

## Invasive Species Private Property Surveys FAQs

**How do we determine where to survey:** When OISC finds one of our target species, we conduct ground surveys in the surrounding areas. Plants' natural vectors for moving are things like birds, wind and streams. Based on known distribution of plants in their native range, we set survey buffers around known mature plant locations. For example; 99% of miconia keiki plants will fall within 800 meters of a mature plant...so, OISC crews will survey that area by ground. The last 1% of plants...the outliers, could be as far away as 1600 meters of the mature plant. This expanded buffer between 800-1600 meters is mostly surveyed with a helicopter, but crews will conduct ground surveys of all streams and residential properties in this expanded buffer.

**Why do you need to survey my property?** Your particular neighborhood is located in a target survey area, which means a mature plant has been found. Seeds spread by birds, wind and streams can move some of our targets up to a mile away from the original mature plants. As a result, it is necessary for OISC to survey the area to find plants before they mature and start to make seeds that will spread the plant even farther.

**How:** OISC crew will walk the property, looking for and pulling our target invasive species. Depending on the size of the property, this can be as short as 20 minutes for small residential and stream surveys. We work between 8am-1pm, Monday-Friday. For small, residential or stream surveys usually only 2 crew are needed. For larger properties more than 2 acres, we may need a crew of 4-6 people. We'll confirm that size of the crew when we confirm the date.

**Do I have to be home?** No. If you request, our crew can call or text you when they arrive and when they leave the property. If you are not able to be home, please ensure that pets are secure. Please let us know if you have any special instructions, such as where to park or how to access property if gated or fenced.

**Concerned about liability?** You are protected under Hawaii Revised Statute 520A. The support of private citizens is crucial to our ability to effectively conduct our surveys for invasive species, therefore in 2013 the Hawaii State Legislature passed HRS 520A:

- **§520A-1 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to encourage owners of land to make their land and water areas available to other persons for the purpose of controlling or eradicating invasive species by limiting landowners' liability toward persons entering thereon for such purposes.

**Will OISC remove my other invasive plants?** Not unless it's one of our target species. Invasive species dominate O'ahu's landscapes at the lower elevations. We don't like albizia or octopus trees either, but we just don't have the resources to remove them all. OISC focuses on the harmful invasive species that are not widespread yet and have the potential to cause significant harm. Our efforts are towards eradication, not control. It's the most efficient and impactful use of our limited resources. Think of us as the "Vitamin C" for the watersheds...we want our targets gone as soon as possible and to stop them before they spread throughout the forests.

**Who do I contact for more information about surveys?** You can contact OISC Outreach Specialist ([oisc@hawaii.edu](mailto:oisc@hawaii.edu)) or OISC Community Access Assistant ([oahuisc@gmail.com](mailto:oahuisc@gmail.com)) or call the office: 808-266-7994.