5 Things you can do

1. Keep your eyes open
If you see ‘ōhi‘a with ROD symptoms, take a picture and contact your local Invasive Species Committee right away. Samples of the wood must be taken and tested to confirm the presence of the ROD fungi.

2. Don’t move ‘ōhi‘a
The disease can be spread to new areas by moving ‘ōhi‘a plants, plant parts, and ‘ōhi‘a wood from infected areas such as Hawai‘i Island. Don’t transport ‘ōhi‘a interisland without a permit.

3. Avoid injuring ‘ōhi‘a
Avoid cutting or wounding ‘ōhi‘a. Openings in the bark create entry points for the fungus and increase the odds that the tree could become infected with ROD.

4. Clean your shoes, tools, and gear
Fungal spores can be spread in soil from infected areas. Always clean your shoes, clothes, and gear before traveling to another island or forested area. If you work around or cut ‘ōhi‘a, clean tools and gear before and after use. Brush all dirt off equipment, then spray with 70% rubbing alcohol. Wash clothes with hot water and soap.

5. Wash your vehicle
Invasive species often move on and in vehicles. Wash the tires and undercarriage to remove all dirt, especially after traveling off-road. Take special care when shipping vehicles interisland.

FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION, MAPS, AND UPDATES ON RAPID ‘ŌHĪ‘A DEATH PLEASE VISIT:

www.rapidohiadeath.org
www.facebook.com/rapidohiadeath
www.instagram.com/rapidohialife

If you suspect ROD in your area please contact your local Invasive Species Committee:

O‘ahu Invasive Species Committee
Email: oisc@hawaii.edu
Phone: (808) 266-7994

Kaua‘i Invasive Species Committee
Email: kisc@hawaii.edu
Phone: (808) 821-1490

Maui Invasive Species Committee
Email: miscpr@hawaii.edu
Phone: (808) 573-6472

Moloka‘i Invasive Species Committee
Email: lbuchanan@tnc.org
Phone: (808) 553-5236

Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death Outreach Team
Email: ohialove@hawaii.edu
Phone: (808) 969-8268

Help protect ‘ōhi‘a trees
**Quarantine Rule**

Researchers have learned that tiny ambrosia beetles bore into sick or dead ‘ōhi’a trees, pushing out infected sawdust which may be able to spread the disease short distances. People could accidentally spread ROD to new areas by moving infected ‘ōhi’a or soil. The Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) prohibits the transport of high risk items from ROD-infected islands (currently Hawai‘i Island) except by permit from HDOA Plant Quarantine Branch.

**Symptoms of the Disease**

- Leaves on limbs or entire crowns of ‘ōhi’a trees suddenly turn yellowish or brown; dead leaves may remain on branches for some time.
- ROD-causing fungi can’t be seen from the outside; it grows and spreads within a tree for months or longer before the leaves start to wilt and brown.
- To confirm ROD in an ‘ōhi’a tree, a wood sample must be taken and tested in a lab. On all except Hawai‘i Island, please contact your local Invasive Species Committee immediately if you see an ‘ōhi’a tree with possible symptoms of ROD. They are assisting agencies with statewide surveying, sampling, and response.

**Items prohibited from transport from islands with ROD**

- ‘Ōhi’a plants (all Metrosideros spp.)
- ‘Ōhi’a plant parts
- Unfinished ‘ōhi’a logs and wood products
- ‘Ōhi’a wood chips, sawdust
- Soil

Permits may be issued to move these products if they can be tested and proven to be free of ROD. Visit HDOA.HAWAII.GOV for information.

**For more information:**

RapidOhiaDeath.org

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**A Newly Identified Disease**

A disease called Rapid ‘Ōhi’a Death (ROD) is infecting and killing ‘ōhi’a on Hawai‘i Island at an alarming rate. ROD is caused by two newly discovered species of fungi: *Ceratocystis lukuohia*, destroyer of ‘ōhi’a, and *Ceratocystis huliohia*, disrupter of ‘ōhi’a. Both of these fungal pathogens can infect and kill ‘ōhi’a when the fungal spores enter through an open wound in the ‘ōhi’a tree. Over the course of a few months, the fungus spreads inside the tree until it cuts off the flow of water, killing the tree. There is no known cure or way to eradicate the disease from our islands, so we must prevent the spread of ROD wherever possible, and work together to protect ‘ōhi’a. Researchers are racing to learn about ROD and how it spreads in the environment, and this brochure provides the 5 most important ways that you can help protect ‘ōhi’a.

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**NO OTHER HAWAIIAN TREE EMBODIES THIS ‘OLELO (SAYING) LIKE ‘ŌHI’A (METROSIDEROS SPP.).**

No other Hawaiian tree embodies this ‘olelo (saying) like ‘ōhi’a (*Metrosideros* spp.). These trees are unique to Hawai‘i and ‘ōhi’a forests cover nearly 1 million acres statewide. ‘ōhi’a are pioneers of fresh lava flows, gathering (“‘ohi”) life by breaking down rock and improving conditions for other plants and animals to thrive. As the backbone of Hawai‘i’s native forests, ‘ōhi’a are a critical source of fresh water, shelter, food, and inspiration. The many relationships nurtured by these trees have inspired hula (dance), mo’olelo (stories), mele (songs), and ‘oli (chants) for generations.

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**A Tree May Be Infected for Months or Longer Before Symptoms Appear**

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**Left: Ambrosia beetle boring tunnels. Right: ROD in Hilo Forest Reserve**