



Representative Bertrand Kobayashi

Capitol Update

DIAMOND HEAD, KAHALA, KAIMUKI, KAPAHULU

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Diamond Head Seawall

HB1679, Relating to the Diamond Head Seawall, was passed by the first House Committee on January 27th. The bill would appropriate funds for the design, planning, and maintenance of the seawall.

The Gold Coast Neighborhood Association, Diamond Head Beach Hotel, and Residence Association of Apartment Owners testified in favor of the bill. The Department of Land and Natural Resources testified in opposition to the measure.

The First Circuit Court has made findings that the State is responsible for maintaining the Diamond Head seawall pursuant to Gold Coast Neighborhood Association v. State of Hawaii (Civil No. 07-1-1122-06). The committees also noted the seawall has significant cultural, historic, and recreational value, acting as a public thoroughfare to the ocean for nearly a century for both residents and visitors alike.

Diamond Head Pathway (Fort Ruger Pathway and Bryan Clay Exercise Park)

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) recently announced the opening of the new Fort Ruger Pathway and the Bryan Clay Exercise Park on the slope of Diamond Head State Monument at the end of 2013. Our office requested DLNR to complete the paving of the pathway to connect with the Monsarrat Avenue sidewalk.

Currently, the Diamond Head pathway stops at the end of DLNR State Parks land. The land next to it (fronting the old Cannon Club) is under the jurisdiction of the University of Hawaii/Kapiolani Community College's Culinary Arts Center.

Historic Preservation

HB1678, Relating to Historic Preservation, was passed by the House Water and Land Committee on February 12th. The bill exempts from the definition of "historic property" any private residence that has not been entered, or nominated by the owner of the residence for entry, onto the Hawaii register of historic places.

The bill also clarifies that nothing in chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be construed to require a review by the Department of Land and Natural Resources for any private residence exempted under the new "historic property" definition.

FIRE ANTS

Little Fire Ants are a new stinging ant which threatens public health, pets, agriculture, and native species. Hawai'i has many stinging ants, but these little fire ants (LFA) are very different. They prefer moist and shady spots and cause incredible damage. They are becoming widespread from Puna, where they were first discovered in 1999, to Hamakua on the Big Island.

In December 2013, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) confirmed that LFA had been moved to Oahu, Maui, and Lāna'i hidden in tree fern logs being sold at major garden shops and some nurseries.

On Oahu, HDOA has controlled existing KNOWN infestations in ten nurseries and garden shops, but it is estimated that more than 1000 logs have not been accounted for, some of which may have been infested. Further, HDOA continues to intercept LFA at interisland ports in cut flowers, foliage, like ti leaves, and other materials from infested areas.

HDOA needs to know the extent and locations of LFA on Oahu, so that they can be controlled before it is too late, and your help is needed! Test for your property for LFA:

1. Place chopsticks with a slight smear of peanut butter every few feet in and around plants, yards, gardens, and nurseries (note: using too much peanut butter makes it difficult to identify the ants). They particularly like shady, moist areas, bottoms of pots, and banana leaf axles.
2. Leave the chopsticks for about an hour during the day.
3. Check all chopsticks. If the ants you see are black, or fast moving, or more than one color, or if some of them have heads that are much larger than their bodies, they probably are not LFA. LFA are VERY small, a uniform reddish-orange color, and walk fairly slowly. If you see ants on the chopstick that match this description, drop the stick into a zip-lock bag, label it with your contact information and place it in the freezer.
4. Call the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture pest hotline at 643-PEST (643-7378) to make a report and get help, or drop off the sample at any HDOA office. Do not move or spray infested materials, and do not move live ants!

More information on LFA, how to test your yard, and even a video (on the damage that LFA can cause) can be found on the University of Hawai'i Master Gardener website, <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/uhmg/>.

Fire ants
are 1/16
inch long.

