

Leptospirosis in Hawaii

Prepared By

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Overview:

Vectors:	Terrestrial mammals, especially rodents (rats and mice) ^{1,2}
Pathways to Humans:	Open wound or mucus membrane (eye, nose, mouth) exposed to contaminated water or soil
Symptoms:	High fever, headache, chills, muscle aches, vomiting, diarrhea, rash ³
Risks:	Include meningitis, organ damage, respiratory problems, possibly death
Causing Organism:	<i>Leptospira</i> bacteria, 15 different strains
When symptoms begin:	2-29 days typically

Trends from 1999-2008:⁴

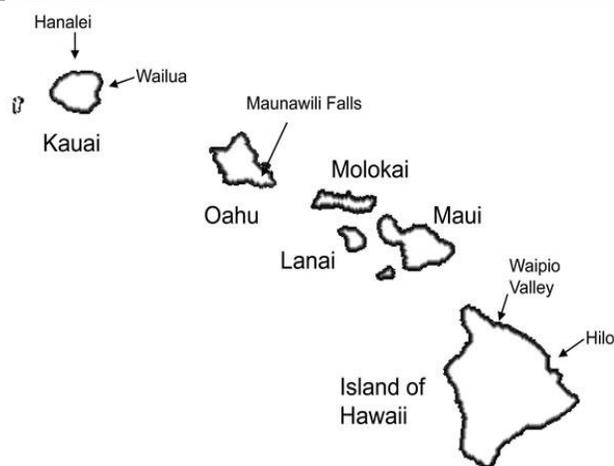


Figure 1. Exposure locations associated with the greatest number of leptospirosis cases, Hawaii, USA, 1999–2008.

Citations:

- ¹ Hawaii'i sees many Leptospirosis cases. Honolulu Advertiser. Feb 11 2004. <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2004/Feb/11/lh/l17a.html>
- ² Hawaii's Killer: Leptospirosis. Honolulu Magazine. Apr 1 2004. <http://www.honolulumagazine.com/Honolulu-Magazine/April-2004/Hawaiias-Killer/>
- ³ Leptospirosis Page. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Jul 13 2015. <http://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis/index.html>
- ⁴ Leptospirosis in Hawaii, USA, 1999–2008. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/17/2/101109_article

Areas of Exceptionally High Incidence 1993-2002:¹

Location	Cases	% Statewide Cases
Statewide	500 (approximate)	100.0%
Kauai	131	26.2%
Hawaii Island	178	35.6%
Waipio Valley (Island of Hawaii)	28	05.6% (15.7% of Hawaii Island)

Deaths:²

Year	Deaths	Cases	Fatality Rate	Lab-Confirmed	Case-Fatality Rate
1999-2008	1	345	0.003%	198	0.50%
1993-2002	6	500	0.12%	N/A	N/A