

HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT of Health

2024 Department of Health Biosecurity Efforts

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DOH Biosecurity Priorities- Partnerships

- <u>Renew partnership and funding MOU with Hawaii</u> <u>Department of Transportation</u>
 - Includes FTE and Supplies for invasive mosquito surveillance and abatement at DOT airports statewide.
- Enter into an invasive mosquito surveillance partnership with US DOD partners.
 - Intend to initiate surveillance at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Schofield, and other DOD facilities statewide.
- <u>Support our sister agencies (Dept. Of Agriculture and Land and Natural Resources)</u>
 - Cross train and support DOA and DLNR in their fight against LFA and CRB.



DOH Biosecurity Priorities- Program development

- <u>Formalize program components that will ensure</u> <u>institution consistency for vector abatement</u>
 - Update DOH, Vector Control Branch, Program Plan to include clear narratives and protocols on outbreak suppression and abatement for biosecurity purposes.
- <u>Develop staff and future workforce</u>
 - Provide professional development opportunities to existing staff to increase their skills and abilities in the field of vector control, inspection and enforcement.
 - Begin developing inroads to a profession in invasive species control and abatement.



DOH Biosecurity Priorities- Outreach and Research

- <u>Develop and implement a public outreach and public</u> <u>involvement programs</u>
 - Improve communication about what we do and involve organizations with shared missions
 - Relate environmental health with public health and health related outcomes.
- <u>Conduct research to identify our biggest vulnerabilities</u>
 - Where are the yellow fever mosquitoes in Hawaii?
 - What is the extent of murine typhus on Maui?
 - Are our vectors becoming more resistant to pesticides?
 - What are vector related changes we can expect due to climate change?



DOH- Environmental Health Services Division- Vector Control Branch

• VECTOR CONTROL BRANCH- OUR MISSION.

• Protect human health, the environment, and the quality of life for the residents and visitors of Hawaii through prevention; public outreach and education; and, control of organisms that spread disease.

VECTOR CONTROL BRANCH DESCRIPTION

- The Vector Control Branch (VCB) is a statewide program, mandated by law, with a large and diverse area of responsibility. The VCB safeguards public and environmental health by ensuring suppression; abatement; containment; and, eradication of disease outbreaks; alien immigrant insect vectors; and, zoonotic diseases.
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