## LFA on Oahu Response Updates

August 30 – October 3, 2015

- Surveys:
  - The Hawaii Departments of Agriculture (DOA) & Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) reported that the first post-infestation survey three months after regimented treatments were all negative for little fire ants in Waimanalo and Mililani Mauka. The Waimanalo and Mililani infestation site totaled 12 acres. Surveys will continue on a quarterly basis for the next three years. Treatments, developed by the Hawaii Ant Lab, were applied in both locations once evidence of LFA was discovered. The next monitoring surveys at Mililani Mauka and Waimanalo are tentatively scheduled for early December.
  - In this operational period, the LFA ICS team conducted 12 surveys on priority sites on Oahu. Surveys continue to be conducted 2-3 days per week, with priorities being nurseries at high risk for inadvertently harboring LFA.
- Mitigation:
  - Oahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) conducted vegetation control to keep the Waimanalo site clear for the next comprehensive survey in early December.
  - The Mililani Mauka site continues to be maintained by the Mililani Town Association in cooperation with the HDOA PPC.
- Outreach:
  - 21 outreach events presented LFA information to over 2,660 community members during this period (not including the radio campaign).
  - On September 1, Mayor Kirk Caldwell proclaimed September, 2015, as "Spot the Ant, Stop the Ant" Month for the City and County of Honolulu.
    - A "Spot the Ant, Stop the Ant" logo was created (see below):



## www.StopTheAnt.org

- The "Spot the Ant, Stop the Ant" radio campaign on KSSK interviewed Christy Martin of CGAPS on Island 98.5 on September 2 to help kick off "Spot the Ant, Stop the Ant" month in Hawaii.
- An Instagram account was established at:
  - <u>https://instagram.com/stoptheant/</u>
- Little fact about Little Fire Ants: On the Galapagos, it eats the hatchlings of tortoises and attacks the eyes and cloacae of the adult tortoises. It is considered to be perhaps the greatest ant species threat in the Pacific region. (http://www.issg.org/database/species/ecology.asp?si=58&fr=1&sts=sss&lang=E N)

This report uses the best information available at the time of writing and is not an official record of the project. Its purpose is to update partner agencies and concerned individuals about project progress. Questions regarding information in the report can be addressed by calling the incident command post at 973-9528. Mahalo.