



Pest Regulation Through the State Lens: WGA Biosecurity and Invasive Species Initiative

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What Will Be Covered

Plant Quarantine Branch Overview

Federal-State Successes - BTS

Federal-State Challenges – Federal Preemption

Questions?



Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB)- Overview

The PQB is the State's regulatory agency for the importation and possession of live plants, non-propagative plant parts, non-domestic animals, microorganisms, and soil to protect Hawaii's agricultural and horticultural industries, environment, and public and animal health.

The PQB also regulates the intrastate movement of the above items to prevent the further spread of pests within the State.


Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB)- Overview (cont.)

As an island state with unique resources for agriculture and diverse native ecosystems, the majority of time is spent on import inspections.

Currently the PQB has 85 inspector/technician/aide positions statewide to conduct daily operations.

Due to statutory requirements, all regulated items must be inspected at the **Port of Entry** for compliance to import regulations.





What does
PQB
Regulate
For?


- ▶ The PQB regulates to prevent the introduction of **pests**.
- ▶ A Pest means “*any animal, insect, disease agent or other organism in any stage of development that is detrimental or potentially harmful to agriculture, or horticulture, or animal or public health, or natural resources including native biota or has an adverse effect on the environment as determined by the board.*”





A photograph of two men in field gear working with a snake. The man on the left is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt, glasses, and a backpack. He is holding a yellow snake. The man on the right is wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt, a dark cap, and green pants. He is also holding the snake. They are outdoors on a dirt path with a silver SUV in the background. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue filter.

Federal-State Successes

An orange arrow graphic pointing to the right, located on the left side of the image.

Brown Tree Snake Interdiction



Brown Tree Snake Interdiction

The Brown Tree Snake is one of the world's worst invasive species causing millions of dollars in damage to infrastructure and causing the extinction of multiple species since its inadvertent introduction into Guam in the 1940's.

This has resulted in a Pacific-wide multi-agency interdiction program with Local, State, and Federal partners such as: USDA-Wildlife Services, USGS, DOI-OIA, HDOA PQB, gov Guam, and others to prevent the further spread.



Federal-State Challenges

The Plant Protection Act and Federal Preemption





The Plant Protection Act

Federally Actionable Pests are not necessarily geared toward all states.

Only allows for regulation of plant pests. Many animals such as the coqui frog, do not cause direct or indirect harm to a plant.

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Federal Preemption

Severely impacts the ability of States to conduct inspections on articles in foreign commerce. Many of the recent arthropod introductions in Hawaii are U.S. records and their pest status is unknown.

Non-propagative materials are inspected by CBP and cannot be inspected.



Questions?

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