

## Field trial of Zika-fighting, GMO mosquito approved in Florida Keys, but new location to be selected

A proposal to release [genetically engineered mosquitoes](#) for the first time in the United States cleared an important threshold Saturday, with mosquito control officials in the Florida Keys giving their nod of approval to a hotly debated field trial.

The board of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District voted 3-2 to move forward with the trial, with commissioners Stephen Smith and William Shaw opposing the measure, a spokeswoman for the mosquito control district said.

Several steps remain before the trial can commence. First, officials need to find a new site after two-thirds of voters in the proposed location — a community called Key Haven — [opposed the trial](#) when asked on a nonbinding ballot measure earlier this month if it should move forward or not.

The Food and Drug Administration will need to give the final approval once the new site is selected. The agency [this summer](#) signaled that it supported moving ahead with a trial.

Although voters in Key Haven came out against the referendum, a second referendum open to all of Monroe County, where Key Haven is located, got the support of the majority of voters.

**The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [Field trial of genetically modified mosquitoes gets approval in Florida](#)**