Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan 2017–2027

Executive Summary

Hawaii's Interagency Biosecurity Plan

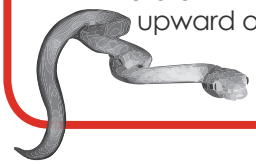
is a coordinated path forward to increase support for local agriculture, protection for our environment, and safeguards for the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people.

Biosecurity is the set of measures taken to manage the risk from invasive species to the economy, environment, and health and lifestyle of the people.

THREATS

Red Imported Fire Ants are predicted to cost Hawaii **$211 million** per year.

The brown tree snake could cause upward of **$2.14 billion** per year in economic damages.



AN INCLUSIVE PLANNING PROCESS

Identify Biosecurity gaps & best practices → Agency Guidance → Private Industry Input → Agency Review → Public Review → **Final Interagency Biosecurity Plan**

BIOSECURITY IN 2016: Where are we now?

Hawaii's biosecurity comprises many components and is the work of multiple state, federal, and county agencies and partners. Although the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is the only agency with a mandated biosecurity *program*, this biosecurity *plan* recognizes that HDOA is not alone in protecting Hawaii's agriculture, environment, and people from the impacts of invasive species. Key players in Hawaii's biosecurity also include the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Hawaii Department of Health (DOH), and University of Hawaii (UH).

HDOA regulates domestic import, border inspections, postborder detection, and control of agricultural pests. **Gaps:** lack of data management technology and inspection facilities, not fully equipped biocontrol lab, restrictions on types of commodities inspected, and insufficient staff.

DLNR detects and controls invasive species in natural areas, controls invasive algae, and regulates ballast water. **Gaps:** lack of authority to regulate invasive organisms attached to ship hulls and lack of capacity to detect and control invasive algae, weeds, and predators in our waters and forests.

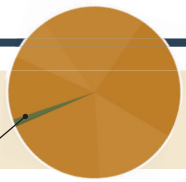
DOH regulates vectors of human diseases, including mosquitoes. **Gaps:** operating at 60% of the capacity needed to fight diseases such as dengue, Zika, and chikungunya.

UH assists farmers and landowners with pest management through its cooperative extension services, Invasive Species Committees, and Watershed Partnership that control invasive species statewide. **Gaps:** lack of stable funding for agricultural and invasive species programs.

Private industry and the public provide expertise to shape policies and are critical in ensuring that best management practices are followed. Farmers, nursery growers, ranchers, members of the airline and shipping industries, and the general public are important biosecurity partners. **Industry gaps:** insufficient infrastructure for handling inspected cargo; lack of a forum for engaging industry in decision making; and insufficient outreach and assistance to farmers, growers, and the public.

Federal agencies such as U.S. Department of Agriculture, Center for Border Protection, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service play a key role in Hawaii's biosecurity. They regulate foreign imports and provide technical and funding support to state and private landowners to manage invasive species.

HDOA and DLNR, the two primary state agencies responsible for biosecurity, received less than 0.4% and 1%, respectively, of the $13.7 billion state operating budget in FY 16–17.

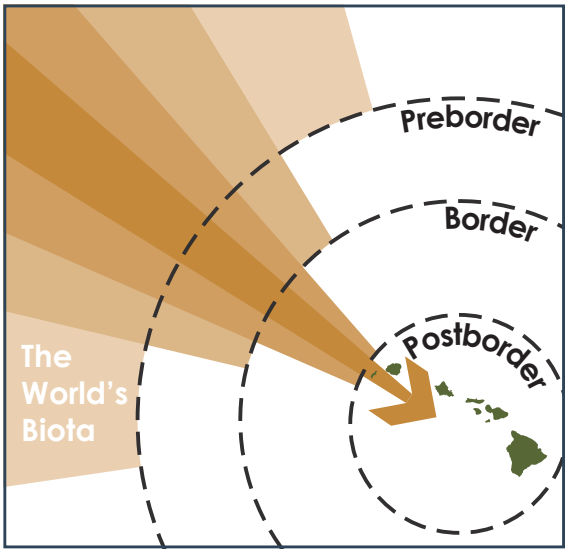


BIOSECURITY IN 2027: Where are we headed?

Effective biosecurity requires a comprehensive approach that includes:

- **Pre-border** policies and processes to prevent invasive species from making their way to Hawaii
- **Border** policies and processes that support inspecting incoming items to ensure minimal risk of pest entry into the state
- **Post-border** policies and processes that support detecting and responding to new incursions of invasive species and controlling established invasive species wherever possible

This plan addresses Hawaii's most critical biosecurity gaps and provides a coordinated, interagency path to a more secure future. It identifies more than 100 policy, process, and infrastructure actions that Hawaii's state, federal, and county agencies and partners can take. The following 10 highlights are key to the success of this plan:



Off-shore compliance: Agreements with other jurisdictions to adopt preshipping inspection and control policies

E-manifest and intelligence gathering: New technology to track what is coming in, what is high risk, and what is low risk (for faster release)

Inspection facilities: Well-lit, secure areas for efficient inspections, refrigerated areas for produce

Inspection of nonagricultural items: Provide HDOA the authority and staff to inspect high-risk nonagricultural items

Emergency response capacity: Interagency plans, protocols, and funding in place for timely and effective response to new pest incursions

Better coordination and participation by industries: Expansion of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council into the Invasive Species Authority to provide industry a seat at the table and better interagency coordination to monitor, detect, and control invasive species

Renewed focus on human health: A fully restored DOH Vector Control Branch to detect vectors of dengue, Zika, and more

Enhanced control of established pests: Adequate field staff at HDOA, DLNR, DOH, and UH to control established invasive species, improved laboratories to support effective biocontrol

Minimized interisland spread: Increased staff and inspections for interisland goods, support to local farms and nurseries through certification programs and import substitution programs

Engaged and supportive community: Targeted outreach to different stakeholder groups to increase awareness of and engagement in biosecurity programs

Our biosecurity vision is for Hawaii's people, visitors, economy, agriculture, and natural environment to be protected from the impacts of invasive species. Achieving this vision will require hard work, policy development, and financial commitment. This vision is achievable if we work together.