



Big Island Invasive Species Committee



Present

Do Not Cultivate

CANDLE BUSH *Senna alata*



Forest and Kim Starr

Description: Large spreading shrub to 16' tall which forms dense stands



Forest and Kim Starr



Forest and Kim Starr

Flowers: Bright yellow, dense, upright spikes

Don't confuse with these look alike:



Forest and Kim Starr

Lollipop Plant



Forest and Kim Starr

Rattlepod

Leaves: Light green, compound, larger toward the tip. 7-14 pairs of leaflets, 2.5" long

Seeds: Leathery pods held upright, containing up to 60 tan, flat seeds



Forest and Kim Starr

SHRUB

CANDLE BUSH

Senna alata

Family: Fabaceae

Origin: Tropical America

HWRA Score: 10

Big Island Habitat: Moist lowlands, open land

Description: A large shrub to 16 feet tall, dense and many branched, with compound leaves and upright, bright yellow flowers, which somewhat resemble candlesticks.

Impacts: Candle bush forms dense, wide stands in mid to low elevation pastures and other open areas, choking out native vegetation.

Dispersal Mechanism: Candle bush suckers profusely and will regrow from even small portions of root left in the ground.

Cultivation: This shrub was brought to the Hawaiian Islands in the late 1800's as an ornamental.

Don't confuse with:

- **Lollipop Plant** (*Pachystachys lutea*) The leaves of this common ornamental are single, not compound, and the flower bracts are flat and scaly, unlike clusters.
- **Rattlepod** (*Crotalaria sp.*) This weedy herb, common to disturbed lowland areas, has tri-foliolate leaves and the flowers are pea-like.