

Voluntary Codes of Conduct For Green Industry



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Participating Business: National Tropical Botanical Garden

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Voluntary Codes of Conduct for the Green Industry

*Codes adapted from The St. Louis Declaration on Invasive Plant Species
(<http://www.centerforplantconservation.org/invasives/cbgN.html>)*

- Presented discussion draft to the Kauai Landscape Industry Council (KLIC) on 2/21/06
- Revised with comments 6/2/06
- Adopted by KLIC at the 6/07/06 meeting

1. **Ensure that invasive potential is assessed prior to introducing and marketing plant species new to Hawaii.** Invasive potential should be assessed by the introducer or qualified experts using emerging risk assessment methods that consider plant characteristics and prior observations or experience with the plant elsewhere in the world. Additional insights may be gained through extensive monitoring on the nursery site prior to further distribution.

KLIC will support this code by making a good faith effort to utilize the Hawaii Pacific Weed Risk Assessment (HPWRA) system to screen new plant introductions. KLIC will also make an effort to gain additional insight through extensive monitoring on the nursery site prior to further distribution.

Note: UH Botany graduate student Shahin Ansari has been hired as the WRA screener. In the past, she worked for Dr. Curt Daehler, UH, as the WRA screener and is already trained in screening plants. Shahin works under the supervision of Lyon Arboretum Interim Director Dr. Cliff Morden. All new plants submitted by Code of Conduct participants will be screened as a first priority. Submit plant names to Shahin via email at shahin@hawaii.edu, or feel free to call her at (808) 988-0461.

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2. **Work with regional experts and stakeholders to determine which species in your region are either currently invasive or will become invasive. Identify plants that could be suitable alternatives in your region.**

KLIC will work with regional experts and stakeholders to determine which species in our region are either currently invasive or will become invasive. KLIC will keep abreast on these issues with a continued relationship with Kauai Invasive Species Committee (KISC) and UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) as well as other professionals in the field.

3. **Develop and promote alternative plant material through plant selection and breeding.**

KLIC will identify and promote suitable non-invasive alternatives. KLIC will develop and promote alternative plant material through plant selection and breeding, specifically suitable for our region. KLIC will provide written support for CTAHR researchers to develop sterile plant varieties (triploids) of popular invasive ornamentals.

4. **Phase-out existing stocks of invasive species, which are collectively agreed upon by nursery associations, government agencies, academic research, ecology and conservation organizations as threats to our natural areas.**

KLIC will discontinue the ordering, growing, and selling of the following plants within the next 6 months (by December 2006):

1. Australian tree fern (*Cyathea cooperi*)
2. Rubbervine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora* and *C. madagascariensis*)
3. Smokebush (*Buddleja madagascariensis*)
4. Butterfly bush (*Buddleja davidii*)
5. Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana* and *C. jubata***)
6. Hiptage (*Hiptage benghalensis*)
7. Fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum***)
8. Glorybush (*Tibuchina urvilleana***)
9. Fiddlewood (*Citharexylum spinosum*) (note: KLIC may mean *C. caudatum*)
10. Kahili ginger (*Hedychium gardnerianum*)
11. Common St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
12. Indian rhododendron (*Melastoma candidum***)
13. (will be adding a cactus once species is ID'd)

***denotes plants that are State Noxious Weeds, but are sold at times.*

5. **Follow all laws on importation and quarantine of plant materials across political boundaries.**

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KLIC will learn and follow the laws pertaining to importation and quarantine of plant materials across political boundaries, making a conscious effort to inspect all incoming products for pests. KLIC will not collect native Hawaiian plants illegally from the forests, a detrimental practice to the survival of our forests.

*Furthermore, KLIC will actively work to prevent the importation of more coqui frogs (*Eleutherodactylus coqui*) and little fire ants (*Wasmannia auropuncta*) into the island of Kauai. KLIC will investigate and try to initiate quarantine practices to avert the further spread of these particular invasive species, such as nursery site hot water treatments for coqui frog. When importing plants from other islands, especially the Big Island, KLIC will only utilize coqui-free certified businesses as suppliers. Knowing that coqui frogs and little fire ants are still found from certified businesses, KLIC will continue to inspect these particular imports with special care. In the event that a coqui frog or little fire ants are found on nursery property, KLIC will report to KISC for eradication methods. In order to track the source of coqui imports, KLIC will document plant material import records, to prevent further exports from these nurseries, while coqui problems persist.*

*KLIC will be a model for pest prevention in the community. In addition to maintaining proper importation practices, KLIC will cooperate with KISC and other appropriate organizations when pest surveying is necessary. Examples of such surveys are for incipient species like ohia rust (*Puccinia psidii*), (*Rubus spp.*) and coqui frog.*

6. Encourage customers to use, and garden writers to promote, non-invasive plants.

KLIC will participate in raising community awareness about invasive species issues. KLIC will encourage customers to purchase non-invasive plants, highlighting native alternatives kept in stock. KLIC will work with KISC to produce a cooperative brochure educating the public about native gardening methods and alternatives to popular invasive ornamentals. KLIC will also submit articles to our industry newsletters and local newspapers promoting code practices, encouraging others to stop selling invasive plants. KLIC will be advertised on websites that advertise businesses who are participating in this voluntary program.

These codes are voluntary and are agreed upon by the honor of the individual members of the Kauai Landscaping Industry Council. KLIC will try to promote these codes to other businesses as a way to establish an industry standard. The Codes of Conduct will be up for review and revisions on an as needed basis.

This project is part of a national study on Codes of Conduct, by Valerie Vartanian vvartanian@tnc.org at the Missouri Botanical Garden (see the website above for more information). Comments, edits, etc. are encouraged. Email or call Christy Martin at christym@rocketmail.com (808) 722-0995 or Carter Smith at cartersm@hawaii.edu (808) 352-7738. Kauai contact: Jackie Kozak jackiekozak@hawaiiantel.net 246-0684.

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