

PMc News

'Tropic Sun'



USDA - Natural Resource Conservation Service - Ho'olehua Plant Materials Center

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The Plant Materials Advisory Committee Meet



It has been some time since the last meeting of the Pacific Islands Plant Materials Advisory Committee. Recently, the committee met to discuss the goals and direction of the Pacific Islands Plant Materials Program and the Hoolehua Plant Materials Center.

Members of the meeting included Carlos Suarez - Acting Director - PIA USDA-NRCS; Paul Scales - Assistant Director of Technology - NRCS; Bart Lawrence (on phone) - Assistant Director of Operations (PIA West); Robert Joy - PIA Plant Materials Specialist; Glenn Sakamoto - Hoolehua PMC Manager; David Duvauchelle - Natural Resource Specialist; Wayne Nishijima - UH Manoa, CTAHR, Associate Dean; Travis Idol - UH Manoa, NREM, Asst. Prof.; Greg Takashima - DOH CWB; Glenn Shishido Forestry Management Supervisor / Maui DOFAW; Ed Misaki - TNC Director of Molokai Programs; Noa Emmett Aluli - KIRC Chair.



The Mission of the NRCS Plant Materials Program:

We develop and transfer plant materials and plant technology for the conservation of natural resources. In working with a broad range of plant species, including grasses, forbs, trees, and shrubs, the program seeks to address priority needs of field offices and land managers in both public and private sectors. Emphasis is focused on using native plants as a sustainable way to solve conservation problems and protect ecosystems.

Americorps To The Rescue

With Nancy Bauman retiring and her position being slow to fill, the crew at the PMC is fortunate to have Kaipo Dudoit from the Americorps program join our team!



Kaipo Dudoit was born and raised on the island of Molokai. He enjoys hunting, fishing, diving and surfing. He graduated from Molokai High and Intermediate School and is currently taking courses at Maui Community College. He is currently undecided as to what he wants to major in, but we are encouraging him to take agriculture and soil classes.

Kaipo’s extra helps has come at the perfect time for the Hoolehua PMC Team. It is the rainy season which is our busiest time of the year with trying to keep up with the weed maintenance.

Kahoolawe Piligrass Hale



Glenn Sakamoto evaluates the height of a piligrass field, but cannot recommend it to the PKO (Protect Kahoolawe Ohana) for harvest. Volunteers from both Molokai and Maui high Schools were involved with collecting “pili-bundles” for the hale. The harvested pili was then “shipped” to Kahoolawe by boat. Volunteers on island then off-loaded the special cargo and began construction. The PKO have all but completed construction of the hale made with pili thatch on the island of Kahoolawe. All they need is a little more piligrass for the ridge-cap of the roof, which requires the tallest of piligrass growth. Unfortunately, during the winter months, the piligrass tends to grow on the shorter side because of the shorter days. It has been noted here at the Hoolehua PMC that piligrass can reach height in excess of 5 feet during the months of June to September. It is during this time of the year that we recommend harvesting for the ridge-cap of the hale.



We're on the Web!

www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov



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