



Harvest time!

Thanks to our supporters:



Hilo Apiary Staff: Lehua Wall, Danielle Downey, Stacey Chun, Lauren Rusert, Kay Howe

- Swarm calls are up and honey production is good! Even on Big Island, where feral bee losses are high, we are getting calls and reports of swarming. Make sure you register [here](#) to get on our swarm list!
- Its time again for the USDA National Honey Bee Health Survey. We collect and submit 24 samples from Hawaii, used to track bee health in the nation. Participating beekeepers get their bees sampled for Varroa, nosema and viruses. If you have at least 8 colonies, and would like to participate, call us soon!
- House Bill 2100, appropriating \$30,000 for honey bee research statewide, is

moving forward with co-operators. On Big Island, HDOA is working with UH Professor Dr. Lorna Tsutsumi to evaluate the Varroa resistant stock, VSH bees, and see how they fare side by side with other Hawaiian stock. On Kauai, KCC and KBEE are planning to census Small Hive Beetle and compare trap types. On Maui, MCC and HDOA will be doing the same, and establishing sentinel hives for pest survey and detection. If you want to participate, call us!

- The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign has published beautiful Planting Guides for all to use building habitat for

pollinators, and we are working on one for Hawaii! See the guides currently available [here](#).

- Small Hive Beetle, discovered May 2011 on Molo-kai, is reported to be slow and steady on the East end of the island, and is slowly being detected in locations more westward.
- The National Organic Program has added formic acid treatment for Varroa mites in honey bee hives to the list of substances that can be used in organic handling. This includes MAQS and Mite-Away II.
- Hawaii has 135 registered beekeepers!

Staff Profile: Lauren Rusert, Apiary Technician

Lauren had her first experience with honey bees at 15 when she extracted honey with a friend in Northern California. After that, she started collecting honey from everywhere she traveled (over 10 countries and 43 states) finding varieties specific to their regions. Little did she know where it would lead! Years later she attended school at Penn State University and became the Apiary

Field Technician for the Frazier/ Mullin pesticide research lab from 2008 -2011. Lauren managed the lab's bees as well as having research projects, one of which compared honey bee glands with and without pesticide exposure. In Lauren's final year at Penn State, she moved to Brazil for a semester at the University of Sao Paulo, to work with Africanized honey bees. There she

helped test supplemental nutritional diets to prevent AHB swarming. She has a BS in Agricultural Science, keeps 5 hobby colonies, is fluent in English, Spanish and Portuguese, loves fishing and was an All-American and 3-time National Champion for the Penn State Women's rugby team. Lauren has worked with the Apiary Program for a year and a half, loving every minute of it!





Which is which? You can't tell by looking, samples must be sent to a lab.



Africanized bees will live in small spaces, often an unwelcome surprise!



Managing AHB in Brazil, small colonies kept remotely and well spaced to minimize disturbance. Large smokers and full protective gear are needed.

We Don't Want Africanized Bee in Hawaii!

African bees would not help Hawaii's honey bee problems, here's why:

AHB is aggressive and unpredictable. Also known as the 'killer bee', AHB is very defensive. Any stinging event can become severe in minutes, resulting in deaths of livestock, pets and even people. A disturbed colony may pursue invaders for ¼ mile.

AHB is highly invasive. AHB has spread unaided from Brazil to the Southern USA, in under 40 years. This bee would colonize Hawaii very quickly, living in many unexpected places, hybridizing and taking over colonies.

AHB takes over. AHB outcompetes European bees. Swarms will invade another colony and kill the existing queen to take over. Males mate more successfully than European bees, and the hybrids are aggressive. It is very difficult to maintain gentle bees if AHB is present.

AHB is difficult to manage.

AHB may swarm 15-20 times/year, and also abscond (abandon) their colonies.

AHB produces less honey. European bees collect honey to survive winter, its part of their instinctual behavior. AHB evolved without winter, and traded large colonies with stored honey for small colonies that swarm a lot.

AHB is not immune to pests and disease. AHB may be more resilient to pests and disease, likely due to differences like small colonies that swarm all season. *These unknown benefits do not outweigh the certain risks and consequences of AHB.*

AHB is a public health risk. Experienced beekeepers may not mind more stings, but hikers, vacationers, tethered animals, livestock, children and the elderly are common victims of surprise AHB attacks. *Any fear of bees will impact our industry adversely.*

AHB will cost Hawaii money. AHB would require

ongoing education about stinging risks for beekeepers, Emergency Responders, pest controllers, residents and visitors.

North American Agriculture relies on queen bees from Hawaii. AHB would immediately shut down all queen bee exports, a valuable Hawaiian commodity which serves a critical need for agriculture in North America.

Hawaii's bees are recovering without AHB. After heavy losses to mites and beetles, many beekeepers report that they have learned what it takes to keep colonies alive. *Hawaii can rebuild beekeeping with the resources we have right here, right now.* There are already several projects in place to improve Hawaii's bee stock with resistant strains of gentle bees, we don't need AHB!

It is illegal. The penalty is \$5,000 to \$200,000. Importing any honey bees into Hawaii has been illegal for over 100 years, for good reason!

National Stakeholders Conference: Honey Bee Health

Hawai`i Apiary Program

Where we're at:

16 E. Lanikaula Street
Hilo, HI 96720
808-352-3010

1428 S. King Street
Honolulu, HI 96814
808-339-1977

www.hawaiibee.com

In 2007 the first Colony Collapse Disorder Steering Committee was formed by the USDA. Since then much work has been done to discover the causes of honey bee decline, including CCD. October was the first reconvening of these stakeholders to synthesize and summarize current knowl-

edge, evaluate progress and identify directions to develop a new Action Plan. Attendees included beekeepers, researchers, advocacy groups, State Lead Agencies, commodity groups, and agrochemical producers. Hawaii Apiary Specialist Danielle Downey attended. Work groups focused on four areas

for future emphasis: 1. Pathogens and Arthropod Pests 2. Nutrition 3. Pesticides 4. Bee Genetics, Breeding and Biology. Watch for the action plan and see summaries of these national efforts [here](#).

