



# BIISC

BIG ISLAND INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE



## Keep your Rabbit Healthy & Safe

Providing the right home is crucial to ensuring your rabbit lives a long, happy life. Follow these guidelines to create a home for your new pet.

BIISC is a grant-funded project of the University of Hawaii, Manoa. Our mission is to address invasive species threats to the Big Island economy, environment, and way of life. This publication is made possible grant from the Hawaii Invasive Species Council

Congratulations on the adoption of your pet rabbit! You are sure to have many wonderful days ahead with this new member of your family. The first step in good “bunny care” is ensuring you have the right type of enclosure to keep your rabbit healthy and safe.



## Rabbit Hutch



In Hawaii, there are special requirements for keeping rabbits. Rabbits are notorious escape artists and great diggers. They should always be kept up off the ground, with males and females separated. A secure standing hutch will give your bunny protection from predators and a dry floor to walk on, and ensure you won't end up with a disappearing act!

## Fencing on Ground



### Why is it important?

Of course, you want to protect your rabbit and keep her safe. Loose rabbits are at risk for dangerous encounters with mongoose, cats, dogs, and motor vehicles.

There's a reason we use the expression “breed like rabbits” Rabbits can have litters of up to eight babies six times a year—that's nearly 50 baby bunnies per year!

Rabbits aren't native to Hawaii, and there are no wild rabbits in the forest. It's important we keep it this way. Introduced rabbits in Australia displace native animals and cost millions to farmers each year. Our food security depends on responsible pet owners like you making sure rabbits don't become a problem in Hawaii.

Also...it's the law! According to Hawaii State Law (HRS 142-95) failure to keep rabbits in a secure hutch off the ground can lead to a fine of up to \$100. It is also a violation to release a rabbit into the wild. The Hawaii Island Humane Society is always available to accept animals from the public at no cost, and will happily re-home your rabbit if it doesn't work out.