



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# News Release

*Pacific Islands External Affairs Office*

300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 3-122, Box 50088, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850  
Phone: 808 541 2749 Fax: 808 541 2756

For Release: November 21, 2001  
Contact: Glynnis Nakai — 808 875 1582

PIEA-01-29

## Researchers to Present Kealia Pond Midge Study Results

Those pesky little insects that can add up to such a big nuisance in Kihei will be the subject of a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, November 30 at the Kihei Community Center. Results from a study conducted last winter using two larvicides on alien and native midge species will be presented, and possible strategies for the upcoming midge season will be discussed at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-sponsored meeting.

“We encourage our neighbors to join us at this meeting to hear directly from the researchers,” said Glynnis Nakai, Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge manager. “We will have an opportunity to ask questions and to jointly explore options to reduce midge numbers this spring.”

Experts in their field of entomology from Michigan State University, Loyola University-Chicago, and University of Florida will provide a summary of their study conducted January to March. Their collaborative research project investigated the effectiveness of Bti and s-methoprene to reduce midge emergence and the effect of these compounds on other invertebrates at Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge.

The refuge is home for two endangered species – the Hawaiian stilt and Hawaiian coot – as well as migratory birds. “The stilt relies on invertebrates as a food source, so of course we are concerned that any action we take does not lead to negative impacts on an endangered species,” Nakai said. “Managing this wetland to recover endangered species while reducing nuisance issues for our neighbors is definitely a challenge.”

Fish and Wildlife Service officials also will provide an update for the public regarding other on-going projects at Kealia Pond and plans for continuing efforts this fiscal year. The recently approved Department of the Interior appropriations bill provides an additional \$750,000 for research and management projects.

– FWS –