

OISC Meeting Minutes May 15, 2001
Atherton Halau, 9 AM – noon

Attendees: Joan Canfield, Ken Ching, Coleen Cory, Pat Costales, Robert Cowie, Christina Crooker, Lu Eldridge, Glenn Fujiwara, Jordon Jokiel, Fred Kraus, Lance LaPierre, Brent Liesemeyer, Steve Lohse, Corene Luton, Kay Lynch, Nilton Matayoshi, Trae Menard, Randy Miyashiro, Judy Nii, Cynthia Rezentes, Joby Rohrer, George Staples, Jeyan Thirugnanam, Theresa Trueman-Madriaga, Ron Walker, Charlotte Yamane

WELCOME – Fred Kraus, Chair

MINUTES from 3/13/01 meeting approved (w/addition of any corrections submitted to Fred on 5/15).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Lu Eldredge: Sat 5/19 2-5 pm -- Marine Species Workshop at Waikiki Aquarium, including alien species.
- Fred introduced Steve Lohse, new CGAPS Coordinator, who will help ISC's get funding.
- New OISC Chair needed: Fred must step down, because his new job at Bishop Museum will involve considerable foreign travel. He intends to stay involved with OISC while on island. Fred was presented with an appropriate OISC lei, made of Ivy Gourd flowers and fruit. Coleen Cory of TNC (808 537-4508, ccory@tnc.org) has graciously offered to become OISC Chair.

WORKING GROUP REPORTS:

- Fred urged all OISC members to get involved in a working group, since OISC's real work happens there.

BUDGET/FUNDING WORKING GROUP – Rob Cowie:

- Rob has incorporated comments from Working Group contacts into the draft 2001 Strategic Action Plan that he circulated several months ago. The Plan still needs brief write-ups of OISC's top 6 target species/groups (one paragraph explaining why it's on the target list; one paragraph describing what OISC plans to do). When those 6 accounts are incorporated, Rob will circulate the draft on the OISC list-server for comment, with a one-month turnaround. Fred suggested trying to finalize the draft by the end of June.
- There's been no action on the longer-term OISC Strategic Plan (awaiting completion of the 2001 Plan).
- A new contact for this working group is needed, since Rob needs to focus on his new job at UH. The group needs additional members as well.

POLICY/LOBBYING WORKING GROUP – Fred:

- With Fred's job change, a new Working Group contact is needed.
- The State approved \$400K for alien species funding statewide, including one DOFAW position per county and \$180K pass-thru to ISC's. US Forest Service (USFS) will provide \$250K for OISC. A total of \$450K will be available for

OISC beginning 7/01. More funding is needed for additional OISC field positions.

- The proposed DOA enforcement bill will probably not make it thru the Legislature this session. Working with DOA, OISC should push it for next year.
- Teresa Trueman-Madriaga found USFS funds for plant screening. Curt Daehler will oversee this project, with 2 half-time grad students hired thru DOFAW (beginning about 9/01) and a USFS hire (beginning 6/1/01) who will score non-native plants for potential invasiveness in HI. The project will produce a list of species that should/should not be used for planting in HI. This project will coordinate with a similar USFS project focusing on Pacific Islands.
- Toward a strategy for the Legislature next year, Annette suggested OISC start working with Legislators as soon as this year's session is pau.

DETECTION WORKING GROUP – Trae Menard read Dan Sailer's report:

- Fountain Grass – Satellite populations in Makaha Valley; Dan spoke with Bruce Koebele about doing surveys in area near Kaala Farms but most ranchers do not want people on their lands; Bruce and Linda Gallano (Waianae HS teacher) occasionally finds sprouts and destroys them. About a dozen plants were found in flower at the old Greyhound bus depot off Lagoon Drive. These need to be retreated.
- Thorny Kiawe – Keehi Lagoon Beach Park, makai of ball field and remote control car track were 5 mature trees in flower and fruit, lining the canal. About 50 immature trees are beginning to block shoreline access.
- Goals:
 1. Centralize mapping/geographic info database of priority incipient species at Hawaii Natural Heritage Program.
 2. Build capacity of existing detection systems – field cards are still under construction.
 3. Survey of incipient species.
 4. Create a prioritized list of species known to be invasive in other Pacific Islands but currently absent in Hawaii.

PLANT CONTROL WORKING GROUP -- Jordan Jokiel

- Since the former Control Working Group primarily focussed on plants, it has been renamed and a new group created for animal control.
- Since Mindy Wilkinson is leaving HI, a new working group contact was needed. Jordan has generously offered to step in.
- Hike leaders are needed for control trips, Miconia and other species. Ten people have expressed interest. Sierra Club is offering training. Contact Jordan ASAP if interested.
- MICONIA – Joby Rohrer:
 - Three trips with OISC Field Tech were made to 3 locations in Maunawili, mauka of Waimanalo. No plants were found. Two non-reproductive plants had previously been found along the contour trail and pulled. They were not believed to be hiker-dispersed, so the search in Maunawili continues.

- Trips in Manoa will re-start in June.
- Amy Tsuneoshi will announce future trips thru list-servers for OISC, Malama Hawaii, HI Bot Soc, etc. as soon as trip destinations are set.
- Sean and Talbert have been working in Nuuanu.
- Chaminade and HI Trail & Mtn Club have been active in search/control trips.
- **FOUNTAINGRASS – Jordan:**
 - The Army treated regrowth at the North Shore site in April. This is the only known site in the northern Koolau.
 - Nilton Matayoshi reports 340 clumps pulled from Chaminade campus by their students.
- **THORNY KIAWE – Jordan read Nilton Matayoshi’s report:**
 - Eleven tons have been removed. Hawaiian Earth Products has the official approved disposal site.
 - No stump treatment is necessary, as plants are being dug out.
- **HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY – Jordan:**
 - Control will begin again this summer. No date yet set.

ANIMAL CONTROL WORKING GROUP – Katie Swift:

- This new group is still at a preliminary stage. The primary focus will be parrots, but will also address frogs.
- **PARROTS – Katie**
 - The group is working with USDA Wildlife Services and will meet with their parrot expert in the next month.
 - The first goal is to document damage caused by parrots in HI.
 - MISC is working with a parrot rescue organization on Maui. MISC is developing PR material on parrot control that OISC will be able to use.
- **FROGS – Joby**
 - Last week, Leila Gibson, Joby, and others caught 2 coqui at a Kahaluu nursery and heard 4 more males. The frogs are moving beyond the nursery. There’s likely a second generation there already. Joby found the noise incredible and considers this a very serious problem. The nursery owner will not import more frogs from the same Big Island source, in part because of the quality of their nursery stock.
 - A suggestion was made to take Legislature members to the site. More dense sites on Big Island might be more impressive.
 - Frogs have been reported from Star Garden in Kaneohe. Other retailers are bringing them in from Big Island.
 - USDA Wildlife Services has completed field trials on caffeine as a control. DOA has their reports and should be submitting an emergency use registration application to EPA within a few weeks. EPA’s average turn-around is 2 months. Caffeine is expensive, but hopefully the hotel and nursery industries will help pay for it. Private residents will have to pay. Funding for control on public lands (e.g. infested State parks on Big

Island) is not currently available. The Nat'l Park Service is funding 2 new frog control positions on Maui.

EDUCATION WORKING GROUP – Lance LaPierre:

- Molokai ISC's (MoMISC) educational brochure on aliens was circulated. MoMISC has also created business-card sized alien species ID cards. Tina Lau at TNC (tlau@tnc.org) is MoMISC contact.
- A set of large-format native and alien species ID cards was circulated, c/o Pauline Sato, chair of the committee developing them. They will create a total of 20 alien species for teachers and public outreach statewide. TNC is pursuing funding.
- This working group hasn't met lately.
- George Staples announced that 2 local landscaping journals are seeking writers for alien species articles. The contact at "Hawaii Landscape", the Landscape Industry Council of HI's publication, is editor Christopher Aguinaldo (ph. 621-8200 ext 242; pmpcol@aol.com).

RESTORATION WORKING GROUP – Coleen Cory:

- Jennifer Garrison is leaving HI, so a new contact is needed. However, due to overlap, this working group will be discontinued and folded into the Education and Control groups. The new contact is only needed to hand over material developed by this group to the other groups. This material includes a website outline and submitted examples of restoration projects.

AQUATICS WORKING GROUP -- Fred for Lu Eldrege:

- Members of this group expect to have more time available soon to get it rolling.

NOXIOUS WEED LIST – Fred:

- The Policy/Lobbying Working Group had suggested getting comprehensive input on additions to the State list. Since only 3 species accounts have been received, we agreed to create an *ad hoc* group to pursue it. Curt Daehler agreed to coordinate the group, since his plant-screening project will produce some of the needed material. Curt and Fred will meet to brainstorm a list. Joby volunteered the Plant Control Working Group to provide input. Christina Crooker recently circulated the Noxious Weed criteria on the OISC list-server. Remember that the species must have a limited distribution statewide.

PRIORITY SPECIES ACCOUNT REFERENCE FOLDER -- Fred:

- As a reference, written versions of species background accounts presented at OISC meetings are requested from presenters past and future. Please submit them to Colleen. One to 2 pages in simple outline/bullet form is fine. The Education Working Group will post them on the OISC website.
- Outstanding accounts include:
 - Kapua Kawelo – Miconia, Melastoma
 - Jordan – fountain grass
 - Nilton – thorny kiawe

- Christina – *Rubus discolor*
- George Staples – fern tree, *Citharexylum spinosum*
- Others missed?
- For future presenters, please bring the write-up when you present (and write it up for the Noxious Weed list if appropriate).

FIELD CREW ACTIVITY REPORT – Brent Liesemeyer:

- The OISC field crew now numbers one. A job announcement to refill the second position opened 5/13 and closes 5/29.
- Activity update since 12/00 follows:
- MICONIA:
 - Crew's primary focus. Total of 16 plants, all non-reproductive, found and removed. Locations are Manoa, Kalihi, and Maunawili, in areas not covered by Sierra Club trips. More follow-up planned below the flowering plant on Tantalus.
- FOUNTAINGRASS:
 - Resumed work at Diamond Head in mid-March after trail reopened. Killed 350-400 plants and covered ca. 40 acres. Need to cover outside of crater.
 - Need permission from numerous owners before control in Lanikai. Need to have a restoration plan.
 - Controlled most reachable plants at Punchbowl. Working with Board of Water Supply.
- FUTURE TARGETS:
 - Hiptage at Marks Estate and Pali Hwy. Blackberry this summer. Revisit Miconia sites.

SPECIES BACKGROUND ACCOUNTS:

- LEPTOSPERMUM POLYGALIFOLIUM – Christina:
 - Pale yellow flowers, glabrous leaves with glandular dots, yellowish sepals with 5-valved capsules.
 - Only known populations are on Oahu at Waialae Nui Ridge and Mauumae Ridge in the Southern Koolaus.
 - The plant is highly adaptable and can survive in salty coastal areas, high elevation windswept forests, dry rocky ledges, and swamps in its native habitat. It needs sunlight and moves into disturbed areas and is probably dispersed by wind.
 - Unlike *Leptospermum scoparium*, *L. polygalifolium* will resprout when cut with no herbicide application on the stump.
 - Christina wants to propose the species for the Noxious Weed list. Nurseries need to be educated on its threat.
 - George Staples commented that the revision to the Manual includes substantial new info to add to the handout, including additional congeners in HI. He has its current arboretum distribution.
- HIPTAGE BENGHALENSIS– Fred:

- Malpighiaceae. Woody vine, trunk to 8" diameter. Climbs into canopy. Most easily recognized by reddish new leaves. Flowers fragrant. Fruit a 3-winged samara.
- Threat to native forests, from 0-3000 ft in HI. Major problem in Mauritius, where hunters are forced to hack trails thru it. Covers and strangles trees.
- Distribution: Native to Indian sub-continent. On Oahu: Manoa Valley (large pop.), Marks Estate in Nuuanu, leeward side of Pali Hwy overlook, yards in Lanikai, Puu o Kala, 2 Kaneohe sites (c/o Charlotte Yamane). On Kauai: Huleia River (large pop.).
- Spread: Wind-dispersed, but seed heavy. Kauai pop. spread by hurricanes. Seedlings established in high or low light. May still be spreading thru horticulture trade.
- Invasive elsewhere: One of Mauritius' 3-4 worst pests. Currently a "category 2" sp. for S. Florida (has not yet altered plant communities).
- Current control: Oahu: outlying pop's controlled; Field Crew working on it. Kauai: large area of private land, so problematic.
- Control method: Basal bark, cut stump with Garlon. Need to cut all stems in contact with ground.
- Suggested actions: Delimit Manoa and Kaneohe pops. to base a plan of action on. Have Field Crew eradicate all other known pops.
- RHODOMYRTUS TOMENTOSA – Joby:
 - Threat to native watersheds from monotypic stands formed. May cause erosion. Dispersed by hikers, possibly birds.
 - Description: Myrtaceae, small tree, prolific fruit.
 - Distribution: Oahu: Main infestations in windward Koolau, between Haiku and Heeia. On Haiku side of H3, is dominant on ridges. Small outliers in leeward Koolau. Kauai: Widespread in Haupu Mts.; range 200-640 m elev. Was introduced to Kauai in 1920 by Mrs. Isenberg. Buds used for haku lei. Cultivated (naturalized ?) on Molokai, Maui, and Lanai.
 - Current control: Cut-stump, girdle, or thin-line with Garlon 3 or 4. Charlotte Yamane has treated most leeward Koolau pops.
 - Probability of control: Leeward Koolau: high probability. Windward Koolau: try for containment.
 - Suggested actions: Survey and eradicate leeward pops., check for dispersal. Put signage on Windward trails about cleaning hiking gear. Remove from roadsides (like Kahekili Hwy) to slow dispersal. Remove from Windward trails; contain Windward pops.
 - Discussion about potential increase in dispersal with rebuilding of Haiku Steps. Suggest asking City & County to control there.

WORK SCHEDULE FOR VOLUNTEERS -- Jordan:

- *Leptospermum polygalifolium*: Sat 7/14/01 half-day at Mauumae (will post on OISC list-server). Call Jordan at 733-4267 (wk) or 739-6710 (hm).

POLL OF NEW SIGHTINGS – Joby:

- *Citharexylum spinosum*: will give Colleen distribution details

VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT SPECIES ACCOUNTS:

- Fireweed – Nilton
- *Salvinia* – Corene
- *Ilex cassini* – Joby or Kapua

NEXT MEETING

Tues June 26 at Atherton Halau (tentative pending room availability).