

WEED OF THE WEEK

BROUGHT TO YOU BY KAUA'I COMMUNITY RADIO & KAUA'I INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

WEEK TWO, JULY 2, 2008

FALSE `AWA

Piper auritum



Description: Shrub that can grow to 19

Native Range: Tropical America

Discovered in Hawai'i: 1990s

Known Distribution: Kahili Mountain and seen at garden events mislabeled as true `awa

Introduced: Accidentally as true `awa

Weed Risk Assessment Score: 19

INVASIVE INFO

- Threatens the purity and preservation of our `awa; an important cultural resource
- When false `awa is mixed with true `awa, it severely decreases the value of the crop and product (false `awa does not have the same physical effects), which hurts the local and export economy
- Super difficult to remove! Root pieces and stems grow back after being cut.
- Grows more than twice as fast as our true `awa, taking over the habitat

**WE CAN STILL PROTECT KAUA'I'S
TRUE `AWA (KAVA KAVA)!**

If you see False `Awa on Kaua'i,

CALL 643-PEST

immediately! We can help!