



severe economic risk to island horticultural exports. NWRC researchers recently discovered that citric acid, a common food additive, is an effective yet inexpensive pesticide for controlling invasive tree frog populations. A team of WS scientists and operational employees are also developing and testing BTS control methods. Their goal is to prevent the BTS, an invasive species, from becoming established in Hawaii, other Pacific Islands, or the mainland United States.

**Protecting Air Travelers**—From 1990 to 1999, Hawaii’s airports ranked 14th in the nation for the number of reported wildlife strikes. The severity of the problem has prompted airfield managers to rely on WS’ expertise to conduct ecological studies to identify hazards and determine the best strategies to manage wildlife problems at all major State airports. WS also provides wildlife hazard management at several commercial airports and military airfields on Oahu, Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, Hawaii, and Maui. WS has successfully reduced wildlife strikes at airfields where it conducts daily control operations.

In addition to this direct assistance work, WS has conducted wildlife hazard assessments (ecological studies) at Kona, Hilo, and Honolulu International Airports and Molokai Airport to identify and reduce wildlife hazards to aviation and the traveling public. Similar studies are planned for Lihue, Kahului, Lanai, and Kapalua Airports. NWRC maintains the National Wildlife Strike Database used by the Federal Aviation Administration and airports to monitor trends and wildlife species of greatest concern to aviation.

**Looking to the Future**

Fiscal year 2002 marked the third year that the 16 year-old Hawaii/Guam and Pacific Islands WS program was administered



locally with a State Director in Honolulu and an Assistant State Director in Barrigada Heights, Guam. Local administration continues to improve service to cooperators and provide greater support to the people of this region.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), WS is working diligently to conduct environmental analyses of program actions performed for non-Federal cooperators. This work, however, requires considerable time and resources. Administrative functions associated with the program’s growing wildlife damage management program are also increasing rapidly. As the program grows, so does the need for greater infrastructure support. WS has outgrown both of its administrative offices in Honolulu and Barrigada. Fortunately, renovations are underway at NWRC’s Hilo Field Station to add more work space and improve security. As part of this expansion effort, some of WS’ operational program staff will be relocated from Honolulu to work with research personnel in Hilo and help relieve overcrowding.

**Hawaii Wildlife Services Funding** ●●●●●●●●●●

In addition to receiving federally allocated funds, WS also receives money from cooperators; such as producers; private individuals; businesses; and other Federal, State, and local government agencies who have a vested interest in the program. In most cases, these cooperators need help to resolve wildlife damage problems or they play a role in wildlife damage management.

