

LFA on Oahu Response Update



April 7 – 21, 2014

- Following the discovery of LFA on Hapuu on Maui on December 23, 2013, trace back of material led HDOA entomologists to several nurseries and garden shops on Oahu, where LFA was also discovered. HDOA contained and destroyed all infested material located. Currently all nurseries where infested material was identified have been treated and follow-up surveys continue to be negative.
- On April 3 and 10, 2014, HDOA led an interagency survey effort to delimit an infestation discovered in Waimanolo on March 27, 2014. Over 1,000 samples were taken from more than 50 acres near Kumuhau Street to Mahailua Street. Survey results helped determine that the infested area is approximately 4 acres of state land in gulch areas outside nurseries in that area. Repeated surveys inside the nurseries and on the nursery stock have not captured any little fire ants. The Oahu Invasive Species Committee, US Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources and Hawaii National Guard all participated with HDOA in the effort.
- On Thursday April 17, 2014, HDOA and Cas Vanderwoude PhD., the Little Fire Ant expert in Hawaii assessed the site to determine the most appropriate management action.
- Since February, the ICS LFA Outreach Group (including HDOA, CGAPS, OISC, HISC, US FWS, TNC, DLNR, HAL, KISC, MISC, and UH) have attended 8 orchid society meetings and shows to educate and train the public on surveying for LFA. Additional outreach was conducted at the 1000 Tree Giveaway and Mililani Garden Club.
- The Outreach Group is also developing educational materials and working on targeted outreach plans to reach critical audiences. The key component of the LFA response on Oahu is an engaged and involved public that surveys their own properties or anywhere infested material may have been moved. [Click here](#) for HDOA guidelines on how to survey your property and plants today!