



Eradication of Little Fire Ants from Kauai
Organization: Hawai'i Ant Lab
Award: \$85,326



Introduction:

The Hawai'i Ant Lab delivers the invasive ant strategy for the state of Hawai'i . Our mission is to:

- Protect Hawai'i from new introductions of invasive ants,
- Prevent the inter-island and intra-island spread of existing invasive ant species,
- Provide sound, practical treatment methods for homeowners, natural resource managers and industry,
- Eradicate new incursions whenever possible.

HISC supplies approximately 30% of total HAL operating funds. An additional 30% is provided by Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and the remainder is sourced from competitive grants from other sources.



The staff from Hawai'i Ant Lab (from left) Kanoë Malani, Dr Cas Vanderwoude, Michelle Montgomery and Brent Sheehan

The Hawai'i Ant Lab (HAL) is a point-of-contact for conservation agencies, members of the public, the agricultural and nursery industries and the HISC on any matter involving identification, prevention and control of invasive ants. The HAL has maintained daily invasive ant prevention and response services throughout the past 12 months.

Operate and maintain a 24/7 telephone contact service for members of the public.

During the reporting period, 540 telephone calls and walk-in enquiries were processed by Hawai'i Ant Lab.

Provide a diagnostic service to members of the public and other conservation agencies.

Members of the public submitted for identification a total of 84 specimens. The majority of these were

Little Fire Ants.

Develop, update and promote the www.littlefireants.com website

The website contains extensive information on invasive ants including a library of fact sheets and other information available for download. It has been entirely recoded during the reporting period, and in the past 12 months, the new website had 5,179 visitors and 13,384 page views. Over 68% of these were from the state of Hawai'i. Additionally, Hawai'i Ant Lab operates and maintains a discussion group that currently has 134 members.

Conduct regular island-wide point-of-entry surveys for invasive ants.

Point of entry surveys were conducted at Hilo airport, Hilo seaport, Kona airport and Kawaihe seaport.

Produce and update “fact sheets” providing prevention advice to residents and industry.

A total of six fact sheets are available in printed form or for download from the littlefireants.com website.

Respond to requests for engagements to associations and societies and staff public displays.

Presentations have been delivered to 22 community groups with a total attendance of 871 persons. Additionally, we have begun hosting a monthly ant management clinic where participants can learn about impacts, control and disinfection procedures. To date, three such clinics have been conducted with approximately 20 participants on each occasion. There is a waiting list for future clinics.

Work with Hawai'i County to manage Little Fire Ants in public access areas.

The Hawai'i Ant Lab and County of Hawai'i were awarded a grant from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority to mitigate impacts of Little Fire Ants in Hilo beach parks and the zoo.

Continue the Maui eradication program at Waihe'e, Maui

Three additional treatments have been applied to eradicate a small incipient LFA colony discovered during post-eradication monitoring survey.



Examples of training workshops conducted by Hawai'i Ant Lab (from left) ant management clinic, working with staff from County of Hawai'i and an ant taxonomy training workshop in Guam

For more information, please contact:

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