

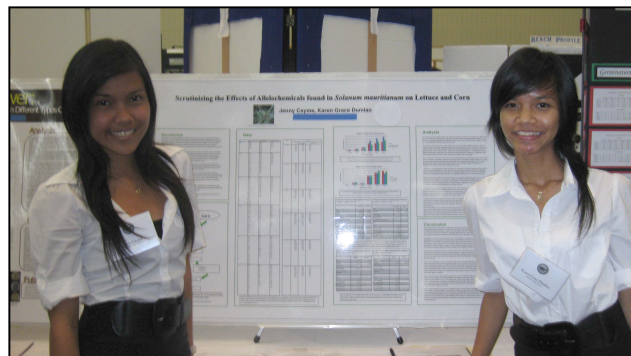
**Title: Outreach to the O'ahu Gardening Public****Organization: The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee and the Hawai'i Pacific Weed Risk Assessment****Award: \$17,500**

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee is a multi-agency partnership dedicated to protecting O'ahu from invasive species that may harm the environment, agriculture, watersheds, economy and quality of life on O'ahu. The Hawai'i Pacific Weed Risk Assessment (HPWRA) program assesses plant species for invasive potential, using a science-based scoring system. The HPWRA assesses species submitted by landscaping professionals, natural resource managers and the general public.

**HISC Public Outreach Working Group:****Measures of Effectiveness****Number of people reached through talks and displays:**

This project targeted a Priority Audience of the HISC strategic plan—"Special Interest Groups that play an important role in introducing, promoting, or observing invasive species." Master Gardeners are an information conduit to the general public and play an important role in helping the public decide which species to plant. Making sure they have the tools to be able to answer the public's questions about which species will not harm Hawai'i is an important part of making sure new, invasive species are not introduced to Hawai'i and that already harmful species are not spread.

- In cooperation with the UH College of Tropical Agriculture, the WRA Specialist developed a draft invasive species curriculum for the Master Gardeners program. In past years, the WRA specialist has researched and written CTAHR publications on fruit trees and fragrant flowers that are low-risk. The publications also promote the use of the HPWRA. These publications were included in the curriculum for the Master Gardeners. Estimated public reached: 35
- The WRA specialist presented the draft curriculum to O'ahu Master Gardeners at one of their training sessions. The presentation included information on the HPWRA and resources about invasive species. Public reached: 35
- OISC and the WRA program presented information about the Hawai'i-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment System to garden enthusiasts at the Urban Garden Center's Second Saturday, Garden Event in Pearl City, O'ahu. OISC set up an educational booth and gave classes to the general public about how to use the HPWRA to choose non-invasive plants for the garden. Estimated public reached: 150
- The WRA Specialist partnered with the Hawai'i Academy of Science and mentored two Waipahu high school students for their AP Biology science project. The research focused on testing an invasive plant species, wild tobacco, (*Solanum mauritianum*) for allelopathic effects on other plant species. The students presented at regional science fairs and progressed to the Hawai'i



*Waipahu seniors with their poster on an invasive weed at the Hawai'i State Science Fair.*

State Science Fair where their research poster was displayed. Estimated public reached: Over 500 students participate in the Hawaii State Science Fair.

**Specific Proposal Deliverables:**

**Produce publications on low risk plant species similar to the “Fragrant Flowers and Fruit Trees” publications.**

The WRA Specialist collaborated with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to produce a publication on invasive and naturalizing orchid species in Hawai‘i. It is currently being reviewed and will be published on the CTAHR website in October. The publication identifies invasive traits in orchids and promotes the use of the Hawai‘i-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment System to identify potential invasive orchid species. The publication will be available for free on the CTAHR website and has the ability to reach any orchid enthusiast that has web access.

**Support for the data to populate the new “Plant Pono” website that will emphasize planting low risk plant species.**

The WRA Specialist collaborated with Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species to identify a webpage format that is user-friendly and communicates information about invasive plant species and alternative non-invasive plant species. The specialist also recommended low risk species as alternatives for invasive plant species. New species assessed by the WRA Specialist were recorded into the database.

**Outreach to the Million Trees of Aloha Project to ensure trees chosen to be planted are low-risk.**

The WRA Specialist continued as a committee member to communicate invasive species risks at Million Trees of Aloha Project meetings. The project currently promotes planting native koa (*Acacia koa*), other native trees and shrubs and non-invasive trees or shrubs. The Million Trees of Aloha project is promoted on the Kanu Hawaii website. Over 700 people committed to planting non-invasive trees via the website. An additional 50 people were informed of invasive species issues during the projects meetings.