



# Hawai'i Beekeeper Resources



## Getting Started:

1. **Take a beginning beekeeping class:** We offer low cost classes on all the islands, contact us to request one in your area, see our website for class updates: [hdoa.hawaii.gov/bees/](http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/bees/)
2. **Acquire Equipment:** Online: Amazon.com (lowest shipping cost), Dadant, Kelley, Mann Lake, Brushy Mountain. Locally: [hawaiianvenom.com](http://hawaiianvenom.com) ('Oahu based), check your local farm supply co-op, or build your own! (untreated wood only) See our website 'beesources' page for hive building plans.

\*remember no used equipment can be shipped into the state of Hawai'i \*

1. **Start with two hives:** This way if one is struggling you can use the second hive to help by transferring brood or resources easily.
2. **Recommended equipment to start Langstroth hives:** 2 screened bottom boards, 3 deep boxes (extra for growth and splitting) + 30 deep frames with foundation, 3 medium boxes + 30 medium frames with foundation, 2 queen excluders, 2 lids, 2 inner covers (optional), 2 pieces plastic roofing, 2 hive stands or cinderblocks.
3. **Recommended protective gear and tools:** Bee suit / jacket with a veil, leather bee gloves (can also use disposable nitrile gloves, or go gloveless if you are comfortable), smoker, hive tool, bee brush, lighter/ torch.
4. **Catch a swarm:** Join our beekeeper registry to become part of the swarm call list. Lure swarms with bees wax, honey, lemongrass oil, or synthetic pheromone (available at bee supply websites listed above). Request and take our Catching Swarms & Making Splits class.
5. **Buy a nucleus colony locally:** A nucleus colony is 4-5 frames of bees, brood, and a queen (price range is \$125-225). Full sized colonies and queens also available. Call us for a current list of beekeepers selling bees or queens on your island.

*\*\*\*NO importation of bees is allowed into the state of Hawaii . Varroa mites are only found on Big Island & 'Oahu, NO shipment of queens from these Varroa positive islands to varroa negative islands (Maui, Lāna'i, Moloka'i, & Kaua'i) is permitted. All queen breeders shipping between islands must be inspected and certified by the HDOA Apiary Program\*\*\**





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## **Recommended Websites:**

beeinformed.org/  
entnemdept.ufl.edu/honeybee/  
scientificbeekeeping.com/  
beebiology.ucdavis.edu/  
beelab.umn.edu/  
agdev.anr.vdel.edu/maarec/  
pollinator.org/



## **Resources in Hawaii:**

**Hawaii Apiary Program:** <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/bees>

**Big Island Beekeepers Association:** <http://www.bigislandbeekeepers.com/>

**UH Manoa Bee Project:** <http://www.uhbeeproject.com/>

**UH Hilo Beekeeping:** <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/academics/cafnrm/faculty/arita-tsutsumi.php>

## **Recommended Books:**

Honey Bee Biology & Beekeeping by Caron and Connor

The Backyard Beekeeper by Kim Flottum

ABD & XYZ of Bee Culture

First Lessons in Beekeeping by Keith Delaplane

Penn State's Field Guide to Honeybees and Their Maladies

Honeybee Democracy by Tom Seeley

Bee Time by Mark Winston

Swarm Essentials: Ecology, Management, Sustainability By S. Repasky

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