

Title: Kaua'i Island Mongoose Detection FY2014
Organization: Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee
Award: \$45,000



Introduction: In Hawai'i, the Small Indian Mongoose (*Herpestes auropunctata*) predate on birds, small mammals, reptiles, insects, fruits and plants. The eggs and hatchlings of ground-nesting birds such as nēnē, the state bird, and endangered sea turtles are especially at risk. Currently, Kaua'i has the only known growing population of nēnē, as well as the largest and most diverse populations of native ground-nesting birds in the 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 HISC Established Pests Working Group. It is critical to maintain KISC's capacity to respond to reports of mongooses on Kaua'i, collect and analyze data. KISC works in collaboration with other partners on Kaua'i and statewide to address the issues surrounding the possible presence of mongooses on this island. KISC serves as a data clearing-house for mongoose reports as well as work performed regarding response, detection, and trapping.

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.

Achievements in FY14

Mongoose Reports:

- In collaboration with DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife, KISC received 36 sighting reports of mongoose deemed credible (figure 1.)

Trapping Effort:

- In FY14, KISC utilized 1,065 trap hours with 486 partner hours contributed by DOFAW. Trapping included sighting response and regular harbor monitoring.



Figure 1 - FY2014 Credible Mongoose Sightings



Figure 2 – KISC assisting DOFAW trappers in shearwater habitat (Fall 2013)

Strategic Planning Efforts: A mongoose strategic planning meeting was conducted in September 2013 bringing together several stakeholders to begin a comprehensive mongoose response plan. A specific mongoose strategy was drafted to outline specific needs and is being continually developed. Vortex modelling was conducted to illustrate the rate of population rise should

mongoose become established on Kauai. The final goal of planning is to address biosecurity in collaboration with industry, State and Federal Agencies.

Outreach: The KISC Mongoose Technician distributed 300 reporting cards and posted 43 flyers island-wide. In addition, KISC constructed a mongoose display which was put on long-term loan at four locations including one school and three libraries. Other display locations were at five public outreach events and one school lecture. Broad scale outreach efforts were achieved using publications including quarterly reports and monthly newsletters as well as permanent displays at both shipping companies and the Lihue Airport.

Project Acknowledgements

HISC funding was critical to continued rapid response, early detection, and control work for mongoose in Kauai on state, private, and county property. KISC is unique as it is able to conduct response work across this landscape due to its non-jurisdictional flexibility. The cooperation of Kauai's shipping companies is integral to the success of this project and they have been excellent partners in helping to protect Kauai's biodiversity.



Figure 3 Library display

Contact Information

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