

# Guidance for Mailing and Shipping Food and Agricultural Products From Hawaii to the U.S. Mainland

Many agricultural pests and diseases that exist in Hawaii could be introduced into the U.S. mainland by food and agricultural products sent through the mail. Plants, flowers, fruits, and vegetables from Hawaii may be hosts for fruit flies and other destructive plant pests and diseases that are found in Hawaii but not in the continental United States. These pests have the potential to cause severe damage to crops and the environment in other parts of the United States.

To protect agriculture and the environment from the spread of invasive pests and diseases, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regulates the movement of certain agricultural products from Hawaii to the U.S. mainland. All agricultural items being shipped or mailed to the U.S. mainland must be inspected and found to be pest free prior to being presented at airline cargo offices, the post office, or other courier services. People who illegally send prohibited agricultural items through the mail may be subject to criminal or civil penalties.

## Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

The shipment or mailing of most fresh fruits and vegetables from Hawaii to the continental United States is prohibited due to the risk of introducing certain invasive plant pests and diseases. Fresh pineapple and coconut are permitted after inspection. Fresh papaya, abiu, atemoya, banana, curry leaf, dragon fruit, longan, lychee, mangosteen, rambutan, starfruit, and sweet potato are permitted, but must be treated at a USDA-approved facility and packed in boxes that are properly marked and stamped. Shipping or mailing processed fruits and vegetables is permissible. Processing methods include cooking, drying, or freezing. If freezing, all fruits must be frozen solid at the time of inspection. Frozen mango must be without seeds.

Please contact APHIS for more information about approved processing methods. Telephone numbers for local APHIS offices in Hawaii are provided below.

## Items From Hawaii Allowed Entry into the U.S. Mainland after Inspection:

- Beach Sand
- Coconuts
- Commercially canned foods
- Dried seeds and decorative arrangements
- Fresh flowers, leis, and foliage (except any citrus or citrus-related flowers, leaves, or other plant parts, as well jade vine or Mauna Loa)
- Hinahina (Spanish moss)
- Irish or white potatoes
- Fresh pineapple
- Treated fruit, such as papaya, abiu, atemoya, banana, curry leaf, dragon fruit, longan, lychee, mangosteen, rambutan, starfruit, and sweet potato\*
- Plants and cuttings\*\*
- Rocks and stones
- Seashells, not land snail shells
- Seed leis and seed jewelry
- Wood (including drift wood and sticks) and wood roses (dried)

\* Note: These fruits must be treated at a USDA-approved facility and packed in boxes that are properly marked and stamped.

\*\* Note: For certifying rooted plant material, contact the State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

## Items From Hawaii Not Allowed Entry into the U.S. Mainland:

- Fresh fruits and vegetables, except for those listed above as permitted
- Berries of any kind, including fresh coffee berries and sea grapes
- Cactus plants or cactus plant parts
- Cotton and cotton bolls
- Fresh flowers of jade vine and Mauna Loa
- Kikania and fresh pandanus
- Live insects and snails
- Seeds with fruit clinging and fresh seed pods
- Soil or any plants in soil
- Sugarcane
- Swamp cabbage (unchoy)
- Sweet potato (raw)
- Mock orange

This information is subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, contact your local APHIS office:

Honolulu	(808) 834-3220
Kona	(808) 326-1252
Kauai	(808) 632-2511
Hilo	(808) 933-6930
Maui	(808) 877-5261

For information on how to certify plants and cuttings, contact the Hawaii Department of Agriculture:

Honolulu	(808) 832-0566
Hilo	(808) 974-4141
Kauai	(808) 274-3071
Maui	(808) 872-3848
Kona	(808) 326-1077

In addition, APHIS' Web site contains a wealth of useful information at [www.aphis.usda.gov/travel](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/travel).

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