

# Acacia farnesiana

## Klu, huisache

*Acacia farnesiana* (L.) Willd

Family: Fabaceae

**Description:** Shrub to 13 ft tall, stems prickly. Leaves bipinnate, 2–7 secondary leaf stems or divisions, each with up to 25 pairs of leaflets, leaflets 0.25 inches long. Flower heads spherical, yellow, 0.6 inches diameter. Pods short, 3 inches in length, cylindrical, dark. Seeds ellipsoid, flattened, 0.2 inches diameter. Native to New World, introduced into Hawai‘i for perfume fragrance in 1864–1865, or earlier<sup>(70)</sup>. Sticky sap once used as glue, hence the Hawaiian name klu<sup>(59)</sup>. Common in dry pastures, conservation lands and vacant lands of all islands except Ni‘ihau and Lana‘i<sup>(70)</sup>. *Farnesiana* commemorates the Farnese Palace Gardens of Rome<sup>(19)</sup>.

**Environmental impact:** Spread by seeds. Because of thorns, interferes with ranch operations and use and reclamation of conservation lands.



**Management:** Sensitive to foliar applications of triclopyr at 1 lb/acre and metsulfuron at 0.45 oz/acre and to basal bark applications of 2,4-D or triclopyr at 2% product in diesel. Drizzle applications were not effective in foliar and basal bark trials at Kihei, Maui, but these trials were confounded by a severe drought.