

Where Did All the Bees Go?

Have you ever noticed that you don't see a lot of bees around? Where did they go? What happened to them? All these questions and we don't really know all the answers them. Could it be that a bee disease wiped out colonies of bees?

You may wonder why I chose this topic, and I'll tell you. I became interested in bees when a colony of them suddenly appeared at my house. We called Terminix and they said that we had to call bee removers. When they came, they told us that the bees were going endangered and that we should keep them, so we did. We now have healthy beehives that pollinate our lush garden and give us sweet honey.

Bee populations in Hawaii are decreasing at an alarming rate. Therefore, there isn't enough bees to pollinate all the flowers so the fruits and vegetables can grow. Without bees, the fresh fruits and vegetables will decrease in Hawaii. What would happen to our farmer's market and eating food from your garden?

Our declining bee population impacts the economy because residents and tourists want to buy fresh, local vegetables and fruits from the grocery store or from the farmer's market, whether it is our delicious mangoes or native manoa lettuce. If the bee population continues to decrease over the next 50 years they could become extinct. Furthermore, the bees allow our produce and flora to grow which supports our farmers, local businesses, and restaurants.

Although, this is a global problem it is still a local issue. Since we are an island it is essential for us to be able to grow our own produce and to have a healthy bee population so we can be self-sufficient. One solution would be to stop spraying pesticides in the fields. Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research stated that "when fields are sprayed with pesticides and more fertilizers are applied and valuable agricultural structural elements, such as hedges and rows of trees, are transformed into fields, the insects vanish (2012).

One solution is that fertilizers and pesticides should be limited or monitored more closely. Another solution could be state or county organization that is just for bees. Last solution would be a learning curriculum about food and bees in the education system.

The curriculum for bees could be learned in eighth or ninth grade. Learning more about bees and their importance in the ecosystem is essential since our food growth is dependent on them. Students could even learn about maintaining their own bee hive.

Next, as you may already know, our problem here is that there aren't much bees around anymore. There aren't much bees to do their job, which is pollinating all the flowers. Without

bees, there wouldn't be a lot of flowers in Hawaii. What would happen to lei making and flowers in your hair? Who knows what would happen!

Let's sum it all up. We know the bee problem is still a mystery. We also know that we need a solution such as an increase in bee farming.! Hawaii should be apart of the solution to save our bees.

