

What Hawaii Veterinarians Need to Know About Shipping Bees and Bee Equipment

- 1. What do I need to know about shipping bees within or out of the state?**
 - Shipments of bees off-island must be inspected by the HDOA Apiary Program. Only queen bees may be shipped within or from the state.
 - Illegal inter-island movement of queens, bees, packages, colonies, nucleus colonies, or used equipment (including suits) can result in a \$200,000 fine.
 - No used bee suits are allowed inter-island.
- 2. What does the HDOA Apiary Program quarterly inspection for shipment of queen bees include?**
 - 20-25 colonies inspected; up to 4 yards inspected
 - 3-4 frames of brood from each colony examined
 - Shipping is prohibited if American Foulbrood is detected.
 - Varroa-mite shake-sampling on ~300 bees/hive for mite levels
 - Inspection of the queen breeders packing facility (small hive beetle biosecurity)
 - If the breeder passes inspection, a 90-day certificate is issued for the shipment of queen bees only. No other form of bees, including colonies or packages, is legal to ship within or from the state.
- 3. Which islands are currently Varroa-mite free?**
 - Maui, Kauai, Molokai, and Lanai are currently free of Varroa-mites.
- 4. Can beekeepers on islands WITH Varroa-mites (Oahu, Big Island) ship their bees?**
 - If beekeepers are on an island WITH Varroa-mites, but mite levels are <3%, they can ship to the mainland, Oahu, or Big Island.
 - If beekeepers are on an island WITH Varroa-mites, but mite levels are <1%, they can ship to Canada.
 - If beekeepers have mite levels at or above 3%, they are only able to sell queens on their island.
- 5. Where can beekeepers on islands that are free from Varroa-mites ship their bees?**
 - Beekeepers on islands with Varroa-mite (Oahu, Big Island) are not allowed to ship to islands without Varroa (Maui, Kauai, Molokai & Lanai).
 - If beekeepers are on a Varroa-free island (currently Maui, Kauai, Molokai & Lanai) AND they pass all the specifications, they can ship anywhere that allows queens as an importation.
- 6. What do I do if I detect European Foulbrood in a hive?**
 - Notify the State Veterinarian and the Hawaii Apiary Program.
 - The beekeeper must treat their hives. HDOA Apiary Program will inspect the hive once treatment is completed.
- 7. What do I do if I detect American Foulbrood in a hive?**
 - Notify the State Veterinarian and the Hawaii Apiary Program.
 - HDOA recommends that the hive be removed from the apiary, burned to eliminate spores, and treat the remaining apiary. HDOA Apiary Program inspectors will re-inspect the apiary. If there are recurring disease outbreaks in that operation, they must wait 90 days to be re-inspected.

All information is current as of 3/21/17.

For up-to-date information, please contact the HDOA Apiary Program or Dr. Jenee Odani (CTAHR Extension Veterinarian), jsodani@hawaii.edu, (808) 956-3847.

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<http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/ppc/apiary-program-hawaii-beekeepers-registry/>