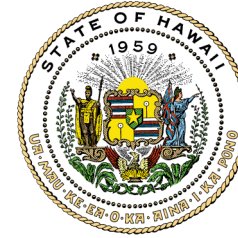


# LITTLE FIRE ANT UPDATE

information from the July 14 community meeting



- The HDOA has detected LFAs at 18 Mililani Mauka homes in the area around the top part of the gulch at the corner of Lehiwa Dr. and Mehu St., including Kopalani St. and Auina St.
- To eradicate the LFA from Mililani, the HDOA will treat the infested areas every 6 weeks for 12 months. The department will continue to monitor treated and surrounding areas for 3 years.
- There are two insecticides that homeowners can use to keep LFAs at bay: Amdro, which can be found at Home Depot and Walmart; and a homemade solution called Tango, the recipe for which can be found at [www.littlefireants.com/tango.html](http://www.littlefireants.com/tango.html).
- Homeowners should not try to eradicate LFA infestations without contacting the HDOA because the colony might scatter and spread out rapidly. The HDOA should be called and will determine the extent of the infestation before treating the area. There will be no cost to the community for the eradication of LFAs on community or personal property.
- LFAs spread at a rate of 60 feet per year. However, people can quickly spread them farther by transporting infested items like plants.
- If you send in samples, the HDOA will get back to you in around 1 week about whether or not you have an LFA infestation. There may be delays if a lot of samples are sent.



## home survey starter kit for **LITTLE FIRE ANTS**

**The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) has confirmed the presence of little fire ants (LFA) in Mililani Mauka.**

The HDOA is confident that it will eradicate LFAs from Mililani Mauka. If LFAs have been identified on your property, the HDOA will contact you soon and begin treatment in the next three weeks. If the HDOA hasn't tested your home but you're already aware of LFA on your property, please call the **PEST HOTLINE at 634-PEST (7378)** as soon as possible. It's **likely that LFAs have lived in Mililani Mauka for years unidentified**, so it's very important you take the time to **check your home**. This booklet contains information on how to conduct a home survey, which will help HDOA identify and treat LFA infestations.



**Rep. Beth Fukumoto Chang**

State House District 36: Mililani — Mililani Mauka

[www.repbeth.com](http://www.repbeth.com)

Hawaii State Capitol, room 333

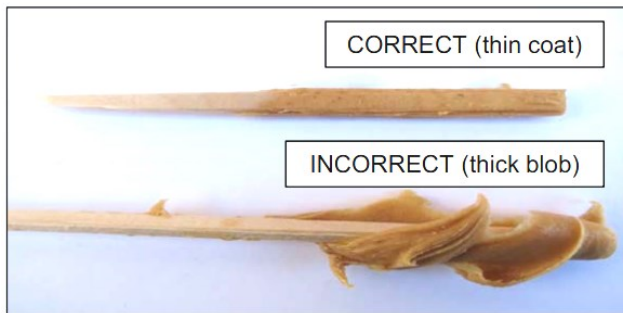
586-9460

[repfukumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repfukumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov)

# Surveying for Little Fire Ants

The LFA is a **tiny, pale orange ant** measuring about 1/16th of an inch. Its **painful stings** can cause **large welts** and may cause **blindness in pets**. HDOA is asking anyone who suspects LFA on their property to carefully perform a home survey. This kit contains most of what you need—just add peanut butter!\*

**1.** Smear a thin coat of peanut butter on one end of a chopstick or popsicle stick. (You can break them to create more sticks.) A thick blob won't help attract more ants and may make identifying the ants difficult. Don't use tape.



**2.** Place the sticks around plants and areas where ants may be present. At least three sticks per plant or one stick every two feet is recommended. Don't move plants that you think might be infested. Leave the sticks out for an hour.



**3.** Place the sticks, with ants attached, in a sealable plastic bag. Write your name and address, the date and a contact number on the bag then freeze it for 24 hours. **Please don't mail live ants.**



**4.** Mail or drop off the sample to:  
Hawaii Department of Agriculture  
Plant Pest Control Branch  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, HI 96814

Do not treat the fire ants yourself without first notifying the HDOA. The department will not charge homeowners to eradicate little fire ants on their property.

This information, provided by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA), is also available at [hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/files/2014/05/LFASurvey.pdf](http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/files/2014/05/LFASurvey.pdf). Additionally, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) produced a 3-minute video, "How to Test for Little Fire Ants," which will give you a step-by-step visual guide for testing. DLNR's video is available at [vimeo.com/97558997](http://vimeo.com/97558997). For more information, visit [hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/main/lfainfo](http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/main/lfainfo) and the Hawaii Ant Lab website: [www.littlefireants.com](http://www.littlefireants.com).

\*Due to the prevalence of peanut allergies, peanut butter was not included in this kit.