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For immediate release

NEW 643PEST INVASIVE SPECIES REPORTING SYSTEM

Hawaii Invasive Species Council and Hawaii Department of Agriculture Launch New Online Reporting System and App

The Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) are announcing the public release of a new online invasive species reporting site at 643pest.org, as well as a free "643-PEST" mobile app available for Android and iOS platforms. The new service is designed to complement the existing 643-PEST invasive species telephone hotline, which will continue to function alongside its new online counterpart. The goal of this new initiative is to give the public more options when it comes to reporting invasive species.

"We really need the public to be our eyes and ears to detect new pests and keep them from becoming established. This new system makes it really convenient for anyone to report invasive species," said HDOA Chairperson Scott Enright.

The HISC is co-chaired and administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in a partnership that demonstrates the broad impacts of invasive species. "With the new system, we're better able to receive reports about any type of invasive species and then get it to the appropriate experts," said Suzanne Case, DLNR Chairperson. "Whether it's a new threat to agriculture, our natural resources, or human health, we want to know about it and make sure the right agencies are working together on a response."

The new system was developed by the Hawaii Biodiversity Information Network (HBIN) project of the University of Hawai'i Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit. The system allows reporters to submit anonymous reports, attach photos, and mark a GPS point to pinpoint the location of the sighting. As each report comes in, they are individually evaluated by trained Facilitators and guided through to the appropriate responding agency. The system is designed to work across agencies, directing reports to HDOA, DLNR, Department of Health, University of Hawaii, or other partners depending on the type of invasive species being reported. In instances where multiple agencies will need to work together on a response action, the 643pest.org database provides multiagency report sharing and collaboration tools.

"We're looking for the worst of the worst," said Dr. Joshua Atwood, Program Supervisor for the HISC. "We aren't looking for reports of species that are known to be widespread, since our partners are already working on mitigation for those species wherever possible. What we want to know about through 643pest.org are new detections of really damaging pests in locations where they've never been before. If you're not sure if something is new or not, report it and we'll make sure your information gets to the right place."

The new reporting system is available at www.643pest.org or via the **643-PEST** app, available for download from the Google Play Store and iTunes App Store. The public can also call the telephone hotline at 643-PEST (7378). If you have seen or are reporting a snake, call 911 immediately.



REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES
643-PEST
643pest.org
CALL OR CLICK TO PROTECT HAWAII



Link: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/643-pest/id1240023067?mt=8>



Link: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=pest.io.nrds>

Scan the QR Code to download the app

