

**Title:** Kaua'i Island Invasive Species Detection & Control  
**Organization:** Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee  
**Award:** \$203,078



**Introduction:** The continued introduction and spread of unwanted pest and invasive organisms harms our economy, water supply, native bio-diversity, health, and the lifestyle and culture unique to this island. The Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee (KISC) is a voluntary partnership of government, private, non-profit organizations, and individuals working together to: prevent the introduction of potentially damaging pest species to the island, eliminate recently arrived (incipient) pests before they spread beyond control, manage established pests in order to reduce their negative impacts, and educate and involve the public as to the magnitude of the invasive species problem and the need for control programs such as KISC. KISC works in partnership with existing programs and aims to assist in the coordination of efforts island-wide. KISC's priorities are those species that are recognized as having the greatest potential to harm human welfare and native biodiversity, and where the use of limited resources is most likely to be successful.

KISC estimates that its FY13 total funding need exceeded \$900,000. Although KISC's annual funding fell far short of this need, HISC provided approximately 37% of KISC's acquired FY13 funding.

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### ***Achievements in FY13***

#### **Early detection. Number of species detected and evaluated for feasibility of eradication:**

Early detection of incipient invasive species included roadside surveys, private property surveys, as well as surveys at nurseries, ports, green-waste areas and resorts.

- Two species were surveyed for feasibility of eradication with over 28 acres surveyed.
- One species, *Cissus verticillata* (seasonvine), as a step in analyzing feasibility of eradication, is undergoing herbicide trials. Over 12 acres were surveyed, over 200 plants treated, and over 40 person hours expended on this potential target.
- Little fire ant surveys were conducted island-wide covering 180 acres with no new introductions detected.



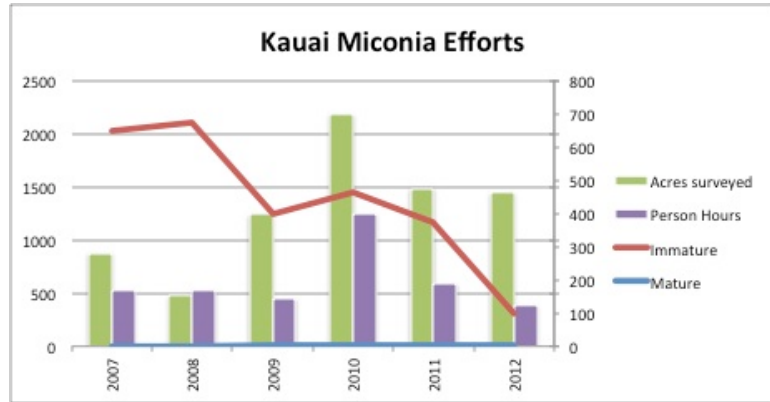
*KISC crewmember with found miconia plant*

#### **Priority target species. Number and area of priority invasive species eradicated and/or controlled:**

Control and eradication efforts centered on 7 priority plant species and two vertebrate species, coqui frog, little fire ant and mongoose.

- Survey and control of Miconia was focused on three primary areas of the Wailua District; Wailua River State Park (WRSP), Wailua Homesteads, and the Game Management Area (GMA) in the Halele'a Forest Reserve. 1,013 acres were ground surveyed and 138 immature plants treated. Quarterly aerial surveys were also conducted in the GMA utilizing Herbicide Ballistic Technology. 15 immature plants were discovered and treated from the air. Eradication strategies dictate the importance of removing plants before reaching maturity; current data suggests that these strategies are working, as no mature plants were detected.

- Other priority plant targets included Arundo, ivy gourd, false kava, long thorn kiawe, and other miscellaneous species. Over 1,283 acres were surveyed and over 6,244 individual plants were treated.
- KISC assisted HDOA and the Hawaii Ant Lab with eradication efforts at Kauai's one little fire ant infestation site in Kalihiwai. Over 119 acres were treated utilizing over 1,050 person hours.
- In collaboration with DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife, KISC utilized over 2,000 person-hours conducting mongoose detection and response. No mongooses were captured during this fiscal year.
- KISC continues to assist HDOA with coqui response and survey on Kauai. Over 230 acres were surveyed at high-risk areas as well as responding to calling frogs. Only one coqui was detected and captured during this period.



*Kaua'i miconia efforts show a declining trend, even with sustained acres surveyed*

**Rapid Response. Number of new island introductions responded to and dispatched:** KISC's ability to quickly respond to reports of new invasive introductions helps to prevent establishment and unchecked invasion.

- In collaboration with HDOA, KISC was able to survey for and quickly apprehend a male Jackson's chameleon reported in the Lihue area.
- During the Christmas season, KISC also assisted HDOA by retrieving two Pacific Chorus frogs that had hitchhiked on trees from Oregon.

**Recognitions and Awards:** During FY2013, KISC was recognized with the award of "Greatest Hits of 2012" from the Hawaii Invasive Species Council in recognition of Kauai's first capture of a live mongoose and for partnership development. This award was followed up on Kauai County with a proclamation from Mayor Carvalho recognizing KISC's accomplishments and declaring an Invasive Species Awareness Week.

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### **Other Activities in FY13**

**Capacity development:** Overall staff capacity was enhanced by participating in the following training events: CPR & 1<sup>st</sup> Aid classes and certification, Basic Aviation Safety Training, and Wildlife Diseases.

**Partner collaboration:** KISC continued to work closely during FY2013 with the Pacific Missile Range Facility, UH-CTAHR, DLNR-DOFAW, The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, US Department of Agriculture, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

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### **Contact Information**

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