Fact Sheet
It’s the Law

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 **834-3220** 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
Cut 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**

- 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**
- **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**
  - *Planococcus citri*
- **Banana aphid**
- **Ants**
  - *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

**Dracaena**

**Foliage**
- **Magnolia white scale**
  - *Pseudaulacaspis cockerelli*
- **Lesser snow scale**
  - *Pinnaspis strachani*
CONFLICTED!
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
*Chyssodeixis eriosoma*

stinging nettle caterpillar
*Darna pallivitta*

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

*MONSTERA*

cotton aphid on hibiscus
*Aphis gossypi*

a mealybug on protea
*Deltoctoccus confusus*

avocado scale on protea
*Fiorinia fioriniae*

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

longlegged ant
*Anoplolepis gracilipes*

bigheaded ant
*Pheidole megocephala*

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.

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College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
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Komohana Research and Extension Center
Hilo, HI ph. (808)981-5199 (April 2014)

[Image Credit: Whitefooted ant R.H. Scheffrahn, University of Florida]

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
- KAUA‘I  (808) 274-3071  4398A Pua Loke St., Līhu‘e
- MAUI  (808) 872-3848  Kahului Airport, Kahului

**State of Hawai‘i HDOA Home Website:** [http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/](http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/)

**PQ Branch Website:** [http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/plant-quarantine-contacts/](http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/plant-quarantine-contacts/)