

# STOP THE INVASION- REPORT THIS PEST

## ***Stinging Nettle Catterpillar***

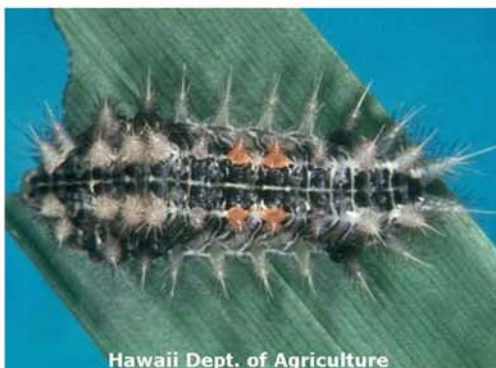
Maui County Priority Pest for Maui, Lanai, and Molokai:

### **Stinging nettle caterpillar (*Darna pallivitta*)**

The nettle caterpillar is not currently known to be in Maui County. This caterpillar is a larval form of an Asian moth. This caterpillar is a larval form of an Asian moth. This caterpillar grows up to 25 mm (1 in) and is covered in rows of poisonous spines. The coloration is variable, ranging from white to light grey, with a dark stripe running down the length it back. The nettle caterpillar has been found on many plants, including palms, coconuts, ti, dracaena, starfruit, coffee, and honohono grass.



Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture  
Nettle caterpillar eating a Ti tree  
(*Cordyline fruticosa*) leaf



Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture  
The caterpillar's spiny hairs  
sting on contact



Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture  
Damage done while feeding on  
coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) fronds

### **Don't mistake Stinging Nettle Catterpillar for these look-alikes:**



Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)

### **Nymphalid butterflies (Family: Nymphalidae):**

Some of the caterpillars from the Nymphalidae family also are covered in spines, though non-stinging. Butterflies in this family include Kamehameha butterfly (*Vanessa tameame*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*), red admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*), American lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*), and California tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis californica*).