



Hawai'i Society of Urban Forestry Professionals

Invasive Species Position Statement

The Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Society of Urban Forestry Professionals agrees that non-native invasive species are a threat to our economy, environment, and our quality of life. The HSUFP Board also agrees that there are actions we can and should take to prevent invasive species from entering our state and spreading. This Position Statement outlines these actions and guides our decisions and work as HSUFP. This Position Statement, as agreed upon by the honor of the HSUFP Board, is voluntary and non-binding. Further, the HSUFP Board will try to promote these actions in their agencies or jobs outside of HSUFP. The Position Statement will be up for review and revisions on an as-needed basis.

1. Stemming the introduction of invasive plants

The HSUFP Board understands that because there are no laws barring the import of the nearly 300,000 species of plants in the world, new invasive plants will continue to be imported into Hawai'i. The HSUFP Board also understands that the Hawai'i Pacific Weed Risk Assessment (HPWRA) service can be used to assess new plants before they cause widespread problems in Hawai'i. The HPWRA has proved to be accurate (90%) at predicting the invasive potential of a plant, and it is a free and non-binding service available to everyone.*

Therefore, we pledge to use the HPWRA system to screen new plant introductions, or plants not widely known in Hawai'i so that we can make informed importation and propagation decisions.

2. Stemming the use and spread of invasive plants already present in Hawai'i

The HSUFP Board understands that some plants currently used in urban forestry are able to spread to natural areas where they are invasive. The HSUFP Board believes that safer alternatives are available for many of these plants.

- *Therefore, we pledge to use the HPWRA system to screen plants promoted or used by HSUFP, and to screen planting lists and collections in our places of work.*
- *Where possible, we pledge to look for and use alternatives to invasive plants.*
- *Where alternatives are not possible, we pledge to implement control measures to reduce the likelihood of spread.*

3. Stemming the movement of invasive pests and weed seeds

The HSUFP Board understands that invasive animals, insects, plant diseases, and weed seeds are unintentionally transported into and around the state on plants, equipment, and machinery.

- *Therefore, we pledge to be cognizant of these issues in our actions as HSUFP, and we will take precautions to reduce the movement of invasive pests by using best management practices in the cleaning of equipment and machinery from location to location. In*

*Note: Plant names may be submitted to the Weed Risk Screeners, Chuck Chimera or Patti Clifford, at hpwra@yahoo.com. To look at the plants that have been screened, visit www.hear.org/wra/

particular, we will clean equipment and machinery before and after HSUFP-sponsored activities to keep from spreading invasive pests.

- *We also pledge to use best management practices when selecting and moving plants and plant materials to control the spread of invasive vertebrate and invertebrate species and plant diseases. (Ex. testing for little fire ants, monitoring for coqui frogs, etc.)*
- *We pledge to report species of concern and unknown species to the State pest hotline, 643-PEST (643-7378), and to help promote this message with our members and colleagues.*

Further, we will keep abreast of invasive species issues with a continued relationship with the Invasive Species Committees, Early Detection Teams, Weed Risk Screeners, UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), the Hawai`i Department of Agriculture, Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species, and other professionals in the field.