

LINDA LINGLE
Governor

JAMES R. AIONA
Lieutenant Governor



Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

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YOUNG BROTHERS STEERS CLEAR OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Young Brothers, Hawaii's largest inter-island freight handling company, has launched efforts to keep alien pests from being transported between the islands.

Joining forces with the Invasive Species Committees, Young Brothers is now providing its employees with informational workshops on invasive species—plants and animals that damage native habitats, impact the economy and threaten our quality of life.

Lori Buchanan, field and outreach specialist for the Moloka'i Invasive Species Committee, initiated the statewide training workshops that began with Young Brothers staff and other port workers at Kaunakakai Pier in November.

“Early detection and response is the best chance we have on Moloka'i,” Buchanan said. “While the Hawaii Department of Agriculture inspects most high-risk inter-island cargo, such as nursery plants, pests can still get through. We have no HDOA staff on Moloka'i to help with inspections or response. We make do.”

Outreach specialists throughout the state aim to help workers understand what to look for during daily cargo operations.

Young Brothers' tugs, barges and shoreside equipment service the ports of Honolulu on O'ahu, Nawiliwili on Kaua'i, Kahului on Maui, Kaunakakai on Moloka'i, Kaunapali on Lanai, and Kawaihae and Hilo on the Big Island.

“It was educational,” said Moloka'i Port Manager Al Ranis. “The port is a possible point of entry for invasive species. We at Young Brothers will do our part to help protect our environment.”

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MoMISC port workshop



Kaunakakai Pier



Al Ranis