

Oahu Invasive Species Committee
February 23, 2005 General Meeting Minutes
HDOA Plant and Animal Quarantine

I. Welcome and sign-in

II. OISC Meeting Focus and schedule overview

III. Announcements

A.) *OISC is looking for a new deputy chair for next fall.*

OISC uses a rotational system with three defined leadership positions, Chairperson, Emeritus Chair, Deputy Chair, with each having a defined term length of one year. The OISC Chair becomes the Emeritus Chair after their one-year term is up, and the Deputy Chair becomes the new Chairperson. Currently, Rob Hauff is the Chairperson of OISC. Rob will be stepping down as chair next fall and the deputy chair, Amy Tsuneyoshi, will become the new chair. OISC is seeking someone to fill the Deputy Chair position for next fall. Serving as a Deputy Chair helps one to get familiar with OISC before they become the Chairperson the following year. These three leadership positions are volunteer positions. The Chairperson position requires approximately 5-10% of the volunteer's time per week. The idea of a rotating chair is to allow all the agencies/organizations to play a part in the development of OISC. If anyone is interested in becoming the chairperson of OISC please contact either Ryan or Rob.

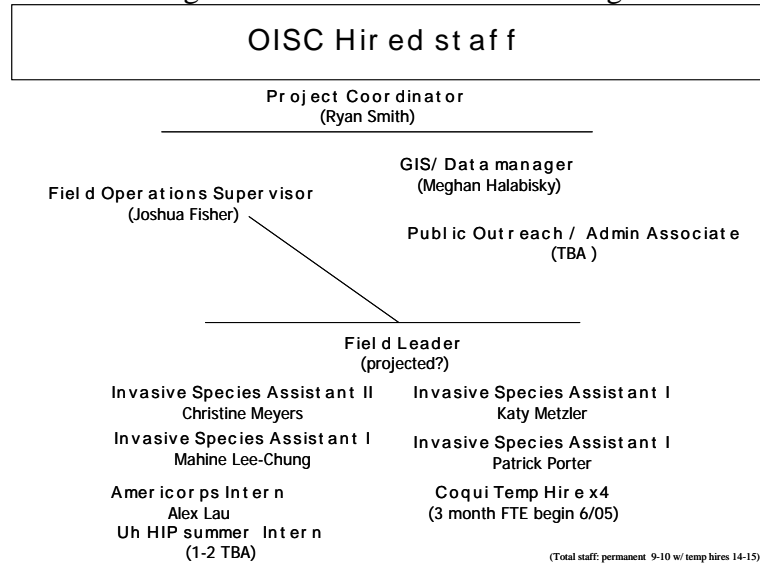
B.) *New OISC staff:*

Joshua Fisher has been promoted to the Field Operations Supervisor. He will be in charge of the four new field staff and the one Americorps intern that was recently hired. Ryan introduced each new staff member. We are very happy to have them onboard. The new staff are Christine Meyers, Mahina Lee-Chung, Patrick Porter, and Katy Metzler. Alex Lau, who has not started yet, is the OISC Americorps Intern. All of them are very enthusiastic to be part of OISC.

IV. Current OISC Configuration:

Ryan presented an outline of the current OISC staff configuration and described the short-term growth plan. Currently, OISC is in the process of hiring a part-time public outreach person and a part-time administrative assistant. OISC also plans to hire 4-5 temporary workers to control coqui frogs during the calling season.

Figure 1: Chart of OISC staff configuration:



Discussion:

Jason: Will interns have special projects? Is this your full capacity?

Ryan: Yes, the interns will have special projects but that won't be determined until we know who that person is and what their talents are. At present this is our full capacity given the funds that we have available. This is the largest that OISC has ever been and it has gone smoothly. There is no long-term staffing plan mapped out at this time.

Mindy: Will there be an office manager position like Maui?

Ryan: I am very interested in discussing this further and finding out what OISC's needs are for the future. OISC is meeting with the Chairs to discuss this.

V. OISC Field Work: Accomplishments/ Roadblocks

A. Field work Summary:

The numbers that are presented are slightly lower than they normally are as we were low on staff and spending more time with the hiring procedure.

Figure 2: OISC Field Work Summary

OISC TARGET SPECIES		
Field Summary July – December 2004	Total treated	Total Field Hours
1. Miconia calvescens	377 / 7 M	556
2. Eleutherodactylus coqui	N/A	639
3. Rubus discolor	1973	176
4. Schizachyrium condesatum	4175	176
5. Buddleia madagascariensis	9	55
6. Leptospermum scoparium	N/A	N/A
7. Pennisetum setaceum	2327	123
8. Morella faya	N/A	N/A
9. Melastoma candidum	10	1
- West Nile Virus	N/A	4

B.) *Field Highlights:*

- 1.) Miconia (*Miconia calvescens*): There were 7 reproductive miconia trees that were found in the last year. Six of them were found in Kahaluu from aerial surveys. OISC is interested in locating where these plants may have originated from. Aerial surveys continue to be a useful tool in spotting miconia. OISC has a goal of completing 4 aerial surveys (1 hour each) every month. Recently Dominic Souza of Army Environmental found a new population of miconia in Haiku valley. This is especially concerning as the nearest mature tree is over 3 miles away. OISC will be conducting aerial and ground surveys in the next few weeks.
- 2.) Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus discolor*): OISC is continuing reconnaissance surveys to determine the extent of the known population. OISC will perform trials of herbicide cocktails in hopes of increasing kill efficacy.
- 3.) Bush beard grass (*Schizachyrium condensatum*): OISC continues systematic treatment and is seeing a general population decline, though it is not yet quantifiable. OISC is working in conjunction with HDOT for the H3 sites.
- 4.) Fireweed (*Senecio madagascariensis*): Working in conjunction with HDOA, ITAM and DPW army environmental on eradicating known sites and defining island wide population boundary. A PR campaign to nurseries is projected.
- 5.) Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*): OISC completed a large reconnaissance survey of the Waianae Mountains using binoculars and spotting scopes. OISC was able to complete one helicopter survey. No new plant locations were found. However, 6 plants were found at a historic location.
- 6.) Coqui Frog (*Eleutherodactylus coqui*): OISC is gearing up for the coqui frog calling season. They will be hiring 4-5 temporary hires for the calling season. After the general meeting OISC is held a coqui frog working group meeting. OISC has been awarded a \$10,000 grant to produce a radio PSA. OISC is working with Christy Martin to handle this. The HEAR website will be updated with appropriate information for handling public inquiries. OISC will be increasing public outreach to nurseries. OISC has been assisting Scott Williamson of DLNR/DOFAW with control work. Scott gave a more comprehensive update on control efforts under partner agency updates.

C.) *Annual Reprioritization Meeting Highlights:*

- 1.) Manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*): Deemed inappropriate target for OISC as too widespread. OISC is planning to work with conservation community to address Manuka island-wide. A Manuka Hui will be planned in conjunction with Koolau Mountain Watershed Partnership.
- 2.) *Melastoma candidum*: Removed from target species list as too widespread. OISC will continue to house/map and record all locations encountered through work, cease all control and targeting work.
- 3.) Fire Tree (*Morella faya*): Placed on (TSM) list as known status in Ko'olau no longer justifies target species status. OISC work and goal will remain the same to eradicate from the Ko'olau range.
- 4.) Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*): Focus on Wai'anae eradication and prevention of spread via targeting high traffic areas. Continue to work with partner agencies to contain populations in the Ko'olau range

- 5.) Fireweed (*Senecio madagascariensis*) & Pampas grass (*Cortaderia spp.*):
Elevated to OISC target species.

VI. 2005 Outlook

A. 2005 Goals:

OISC's top goals for 2005 are:

- 1.) Improved Communication between Partner Agencies: Working to clarify roles between all partner agencies on common target species. Ensuring housing of all partner agency data.
- 2.) Improved Detection: OISC will increase staff education to improve in-house detection. Inter-agency communication / user group detection model.
- 3.) Improved Project Performance: OISC is looking to unify its baseyard / office in an efficient location. OISC will look at growth opportunities and create a long-term organizational structure. OISC will continue to improve data management. OISC will spend more focused time on species management: aggregating all historical data, working towards better strategizing and determinants of success.
- 4.) Increased Public Outreach: (Hire position 50-100 FTE) OISC will increase public support and detection of OISC / target species. OISC will be a consistent presence at community and county meetings. OISC will increase PR activity with OISC display, producing media etc...

B. 2005 Funding and Staffing:

Figure 3: 2005 Funding

USFWS	\$50,000
Forest Service Co-op	\$59,000
HBWS	\$125,000
Suppl budget	\$40,000
State Pass-ISC	\$33,000
State HISC	\$220,000
Total	527,000

Figure 4: 2005 Projected Staffing

(1-2 summer interns)
 4 x 3 month temp hire
 1 x Americorps intern
 4 x Field staff
 1 x Admin/PR
 1 x Field Ops Supervisor
 1 x DataGIS implementation
 1 x Coordinator
 Total = 14 - 15

VI. Partner Agency Update:

Ryan is trying to set up more communication with partner agencies and to clarify the roles of partner agencies that have a common target. He asked each partner to give a report on the OISC target species that they work on.

A.) DLNR: Coqui frogs (*Scott Williamson*)

Scott Williamson gave a summary about the current situation. He is trying to gear up for this next calling season (June – September) the most difficult roadblocks last year were communication problems. There was difficulty getting citric acid as there was a shortage on the island. There were not as many sprayers available. So far all these problems have been solved. The citric acid is now stockpiled and we have 2 sprayers with a possible third sprayer coming from the Army. Scott hopes to be doing large spraying operations at least three times a week. So far with surveying he has found an increase in juvenile frogs at some of the historic sights. Scott and Nilton sprayed one of these historic locations. Scott is feeling positive about a new treatment of using a hot water bath for nursery plants. It seems to be a very effective treatment. Plants are loaded into carts and into a container and then sprayed with hot water. The plants are not damaged, but the frogs are killed along with many other nursery pests.

(Mindy) NRCS will give small grants for agriculture businesses. There are several different options for grants within NRCS. It may help nurseries get more involved in the treatment of coquis.

(Ryan) OISC is planning on hiring 4 temporary staff for treatment of coqui frogs. This would allow our staff to focus more time on other targets such as miconia and to spend time with detection of new populations of coqui frogs. OISC has received a grant to produce a radio PSA for coqui detection efforts. The HEAR website is willing to coordinate efforts and help to be an information site for the public.

(Keevin) He would like to see the PSA being played on the military bases. So far it looks like (Ryan) KSSK will be the producers of this PSA as they are offering a large amount of free air time. (Mindy) You may ask KSSK if we can use the one that was produced in 2001.

B.) *Army Environmental: Fountain grass, Tibouchina urvilleana, Buddleia madagascariensis, and fireweed. (Jane Beachy)*

- 1.) Fountain grass: Army is checking the three population sites on a regular basis. The last plant in Makua was detected was in the 1980s. Army is still finding the occasional plant in the Kahuku Training Area and has found only one plant at Schofield Barracks East Range last year.
- 2.) *Tibouchina urvilleana* (Glory bush): Army is visiting the one known site every 6 months. The last visit was on 12/10/04 and they found 3 sprouts. They are also seeing *Ilex cassine* in the area spreading beyond previously known boundaries. Considering control.
Action Item: OISC will examine the status of *Ilex cassine* on the island.
- 3.) *Buddleia madagascariensis* (Butterfly bush): The three populations have been sprayed twice and are following up quarterly. Army recently met with a landscaper for the Army and asked if he knew of any *Buddleia m.* in other places around the base.
- 4.) Fireweed: Rosa from ITAM visits the fireweed site on a monthly basis. She is only finding low numbers, but is still seeing flowering plants. Army has been helping with large sprays. Recently it has been bulldozed and

improved for training areas. Bulldozing may have helped deplete the seed bank; however, it also means it could be spread around.

C.) *HDOA: Fireweed, Fountain grass, Coqui frogs, False Kava, Little Red Fire Ant (Report by Nilton Matayoshi)*

- 1.) Fireweed: HDOA- Plant Pest Control (PPC) has conducted limited surveys with OISC at Kunia and Schofield Barracks. The Kunia survey, thought to be an isolated incident, had no fireweed; while the Schofield site had one plant removed (the area was previously graded). A new infestation was discovered at DOT's Castle Junction construction site in February 2005. The infestation most probably started from undetectable contamination of carpetgrass seed planted in October 2004 that originated in Australia. The carpetgrass seeds were shipped directly to Arizona via Los Angeles port of entry, and arrived in Hawaii via domestic seed import. The seed shipment was vigorously examined, however, no carpetgrass seeds were found and the shipment was allowed for planting. So far, after making 4 official visits, a total of 14 mature plants have been manually removed by PPC staff.
- 2.) Fountain grass: PPC control efforts have been limited due to other HDOA activity priorities. In 2005, we will coordinate with OISC in an effort to familiarize us with the various sites. We anticipate having better follow up actions this year as we revamp our program. Main survey conducted with OISC participation was at the Honolulu International Airport runway. Between 50-100 plants were annually removed on a one day survey in November 2004.
- 3.) False Kava: Three properties were identified as having false kava. One at Kahaluu resided on properties of two residential associations (not treated due to inclement weather), one on a private property at Kahana (treated), and an accidental discovery across the Valley of the Temples Shopping Center on a private condominium complex (not treated.).
- 4.) Other weed surveys: PPC is actively surveying for fireweed and giant salvinia sites on all islands under CAPS funds. Information will go into the National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS)
- 5.) Coqui Frogs: Hydrated lime update; EPA has still not given us a response to applications made in May of 2004 for use of this product. We have asked EPA for a follow up to this issue. HDOA has developed a draft form of protocols for dealing with infested nurseries. That would deal with certifying nurseries as being coqui free. They are trying to keep the nurseries from shipping frogs interisland. HDOA is thinking about building a heat treatment container at the HDOA facilities.
- 6.) Little Fire Ant: HDOA will attempt to increase LFA surveys in certified and uncertified commercial nurseries on all islands. The program will be voluntary. A minimum of 10 vials using Spam as bait will be used to collect ants (40 minute collection period) at each nursery, and later identified by HDOA. The new effort will hopefully identify infested nurseries, offer information of proper ant control pesticides, and assist infested nurseries to qualify for NRCS-EQIP funds. It is still too early to

tell how much time needs to be devoted to this initiative, however, a magazine article in Agriculture Hawaii will soon feature LFA article, bringing more attention to this serious environmental pest. Already on the Big Island, Hilo Tribune Herald news article has initiated public reaction and peanut butter ant sticks are being turned in for ant identification. As a note, pesticide label applications do not allow use of most ant products on vegetables, and near fruit bearing trees, and this negates single use product application. Multiple pesticide products appear to be needed for control or eradication on commercial and non-commercial sites.

D.) HBWS: Fountain Grass (Amy Tsuneyoshi)

If OISC does any surveys and finds fountain grass at certain facilities they can notify BWS who will be able to control those populations. HBWS would like OISC to assist with the educational program and present on invasive species.

E.) MCBH: Fountain Grass (Lance Bookless)

Lance found 11 plants a month ago. One was flowering. MCBH spends most of its time controlling ivy gourd and mangrove. Ivy gourd has taken over the habitat for some of red footed boobies. Diane Drigot relies heavily on volunteer groups to upkeep work on certain weeds such as mangrove and pickleweed. The SERTA program has grant money to give away for certain invasive species projects. The next deadline is mid-march for certain projects.

F.) DAR: Aquatic Invasive Species (Tony Montgomery - via e-mail)

Currently DAR is looking to fill their coordinator position. They are having to re-post for this position. Beginning next month there will be an aquatic invasive species team with a crew of 3 and 1 supervisor.

Action Item: Tony and Ryan will schedule a meeting to go over aquatic invasive species issues and how OISC can fit into that.

E.) Legislative summary: Mindy Wilkinson (DOFAW)

The bulk of Mindy's efforts have been to show how this model of using partnerships like the ISCs is an effective model. Other bills that are going through are to make the HISC permanent. In order for it to be permanent they need to be sponsored by one agency. This is difficult as it does not take on the effect of a true partnership. There is one bill asking for 2 million for miconia funding for Maui and there is two related bills for two million dollars for coqui control for the big island. Legislating the specific target species may not be the best use of funds. There is a small possibility that these bills may effect the amount of money that the ISCs receive. DOFAW is advocating that the best distribution of State money for invasive species control should be made on the county level and not top down.

F.) CGAPS Coordinator: Kim Langley

Kim introduced Priscilla Billing as the new HISC public outreach position for Oahu and Maui. Kim also introduced Signe Opheim as the aquatic outreach

coordinator for the state. Priscilla has been doing a lot of freelancing in the last few years. Priscilla has a lot of experience in natural resources. She has just started this week. Signe graduated from UH and has been working for UH for the last two years and has done contract work for the Nature Conservancy. She has been working a lot on the alien algae clean ups. She will be working on statewide issues.

G.) KMWP (Jason Sumiye)

Jason has several projects going on. He recently hired two staff for a two-year project to look at a landscape-level, site-based approach to invasive weeds, surveying for invasive, habitat modifying over story nonnatives in high priority/value areas.

(Ryan) What is the next phase after mapping?

(Jason) The scope of this project is only data collection. A desirable outcome of the project will be the development of the specific project ideas that can be used for management and implementation.

VII.) Important OISC Meeting Dates

- March 10th – Miconia meeting
- July 20th - General meeting
- September 28th - Reprioritization meeting

~Pau~

Attendees: Ryan Smith (OISC, Coordinator), Meghan Halabisky (OISC), Bruce Casler (Waimea Valley Audubon Center), Rob Hauff (DoFaW), Jim Murphy (USDA-Wildlife Services), Jane Beachy (Army Environmental), Keevin Minami (HDOA, PQ), Nilton Matayoshi (HDOA PPC), Christine Meyers (OISC), Jason Sumiye (Koolau Mountains Watershed Partnership), Kim Langley (CGAPS), Mindy Wilkinson (DLNR), Katie Swift (USFWS), Leila Gibson (USFWS), Katy Metzler (OISC), Mahina Lee-Chung (OISC), Patrick Porter (OISC), Priscilla Billig (OISC), Signe Opheim (CGAPS), Mashuri Waite (UH- Botany), Lance Bookless (Marine Corps Base Hawaii – Environmental Dept.), Diane Drigot (MCBH- Env. Dept.), Amy Tsuneyoshi (Board of Water Supply)