

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 5, 2011 NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM
COMMISSION SITE VISIT, PUU KUKUI PRESERVE, MAUI**

DRAFT Subject to Approval

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Ms. Marnie Meyer
Mr. Pat Conant
Ms. Rebecca Alakai

STAFF:

Ms. Emma Yuen, DOFAW

VISITORS:

Ms. Megan Webster, Maui Land and Pineapple Company, Inc.

9:00am met at the Puu Kukui headquarters, introductions. Rainy conditions made travel to the Puu Kukui trailhead impossible; drove to Hawea Point instead for a tour of the coastal restoration work. Ms. Webster described the volunteer opportunities that the Puu Kukui Preserve staff offer – 1-3 volunteer trips with boardwalk weeding trips, outplanting at Hawea, and beach clean ups. Volunteers, particularly a fisherman named Isao, have been trapping for predators at Hawea consistently. Also offer hikes to accompany staff to read the rain gage monthly. People who have volunteered can also go on hikes to the boardwalk with staff. Currently the Preserve staff has a manager, three crew, and an Americorps intern.

Hawea point is part of a coastal trail, next to Maui Coastal Land Trust conservation easement area. Preserve staff have removed ironwoods to make shearwater habitat, and planted native plants, and trap area in nesting season. Staff uses Garlon and marine stocker as a systemic herbicide for ironwoods and a vegetation control contractor works on the weed removal at Hawea. 8 years ago, there were 6 birds banded at the point, after the community volunteer trips, there have around 100 birds banded. There is also a rare species of *Centaurium ceboides*. There used to be a spiderweb of trails, but have now delineated a trail so people do not walk on the nesting areas. The work is privately funded. Different companies have sponsored areas around the point to take care of and weed. Have planted akulikuli, naupaka, and other plants. Staff have also put in artificial burrows with PVC pipes which has been successful. In the future, could work on the MCLT/HILT land.

At 10:15am, drove to the Arboretum trail which leads to Pu`u Kae`o, at a makai point of the Preserve. Ms. Webster described the management of the upper Preserve. 2.5 miles of boardwalk have been installed from the cabin to the summit. Also, are retrofitting pig fences to axis deer fences that are on the entire makai border of the Preserve. They have received FWS and DOH grants to fund portions of the fence. The makai hunting program is open to hunters, they need to call in and out when done hunting. Member Meyer stated that CZM is a potential funding source for non-on the ground staff work, like helicopter

time or fence materials. Ungulate control is the major work at the Preserve, as well as transects. Arboretum area is lower priority for management despite being accessible because of the high numbers of weeds, especially those planted by Fleming that have spread. Lunch at Arboretum trailhead and site visit adjourned at 1:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emma Yuen, NARS Enhancement Coordinator