



**MALAMA O PUNA**  
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*Protecting Hawai'i's precious natural heritage*

January 31, 2021

Aloha Teachers, Counselors, Administrators, Faculty, Parents and Students,

The Board of Directors of Malama O Puna is excited to announce the **“How to Develop and Apply Biological Control for Miconia *Calvescens* in Hawai'i”** contest. The contest is open to all students in grades 9 through 12, in the Keaau-Pahoa-Ka'u Complex. If you received this letter it is our hope that you will encourage students you know to submit an entry to the contest. There will be cash prizes awarded to the students who submit the top three presentations as judged by the Malama O Puna Board. The awards will be \$500 for first place, \$400 for second place, \$300 for third place and additional funds may be available by the deadline. Presentations on the best biological control methods to control this highly invasive plant can take the form of a PowerPoint, Video, Story Board or other media that can be made available for public education efforts on eradication of this invasive species.

For several years, Malama O Puna has attempted to apply the conventional approach of eliminating Miconia by trudging through difficult terrain, yanking out new growth, and using chemical herbicides to kill mature plants. We find this approach is not effective and have supported the State of Hawaii's effort to complete the research and regulatory process of approving the Miconia Butterfly as an effective means of eradicating this invasive species. We're also aware of other biological controls that may be effective such as using goats to eliminate Miconia – a process known as “goatscaping”. We're excited for Puna students to learn about the process of developing biological controls, how one conducts the research needed to prove efficacy, and how to successfully meet the regulatory hurdles that must be passed to release biological controls. We are excited to engage local students in this contest to learn more about the issue of biological controls for Miconia and look forward to many informative entries!

Deadline to submit a signed entry is May 17, 2021. First, Second and Third place prizes will be awarded during the week of May 24, 2021. Entry forms must be filled out, signed by a parent, guardian or school official, and submitted with all entries.

Official Rules and Entry Forms are included in the packet we are disseminating and are also available on our website. Mahalo for your assistance in distributing this information and encouraging students to participate.

## Contest Rules and Prizes

### Rules:

The “How to Develop and Apply Biological Control for *Miconia Calvescens* in Hawai’i” contest is open to all public, private and homeschooled students in grades 9-12, in the Keaau-Paho-Kau DOE complex.

Students must research, explain, demonstrate and compile a presentation of their version of the “*How to Develop and Apply Biological Control for Miconia Calvescens in Hawai’i*”. The presentation should include a description of invasive species, its origin, environmental effects if not controlled, and explain the development of biological controls in general and effective bio-controls for *Miconia Calvescens* in Hawai’i, specifically. Presentations should be well researched, evidenced based, cohesive and complete, and should be engaging and concise. Appropriate citations and/or acknowledgements are necessary for all data/information cited in the presentations.

The following point system will be used in judging all entries: Quality of research, 30 points, Feasibility of bio-control 30 points, Clear, cohesive descriptions/explanations, 20 points, and Presentation, 20 points.

Video type entries are limited to 15 minutes in total length.

PowerPoints should be between 12-20 slides and Story/Poster Boards are limited to (3) bi-fold boards

The entry form and project can be emailed to [malamaopuna@yahoo.com](mailto:malamaopuna@yahoo.com) or dropped off at the Malama O Puna Office located at: 15-2881 Paho Village Road, in Paho (near 7-11) by the submission deadline. If dropping off in person, please call 965-2000 to arrange to have someone there to receive the entry.

**An Official Entry Form must be signed by either a parent, guardian or school official and included with all entries. Winning entries may be used by Malama O Puna in educating the public regarding Miconia control.**

Entry forms must be emailed to: [malamaopuna@yahoo.com](mailto:malamaopuna@yahoo.com) even if the presentation is hand-delivered to the Malama O Puna Office. Questions regarding this contest may be emailed to the Malama O Puna Executive Director, Barbara Lively at [malamaopuna@yahoo.com](mailto:malamaopuna@yahoo.com). Allow (3) days for a response.

A confirmation email will be sent upon receipt of all submittals, if you have not received a confirmation email within (3) days of submitting your project, please re-submit.

Submission deadline for all entries: May 17, 2021 (No exceptions will be made)

Winners will be chosen and prizes will be awarded in the week of May 24, 2021.

### Prizes:

Cash prizes will be awarded as follows:

First Prize      \$500.00

Second Prize    \$400.00

Third Prize      \$300.00

**Total cash prizes: \$1,200** – prize amounts may increase if additional funds become available.

\*Only Flash Drives and Story/Poster Boards may be physically delivered, and must be picked up upon completion of the contest. Please call 965-2000 to schedule a time for drop off and pick-up.

Official Entry Form for the  
"How to Develop and Apply Biological Control for Miconia *Calvescens* in Hawai'i" contest

Date of submittal \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Student mailing address \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Student phone contact \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Names \_\_\_\_\_

Parents address (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Parents phone contact (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Title of submittal \_\_\_\_\_

Type of submittal (PowerPoint, Video, Poster/Story Board, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Length of submittal (no. of pages, length of video) \_\_\_\_\_

*"I confirm that this student is enrolled in grades 9-12 in a school in the Keaau-Paho-Ka'u DOE complex, or is being homeschooled and resides in the complex area."*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian/or School Official