

Title: Outreach and Education on the island of Hawaii
Organization: Big Island Invasive Species Committee
Award: \$33,490



The Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC) is a federal-state-private partnership. BIISC's mission is to prevent new pest invasions on the island of Hawaii, stop newly-established pests from spreading, provide local control of established pest species, and develop public support. BIISC has been operating since 1996.

HISC support leveraged funding from the US Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service totaling an additional \$37,683. Highlighted outreach topics for FY2012 included prevention of hitchhiking pests (particularly urban forest pests) for the green industry and the spread of invasive fire-prone grasses.

Achievements in FY12

Number of events, audience reached

In Fiscal Year 2012, BIISC attended 67 outreach events which had a total attendance of 29,000 people; an estimated 11,000 people directly viewed BIISC's displays. The BIISC Manager gave a presentation to the County Council that was televised statewide. Geographically, 31 events were in South Hilo district; 4 in North Hilo, 2 in Kau, 8 in North Kona, 1 in North Kohala, 6 in South Kohala, 4 in South Kona, and 6 in Puna. Information about BIISC's activities was also disseminated during several professional conferences that were international, national, or statewide in scope. Staff gave oral presentations or staffed posters and informational booths, including posters on albizia at the Hawaii Conservation and the Society of American Foresters conference.



BIISC booth at Ka'u Coffee

These activities reached a diverse set of audiences, including the green industry, cultural groups, and school groups, and covered a variety of topics, including little fire ant focus, marine issues, and invasive pests of honey bees.

Educational materials focusing on species targets and public policy

BIISC published articles in green industry and local newsletters. BIISC produced an outreach newsletter which can be found at: www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org/iscs/biisc/pdfs/biiscnewsletter201203.pdf Six vinyl banners were produced with topics ranging from rapid response, grasses of Hawaii, axis deer, mangrove, wetlands, and aquatic invasions. BIISC worked with the statewide online pest reporting system (www.reportapest.org) to develop species identification cards in collaboration with the National Park Service. An early detection brochure was developed to highlight the need for early detection and the gaps in public policy.

Short videos (1-2 minutes) about BIISC projects

BIISC began work on a number of video projects, including a short video about BIISC and the Early Detection program. An intermittent hire videographer has interviewed BIISC staff, reviewed all raw

footage collected over the past two years and completed an initial "What is BIISC" video (<http://vimeo.com/48095363>). Additional footage was collected during a meeting focused on outreach challenges on the Big Island and New Zealand.

Number of hotline calls and reports

The BIISC hotline averages one call per week. All messages are responded to with a call, information, field response, or referral as appropriate. Early detection workshops and outreach materials encourage use of www.reportapest.org. BIISC receives occasional reports from that system.

Other Activities in FY12

Horticultural Industry: BIISC worked to develop a positive relationship with the horticultural industry by attending meetings of the Hilo, Hamakua, and Big Island Farm Bureau, the Big Island Nurserymen's Association, the Hawaii Export Nursery Association, and the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association.

Education: BIISC worked with local schools to provide classroom lectures when requested. Staff provided hands-on learning experiences for students by working with Hilo High School students and an island-wide home-schooling program to manually remove mangroves at two sites. Staff gave two presentations to high school agriculture classes and led students in a debate on the pros and cons of axis deer introduction. Outreach staff gave a talk on invasive insects to a 3rd grade class and also a college level-lecture.

Internships: BIISC hosted two PIPES (Pacific Internship Programs for Exploring Science) interns who worked with the Lokowaka Coot Project and The BIISC GIS Specialist.

Other: BIISC developed a display on climate change and invasive species impacts on the Big Island. Outreach staff participated in webinars on communicating climate change issues. BIISC participated in two trainings for Hawaii Department of Transportation roadside workers to help inform them about invasive species issues and pests and is following up by continuing to provide relevant outreach materials to HDOT. BIISC Manager staff met with County Council and State legislators to explain invasive issues.

Additional Information

For more information, contact: Page Else, Outreach Specialist, pageelse@hawaii.edu, 808-933-3345.