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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Plant Quarantine Branch
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August 31, 2015

Shippers and Importers of Ohia Plants and Plant Parts

SUBJECT: Adoption of Interim Rule 15-1 to Prohibit the Intrastate Movement of *Metrosideros* (all species in genus) (Ohia) Plants, Plant Parts, Including Flowers, Leaves, Seeds, Stems, Twigs, Cuttings, Untreated Wood, Log, Mulch, and Greenwaste; and Frass from the Island of Hawaii Except by Permit Issued by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

This letter is to inform you that on August 25, 2015, the Board of Agriculture (Board) adopted Interim Rule 15-1, which imposes a quarantine on the intrastate movement of *Metrosideros* (all species in genus) plants, plant parts, including flowers, leaves, seeds, stems, twigs, cuttings, untreated wood, log, mulch, and greenwaste; and frass from the island of Hawaii to restricted (uninfested) areas within the State because of a disease called Ohia Wilt or Rapid Ohia Death caused by a new strain of *Ceratocystis fimbriata*. Currently, Ohia Wilt is only known to occur on the Hawaii Island. The interim rule will also restrict the movement of soil from the Hawaii Island beginning January 1, 2016.

Ohia Wilt is a deadly fungal disease that is killing ohia (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) on the Hawaii Island. Ohia makes up 50% of the native forests and is a key component of Hawaii's watersheds. About 15,000 acres on Hawaii Island are known to be infested with Ohia Wilt. Currently, there is no known cure for infected trees. Crowns of affected ohia trees turn yellowish (chlorotic) and later turn brown with dead leaves remaining on the branches for some time. Other symptoms include dark, nearly black staining in the sapwood along the outer margin of the trunks. Once symptoms appear, the infected trees die within days to weeks. While soil is a known carrier of this fungus, the delay in prohibiting soil movement from the Hawaii Island was to research further testing protocols and treatments.

The interim rule authorizes the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA), Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB) to implement quarantine measures to prohibit the intrastate movement of ohia plants, plant parts, including flowers, leaves, seeds, stems, twigs, cuttings, untreated wood, logs, mulch, and greenwaste; and frass from the Hawaii Island except by permit issued by the HDOA.

The importer (receiver) of the regulated articles listed above is required to obtain a permit and is responsible for making sure that all permit requirements are met. The permit conditions require that the regulated articles are:

1. Sampled for *C. fimbriata* prior to shipment to determine whether the article is positive or negative for the fungus. The methods and procedures for sampling will depend on the specific article being shipped and will be coordinated by PQB.

If the shipper is positive for *C. fimbriata*, the regulated article shall not be shipped out of the Hawaii island. PQB will recommend treatments and best management practices, if applicable and available, appropriate to the infestation.

2. Maintained to be free of *C. fimbriata* after the initial sampling by having the shipper enrolled in the PQB's intrastate compliance program.
3. Inspected by the PQB prior to intrastate shipment from the Hawaii Island.

Due to findings of Ohia Wilt in Puna and Hilo, it was determined that an island wide quarantine for the Hawaii island is necessary to prevent the further spread of Ohia Wilt to other islands not known to have this destructive disease. The quarantine restrictions are limited to the Hawaii island and do not apply to ohia shippers on the other islands at this time. The Board is authorized to expand the infested area to prevent the further spread of Ohia Wilt.

The application for permit (Form PQ-7) is available online or by request to the local PQB offices on Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Hilo, and Kona listed below. There are no fees for the permit and for enrolling in the intrastate compliance program.

If you need more information about the quarantine or permit requirements, please call Mr. Lance Sakaino, Acting Plant Quarantine Specialist, at 808-832-0566 or email to: HDOA.PQSPEC@hawaii.gov.

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August 31, 2015

Page 2

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Sincerely,



Amy Takahashi, Acting Manager
Plant Quarantine Branch

Enc. Interim Rule 15-1
HDOA News Release – 08/25/15
Form PQ-7