

**From:** [webmaster@hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [DBEDT OPSD Environmental Review Program](#)  
**Subject:** New online submission for The Environmental Notice  
**Date:** Friday, December 29, 2023 1:11:41 PM

---

**Action Name**

Proposed Statewide Field Release of *Metaphycus macadamiae* Polaszek & Noyes (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) for Biological Control of Macadamia Felted Coccid, *Acanthococcus ironsidei* (Williams) (Hemiptera: Eriococcidae), in Hawai'i

**Type of Document/Determination**

Draft environmental assessment and anticipated finding of no significant impact (DEA-AFNSI)

**HRS §343-5(a) Trigger(s)**

- (1) Propose the use of state or county lands or the use of state or county funds
- (2) Propose any use within any land classified as a conservation district

**Judicial district**

Statewide

**Tax Map Key(s) (TMK(s))**

(9)9-9-999:999

**Action type**

Agency

**Other required permits and approvals**

USDA-APHIS-PPQ; Board of Agriculture (HDOA Plant Quarantine Branch)

**Proposing/determining agency**

State of Hawai'i Department of Agriculture

**Agency contact name**

Janis Matsunaga

**Agency contact email (for info about the action)**

[janis.n.matsunaga@hawaii.gov](mailto:janis.n.matsunaga@hawaii.gov)

**Email address or URL for receiving comments**

[hdoa.ppc@hawaii.gov](mailto:hdoa.ppc@hawaii.gov)

**Agency contact phone**

(808) 973-9536

**Agency address**

1428 S. King St.  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
United States  
[Map It](#)

**Was this submittal prepared by a consultant?**

No

### Action summary

The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture proposes the Statewide field release of *Metaphycus macadamiae*, a host-specific minute parasitoid wasp, in the State of Hawai'i for biological control of *Acanthococcus ironsidei*, the macadamia felted coccid (MFC). MFC, a serious pest of macadamia trees, is native to Australia and continues to threaten the macadamia nut industry in Hawai'i. MFC feeding causes leaves to be distorted, early flower drop, and branch die-back, leading to the death of trees and a substantial reduction in nut production. If MFC is not controlled sustainably and at the landscape level soon, it may spread throughout the State and will continue to devastate Hawai'i's macadamia nut industry. *M. macadamiae* is a monophagous parasitoid of MFC and does not pose any risk to native and beneficial species, thus making this natural enemy of MFC safe to release in the environment to control MFC in Hawai'i.

### Reasons supporting determination

Based on the results of host specificity tests, *Metaphycus macadamiae* is host specific to *A. ironsidei* (MFC), does not pose any risk to native and beneficial species in Hawai'i, and is safe to release in the environment to control MFC in Hawai'i.

Please refer to Sections 5 (Affected Environment and Impact Assessment), 6 (Impacts on Cultural Values), & 8 (Determination) in the DEA.

### Attached documents (signed agency letter & EA/EIS)

- [Action-Location-Map-disclaimer.pdf](#)
- [M.-macadamiae-DEA-w-appendicies-12-27-2023.pdf](#)
- [AFNSI-M.-macadamiae-12-29-2023-signed.pdf](#)

### Action location map

- [FEA-Shapefile.zip](#)

### Authorized individual

Janis Matsunaga

### Authorization

- The above named authorized individual hereby certifies that he/she has the authority to make this submission.