

Mālama O'ahu Since 2001

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) is a partnership of individuals, governmental and non-governmental organizations, all united in preventing new invasive species from spreading on O'ahu.

OISC works to eradicate species that, if left uncontrolled, will so severely disrupt the island's ecosystems that essential services, such as recharge of the island's aquifers and protection from wildfires, will be lost.

The success of the program is due in large part to our partnerships, allowing OISC to implement management strategies island-wide. Our highly trained field crew and staff are committed to the protection of our island, its resources, and its people.

How You Can Help...

Let OISC Survey Your Property.

Plant Native or Non-Invasive Plants.

Visit www.plantpono.org

Buy Local. Reduce risk of alien pests and diseases coming into Hawai'i.

Hike Pono. Stop invasive species in your tracks by cleaning shoes and staying on public trails.

Travel Responsibly. Declare ALL produce, plants, seeds, soil and sand.

Keep Pets Contained. Don't let them loose.

Volunteer! Visit our website or email OISC to find activities near you.

Report Suspect Pests to the statewide pest hotline: (808) 643-PEST or online at www.643pest.org.



"The Rain Follows the Forest"

A University of Hawai'i study estimates the Ko'olau Mountains provide **\$14 BILLION** worth of watershed services such as; clean, plentiful water, erosion and flood control, and clean oceans.



"Hahai nō ka ua i ka ululā'au"

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Follow us on social media **@oahuISC**

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Protecting O'ahu's
environment, economy and
the health of residents from
invasive species.

www.oahuisc.org

What's Invasive?

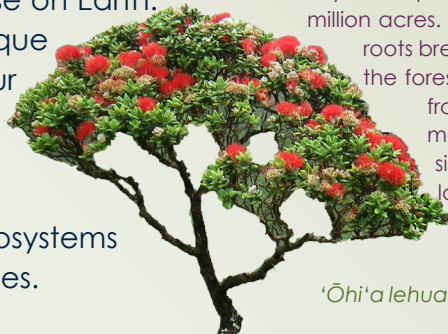
Invasive species are harmful, non-native plants and animals that arrived to Hawai'i via human activity and travel. Invasive species negatively affect our economy, environment, human health, and quality of life. They can live in a variety of habitats, reproduce rapidly, aggressively compete for resources, and lack natural enemies in new environments.

Miconia increases erosion and reduces water capture and biodiversity in the areas it invades. OISC has been systematically controlling miconia on O'ahu since 2001 with island-wide eradication as our goal.

Why It Matters...

Hawai'i is the most geographically isolated island chain in the world. Plants and animals that made their way here by wind, water, and wings had millions of years to adapt to their new home and each other.

From these original arrivals arose thousands of unique plant and animal species; many of which are found no where else on Earth. Together, they create unique ecosystems that provide our islands with natural resources upon which we all depend. Protecting our native species is vital to the health of our ecosystems and Hawaiian cultural practices.



The 'ōhi'a lehua tree is found nowhere on Earth. It is a keystone species for Hawaiian forests, covering over 1 million acres. 'Ōhi'a is the first to colonize lava flows, its roots breaking up the lava to form soil. 'Ōhi'a build the forests we need to capture rain and moisture from passing clouds and provide habitat for many other native species. 'Ōhi'a lehua is significant in Hawaiian culture; as a kīno lau, or physical manifestation of gods and goddesses, 'ōhi'a is in numerous mo'olelo (stories), mele (songs), and oli (chants).

'Ōhi'a lehua (*Metrosideros polymorpha*)

Do You Control All the Invasive Species on O'ahu?

No. OISC selects a limited number of target species based on the potential for successful eradication or control, while weighing the potential cost of inaction.

www.oahuisc.org/target-pests

Our targets are plants and animals that are in the early stages of infestation and are not yet widespread. Management costs rise quickly when species spread beyond containment. Impacts include: erosion, flooding, drought, wildfire, loss of habitat, diseases, and reduction in water quality and capture rates.

OISC field crews survey all known locations of our targets and conduct early detection surveys in areas that are high-risk for introductions. We survey both public and private land with ground surveys, as well as aerial surveys using helicopters and drones. Invasive species aren't contained by property lines, so one way the public can participate, is simply allowing OISC to survey your property if we ask.

OISC uses an adaptive management approach. Our strategies are developed from reliable, up-to-date research combined with available technology including drones, aerial imaging, mapping capabilities and database management systems.



These tools help us gain knowledge and improve our tactics. We evaluate our results, incorporate the latest research and technology; making adjustments where necessary to ensure we have effective and efficient strategies to tackle our target pests.

Talk Story with Us!

OISC's outreach & education program raises public awareness about invasive species through school and community presentations, volunteer activities, and educational materials.

Each year, OISC visits local schools, teaching over 1,000 students about invasive species impacts on our 'āina. We also attend events island-wide, talking with over 5,000 residents & visitors each year about invasive species in our community and how we all can help stop the spread of harmful pests.

