

## Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Invasive Species Prevention

### General Prevention (for Little Fire Ant, coqui frogs, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles, and others)

When contracting, purchasing, or conducting projects, there is a very real risk of bringing or moving invasive species with the movement of equipment, materials, and commodities. To reduce risk, please consider implementing or incorporating the following BMPs:

- Institute contract specifications that require mitigation for potential introductions. This can include requiring equipment cleaning and materials inspection prior to work and site inspections to assess compliance efficacy prior to job completion/payment.
- Ask if the contractor or vendor follows BMPs for invasive species, and ask for a copy to review. Ask about a contractor or vendor's previous job location/s and the known invasive species in that area. Coqui, Little Fire Ants (LFA), Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles (CRB), and weeds have all been moved to new **locations** on heavy equipment and materials from infested job sites.
- When purchasing or selecting materials, source plants, planting materials, and similar supplies from uninfested areas and/or from vendors that implement pest BMPs, or ones that are working under official pest mitigation compliance agreements.
- Quarantine and survey all new plants and materials for pests before outplanting, e.g. listen at night for coqui, look for CRB and damage (see below), test all new plants for LFA (see how at <https://stoptheant.org/report-little-fire-ants/>).

### Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Any of palms, mulch, compost, etc. coming from Oahu or Kauai should be considered high risk!)

If ordering or working with greenwaste, mulch, loose or bagged compost, or similar materials, be aware that CRB lay their eggs and their grubs (larvae) develop in compost, mulch, greenwaste, manure, etc.). Specify in your contract or purchase agreement that the materials receive proper treatment (e.g., chipping, grinding, heat treatment, or fumigation), and also specify that the vendor/shipper must comply with all applicable laws and rules when moving these items.

- Inspect upon receiving and while working with or managing/maintaining these materials and installation sites. Conduct regular searches/inspections (at least every 4 months/quarterly) of the material for any signs of CRB grubs or pupa (in mulch, greenwaste, and soil mixes/growing media, or damage to the leaves or crowns of coconut trees or any type of palm, banana, and hala).
- If working with tree trimmers, landscapers, or similar, consider asking that all personnel be trained on what to watch for and how to report it. Adult CRB bore golfball-sized holes in coconut and other palms and the leaves may show signs of beetle damage. CRB can also bore into banana plants, hala trees, and many other trees. Text or call (808) 679-5244 or [info@crbhawaii.org](mailto:info@crbhawaii.org). For more information, see <https://www.crbhawaii.org/>.

### Fire-promoting and Invasive Plants & Landscaping

- Consider selecting native plants or non-native plants that are low risk for becoming invasive in Hawaii at [www.plantpono.org](http://www.plantpono.org). If a particular plant you are interested in has not been screened for invasiveness, request a screening which is a free service and the results are non-regulatory. The website also features nurseries on Kauai and Hawaii island that have invasive species BMPs in place, see the "Pono Businesses" tab for the lists.
- Consider also staying away from plants that are particularly risky because they are fire-promoting or fire-adapted. See the resources at the Pacific Fire Exchange: <https://pacificfireexchange.org/resource/weed-fire-risk-assessment-for-hawaii-2/>

Mahalo for considering these suggestions! Please contact any of these groups as resources:

Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS): [christym@hawaii.edu](mailto:christym@hawaii.edu); (808) 722-0995

Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee (KISC): [kisc@hawaii.edu](mailto:kisc@hawaii.edu)

O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC): [oisc@hawaii.edu](mailto:oisc@hawaii.edu)

Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC): [miscpr@hawaii.edu](mailto:miscpr@hawaii.edu)

Moloka'i-Maui Invasive Species Committee (MoMISC): [molokaiinvasive@gmail.com](mailto:molokaiinvasive@gmail.com)

Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC): [biisc@hawaii.edu](mailto:biisc@hawaii.edu)

CRB Response Team: [info@crbhawaii.org](mailto:info@crbhawaii.org) or (808) 679-5244

Hawai'i Ant Lab (HAL): [info@littlefireants.com](mailto:info@littlefireants.com) or (808) 315-5656

State Pest Hotline (808) 643-PEST (7378) or online at [www.643PEST.org](http://www.643PEST.org)