Plant Protection and Quarantine

TRAVEL

Figure 1. Leis containing mock orange leaves *(Murraya paniculata)*

Figure 2. Leis made of mock orange leaves and sea grape fruits*

Know the Lei of the Land:

How To Make Sure Your Leis Can Come Back to the U.S. Mainland

United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Plant Protection and Quarantine

If you want to bring Hawaiian leis back to the U.S. mainland, you'll want to make sure the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will allow them to depart with you. Fortunately, that's not too hard to do. When you buy a lei, simply ask the seller to confirm that it's free of the following prohibited items: **any citrus or citrus-related flowers, leaves, or other plant parts, as well as jade vine or Mauna Loa.** Please be aware that citrus-related plant parts include mock orange flowers and leaves, which are sometimes used in making leis. See figures 1 and 2 for examples of mock orange used in leis.

This question is a very important one for you to ask the seller. USDA has established a Federal domestic quarantine to prevent the spread of the Asian citrus psyllid, a gnat-sized insect capable of transmitting one of the world's most serious citrus diseases—citrus greening disease. This harmful pest feeds on all citrus and closely related plants in the botanical family Rutaceae. Some kukui-nut and other types of leis often contain citrus or citrus-related leaves. Agricultural inspectors will examine your leis for prohibited items and any signs of plant infestation or infection. Help protect America's citrus and other agricultural industries. Before you buy a lei to take back to the U.S. mainland, ask the seller to confirm that it's free of prohibited materials.

For More Information

Learn more about what you can bring to the U.S. mainland from Hawaii on USDA's "Agricultural Information for International Travelers" Web page at www.aphis.usda.gov/travel.

For questions or for more information, call the USDA office in Hawaii at (808) 834-3240 or (808) 834-3241.

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** Most fresh fruits and vegetables from Hawaii are not allowed to enter the continental United States due to the risk of introducing certain invasive plant pests and diseases. However, 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.*