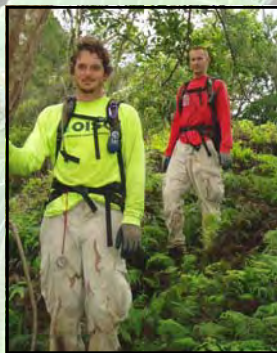


What is the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee?

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) is a partnership of private, governmental, and non-profit organizations and individuals united to prevent new invasive species infestations on the island of O'ahu, to eradicate incipient species, and to stop established invasive species from spreading. OISC field crews survey and remove prioritized target species in the forested, residential, and commercial areas of O'ahu. Because invasive species can grow anywhere, OISC works with private landowners to remove invasive pests wherever they are found.



OISC receives funding from federal, state and municipal agencies, and seeks funding from private sources. There are four other Invasive Species Committees on the Big Island (BIISC), Kaua'i (KISC), Maui (MISC), and Moloka'i (MoMISC).



Each island's invasive species committee works with the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) and the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) to protect Hawai'i from invasive pest species.

How can you help stop the silent invasion?

Plant native. Many of the plants invading our forests were intentionally planted and some are still being sold at nurseries or garden stores. Ask for native or non-invasive plants, and screen plants yourself with the Hawai'i Weed Risk Assessment at:

www.hear.org/wra

Buy local. Alien fungi, insect pests, and agricultural diseases can hide in imported produce. Buying local helps the economy and helps protect Hawai'i farmers.

Let OISC survey your property. If you live in a neighborhood with habitat for our target species, OISC may ask for access to your property to survey for and remove the pests. (According to state law, landowners are not liable if workers are injured while removing invasive species from their property.)

Don't pack a pest. Declare ALL produce, plants, seeds, soil, sand, and animals when entering the state or traveling between islands.

Don't release unwanted pets. Parrots and armored catfish were never part of the native Hawaiian ecosystem. Keep pets contained and give unwanted pets to animal shelters or return them to the pet store.

Volunteer: OISC leads a volunteer group to remove invasive species. Call 266-7994 or e-mail oisc@hawaii.edu to RSVP.

Report unknown plants and animals (like lizards, insects, and fish) to the statewide pest hotline at 643-PEST (643-7378).



743 Ulukahiki Street
Kailua, HI 96734

Phone: (808) 266-7994 Fax: (808) 266-7995

E-mail: oisc@hawaii.edu Website: www.oahuiscc.org

Photo credits: Brown tree snake, USDA NWRC; Coqui, Lori Oberhofer; fountain grass, Jack Jeffrey; OISC target plant species, Forest and Kim Starr (USGS); Tahiti erosion and miconia plant, The Nature Conservancy; Tokay gecko, HDOA; all others, OISC.



Protecting our island from invasive plants and animals that threaten our environment, economy, and quality of life.

A Tahitian forest suffers severe erosion after being taken over by the alien miconia tree. On O'ahu, OISC surveys for and removes miconia to prevent this from happening here.



WHAT ARE INVASIVE SPECIES?

Invasive species are plants and animals that are moved by humans beyond their native range and:

- dominate new habitat
- threaten the economy
- imperil human health
- significantly disrupt an ecosystem

INVASIVE SPECIES CAN DAMAGE O'AHU'S NATIVE FORESTS AND WATERSHEDS, DESTROY PROPERTY, AND HARM PUBLIC HEALTH.



Miconia is a Hawai'i State noxious weed. It forms thick stands, shades out native plants, and completely takes over moist and wet forests. In Tahiti, 75% of the montane forest are covered with nothing but miconia.

Fountain grass is a fire hazard because it drops large amounts of dead leaves. If allowed to spread to leeward O'ahu, brush fires could become more frequent and destructive.



The call of a single **coqui frog** has been measured at around 90 decibels. That's almost as loud as a lawn mower and loud enough to cause hearing damage. Choruses of these animals disturb the sleep of Hawai'i residents and visitors.

On Guam, alien **brown tree snakes** climb electrical wires and cause frequent power outages. They have also wiped out Guam's wild birds. It is illegal to possess any snake in Hawai'i.



WE CAN STOP NEW INVADERS!

Although many invasive pests have already naturalized on O'ahu, we can stop new invaders. Coqui frogs are scarce on O'ahu, and OISC partners with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and others involved in the Coqui Working Group to ensure coqui containment. OISC successfully eradicated a large coqui frog population in Wahiawā. OISC continues to respond to frog reports from homeowners and local nurseries. OISC is controlling the spread of miconia on O'ahu. Since 2001, OISC has surveyed over 29,000 acres for miconia and removed over 13,000 trees. OISC eliminated all known populations of smoke bush, glory bush, and fireweed on O'ahu.

"The silent invasion of Hawai'i by alien invasive species is the single greatest threat to Hawai'i's economy, its natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of Hawai'i's people and visitors."

Act 85, 22nd Legislature, 2003

Report new or unknown pests to the pest hotline at **643-PEST**.

Mahalo to our funders and partners!

Bishop Museum · City and County of Honolulu · Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species · Conservation Council for Hawai'i · Hawai'i Department of Agriculture · Hawai'i Department of Health · Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife · Hawai'i Department of Transportation · Hawai'i Invasive Species Council · Hawai'i Tourism Authority · Honolulu Board of Water Supply · Hui Kū Maoli Ola · Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership · Lyon Arboretum · Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, Environmental Department · National Fish and Wildlife Foundation · Natural Resources Conservation Service · O'ahu Army Natural Resources Program · Pisces Pacifica Nursery · Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, O'ahu group · The Nature Conservancy · University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit · U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service · U.S. Forest Service · U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division

OISC TARGET SPECIES

OISC selects a limited number of target species based on the potential for successful control or eradication, while weighing the potential costs of inaction. Most of the species OISC controls are proven invasive pests on neighbor islands.



- Bushy bluestem** (*Andropogon glomeratus*)
 - Coqui frog** (*Eleutherodactylus coqui*)
 - Fire tree** (*Morella faya*)
 - Fireweed** (*Senecio madagascariensis*)
 - Fountain grass** (*Pennisetum setaceum*)
 - Glory bush** (*Tibouchina* species)
 - Himalayan blackberry** (*Rubus discolor*)
 - Miconia** (*Miconia calvescens*)
 - Pampas grass** (*Cortaderia jubata* and *C. selloana*)
 - Smoke bush** (*Buddleja madagascariensis*)
 - Tokay gecko** (*Gekko gekko*)
- Non-target education: **False 'awa** (*Piper auritum*)

