

State of Hawaii
Department of Agriculture
Plant Industry Division
Plant Quarantine Branch
Honolulu, Hawaii

Summary of Proposed New Subchapter 15,
Entitled "Introduction of Myrtaceae" (Myrtle Family Plants and Plant Parts),
Proposed for Addition to Chapter 4-70, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Plant and Non-
Domestic Animal Quarantine, Plant Import Rules"

The proposed new Subchapter 15 contains three rule sections as summarized below.

1. Section 4-70-55, Notice of quarantine, gives notice that the Board of Agriculture has determined that the introduction of new strains of Ohia rust, *Puccinia psidii*, (a fungus), and other disease pathogens and insects not now established in Hawaii are a serious danger to Ohia and Ohia forests in Hawaii and to horticultural and agricultural industries. In conjunction with existing rule section 4-70-1, HAR, proposed rule section 4-70-55 gives notice that quarantine measures will be implemented to prohibit or restrict import of specific plants to minimize the risk of introduction of Ohia rust, *puccinia psidii*.

2. Section 4-70-56, Prohibited introduction, prohibits the introduction of Myrtaceae (Myrtle family plants) except: (1) dried non-living plant materials; (2) seeds, with no other plant fragments, that have been surface-sterilized using treatments approved by the Department of Agriculture, Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB) chief; (3) tissue-cultured plants grown in sterile media and in a completely enclosed sterile glass flask or other similar container; or (4) by approved permit as provided in rule section 4-70-57.

3. Section 4-70-57, Permits, authorizes the PQB chief, upon written request, to issue a permit allowing import of a limited quantity of plants in the Myrtaceae family (Myrtle family of plants) for propagation under the PQB's supervision in a strictly enforced quarantine appropriate to contain *Puccinia psidii*, and other pests, pursuant to existing chapter 4-70, HAR, rule sections regarding plants requiring quarantine.

Myrtaceae (the Myrtle family of plants) includes a broad range of plants, including guava, eucalyptus, ohia, and plants used in the garden and floral industry.