



# Vector Control Branch

Hawaii Department of Health  
Environmental Health Services Division

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# Vector Control Branch



- ▶ Vector

- ▶ An organism, usually an insect or other arthropod, rodent or other animal, capable of transmitting the causative agents of human diseases or affecting public well being.

- ▶ Mission

- ▶ To prevent vector borne diseases

# VCB Goals and Strategies

## ➤ SURVEILLANCE:

*Detect the presence/prevalence of vector borne diseases through planned tests, surveys, sampling and monitoring, trapping.*

## ➤ RESPONSE:

- *Inspection and treatment of known mosquito and rodent sources*
- *Promotion of public awareness through outreach and educational services*
- *Disease investigation Branch requests, complaint investigation*



# Goals Continued..

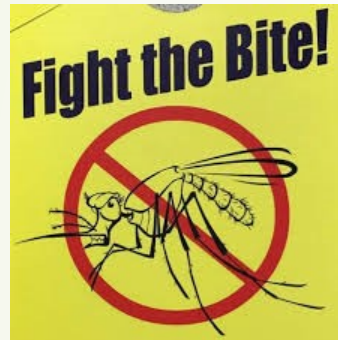
## **RESEARCH:**

*Study the introduction of new species. Evaluate treatment and abatement methods.*

## **TRAINING:**

*Rebuild and refocus the priorities of the Vector Control Branch and its new staff*

# 2015 Big Island Dengue Outbreak



264 confirmed cases

Lack of Vector Control staff (Inspectors, Workers, Entomologists)

Limited equipment and pesticides

No pesticide for organic farms

Effectiveness of response protocol questioned

Minimal entomological mosquito data



# Vector Control Capacity



## 2009

- Reduction In Force
- Lost 37 of 54 positions
- Limited staff to conduct mosquito control activities or respond to mosquito-borne illnesses
- Shift business model to consultation



## 2016 – 2017

- 51 vector control positions authorized and funded
- Oahu 19
- Big Island 14 (all filled)
- Maui 09
- Kauai 09

# Biosecurity Update

- ❖ Mamalu Poepoe - Interagency Airports Monitoring Program
  - ❖ Assist DOH to improve its monitoring & research efforts on vectors of human diseases (mosquitoes)
    - ❖ Assist BI, Oahu, Maui and Kauai to purchase various mosquito traps and materials, conduct studies and provide training to Vector Control staff
- ❖ Signed Dept of Transportation -Airports/Dept of Health, Memorandum of Agreement
  - ❖ (DOH on Oahu, BI, and Maui to provide rodent and mosquito control, inspection and abatement services at the airports)
- ❖ Re-establish Statewide Mosquito Surveillance Program and develop a statewide mosquito network database system
  - ❖ (Ports of Entry, Community Locations, Residential Surveys)
- ❖ Disease Investigation Branch/Vector Control Response
  - ❖ Imported Cases vs. Locally transmitted cases

# Vector Control Branch ver. 2.0

- Strategic Plan – Vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Expand Mosquito Surveillance Network
  - *Mamalu Poepoe*
  - *Mosquito Working Group*
- GIS Mapping of areas for better arboviral response
- Statewide Vector Control Database System
- Governor's Rat Lung Worm Task Force
- Continue entomology surveillance, resistance testing and response efficacy studies
- Strengthen Public Health Prevention, Preparedness and Response

