

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

2019 WESTERN CHAPTER ISA
CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

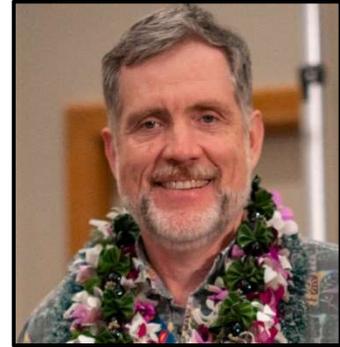
New pests and pathogens affecting both native and urban forests in Hawaii and the Pacific

Date/Time/Session: **WEDNESDAY, 5.01.2019, 8:00:00 AM, in the PESTS session**

Presentation Length: **60 minutes**

Presented by: **James B Friday**

Co-Presenter (if scheduled): **NA**



Overview of Presentation:

Humans are responsible for introductions of pests and pathogens that threaten both native forests and the urban landscape in Hawaii. A newly-discovered vascular wilt caused by a fungus in the genus *Ceratocystis* threatens Hawaii's most important native tree, ohia (*Metrosideros polymorpha*). While the disease is currently confined to Hawaii Island, *Metrosideros* forests are important across the Hawaiian archipelago and other Pacific Islands from Tahiti to New Zealand. Another new pathogen of ohia is *Austropuccinia psidii* or myrtle rust. This pathogen traveled from South America to Florida, to California, to Hawaii in 2005, then to Australia, where it has infected scores of species of trees. Despite the threat to Hawaii's forests, the state has been unable to prevent shipments of infected myrtle plants from nurseries on the US mainland. The most threatening insect pest to trees in Hawaii is probably the coconut rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*), which was discovered on Oahu in 2013, after having devastated coconuts on Guam. The beetle threatens not only ornamental palms but agricultural systems across the Pacific. As post-introduction eradication of pests and diseases is seldom successful, greatly improved biosecurity is needed to protect trees in both natural and urban ecosystems.

Presenter Bio:

J. B. Friday is the extension forester for the University of Hawaii. He works with landowners, tree farmers, and professional foresters throughout the state on topics including forest health, restoration of native forests, silviculture of koa, and agroforestry. Dr. Friday earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Dartmouth College, a master's in forestry from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and a PhD in agriculture from the University of Hawaii.