Focus on South Hilo
L.M. Klungness

In the South Hilo district, we now have 16 HAW-FLYPM cooperators. Twelve of the properties have been measured using GPS technologies to determine the acreage of fruit fly susceptible crops. Our calculations reveal that these cooperators represent a total of 134.6 productive acres per year, an average of 11.25 acres per farm. These figures assume 4 vegetable crop cycles per acre, and 1 fruit crop cycle per acre. Sixty-two acres of production per year are in vegetable crops, and the remaining 73 acres are in tropical fruit crops. Some of these orchards are still expanding, and the number of productive cycles may change with cultural practices.

This district may hold the answer to the question of whether tropical fruit like longan, lychee, and rambutan are infested by Oriental fruit fly. Growers have experienced damage from fruit flies in the past and have joined the program to prevent fruit losses in future. Their success is highly dependent on what other fruit fly hosts exist around the orchards, but guava seems to be the main breeding host for Oriental fruit fly on the Hamakua Coast.

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HAW-FLYPM in the Classroom
E. Nooney

On Monday, February 23, 2004 a meeting in Kohala took place to discuss the possibility of including the study of fruit flies and HAW-FLYPM’s suppression techniques in local grade school science curricula.

Teachers representing each grade level from kindergarten to fifth attended the meeting. As part of a grant, Kohala elementary schools will incorporate an incremental science program that intensifies within each grade level. Representatives from the school wanted to learn about fruit flies and the HAW-FLYPM program to see if it fit their grant requirements and educational aspirations. Teachers liked the idea of including a science unit that was interesting, relevant to Hawaii, and would help the community. The teachers in attendance enjoyed learning about fruit flies and seemed eager to take the next step toward bringing the HAW-FLYPM program to their schools. The representatives will now persuade other teachers at the school to support the program and begin writing lesson plans.

For now, the role of the Hawaii Area-Wide team is to educate all of the teachers involved and assist them in gaining support for the program. Later the HAW-FLYPM team will provide background knowledge and general guidance to the teachers as well as materials if needed. Guest lectures and appearances in the classroom might be included at a later time to strengthen the transfer of knowledge to the students.

Both the HAW-FLPM team and the teachers are excited to work together and will learn much from each other as the planning phase continues.

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When Carol Gonsalves returned to Kohala after spending 34 years in various parts of the continental USA, she was shocked to learn that the gourds used to make *Ipu Heke ‘Ole*, a traditional Hawaiian musical instrument, were being imported to Hawaii from somewhere else. Kohala farmers told Carol, a hula enthusiast, that melon fly would not allow for a good gourd crop. This spurred her decision to work as a volunteer to bridge HAW-FLYPM and the North Kohala community together. Working together with the HAW-FLYPM team, she helped implement an area wide community based outreach program in the region. An introductory training workshop was held in February at the Kamehameha Park in Kapaau, Hawaii. More than 30 eager community members attended.

Dr. Hannah Revis updated the current status of fruit fly work in the region. Oriental fruit fly is the most important pest throughout North Kohala, with populations particularly high in the Kapaau, Halaula and Halawa areas. The second most prevalent fruit fly pest is melon fly, predominant in the Pu‘uhue/Kaauhuhu, Halaula, Halawa and Makapala regions. (Continued)
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Extension agent Randy Hamasaki presented the highlights of fruit fly biology, ecology, and outlined fruit fly suppression strategy. Dr. Roger Vargas explained the importance of area wide approach and sustainability issues.

Following the presentation, participants had hands-on opportunities to identify different species of fruit flies present in Hawaii, and their corresponding parasitoid; build traps water bottles and other containers for fruit monitoring; handling of the trapped flies and record keeping; mixing GF-120 and its application; and use of augmentoria for safe disposal of infested fruit. At the end of the program, the participants left not only with elevated knowledge about fruit fly species and suppression techniques but also with the supplies required to initiate the program such as cuelure, methyl eugenol and GF-120 protein bait. Success of Kohala community outreach program is expected to provide us with invaluable experience in developing and implementing future community fruit fly suppression programs.