The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with current updates on fruit fly populations in the Kamuela & Kula area. We hope this information will be useful to you.

Jari S. Sugano
HAW-FLYPM Extension Coordinator

Happy Holidays!!

Seasons Greetings! During this holiday season, it is customary to review the accomplishments of this year and anticipate the blessings of 2002. The partnership of Kula growers, USDA-ARS-PBARC, and UH-CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service is beginning to yield dividends. The blessings of the year can be measured by increased grower knowledge of how to reduce melon fly and Med fly losses to vegetable and fruit crops.

Melon fly. Our partnership actions have reduced melon fly numbers greatly. Rejoice! Our melon fly monitoring results showed significant reductions in melon fly numbers. Compare the results for 2000 and 2001 (Figures 1 and 2). By working together to implement sanitation, GF-120, and male melon fly annihilation practices we will reduce 2002 numbers even more. Greater marketable yield and quality is our partnership goal for 2002.

Med fly. Nothing succeeds like success! Mass trapping technology was highly successful. Growers are ecstatic because of the unbelievable reduction in fruit fly losses. I am told that this resulted in higher exports to the Honolulu marketplace. The program will continue during 2002. Persimmon growers’ success is just the start. We are hopeful that the areawide fruit fly management program will reduce infestations and allow residents to consume more of their backyard fruits. Who knows, by working together we can establish new niche crops.

Figure 1 & 2
Melon Fly Populations in 2000 & 2001