



Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Hawai'i State Senator



Hawaii State Senate

District 22

Serving Mililani Mauka, Wahiawa, Whitmore Village, Waipi'o Acres, Wheeler, part of Poamoho—and the State of Hawai'i

August 2014

MORE ON LITTLE FIRE ANT.....

Chair, Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing

Vice Chair, Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

Member, Committees on Ways and Means; Agriculture; Water and Land

You can view Senator Dela Cruz's senate website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov. If you would like to receive our monthly newsletters and quarterly updates via email, we suggest that you email us your request via the Senate website.

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In recent weeks, there has been much information being disseminated on the Little Fire Ants (LFA) that have invaded parts of Oahu but some residents are still unsure of what to look for. The Hawaii Invasive Species Council has provided the following information:

LFAs were first discovered in Waimanalo and more recently in Mililani Mauka. Efforts are under way in eliminating these ants because once they become established, there is little hope of eradication. They would become the state's most devastating pest and we stand to lose much of our agriculture industry and reduce biodiversity. We will lose our ability to grow our own food, enjoy our yards, and hike through the forest. Throughout the Pacific, LFA has overwhelmed communities.

The Department of Agriculture and Hawaii Ant Lab has worked with property owners in Mililani Mauka to obtain consent to treat LFA on their properties. Treatment began on August 7 with the Mililani Town Association cutting access trails for treatment.

Don't confuse LFA with the widespread (and much bigger) tropical fire ant that has been around for decades. LFAs are 1/16th of an inch and are not aggressive and move very slowly, but stings will produce large welts on neck, arms or torso when trapped under clothing or in hair and they usually fall on people from above. Besides being a serious nuisance to humans, this ant has been known to attack the eyes of domestic animals and blind them.

LFA does NOT build mounded dirt nests but nests in a variety of habitats including trees, around potted plants, under leaf litter, rocks, piece of bark, irrigation lines, and in electrical boxes. On Hawaii Island they have been found in clothes, furniture, bedding and food.

We need to be vigilant. LFA is in Hawaii, but is not yet widespread. Report LFA to your local invasive species committee at [Report-a-Pest](#) or call 643-PEST (7378) if you suspect that you may have them in your yard.

We will be having another meeting in October as a follow up to the meeting we had last month on LFA.



Little fire ant—pale orange, 1/16 inch



Chopsticks with peanut butter:
Above—correct Below—incorrect



Put in sealable bag and information as above

DYSLEXIA...

Dyslexia is a lifelong learning disability challenge people are born with and affects about 15% of all Americans in all socio-economic and ethnic groups. There have been effective strategies to help children, teenagers and adults overcome struggles at school or in the workplace.

The Hawaii Branch of the International Dyslexia Association (HIDA) is collaborating with Wayland Baptist University (WBU) by offering 3 reading disabilities workshops in September and October, Saturday mornings, at the WBU campus in Mililani Mauka, 95-1091 Ainamakua Drive. The Reading Disabilities Workshops are scheduled as follows:

WHEN CHILDREN STRUGGLE TO READ

Saturday, September 6 – 9:00-11:00 AM

An overview of language based reading difficulties, how these affect learning and what kind of teaching and intervention works best for learners with language-based reading difficulties.

DYSLEXIA SIMULATIONS (INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP)

September 20, Saturday - 9:00-11:30 AM

Participants will rotate through six learning stations with simple activities designed to give a hands-on awareness of what dyslexic persons experience every day.

HELP/SUPPORT FOR STRUGGLING READERS (AN OVERVIEW)

October 4, Saturday - 9:00-11:00 AM

Community experts will share and discuss information about help and support for struggling readers including strategies, tips and resources.

For more information contact Margaret Higa at 538-7007 or by email at mhiga@dyslexiahawaii.org. You may register by visiting dyslexia-Hawaii.org.

MILILANI COMPLEX SCHOOLS LEADERSHIP DAY....Senator Dela Cruz speaks to classes about being good citizens, what government does for its citizens, getting involved and doing our part.



MILILANI TOWN HALL MEETING ON LITTLE FIRE ANTS....Senators Dela Cruz and Kidani

