



FIVE THINGS WE MUST DO TO PROTECT HAWAI'I FROM UNWANTED PESTS

1 SHARED CAPACITY BUILDING: Build capacity between the Hawai'i and U.S. Departments of Agriculture for protecting Hawai'i from the many new pests poised to enter our state. Major goals are to:

- a) Develop and implement jointly a plan between the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to maximize authorities, strategies and resources for incoming quarantine inspection.
- b) Strategically deploy Hawai'i Department of Agriculture blitz inspection teams to enhance quality control/assurance at airports and harbors. On a periodic basis, blitz teams will carry out surprise inspections on high risk cargo to deter unclean shipments.
- c) Prioritize high risk cargo and other pathways for targeted inspections.
- d) Increase number of dogs/trainers for blitz inspections.
- e) Deploy additional biologists on each island to identify newly established priority pests with an emphasis on the red imported fire ant, little fire ant and wood boring beetles.
- f) Engage appropriate HDOA staff at the local level to participate in developing strategies for Island Invasive Species Committees.
- g) Improve inspection and quarantine training for HDOA staff.
- h) Test preemption question by applying stricter Hawai'i inspection and quarantine on a priority pest group.
- i) Clarify authorities and responsibilities between state agencies with regard to invasive pest species.
- j) Explore options for reasonable increases of discretionary and/or dedicated funds to HDOA to implement above strategies (i.e. \$500K in FY2003 budget).
- k) Identify and obtain greater federal funding to help support and leverage the above strategies.

2 FIRE ANT PREVENTION PLAN: Implement a plan for preventing new ant species from entering the state, with special attention to the red imported fire ant, and use this plan as a prototype for developing similar plans for other groups of pests such as mosquitoes.

- a) Devote components of the plan to prevention, detection, rapid response, enforcement and public outreach.



3 MICONIA CONTAINMENT AND ERADICATION: Secure immediate and long-term funding to develop the capacity of Island Invasive Species teams to contain Miconia and to carry out early detection of other alien pests and ensure rapid response.

- a) Support the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (DLNR) budget, which includes \$380,000 for Island Invasive Species Committees and a DLNR invasive species staff for FY2002.
- b) Support DLNR supplemental budget for an additional \$500,000 for Island Invasive Species Committees and for HDOA miconia biocontrol research for FY2002.
- c) Secure matching federal funds and identify dedicated funding sources for Island Invasive Species Committees that will generate \$2 million annually.
- d) Educate lawmakers and the public about the huge economic and environmental costs of invasive species and the most cost-effective actions we can take to mitigate this problem.



4 SNAKE PREVENTION PLAN:
Implement a Snake Prevention Plan to stop all snake species from entering Hawai'i:

- a) Increase the use of proper technology, such as X-ray machines and dog teams, to identify illicit items in baggage.
- b) Increase the ability of airport inspectors to stop and search persons and baggage, if given good cause.
- c) Provide the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture or the Attorney General's office with a small but adequately funded in-house investigative and enforcement team (an enforcement section chief and two quarantine enforcement officers). This team will investigate snake reports and follow-up with adequate enforcement (e.g., obtaining substantiating evidence, getting and serving warrants, doing undercover operations, etc.). This will require additional funding from the state legislature but can be a key component in a \$500,000 HDOA discretionary funding package.
- d) Identify and designate existing and potentially new DLNR, HDOA and/or IISC trained staff to conduct sweeps for snakes immediately after they are sighted to reduce their chances of successfully establishing a population (i.e., rapid response).
- e) Ensure continued federal funding and adequate support for the Brown Tree Snake prevention program.



5 RISK ASSESSMENT/SCREENING:
Implement a risk assessment/screening process for the landscaping, nursery, and forestry industries to identify and prevent introductions of new known plant pests and prevent the spread of existing plant pests.

- a) Under the leadership of the HDOA, modify the Weed Risk Assessment System developed by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection System for Hawai'i use.
- b) Assist the U.S. Forest Service, HDOA, and the state Division of Forestry and Wildlife in working with plant industries to test the effectiveness of the screening process.
- c) Implement the risk assessment and screening process.

