



# OISC

## **O'AHU INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE**

### **General Meeting Agenda**

**March 29, 2007**

**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**HDOA Plant Quarantine**

- I. Welcome and sign in. 9:00 – 9:05**
- II. Announcements 9:05 – 9:20**
  - A. New OISC staff: (present general structure)
    - i. New hires Field Crew
    - ii. New hires Coqui crew
    - iii. Staffing changes
  - B. Additional announcements:
- III. Partner Agency update (3-5min): 9:25 – 9:50**

OISC / DLNR Coqui update	MCBH
HDOA –PPQ	Codes of Conduct
HDOA – Chem / mechanical	HISC / Legislature
DPW Army Environmental	DAR
HBWS	KMWP
- IV. Guest Speaker: Evelyn Wight: Ungulate control Nature Conservancy 10:00 – 10:30**
- V. OISC Summary : accomplishments / roadblocks 10:30 – 11:10**
  - A. Field Work semi annual 2006 summary
  - B. Vertebrate update
  - C. Outreach update
  - D. OED project update
  - E. Other projects
- VI. Discussion: 10:30 – 11:00**
  - A. Bushy beardgrass: Pali population video
- VII. Calendar of future meetings and times 11:30 – 11:40**
  - A. OISC species strategy meeting (miconia)
  - B. General Meeting (future presenters)
- VIII. Pau**

OAHU INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE  
General Meeting

Thursday, March 29, 2007  
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

HDOA Plant Quarantine  
1849 Aiki Street  
Honolulu HI 96817

MEETING NOTES

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 gave an update of OISC's current staff structure and introduced Julia Parish, the new Americorps intern.

Ryan will be "retiring" probably at the beginning of summer. OISC will be looking for a new coordinator.

We will be hiring three field staff and three coqui temps to start at the end of April or the beginning of May.

- B. OISC chair rotation: Joby and Jane are splitting the job until fall when the new chair will be Chris Dacus. Chris is deputy chair now, we'll look for a new deputy chair in the fall.

**Action: OISC committee will submit nominations for OISC chair to Ryan.**

III. Partner agency updates

- A. Dr. Diane Drigot, Marine Corps Base Hawaii: MCBH recently hosted a field day with US Army partners. 25 staff from the O'ahu Army garrison office helped 3 MCBH natural resources staff remove mangrove at Nu'upia Ponds for half a day and were provided a tour to other sites and projects. MCBH has removed about 30 acres of mangrove from Nu'upia Ponds and other MCBH wetlands over the past 25 years, allowing endangered waterbird numbers to bounce back. But mangrove propagules continue to float in on the tide from elsewhere in Kane'ohē bay. If MCBH did not continue this ongoing maintenance clearing, with the help of

agency partners and public volunteers, mangrove would take over again. MCBH also recently completed the following projects: (a) An update of MCBH's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (2006), required every five years; (b) a report on a ten year vegetation management strategy for Marine Corps Training Area – Bellows (MCTAB) and a feasibility study for the removal of mangrove along the H-3 causeway in Kane'ōhe Bay—an effort that would require interagency collaboration since this is on State-owned submerged lands. The MCTAB vegetation study documents ongoing OISC cooperative participation in MCBH's efforts to control an incipient population of fountain grass there. MCBH also supported the authors of that study, SWCA Environmental Consultants, for a DoD Legacy grant just awarded to set up guinea grass study plots at Bellows to test relative cost effectiveness of mechanical, chemical, and grazing efforts to remove this predominant invasive vegetation cover there. Copies of recently completed reports were provided on a CD to the OISC coordinator.

- B. Becky Azama, Hawaii Department of Agriculture: Chapter 69A is being revised to add coqui, fire ant, and nettle caterpillar. This allows DOA to access private property for control. It's just back from small business review, DOA is asking the governor now to do public hearings.

There was a bill at the legislature to review and update the noxious weed list every year. That would help. The authority for the noxious weed list is spread over several statutes, there is no single coherent rule.

Derek: We appreciate OISC's help with species like fireweed, *Tetrastigma*, and false 'awa. We'll be doing some fire ant surveys at nurseries.

**Action: Ryan with talk with DOA more about fire ant surveys.**

- C. Jane Beachy, Army Environmental: Several of our species overlap with OISC targets. BudMad, PenSet, *Rhodomyrtus*, SenMad, *Tibouchina urvilleana*, coqui. We also control *Smilax* and *Melochia*. We're doing control every quarter or every 6 months. All these are looking pretty good. *Melochia umbellata*, we find 1 or 2 seedlings or resprouts every time we go out. There's a long-lived seed bank. We're increasing our road surveys, and will do the Stryker Brigade routes when they're complete.

Diane asked if there has been a study of off-road military versus non-military lands, that would be an interesting thing to look at in terms of invasive species.

**Action: Ryan will talk with Army about *Melochia*, buffer, etc. It would probably be an OISC target if Army wasn't controlling it.**

- D. Amy Tsuyenoshi, Board of Water Supply: Negotiations are still ongoing about the baseyard.

- E. Christy Martin, CGAPS: We've been working on codes of conduct with the Plant Industry Association. The Maui Landscape Council has signed on. The report from February's survey of public awareness is done and will be posted on the web site. There has been an increase of awareness from 2004 to 2006.

Ryan has been trying to get the arboreta to sign on. It will be helpful if they screen new acquisitions.

**Action: Ryan will talk with Christy more about the arboreta.**

- F. Chris Dacus, DOT: Chris said he has been involved in Weed Risk Assessment (WRA) meetings with the landscape industry. All the initial reviews are done, he will meet with each islands' association. There will be an update at the LICH conference. He will have more information in a couple of months. There is agreement on about 80% of the species list. In the end it will probably be only about 5% disagreement.

Diane asked if the idea has come up to influence municipal plantings, and said that if federal funds are used by cities and others, they must preferentially use regionally indigenous species for plantings per a Presidential Executive Order and individual federal agency guidelines. Perhaps someone could ask the City to stop planting silver buttonwood tree. It has been planted adjacent to Hamakua Marsh in Kailua and has escaped and naturalized in wetlands. Even though MCBH has banned it from use for landscaping projects on MCBH, it has become a naturalized nuisance plant in various MCBH wetlands (in small amounts, to be removed soon). Birds may be spreading it. It was pointed out that this is on the city street tree list, especially for dry areas. Rachel mentioned that it has a low score on the WRA, but that may be because the WRA people do not have evidence that it naturalizes in certain spots. This can be remedied by sending information about invasiveness to the Hawaii Exotic Plant Evaluation Protocol.

Chris talked about SNIP, the Statewide Noxious Invasive Plant program, a 3-year pilot with \$1.5 million. They will have a manual of roadside management techniques, and will partner in the fourth year with the ISCs on each island. Hopefully in the next two months they will have a consultant on board.

**Action: Diane will send photos to Ryan/OISC of naturalized silver buttonwood in MCBH wetlands.**

**Action: Ryan will get more information about federal guidelines for funds used in plantings. (Diane will include some of that information on the CD she is sending.)**

- G. Mindy Wilkinson, HISC: Chris Buddenhagen is working to establish a second WRA tech position to work with Shahin on the backlog. It would be good to have a second stage of screening to look at those plants that are useful in landscaping but that have no replacements.

HISC update: Karmin Kime is the grants manager. Chris started last December, working on the statewide plan, working groups, policy and legislature. The Established Pests Working Group met to work on the noxious weed rules, legal help is being hired to help rewrite them.

The Council meeting will probably be after the legislature closes. The Prevention Group meeting will be April 9, 8–12, to discuss biosecurity gaps. Legislative bills moving forward support phase II and III of the biosecurity plan, mostly new inspectors, through shipping charges. Just \$6/container will bring in \$12 million. Coqui funding will probably be in the state budget bill, either going to Dept. of Ag or directly to counties. It would be good for some to go to research and outreach. The coqui liability bill is also still in play.

- H. Micah Ryder, KMWP: We're currently hiring a supervisor, and will soon be posting for an ungulate manager. We're still doing summit weed surveys and species lists of weeds on the Windward side valleys. We're doing a stream water-quality project with USFWS, and a restoration/weed removal project with Bishop at Kalaau.
- I. Joshua Fisher, USFWS: FWS has a cooperative agreement with OISC for feral chicken pickup as a first detection effort for avian influenza. OISC takes the birds to the DOH testing center.

#### IV. Guest speaker: The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii

Evelyn Wight with TNC gave a presentation on the Conservancy's 2007 state-wide ungulate control and monitoring project with Prohunt New Zealand. In addition to specific conservation and science goals, the Conservancy hopes this initiative builds capacity within the state for ungulate control. Projects are planned on Maui, Molokai and Kauai. If you are interested in doing a project on Oahu, or have any questions, please contact Evelyn at 587-6277.

#### V. OISC summary and funding

- A. Ryan showed slides of staff field hours and information from WRA on risk of target species. Our projected and actual field hours were very close. The HTA grant has cleared and the money will be available soon.

Miconia update, Katy: We recently found some plants, one is still out there, it's on a cliff. We may partner with a heli team to get it. Both plants found are within ground buffer range.

**Action: If a helicopter crew goes after the miconia, ask them to get a sample for genetic analysis and look for seedlings.**

Rubus. Have surveyed at Palolo, may do a few flights. Joby suggested doing the main drainages by ground and the rest by air.

*Rubus ellipticus* and *Tibouchina herbacea* were removed from above Halawa. There are a couple of days survey left. The crew is using a 100m buffer for non-miconia species, except in primary habitat and drainages going out to 800m. What does the Committee think? It would take a lot of field time to use the same buffer as miconia. It came in with hapu'u. Jane said that if it is known how it got there, then 100m is probably fine. Josh pointed out that the spread of blackberry at Palolo raises questions. Why did that happen? It is spreading up in open grassy areas but also shady areas under canopy.

Fountain grass and pampas grass: The crew has continued surveys in the Waianaes. Rachel and Katy are dealing with pampas grass. Rachel offers a replacement plant (ko, kawelu grass, *Carex*) for both fountain and pampas grass. All pampas grass known is planted on private property.

## B. Vertebrates

Coqui. Brian said that since the Wahiawa coqui populations are dwindling, we'll be focusing more on nurseries. DOA and DOFAW have made a list of priority nurseries and are setting up systematic strategies. A jogger reported that last nursery problem. We need to catch the hot spots. Do field hours need to be reallocated? Note that over 80% of what some Oahu nurseries sell is imported.

Joby and Jane talked about the last coqui meeting and are wondering what else they could do to help. It seems like there is a lot of confusion with nurseries. There should be smoother communication among DOA, DOFAW, Army and OISC. How can they help make the overlapping mandates work? They would like to see how all the partners are contributing.

Ryan said it's good for the chairs to be at all the working group meetings. At the last coqui working group meeting, Derek came with a prioritized list. It looks like good support from DOA. We'll have to look more at the field needs.

Chris: Since the wiliwili decline, the volume of interisland nursery traffic has increased. There will be more as major landowners start to replace windbreaks.

Brian: As far as accomplishments on coqui, in 2005, systematic sprays in Wahiawa covered 125-150 calling males at the height of the season. In September of 2006 the last calling male was heard. This year we'll prioritize certain sections where frogs have been heard the last couple of years. We're in the maintenance phase now, with spot sprays, single frogs, in a 12-acre area. We're interviewing now for 2007, will start at the end of April or early May, working with partners on nurseries. We keep a database of single calls, there's also a statewide one. There is a phone tree system for rapid response through 643-PEST.

Action: Brian and Ryan will talk more with Jane about the last coqui working group meeting.

Action: Ryan will see about a guest speaker to talk about how the cooperative world works.

We're also evaluating potential targets. The Tokay gecko from southeast Asia, we're working with DOA to try to survey in three neighborhoods where it has been reported. We're using the public as ears, doing major outreach. Also parrots, working with Nick Kalodimos. We have a contract with DOH on West Nile Virus (WNV) bird pickup, averaging about 1/week. So far we've gotten 13 birds. 2-1-1 calls come in from DOH, we take the birds to vector control. We're also working on avian influenza as Josh said, that's a 12-month contract that may be continued.

Mindy: The person who has been doing the WNV monitoring has moved to another project, so they're looking for someone else to coordinate that. All pet birds coming in have a 7-day quarantine on the mainland and get tested for WNV.

The importance of the personal protective equipment (PPE) was discussed. If there was a detection in the Pacific flyway, PPE would change to a more intensive one. For now, eye protection and gloves are most important, and not touching your face with contaminated gloves.

- C. Rachel Neville, OISC. Outreach update, since January. OISC had an article in the *Honolulu Advertiser* to follow up on beardgrass. Tina Shelton at KHON did a story on miconia. Several media have given supportive reports on coqui. Tokay gecko: Like coqui, you'll hear it before you see it. There is a web page, but we've had trouble getting the sound up in the correct format. It was suggested that Allen Allison may have a recording. Rachel gave a presentation at Ho'omaluhia and left them a recording. She also talked to the Manoa Neighborhood Board, and Kirk Caldwell sent an article to the *Advertiser* about it. Keevin said he got a report from Pensacola Street in Makiki. Tokay is nocturnal. Rachel and Brian have been doing some night canvassing. Volunteers: We're working on a new volunteer strategy to work on plants we actually find, like Lanikai fountain grass, things we need more resources for. If anyone has ideas for good volunteer trips, let Rachel know. April 14 will be Himalayan blackberry. We'll be doing four events in April, starting with Bishop Museum's Science Fair.

Action: Rachel will contact Allen Allison about a Tokay gecko call recording.

- D. Ryan Smith, early detection: The Oahu Early Detection crew was trained by Forest and Kim. They've done the hot spots, are now moving to roads. All protocols for target species, surveys, and assessments are complete, and will start to be posted. Ryan will send an email out to the OISC list and people with field

expertise asking for feedback on these protocols. OISC will fund the program until more funding comes in.

**Action: Ryan will send out information about Oahu Early Detection protocols and ask for feedback.**

- E. Miconia genetic testing, abandoned nurseries. We're still following up on abandoned nursery sites. Ania Wieczorek's lab at CTAHR is going to test some samples for us, trying to learn some things about how the plants move across the island. Bird dispersal, Don Drake is supportive of a good student study, that's probably 1–2 years away.
- VI. Pali beardgrass: Katy has a video of beardgrass on the Pali, she'll start that right after the meeting for those who want to watch it, it's just 2 or 3 minutes.
- VII. We've gone over on time so we'll wrap up. There will be a miconia meeting in April, and the general meeting in June or July.

**Action: Ryan will contact members about upcoming meetings.**

- VIII. The meeting was adjourned.



## Attendees

Derek Arakaki  
Becky Azama, HDOA  
Jane Beachy, Army Environmental  
Brian Caleda, OISC  
Chris Dacus, HDOT  
Diane Drigot, MCBH Environmental  
Joshua Fisher, USFWS  
Jean Fujikawa, OISC  
Sam Goldstein, USDA WS  
Mary Ikagawa, OISC  
Greg Koob, USDA NRCS  
Christy Martin, CGAPS  
Katy Metzler, OISC  
Keevin Minami, HDOA  
Rachel Neville, OISC  
Julia Parish, OISC  
Joby Rohrer, Army Environmental  
Micah Ryder, KMWP  
Jerrod Schrek, TNC  
Ryan Smith, OISC  
Tiffany Thair, SWCA  
Amy Tsuyenoshi, HBWS  
Christine Volinski, MCBH  
Mindy Wilkinson, DOFAW

## Abbreviations

CGAPS, Coordinating Group on  
Alien Pest Species  
HBWS, Honolulu Board of Water  
Supply  
HDOA, Hawaii Department of  
Agriculture  
HDOT Hawaii Department of  
Transportation  
KMWP, Koolau Mountains  
Watershed Partnership  
MCBH, Marine Corps Base Hawaii  
NRCS, Natural Resources  
Conservation Service  
OISC, Oahu Invasive Species  
Committee  
SWCA, SWCA Environmental  
Consultants  
TNC, The Nature Conservancy of  
Hawaii  
USDA, United States Department of  
Agriculture  
USFWS, United States Fish and  
Wildlife Service  
WS, Wildlife Services