



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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**LEEWARD RESIDENTS URGED TO PREPARE
FOR MICE BAITING**

Honolulu - The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) will be applying mice poison bait around undeveloped land adjacent to communities on the leeward coast beginning June 29th in an effort to reduce the mice population in the area. The Vector Control Branch will post warning signs in the treated areas. The DOH is asking for the public's cooperation in avoiding these areas and keeping pets out of these areas.

The public may contact the Vector Control Branch at 483-2535 with any questions or concerns.

"Mice explosions" have occurred periodically in the undeveloped grasslands in the leeward area of Oahu. Heavy rains this spring caused heavy vegetative growth which gives rise to an abundant food supply of grass and weed seeds to support an explosive build-up of mice. As the dry summer causes the food supply to dry up, the resulting lack of food will force the mice to migrate and invade yards and homes.

"DOH is encouraging the public to keep rodents outside by sealing cracks and openings in building foundations and sealing holes in walls around sewer and water pipes," said Greg Olmsted, DOH Vector Control Branch Manager. "Use gnaw proof materials such as sheet metal, cement mortar, and mesh metal screen to close gaps greater than ¼ inch. Ceiling vent holes should also be screened. Doors, windows and screens should be tight-fitting."

If you have mice in your home DOH recommends that you use snap traps. Glue traps are also effective but will not work in dusty or wet areas. Check traps daily and remove dead mice quickly (seal them in a plastic bag or container and discard). Traps work best when garbage is placed in garbage cans with tight fitting lids and pet food is removed from the area. For more information about how to keep mice from becoming a health issue on your property, visit the Department of Health's web site at www.hawaii.gov/health.

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