joint inspectors. Most airlines have not been paying into that account. The bill died that was for a penalty for not paying into that fund. Otherwise it is just on an honor system. The funds still have not been released. There was an effort to exempt some commodities. The governor is opposed to this, she vetoed it and the legislature came back and overrode it.

The other thing we at CGAPS have been trying to do is to have DOA disallow new things from coming in until they are proven to be innocuous. The white list is the pie in the sky. We finally met with nurseries, landscapers, biofuel interests, and DOA. It turned into a long day of talking about why this cannot be done. It would be hard for them to inspect everything and evaluate it. Maybe we can get them to add plants to the restricted plants list, not the noxious weed list, which the rules require DOA to take action on. Until we can get them to agree to change the rules and regulations, which they haven't agreed to do yet...

Patrick: The other way might be to add things to the invasive species list. Though this is not regulatory until rules are made and DLNR has inspectors at the ports and there is a quarantine agency in existence.

Christie: There are a lot of plants already here that should be on the noxious weed list that we need a way to get people to stop selling. We wanted to ask DLNR if there is a way to do that. DAR has no way to stop things from being moved and spread.

Danielle: Have you looked at the federal side, APHIS? They have published a rule for comment. They're designating a new category of import, Plants for Planting. Certain species that are brought in for horticulture and forestry would be screened and put on a list based on evidence that it could be a pest or carry pests. These plants would be restricted from import and anyone wanting to bring them in has to show that the risks can be mitigated for or they won't let them bring it in.

Christie: I worry that any plant on the list would have to be shown as a pest for the mainland, not for Hawaii.

Rob: We are working with the Forest Service to get 13 genera on the list, there is no rule yet. We are trying to document pests on those genera that could affect Hawaiian plants. There is a small team working on this. We are looking for comments, there is something at the HEAR web site, we will be working with Patrick.

Dan: It would be more powerful to get comments together in a "consortium" document than to send individual emails.

- H. SWCA Environmental Consultants, Shahin Ansari: We are almost done with the contract with RCUH to get OED out working on the road surveys. We just finished a SNIPP strategic plan workshop where we invited both internal and external stakeholders to brainstorm on the SNIPP objectives and various tasks. We are almost done with the first draft and we first plan to send it to the internal stakeholders and after we incorporate their comments we will send it out for external review.

Dan: One other comment, Domingo is going to be staying at Department of Ag for a while, which is good because that is a critical position.

## BREAK

- IV. Oahu Early Detection (OED). Alex and Danielle gave a presentation on OED's activities, then discussion was opened.

Dan: As part of the decision-making process for control, there are also these considerations: Is it close to another target, so you're already in the area? Or, is it really hard to get to? Also, definitions matter, especially for publications. For example, what "moderate control effort" is.

Several people commented that maybe it is time for another early detection hui, either in person or teleconference.

Dan: Maybe don't put in too many more hours on developing the system and work more on implementation.

Rachel: I pushed for documentation so we could show landowners and other involved people why we're asking for what we're asking for, what the justification is.

Danielle: One pattern that has already emerged is that ornamental grasses are trendy and they are high-scoring potential problems. A lot of these are internet sales, and that is a huge gap.

Rob: Maybe the landscape industry would collaborate on outreach, since people buying online aren't buying from them.

Christie: LICH is looking for newsletter articles, the deadline for this time is Monday the 17th, but let's get something in next time.

Rachel: If no one has anything else, that's it. OED has a web site: [oad@bishopmuseum.org](mailto:oad@bishopmuseum.org).

## ATTENDEES

Shahin Ansari, SWCA Environmental Consultants

Jane Beachy, Oahu Army Natural Resources Program

Priscilla Billig, Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC)

Patrick Chee, HISC

Dan Clark, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Roman Dycus, Dow Chemical

Page Else, BIISC

Joshua Fisher, USFWS

Danielle Frohlich, OISC

Rob Hauff, State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources,  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DLNR DOFAW)

Naomi Hoffman, Honolulu Botanical Gardens

Mary Ikagawa, OISC

Susie Iott, OISC

Alex Lau, OISC

Christie Martin, Coordinating Group on Alien and Pest Species (CGAPS)

Cliff Morden, University of Hawaii, Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit

Lanky Morrill, DLNR DOFAW

Rachel Neville, OISC

David Smith, DLNR DOFAW

Mindy Wilkinson, HISC