

## ***Salvinia molesta***

**(Giant Salvinia, Kariba Weed, Aquarium watermoss)**



- ✓ *Salvinia molesta* is a water fern that can reproduce extremely rapidly, doubling its numbers in 2-10 days.
- ✓ Extremely small fragments are viable propagules.
- ✓ Big problem in Lake Wilson on Oahu, could have been avoided with awareness and preventative action.
- ✓ Native to Brazil.
- ✓ **The plant is federally prohibited in the US, and is therefore illegal to sell or possess.**

### How did it get here?

- ✓ Garden pond and aquarium trade, or small fragments accidentally introduced into water bodies in aquatic ornamentals.

### Why is it harmful?

- ✓ *Salvinia molesta* alters productivity of fresh waters, reducing fishery yields; thick mats prevent oxygen absorption into water, and block light, shading out underwater plants and killing fish.

### How do we control it?

- ✓ Prevent new infestations, and report infestations of all sizes. Early detection and eradication are crucial to controlling *Salvinia* without chemical methods.

**If you see *Salvinia molesta*, or know of a possible population, please call KISC at 246-0684.**