“If it is not one thing, it’s another.” This seems to be the general consensus of the growers. Fruit fly infestation is under 4% at the majority of the farm sites, but damage due to birds and mice range from 20 – 60%. Production yields have greatly decreased because the birds and mice have been eating the flowering parts of the growers’ crops.

Nui’s Fresh Produce
L. Fujitani

Nui Mizel and Eddie Hughes DBA as Nui’s Fresh produce are having a great year with their Thai watermelon and Squash among all the other commodities they grow. Before the HAWFLYPM program, they were experiencing crop loss due to melon fruit fly infestation. Since their adoption and implementation of the program, infestation levels have plummeted and production has soared! More importantly, they have been building customer loyalty due to their produce of good quality and consistency. They have the regulars who shop at the fresh market to buy their sweet honey watermelon. Eddie and Nui say, “This is a Great Program.” This program is a team effort, with the collaboration of the DOA (Department of Agriculture), USDA-ARS (United States Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service), and the University of Hawaii.