



## Hawai'i Apiary Program



### Apiary Program Summertime Buzzzz

Thanks to our supporters:



#### Queen Rearing class on Maui, August 10:

We will be returning to Maui to teach a queen rearing workshop on August 10th, 9am-2pm, at UH Maui in the Community Services Building. Cost for the class will be \$15. [RSVP](#) with Noe or call (808)339-1977 for more information

**Upcoming classes on Molo-ka'i, Big Island (Hilo & Kona), Lāna'i, and O'ahu's North Shore are being scheduled now for late summer and fall 2016. Stay tuned for more classes on our website's current [Beevents page](#).**

#### Bee Brood donations needed on Hawai'i Island:

Keahou Bird Conservation Center (KBCC) is seeking bee larvae to help raise critically endangered native Hawaiian birds. If any beekeepers (on the Big Island only) have extra brood that they are able to donate, please contact KBCC office at (808)985-7218 or [email](#) and they will organize pick up from you.

#### WAS Registration is now open!

Western Apiculture Society (WAS) Conference 2016 will be held in Honolulu, October 13-15, 2016 at the Ala Moana Hotel. Go to the [WAS website](#) for more information and to register. This will be an excel-

lent conference that is only hosted in Hawai'i every 5-15 years. Please join us!

#### Food Safety Certificate required for beekeepers selling honey:

A Hawaii Food Safety Certificate is required for beekeepers selling 1-500 gallons of honey a year. Anyone selling over 500 gallons of honey per year is required to have a certified kitchen. Specific guidelines can be found [HERE](#).

Free food safety certification classes are offered across the state by the Hawai'i Department of Health. If interested, contact John Nakashima at (808) 933-0931 or [Send him an email to reserve your spot](#).

### 7th annual

## Hawai'ian Natural Honey Challenge

#### **Enter your unique honey in the Hawai'ian Natural Honey Challenge 2016!**

The Challenge is open to all State of Hawai'i beekeepers, regardless of operation size, who follow the rules of this contest below.

Honey samples submitted for entry in the Challenge must be harvested and bottled by the contestant from their own apiary located in the State of Hawai'i between the dates of September 16, 2015 – September 16, 2016.

- No heat may be used in the extracting or bottling process.
- No additives, seeding, flavor-

ing or blending of honeys may be used.

- Honey may be "strained" but not "filtered"
- The honey should not be processed in any way such as "creaming" or other manipulations.
- Entries may be submitted as liquid or solid, or comb honey.
- All liquid and solid entries are to be submitted in one plain, one-pint wide mouth canning jar (Ball, Kerr, Mason) with metal lid and ring.

There will be a formal judging on September 28, 2016.

**An informal public tasting will happen at the Western Apicultural Society Conference on O'ahu October 13 – 15, 2016 resulting in the People's Choice awards.**

Both evaluations will be done "blind", in that the entries will be identified by number only assigned by the committee at the time of judging.

**Submissions must be received by Sept. 16, 2016.** Each entry is \$10 and requires an entry form. Go to <http://www.bigislandbeekeepers.com/> or contact Peggy Beckett at (808)965-0000 for more information.

Hawai'i Pollinator Proclamation June 15, 2016: (L-R) Scott Nikaido, Scott Enright, Ethel Villalobos, Governor David Ige, Lauren Rusert, Noelani Waters, Darcy Oishi, and Cynthia King

### Hawai'i Apiary Program

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[Our Website](#)

Facebook: Hawaii Bee

## Activity Update: What We Do Statewide



Hawai'i Apiary Program Staff:  
Mitra Heffron, Lauren Rusert,  
and Noelani Waters

The Hawai'i Apiary Program serves many functions; here are a few highlights that show our effort statewide.

**Educational workshops and classes.** This year (since July 2015), we have taught 351 students in 12 classes on 4 islands! Our classes include Introduction to Bee Biology, Bee Health, Swarms & Splits, Queen Rearing, Product of the Beehive, and Varroa Detection. [Request a class on your island.](#)

**Community outreach events.** Since July 2015 the Apiary Program has presented at 12 outreach events on 3 islands. If you'd like us to attend an event near you please [contact us.](#)

**Apiary Inspections for queen export.** Businesses that sell queen bees off island must have a health certificate, which is valid for 90 days. Since July 2015 we have provided 32 queen inspections all on the Big Island.

**Biosecurity.** The Apiary programs maintains nearly 100 swarm traps throughout the state, all within a mile of airports and shipping ports. These traps are to intercept any bees or bee pests moved in with cargo. When mites arrived on Big Island, this security system is how they were discovered. During our checks every 6-8 weeks, we look for varroa mites, Africanized bees, Asian Giant Hornets, Apis cerana, and Tropilaelaps mite.

**National Honey Bee Survey Sampling.** 24 samples from beekeepers apiaries across the Hawai'ian islands are collected and submitted each year to detect any new and unwanted pests that may come to the state. With these results we are able to understand more about Hawai'i's bee health and see how they compare nationally. <http://beeinformed.org/aphis/>

**Beekeeper Registry.** Hawai'i has a voluntary beekeeper registry, which we use to keep in touch with important news, and also referrals for swarm catching and pollination. Currently have 286 registered beekeepers with more than 16,500 hives statewide!



A group of new beekeepers at a recent Beekeeping series at UH Maui.

## Managed Pollinator Protection Plan (MP3) Survey

### We need your feedback!

Help us, help the pollinators! States around the country are developing Managed Pollinator Protection Plans (MP3's) to increase awareness and create best management practice guides for pollinators in that area. Hawaii's Department of

Agriculture Apiary Program and Pesticides Branch are working with beekeepers, farmers, pesticide applicators, and educators to create an MP3 for Hawaii.

**If you haven't already done so, please take the Hawaii MP3 survey [HERE.](#)**

If you are interested in becoming a stakeholder and having more input, please contact [Lauren Rusert](#) and we will add you to the list for future meetings. Your feedback is important and appreciated!



Noe demonstrating how to assemble comb into a frame to adopt a feral hive in a recent swarms and splits class.

## Apiary Staff Welcomes Mitra Heffron

Mitra Heffron began working with bees as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Paraguay in 2008. She taught basic beekeeping practices to a core group of local farmers while also encouraging other community members of Sagrada Familia, Concepcion to try beekeeping as a means to help increase their crop yields, gain a source of supplemental income through honey production, promote overall wellbeing of the bees in the region, and just gain a new appreciation and sense of stewardship for the

bees. She worked with the local beekeeping group to build top-bar and Langstroth hives, homemade smokers, capture wild swarms (usually in hollowed out palm trees), make beeswax candles, and to harvest, bottle, and market their tasty honey. She also enjoyed promoting the use of honey in recipes among the bakers in the community by making delicious carrot cakes and then sharing the secret ingredient: honey! Mitra grew up all over the world, but moved to Hawaii in 1999 and

is grateful to call Hawaii home. She loves to be outside working bees, swimming in the ocean, or hiking with her two dogs. On rainy, Hilo days she enjoys baking or watching movies. Mitra has been working with the Apiary Program since November 2015, is very excited to join the team, and is looking forward to continue meeting the whole network of beekeepers and bee enthusiasts throughout the state, country, and beyond!



Bee shaka from Mitra.