

## LFA on Oahu Response Update



April 21 – May 5, 2014

- On April 28 and 30, 2014, HDOA in partnership with the Oahu Invasive Species Committee and the HDOA Agricultural Resource Management Division began site preparations for treatment of the infestation in Waimanalo. Access transects have been cleared, and vegetation control has been implemented in areas that need to be treated.
- The Hawaii Ant Lab has drafted a treatment plan for the site, which will include 8 treatments over a 12-month period. Personnel with HDOA's Pesticides Branch will be on hand to ensure the treatments are compliant with pesticide laws. Water samples from a stream running through the treatment area will be taken throughout the treatment period to test for pesticide residue.
- HDOA is actively engaging stakeholders and landowners in the surrounding area to ensure they are aware of treatment activities and any questions are answered. In addition, next week the ICS LFA Outreach Group will be participating in an afterschool program with 30 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders in Waimanalo training them on how to identify LFA and conduct surveys and presenting to the Waimanalo Community Association about the issue.
- **Little fact about Little Fire Ants:** These nasty little critters hail from South America and have been spreading slowly throughout the tropics for the last 100 years. They are now found in many places such as Israel, the Galapagos, Tahiti, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Guam, Australia, and Hawaii.