

TO: jack.f.reef.researcher@hawaii.gov, and To Whom It May Concern among those in attendance of the Hawaii Invasive Species Committee meeting to be held on 08/23/2023, 1 PM, HST.

SUB: Announcement and Proposal

FROM: David P. Davis, PhD, daveotf@gmail.com, (808) 756-1863

**WHAT IS BEING ANNOUNCED:** Dr. Davis has developed a Minimum-Risk Pesticide that has the capability for the Comprehensive Control of several invasive species in Hawaii. His extensive testing over several years proved to him that it is effective in controlling: Coqui Frogs, Cane Toads, Hump Back slugs, African and other snails, Nematodes, Mosquito and most other larvae, Spider Mites, Fruit flies, Aphids, round worms, and more. He was awarded patents for it in 2012 and 2016.

**SPECIFICS:** This product is made from all natural ingredients that are generally regarded as safe (GRAS). GRAS classification means that the ingredients do not have an adverse impact on the environment nor when used as directed are they harmful to humans, animals, fish, or birds. All ingredients in this product have been, or are currently used in AG and FOOD applications that are registered by the EPA and/or the FDA. It is less costly and less corrosive than Citric Acid.

**ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS:** Besides direct applications against invasive species, this product will also work to support the horticultural and agricultural industry of Hawaii. Thus we use the term, Comprehensive Control. For example, as a prophylactic treatment to reduce pest contamination during shipping, it can be applied as a paste or paint to the perimeters, floors and work benches of nurseries and export businesses, as a spray to wash potted plants and foliage, or even large palm trees, prior to shipping. It can be used to wash shipping containers and motor vehicles traveling around the island or inter-island, applied as a granule to the soil of plants, cinder or other growing medium to remove nematodes, and last but not least, be used by frustrated home owners or resort management companies to maintain "Quiet Hawaiian Nights".

**PROPOSAL:** Dr. Davis first started working on this product with a friend during the Coqui emergency of the early 2000's and during the time he was operating a tropical fruit farm and road-side stand on the Big Island. He is now semi-retired and since discovering that his product can be formulated as a as a minimum-risk pesticide, he has found renewed energy to bring it to market and have a successful conclusion to his work on something that he believes has high potential for making a beneficial contribution to the ecology of Hawaii. He is therefore seeking the support of an independent third party to validate his claims in order to market a product that truly does what it promises. Ideally this support would come from a State or Governmental Agency such as the HISC, the HDOA, the DLNR, the University of Hawaii, or the USDA. However, should that prove to be unfeasible, he is also open to gaining the support of a private entity. The costs for such a study may range from fifty to seventy-five thousand dollars. In return for such an investment, he is open to making special arrangements with the State or otherwise negotiating the terms of licensure or a percentage of the net income from a truly innovative, versatile, and beneficial product.

Aloha nui e Jack Reef,

I am writing to you as the Chair of the Waimānalo Neighborhood Board requesting that this written testimony be forwarded and distributed to all appropriate parties in regards to the Agenda Item #5, Submittal: Requesting approval of a recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2024 for the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

August 23, 2023; 1:00 PM

Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources Meeting being held in Board [Room \(Rm 132\), 1151 Punchbowl St, Honolulu, HI, 96813](#).

The Waimānalo Neighborhood Board #32 supports the prioritization of invasive species management funding, strongly supporting that it be increased in line with the current threat level that invasive species pose to the very unique ecosystems and lifeways that we have here in Hawai'i. It is no secret, that very dangerous and life threatening invasive species are present in our community as well as many others and are putting the very way of life for many at risk. Invasive Species like Little Fire Ants, Coqui Frogs, and Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle have been a priority for our community and we strongly recommend that immediate steps be taken to appropriate funding into this budget that is conducive to the level of risk these species play in our community.

While we understand that there are continued efforts to mitigate, and manage spread, we expect full action that works towards eradication of these pests, anything less than, is simply unacceptable. It is now, when this body can be the leader it was designed to be, to take the courageous step of applying the most appropriate resources to this continued fight, and set the pathway for our safeguard and protection of our beautiful Hawai'i. Our community stands ready to continue to do our part to be apart of the solutions, and now, more than ever, we need you.

Mahalo nui for your time and attention and I look forward to your actions of support that align with the needs outlined by our collective communities.

‘O wau nō me ka ha‘aha‘a a me ka mahalo,

Kimeona Kane (he/him)

Chair- Waimānalo Neighborhood Board

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August 22nd, 2023

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
1151 Punchbowl St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Chang, Chair Hurd, and members of the Council,

I am writing as a resident of Kahalu'u, O'ahu, where a group of neighbors has come together to assist the Ant Lab in detection and treatment of three little fire ant (LFA) infestations. We are also doing what we can to control invasive albizia trees in our area. We have recently begun organizing across communities to assist with control of LFA on a wider scale. LFA will change the way we interact with our landscapes, such as on the farm where my family has worked for the past 40+ years. As an environmental education professional with the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve, I am especially concerned about the ability to continue safely bringing children to biocultural restorations sites for experiential learning.

I worry that despite our volunteer efforts, more dedicated funding and staffing is needed to tackle the LFA and other invasive species problems that are nearing a tipping point. I noticed that the recommended award amounts for FY24 projects are about half of the total requested amount. Please do whatever you can to increase funding in this and future years to these programs, so that our volunteer efforts are fully leveraged.

Mahalo for supporting invasive species work.



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**From:** Joseph Wat <[joew@keyproject.org](mailto:joew@keyproject.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:43 PM  
**To:** Reef, Jack F <[jack.f.reef.researcher@hawaii.gov](mailto:jack.f.reef.researcher@hawaii.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] LFA and Invasive Species Testimony

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Joe Wat, an employee at KEY Project, a community center in Waihe'e, O'ahu. Over the last two weeks we have had a rollercoaster of a ride with LFA. Starting with hearing about a LFA sample recently collected up the road, I jumped into LFA testing, outreach, and control with every spare minute of my time.

We need clearer communication of needs between all government, private, and university groups that juggle the burden of managing all of these pests. Some of the barriers (in the state, in the UH system, etc) are easily surmounted by other outside support organizations. Until we can talk openly about these needs and limitations, we are hobbling our responses.

Also, I strongly support the changes to Rule 72 as written. Any adjustments should be pursued through the same amendment process that was initiated months ago to get us where we are today.

As the Department of Health can shut down restaurants for not following proper sanitation protocols... Department of Ag should have similar power to prevent businesses from destroying public resources and access to these resources.

Ultimately, invasive species are an existential threat to our relationship to 'āina. How are we going to harvest for hula, for lei, for kūahu, for food when these resources are being destroyed or transformed from these pests?

Aloha nō,  
- Joe

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**Joe Wat**

Community Development Coordinator  
KEY Project

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