HERE’S WHAT YOU NEED TO DO...

All cut flowers and foliage, including lei, must be “certified pest-free” by USDA APHIS PPQ regardless of how they are transported from Hawai‘i to the U.S. Mainland (U.S. Postal Service, FedEx, UPS or other cargo shippers, as baggage or hand carried).

- Order flowers, foliage, and lei from florists and nurseries/shippers that have a “compliance agreement” with USDA APHIS PPQ.
  - They will pack, seal, and stamp boxes indicating that the contents is pest-free prior to being sent or carried to the mainland U.S.
  - It is important not to open, add to, or tamper with the box once it has been sealed and stamped.
- Otherwise, take flowers, foliage, and lei yourself to USDA for inspection prior to transport to the mainland U.S.
  - Carefully look through flowers, foliage, and lei for insects and other foreign material. Discard any parts that contain obvious insects or insect damage.
  - Call USDA APHIS PPQ ahead of time for location, hours, updates, and questions, and to determine whether inspection by Hawai‘i Dept of Agriculture (HDOA) is also necessary (destination other than U.S. mainland, or sending whole plants or parts of plants that can be used for propagation).
  - Take cleaned plant material, a clean, sturdy box, packing materials, and sealing tape to designated Inspection office.

Any shipment, baggage or hand-carried item containing a single pest or even evidence of pest damage may be subject to quarantine action, including confiscation, destruction, and/or fines.

WHAT DO INSPECTORS LOOK FOR?

Tapping products to recover any hidden pests and careful visual inspection with and without hand lens on 100% of plant material sent by air from Hawai‘i

If you are flying with or mailing/shipping whole plants (or plant parts that can be used for propagation) from Hawai‘i, they need to be inspected by Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) instead. Call ahead to verify hours and for updates or questions.

HDOA PPQ Offices (M-F; Closed on Federal holidays)

BIG ISLAND
Hilo: (808) 974-4141
Kona: (808) 326-1077
O‘AHU: (808) 881-0566
KAUAI: (808) 274-3071
MAUI: (808) 872-0384

State of Hawai‘i HDOA Home Website: http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/
PQ Branch Website: http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pl/plant-quarantine-contacts/

SENDING FLOWERS TO THE MAINLAND?

GRADUATION, LŪ‘AU, WEDDINGS, HOLIDAYS

Cut flowers and foliage (including lei), fruits, and vegetables from Hawai‘i may be hosts for fruit flies and other destructive pests and diseases not present in other states and have the potential to cause severe damage to crops and the environment.

USDA APHIS PPQ (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection & Quarantine) requires inspection on all agricultural items prior to movement from Hawai‘i to the U.S. mainland. Due to Federal quarantines, certain items are prohibited for export.

LEI PROHIBITED to U.S. MAINLAND

- KIKANIA
- HALA (Pandanus)
- MAUNALOA
- KAUA ʻOA (Dodder)
- SEA GRAPE and MOCK ORANGE LEAVES
- BLUE JADE

Other items not allowed to be exported from Hawai‘i to U.S. mainland:
- Untreated, fresh fleshy or pulpy fruits and vegetables
- Berries, including fresh coffee beans
- Cactus
- Cotton
- Live insects, snails
- Seeds with fruit clinging, seed pods
- Sugarcane
- Ong choy (swamp cabbage, Chinese spinach)
- Sweet potato (raw)

PEST-FREE or
Commonly found pests on cut
flowers and foliage in Hawai‘i

MAILE
- croton whitefly (Orchomoplatus mammaeferus)
- a fungus (Uromyces alyxiae)
- nigra scale (Parassaisseta nigra)
- hemispherical scale (Saissetia coffeae)
- wax scale (Ceroplastes rubens)

MAILE
Where pests are harbored in red ginger:
- Pull leaf away from flower, look into leaf sheath
- Look deep between red bracts

RED GINGER
FLOWERS & FOLIAGE
- Citrus mealybug (Planococcus citri)
- banana aphid (Pentalonia nigronervosa)
- ants

Where to look:
- Pull leaf away from flower, look into leaf sheath
- "ruffle" near top of leaf stem

BIRD OF PARADISE
FLOWERS & FOLIAGE
- checkundersides of discolored or puckered leaves for insects
- magnolia white scale (Pseudaulacaspis cockerelli)
- lesser snow scale (Pinnaspis strachani)

BIRD OF PARADISE
FOLIAGE
- longlegged ant (Anoplolepis gracilipes)
- bigheaded ant (Pheidole megacephala)
- tiny yellow house ant (Tapinoma melanocephalum)

DRACAENA
FOLIAGE
- cotton aphid on hibiscus (Aphis gossypii)
- avocado scale on protea (Fiorinia fioriniae)

OTHER FLOWERS
- a mealybug on protea (Delottococcus confusus)
- Saprophytic fungus (Sphaerobolus stellatus)

JUST ONE WORKER ANT...
Many ants are attracted to honey-dew producing insects (scales, mealybugs, aphids).

CONFISCATED!
- spiraling whitefly (Aleurodicus dispersus)
- ti scale (Pinnaspis buxi)
- nigra scale (Parassaisseta nigra)
- green garden looper (Chloris guttata)
- stinging nettle caterpillar (Danae meleagea)
- Aleurodicus dispersus

Many ants are attracted to honey-dew producing insects (scales, mealybugs, aphids).