



Hawaii Business Daily

A Mold-Detecting Canine?

Buster, the 24th dog in the nation trained to sniff toxic molds, arrives in Hawaii this week

By Cathy Cruz

Posted: Monday November 24, 2003

Mold Hawaii - a company specializing in mold inspection, remediation and abatement - introduces its newest staff member: Buster, a 2-year-old canine trained to sniff out more than 18 different kinds of toxic molds.

But don't call him a mold "lab." Buster is technically a Jack Russell Terrier.

"Mold dogs generate quicker and more accurate results and are the only inspection tool that can detect and pinpoint sources of mold, which leads to lower remediation costs," says Bill Birmingham, founder of Mold Hawaii.

Buster has more than 3,000 hours of training at the Florida Canine Academy, twice than the required number of training hours for mold dogs. He is the 24th dog in the nation trained to detect mold and is also part of a study by three major universities, Auburn University, University of Ohio and Florida International University.

Buster comes to Hawaii at a time when mold specialists are at the height of their operations. Mold causes chronic sinus infections affecting 37 million Americans annually, according to a Mayo Clinic study. Sick buildings - or buildings afflicted by indoor air pollutants such as mold - cause losses of up to \$61 billion a year in employee absenteeism, reduced productivity, and lower earnings and medical costs, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. No doubt the most high-profile mold case in Hawaii has been the Hilton Hawaiian Village's Kalia Tower. For the past year, the Hilton has spent more than \$55 million to eradicate mold found in its hotel rooms.

Every other Saturday beginning Nov. 29, inspections by Buster will be free to all homeowners and schools throughout Hawaii. "Our goal is to educate people on

Departm

[In Focus](#)

[Road Ahead](#)

[Japan Journal](#)

[Leadership Le:](#)

[HB Archives](#)

[Dining with Da](#)

[Room At The T](#)

Back Issues

[November 2003](#)

[October 2003](#)

[September 2003](#)

[August 2003](#)

[July 2003](#)

[June 2003](#)

[May 2003](#)

[April 2003](#)

[March 2003](#)

[February 2003](#)

[January 2003](#)

[December 2002](#)

[November 2002](#)

[October 2002](#)

[September 2002](#)

[August 2002](#)

[July 2002](#)

[June 2002](#)

[May 2002](#)

[April 2002](#)

[March 2002](#)

[February 2002](#)

[January 2002](#)

[December 2001](#)

[November 2001](#)

[October 2001](#)

[September 2001](#)

[August 2001](#)

[July 2001](#)

Online

[PM Realty Raids Competition](#)

[Native Hawaiian Program at UH Wins Grant](#)

[A Mold-Detecting Canine?](#)

[Tourism Authority Gives Marketing Plan Details](#)

[College Campus: Site of New Travel Agency](#)

[HVCB Honors Hawaii Organizations](#)

[Local Companies Announce Partnerships](#)

[Group 70 International to Design Papeete Waterfront](#)

[September/Third Quarter 2003 Room Revenues Outpace 2002 numbers](#)

[Workshops on Census Bureau Data Offered](#)

[Search HB Daily Archive](#)

[Search HB People](#)

Archive

November 2003

Features**Big Island Report**[Standing at the Crossroads](#)**Cover Story**[Top 20](#)[Wealthiest](#)[Landowners](#)[Bishop Street](#)[It's Quality, Not Quantity](#)[A Piece of the Rock](#)[Investing Back Home](#)[Research and Methodology](#)[Meet MN Capital Partners](#)**Hawaii E.Biz**[Boon To Bhutan](#)[Powerbroker in the Making](#)[A Growth Industry](#)[Technique](#)[Law of the Line](#)**Industry Focus:****Retail**[Home Is Where The Couch Is](#)[Fade to Black](#)**Leadership**[Navigating Change](#)**Departments**

ways to prevent mold from happening in their homes,” Birmingham says. “We are giving free inspections, because we believe the mold problem in Hawaii is that severe. Birmingham established Mold Hawaii after experiencing negative effects of mold in his own home.

Buster and his trainer are scheduled to arrive on Oahu on Nov. 25, Tuesday and will be available for demonstrations through Dec. 2. Mold Hawaii can be reached at 531-MOLD or log onto www.moldhawaii.com.

[June 2001](#)[May 2001](#)[April 2001](#)[March 2001](#)[February 2001](#)[January 2001](#)[December 2000](#)[November 2000](#)[October 2000](#)[September 2000](#)[August 2000](#)[July 2000](#)

[In Focus](#)

[Road Ahead](#)

[Japan Journal](#)

[Leadership](#)

[Lessons](#)

[HB Archives](#)

[Dining with Dave](#)

[Room At The Top](#)

**Search All
Issues**

Hawaii Business

Copyright (c) 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 PacificBasin Communications, LLC

Street Address: 1000 Bishop St, Suite 405, Honolulu HI 96813

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 913, Honolulu HI 96808-0913

Phone: (808) 537-9500 Fax: (808) 537-6455

Contact E-mail: info@pacificbasin.net

Address Changes: hbaddchange@pacificbasin.net

Read our [privacy guidelines](#) and [terms of service](#).