

F12-P

AREA-WIDE TERMITE SUPPRESSION IN HAWAII

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The Formosan subterranean termite, *Coptotermes formosanus*, was likely introduced to Hawaii in the mid 1800s, and is now the most economically important pest in the State. Costs to Hawaii residents to control and repair damages have been estimated to exceed \$100 million annually, and repairs to public schools have been estimated at \$241 million. Termites are a serious problem on all seven of the Hawaiian Islands. The environmental and climatic diversity found in the islands impact termite distribution, behavior and control methods.

This multi-leveled, area-wide termite suppression project addresses research, extension and instruction by bringing University of Hawaii and USDA-ARS scientist in contact with school children, and the community. Public schools, located on every island under every environmental condition, serve as "windows" into the various communities. The entire state benefits through student and community education, and effective termite control in state buildings.

Termite baiting systems have been installed at pilot schools and are being monitored by students and researchers. Information is provided for students in the classroom, and researchers are working with school teachers to develop a comprehensive curriculum.