

# Fact Sheet It's the Law



## United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Plant Protection and Quarantine

### DO NOT SEND PLANTS, FRUITS, AND VEGETABLES TO THE MAINLAND

The Plant Protection Act of 2000 prohibits the mailing of plants, fruits, and vegetables, or any other plant materials without inspection and certification. Plants, flowers, fruits, and vegetables from Hawaii may be hosts for fruit flies and other destructive insects. Plant material can introduce plant diseases not found in the 48 contiguous states. These pests have the potential to cause severe damage to crops and the environment in other parts of the United States.

Over the past 15 years, eradicating outbreaks of pests like the Mediterranean fruit fly has cost American taxpayers more than \$200 million. Outbreaks could be caused by produce illegally sent or carried to the mainland.

#### Fruits from Hawaii are prohibited.

Fruit from Hawaii cannot be certified as pest free.  
Pineapple and treated papaya are permitted.

People who illegally send prohibited items through the mail can be prosecuted and are subject to criminal or civil penalties, including fines of up to \$1,000.

Guidelines for residents and visitors to Hawaii:

#### Items permitted into the mainland after inspection:

- ◆ Beach Sand
- ◆ Coconuts
- ◆ Dried seeds and decorative arrangements
- ◆ Fresh flowers, leis, and foliage,
- ◆ Except gardenia, jade vine, Mauna Loa
- ◆ Pineapples (fresh)
- ◆ Seashells, not land snail shells
- ◆ Seed leis and seed jewelry
- ◆ Wood roses (dried)
- ◆ Plants and cuttings that are certified to be pest free.
- ◆ Treated Papayas that are boxed and sealed



#### Items NOT permitted into the mainland:

- ◆ Fruits, except pineapple and treated papaya
- ◆ Berries, including fresh coffee berries
- ◆ Cactus plants or cactus plant parts
- ◆ Cotton and cotton bolls
- ◆ Fresh flowers of gardenia, jade vine, Mauna Loa
- ◆ Live insects and snails
- ◆ Soil or any plants in Soil
- ◆ Seeds with fruit clinging and fresh seed pods
- ◆ Sugarcane
- ◆ Swamp cabbage (unchoy)
- ◆ Sweet Potato

Mailing processed fruits and vegetables is permissible. Processing includes cooking, drying, and freezing. If freezing, all fruits must be frozen solid at the time of inspection. Frozen mango must be without seeds.

Check with USDA for approved methods of processing. The Cooperative Extension Service has recipes with popular ways to prepare island favorites.

For additional information, telephone:

- ◆ USDA, 24-hour recording, on Oahu: 541-1991
- ◆ United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)  
Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ):

Honolulu	<b>834-3220</b>	Kona	329-2828
Kauai	245-2831	Hilo	933-6931
Maui	877-8757		

Write to: USDA, APHIS, PPQ  
Hawaii State Office  
300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Rm. 8-152  
P.O. Box 50002  
Honolulu, HI 96850

For information on how to certify plants and cuttings:  
State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture.  
Honolulu 832-0566; Hilo, 974-4141.  
Kauai, 274-3069; Maui, 873-3555  
Kona, 326-1077

# SENDING FLOWERS TO THE MAINLAND?

## GRADUATION, LŪ'AU, WEDDINGS, HOLIDAYS

**C**ut flowers and foliage (including lei), fruits, and vegetables from Hawai'i may be hosts for fruit flies and other destructive pests and diseases not present in other states and have the potential to cause severe damage to crops and the environment.

USDA APHIS PPQ (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection & Quarantine) requires inspection on all agricultural items prior to movement from Hawai'i to the U.S. mainland. Due to Federal quarantines, certain items are prohibited for export.

### LEI PROHIBITED to U.S. MAINLAND

If you are taking lei, cut flowers and/or foliage with you from Hawai'i on a domestic flight (checked baggage or hand-carried), allow ample time before departure to have them inspected at USDA Airport Inspection points. For plant items being mailed, there are offices at or near the airports. Call ahead to verify location and hours, or for updates or questions.

#### USDA APHIS PPQ Offices

(M-F; Closed on Federal holidays)

#### BIG ISLAND

Hilo: (808) 933-9040

455 E. Lanikaula St.

Kona: (808) 326-1252

Kona Int. Airport, Kailua-Kona

**OAHU:** (808) 834-3240

300 Rodgers Blvd. #58, Honolulu

**KAUAI:** (808) 632-2511

3901 Mokulele Loop, Līhū'e

**MAUI:** (808) 877-5261

Kahului Airport, Kahului

**MOLOKA'I:** (808) 357-6378

Moloka'i Airport, Ho'olehua

**LANA'I:** (808) 565-6443

Lana'i Airport, Lana'i City

#### JSDA Home Website:

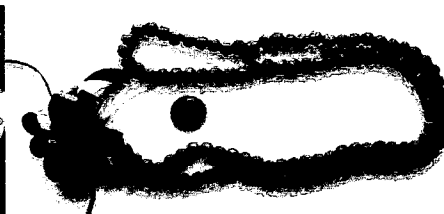
[www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)

#### PPQ Website:

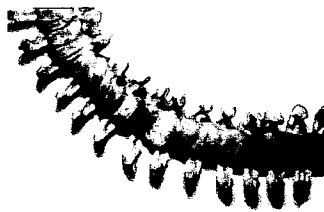
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth>



KIKANIA



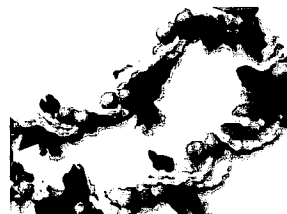
HALA (Pandanus)



MAUNALOA



KAUNA'OA (Dodder)





SEA GRAPE and MOCK ORANGE LEAVES



BLUE JADE

Other items **not allowed to be exported** from Hawai'i to U.S. mainland:

- Untreated, fresh fleshy or pulpy fruits and vegetables
- Berries, including fresh coffee beans → 
- Cactus
- Cotton
- Live insects, snails
- Seeds with fruit clinging, seed pods
- Sugarcane
- Ong choy (swamp cabbage, Chinese spinach) → 
- Sweet potato (raw)



# PEST-FREE or

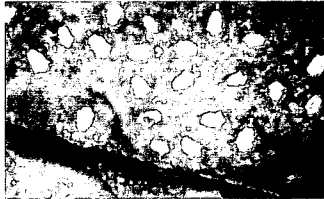
Commonly found pests on cut



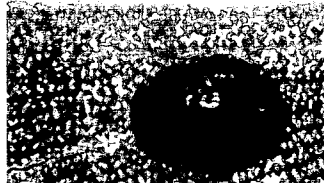
MAILE



a fungus  
*Uromyces alyxiae*



croton whitefly  
*Orchamoplatus mammaeferus*



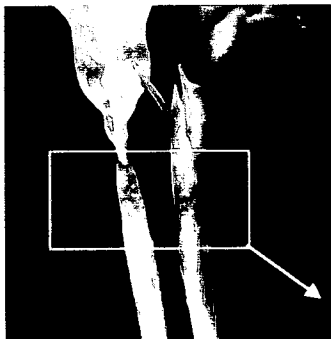
nigra scale  
*Parasaisseta nigra*



hemispherical scale  
*Saissetia coffeae*



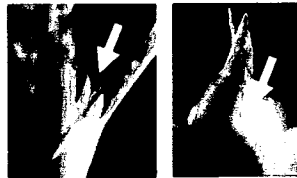
wax scale  
*Ceroplastes rubens*



RED GINGER  
FLOWERS & FOLIAGE



Citrus mealybug • banana aphid • ants  
*Planococcus citri*    *Pentalonia nigronervosa*



Where pests are harbored in red ginger:

- Pull leaf away from flower, look into leaf sheath
- Look deep between red bracts

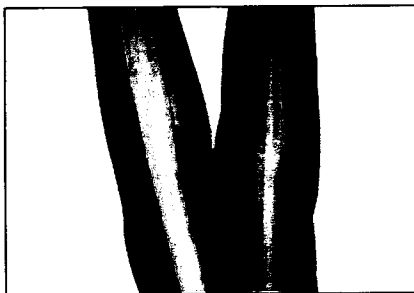


BIRD OF PARADISE  
FOLIAGE

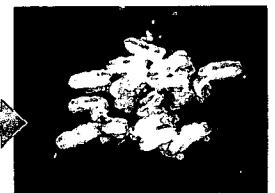
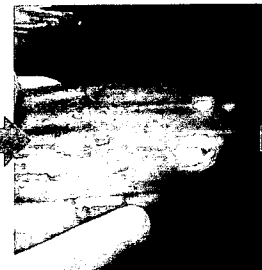


check undersides of discolored or puckered leaves for insects

magnolia white scale  
*Pseudaulacaspis cockerelli*



DRACAENA  
FOLIAGE



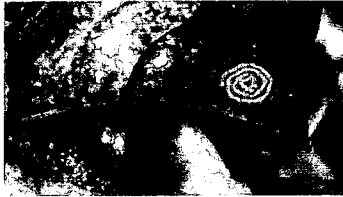
lesser snow scale  
*Pinnaspis strachani*

# CONFISCATED!

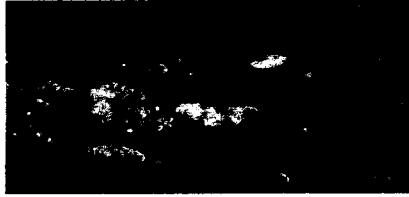
## flowers and foliage in Hawai‘i



### TI LEAVES



**spiraling whitefly**  
*Aleurodicus dispersus*



**ti scale**  
*Pinnaspis buxi*



**nigra scale**  
*Parasaisseta nigra*



**pupa**



**adult**



**green garden looper**  
*Chrysodeixis eriosoma*

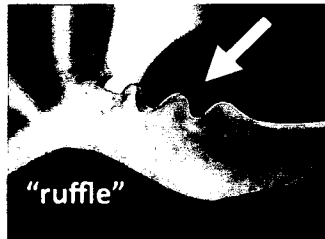


**adult**

**stinging nettle caterpillar**  
*Darna pallivitta*



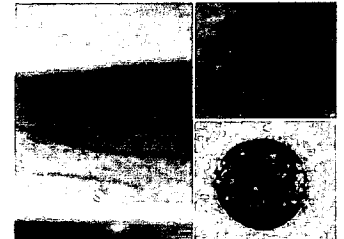
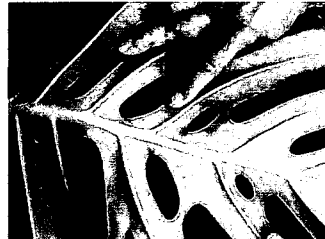
MONSTERA



"ruffle"

#### Where to look:

- ☐ top and underside of leaves
- ☐ "ruffle" near top of leaf stem



**Saprophytic fungus**  
*Sphaerobolus stellatus*

egg laying pattern of  
**spiraling whitefly**  
*Aleurodicus dispersus*

### OTHER FLOWERS



**cotton aphid on hibiscus**  
*Aphis gossypii*



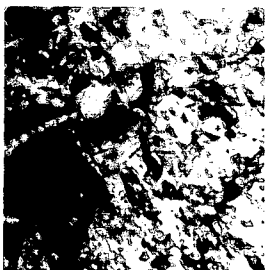
**a mealybug on protea**  
*Delottococcus confusus*



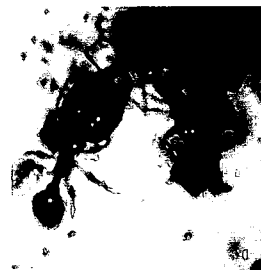
**avocado scale on protea**  
*Fiorinia florinae*

### JUST ONE WORKER ANT...

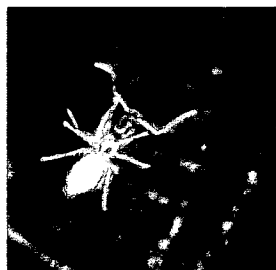
Many ants are attracted to honey-dew producing insects (scales, mealybugs, aphids).



**longlegged ant**  
*Anoplolepis gracilipes*



**bigheaded ant**  
*Pheidole megacephala*



**tiny yellow house ant**  
*Tapinoma melanocephalum*



**whitefooted ant**  
*Technomyrmex spp*



**little fire ant**  
*Wasmannia*

## HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO DO...

All cut flowers and foliage, including lei, must be "certified pest-free" by USDA APHIS PPQ regardless of how they are transported from Hawai'i to the U.S. Mainland (U.S. Postal Service, FedEx, UPS or other cargo shippers, as baggage or hand carried).

- ❑ Order flowers, foliage, and lei from florists and nurseries/shippers that have a "compliance agreement" with USDA APHIS PPQ.
  - ✓ They will pack, seal, and stamp boxes indicating that the contents is pest-free prior to being sent or carried to the mainland U.S.
  - ✓ It is important not to open, add to, or tamper with the box once it has been sealed and stamped.
- ❑ Otherwise, take flowers, foliage, and lei yourself to USDA for inspection prior to transport to the mainland U.S.
  - ✓ Carefully look through flowers, foliage, and lei for insects and other foreign material. Discard any parts that contain obvious insects or insect damage.
  - ✓ Call USDA APHIS PPQ ahead of time for location, hours, updates, and questions, and to determine whether inspection by Hawai'i Dept of Agriculture (HDOA) is also necessary (destination other than U.S. mainland, or sending whole plants or parts of plants that can be used for propagation).
  - ✓ Take cleaned plant material, a clean, sturdy box, packing materials, and sealing tape to designated Inspection office.

Any shipment, baggage or hand-carried item containing a **single pest or even evidence of pest damage** may be subject to quarantine action, including confiscation, destruction, and/or fines.



## WHAT DO INSPECTORS LOOK FOR?

Tapping products to recover any hidden pests and careful visual inspection with and without hand lens on 100% of plant material sent by air from Hawai'i



University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

A.H. Hara, R.Y. Niino-DuPonte, and S.K. Cabral  
Komohana Research and Extension Center  
Hilo, HI ph. (808)981-5199 (April 2014)

Dr. Arnold Hara's website:  
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/haraa/index.asp>  
UH CTAHR Publication & Information Central:  
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/site/Info.aspx>

If you are flying with or mailing/shipping **whole plants (or plant parts that can be used for propagation)** from Hawai'i, they need to be inspected by Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) instead. Call ahead to verify hours and for updates or questions.

**HDOA PQ Offices** (M-F; Closed on State holidays)

### BIG ISLAND

Hilo (808) 974-4141 16 E. Lanikaula St.  
Kona (808) 326-1077 Kona Int. Airport, Kailua-Kona

**O'AHU** (808) 832-0566 1849 Auiki St., Honolulu

**KAUAI** (808) 274-3071 4398A Pua Loke St., Lihue

**MAUI** (808) 872-3848 Kahului Airport, Kahului

**State of Hawai'i HDOA Home Website:** <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/>

**PQ Branch Website:** <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/plant-quarantine-contacts/>

Photo credit:

Whitefooted ant R.H. Scheffrahn, University of Florida