Title: Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee Annual Report 2015
Organization: Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee

Introduction: Two species of small Indian Mongoose (*Herpestes auropunctatus*) predate on birds, small mammals, reptiles, insects, fruits and plants. The eggs and hatchlings of ground nesting birds are especially vulnerable to predation by mongooses. Mongooses are also known to be reservoirs for rabies and leptospirosis. Mongooses are not present in the Hawaiian state. It is critical to keep mongoose off the island of Kauai if these populations are to survive.

KISC continues to work towards this aim as outlined by the KISC Established Pests Working Group and a newly developed set of Standard Operating Procedures currently under review by the USFWS and various partners. KISC serves as a data clearing house for mongoose reports as well as work performed regarding response, detection, and trapping. The past efforts of KISC, DOFAW and USDA Wildlife Services are currently being compiled and analyzed for peer reviewed publication.

In 2012, KISC captured one mature male and one juvenile female mongoose in the Lihue area. These captures followed a year of intensive trapping efforts which highlights the need for an ongoing monitoring and response program in addition to heightened biosecurity at ports of entry. It also illustrates the difficulty in capturing animals that are single individuals or in low population densities utilizing current trapping methods. To address the likelihood that several small incursions have taken place over the years an island wide assessment is planned for 2016. KISC staff will place over 500 tracking tunnels around the island based on the SOPs guidelines to determine if a breeding population is established.

Achievements in 2015

Mongoose Reports:

- In collaboration with DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife and HDOA Hawaii Department of Agriculture, KISC received 36 sighting reports of mongoose. (figure 1.) No photos, tracks, or other evidence was recorded.

Trapping Effort:

- In FY15, KISC responded with live traps at four locations, maintained live traps at Nawiliwili Harbor, and tracking tunnels at one location. New trail cameras were used as a response tool in 7 areas including Moloaa, Wailua, Huleia, Puhi, Kalaheo, Waimea Canyon, and Kokee. Trapping included sighting response and regular harbor monitoring.

Strategic Planning Efforts: KISC worked extensively with R. Brand Phillips and Michelle Clark of the USFWS revising the mongoose interview and data entry form and also developed a credibility threshold that would elicit a response. Old sighting interviews along with hotspots were re-examined and re-ranked.

Biosecurity improvements, especially at ports of entry was researched and Pat Gmelin toured the new Nihoku predator proof fence project at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge.

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