

## Oahu Early Detection Project update: March 2008

Oahu Early Detection (OED) (see <http://www.hear.org/oisc/oahuearlydetectionproject/>) began conducting surveys in late 2006. Using our protocols for site prioritization and surveying methodology (protocol documents: <http://www.hear.org/oisc/oahuearlydetectionproject/protocoldocuments.htm>), we visited and surveyed 35 high-risk sites, including 15 retail and wholesale nurseries, 10 gardens (community, botanical, or otherwise), and 3 local commercial events (including swap meets and farmer's markets). This information informed the use of weed assessment tools (see protocol documents) to create a target list of 133 incipient weed species on Oahu.

We are currently conducting our roadside survey of Oahu, traveling along belt roads and through neighborhoods to gather abundance and distribution data on our target species. We have already surveyed several hundred of miles of Oahu roads in neighborhoods including:

- Moanalua
- Kahuku
- Kaneohe
- Laie
- Kaimuki
- Kahala
- Waianae
- Diamond Head
- Aiea
- Maunawili
- Sand Island
- Kahaluu
- Makakilo
- Kalihi Valley
- Hawaii Kai
- Nuuanu
- North Shore (Kahuku to Hale'iwa)
- Wahiawa
- Mililani Mauka
- Mililani Town
- Waipio

In addition to abundance and distribution data, this work has resulted in 12 new naturalized weed records for the state of Hawai'i and 13 new naturalized weed records for Oahu. In February 2008 we documented a naturalizing *Schefflera arboricola* individual in Mililani Town, marking the first recorded naturalization of this commonly cultivated species on Oahu.

In the coming months we will be completing our neighborhood surveys in the interior of the island and will begin to focus heavily on surveying Honolulu neighborhoods.

You can learn more about OED's past activities by reading our 2007 Final Report to the Hawai'i Invasive Species Committee:

<http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/publications/pdf/hbs2007-016.pdf>