



RapidOhiaDeath.org



August 2019 Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 3

*~ Ho'i ka 'o'opu 'ai lehua i ka
mapunapuna ~*

The lehua eating 'o'opu has gone back to the spring. Said of one who has gone back to the source.

This is our quarterly newsletter that was designed to update the community on current Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) issues. If you wish to UNSUBSCRIBE, scroll down to the bottom to do so.



- In July 2019, ROD was detected in a single tree in Hana, Maui, the first confirmed case for that island. The tree was confirmed with the less aggressive strain of the disease, *Ceratocystis huliohia*. and the tree was cut down and burned on site to reduce the risk of spreading the disease to other areas. Environmental agencies and organizations across Maui have increased aerial surveys using helicopters and drones to detect any more symptomatic trees. Aerial surveys are conducted in Maui County twice a year and any symptomatic tree found by air is then surveyed by ground crews.
- In August, ROD was detected in a single tree on O‘ahu. Field staff from Ko‘olau Mountains Watershed Partnership (KMWP) found the symptomatic tree and submitted samples. Surveys have been conducted on O‘ahu since 2016 and over 150 samples of symptomatic trees were collected over that time. This has been the first confirmed case of ROD on the island. The tree tested positive for *C. huliohia*, the less aggressive ROD-causing strain. Aerial surveys are ramping up to look for more suspect trees.
- The ROD research and management community does not believe ROD has recently spread to Maui and O‘ahu. It is likely that *C. huliohia* has been present in the islands for years, possibly decades. We know that neither *C. huliohia* nor *C. lukuohia* were detected during extensive studies of ‘ōhi‘a dieback in the 1970s. Thus, we must remain committed to our sanitation efforts. Roughly 90% of tree samples from Hawai‘I Island are positive for *C. lukuohia*, making sanitation critical to keep it from Maui and O‘ahu.
- Maui Nui Botanical Gardens (MNBG) has been receiving and storing ‘ōhi‘a seeds as a part of the ‘ōhi‘a seed collecting initiative led by Laukahi Network and the Hawai‘i Seed Bank Partnership in advance of the spread of ROD. Nine Maui organizations have submitted wild sourced ‘ōhi‘a seeds to MNBG for storage. The statewide goal is to secure collections from 10,000 trees of each of the 23 species and varieties of *Metrosideros*. On Maui, 131 accessions have been processed and placed in cold storage for future use and half of each accession has been sent to Lyon

Arboretum on O'ahu. MNBG would like to encourage more participation in the 'ōhi'a seed banking initiative on Maui and is willing to send interns trained in decontamination, seed collection, and species identification for field collection trips in summer months. Contact Tamara Sherrill at tamara@mnbg.org.



Management Tips

Planning to visit Pu'u Huluhulu at Mauna Kea? There are sanitation protocols in place up at the Mauna to help stop the spread of invasive species to the area.

How you can help: Check and clean all shoes, gear, and vehicles for pests - open and inspect all gear and vehicles before bringing them to Mauna Kea.

New gear or items stored in areas without pests are best. If in doubt, leave them home! Use the boot brushing stations and floor boot brushes while at the pu'u and especially if you are traveling inter-island. Brush mud and seeds off of shoes; unlace shoes and check shoe tongues for hitchhiking seeds. Spray the bottoms of your shoes with 70% rubbing alcohol (provided in spray bottles)

*Coat the bottom of your shoe to kill the ROD fungus. Check all tents and gear, vegetation including ti leaf bunches, vehicles and truck beds, and even ho'okupu for ants, semi-slugs, and coqui frogs before traveling up to the pu'u.



Island Outreach Updates

Kaua'i

With kids out of school, summer brought activities and hikes with kids at summer camps learning about the many ways 'ōhi'a provide important life history requirements for numerous flora and fauna in our native forests. The Kaua'i ROD Outreach Team also hosted workshops to learn about 'ōhi'a seed banking for conservation and how to grow 'ōhi'a for backyard planting. Several tour operators requested bio-sanitation training for their staff. Meanwhile,

additional boot brush stations were installed at trailheads around the island, and if the mud they're collecting is evidence of use, they're definitely getting used! People interested in receiving a free bio-sanitation kit are encouraged to email saveohia@hawaii.edu. Also, those interested in learning more about and participating in collecting 'ōhi'a seeds around Kaua'i are encouraged to email saveohia@hawaii.edu.

O'ahu

Over the last 3 months, the Statewide Outreach Coordinator has conducted over 11 outreach events, presentations, workshops, and symposia reaching over 750 people across the state. Major activities included the City & County of Honolulu May Day Event, Backyard Expo, Ocean Fest, and the Hawaii Conservation Conference. Biosanitation "Decontamination" kits will be available soon on O'ahu and Maui. The Emmy award winning documentary "Saving Ohia: Hawaii's Sacred Tree" is now up on www.savingohia.com.

Lāna'i

The Department of Land and Natural Resources-Division of Forestry And Wildlife and Pūlama Lāna'i Conservation Department have recently updated their Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death signage at hunter sign-in stations on Lāna'i in order to reflect the new *Ceratocystis* detections on O'ahu and Maui. Both organizations continue to encourage ALL hunters to remove soil from their gear and spray down boots and other gear with 70% rubbing alcohol. When hunters check-in the day prior to their hunts, they will be greeted by ROD-savvy DLNR-DOFAW or Pūlama Lāna'i staff and presented with a variety of pamphlets about the disease.

Maui

Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death outreach on Maui over the recent months included the Lyon Arboretum's 'ōhi'a seed banking workshop and the Biosanitation Training for Tour Operators. Prior to the detection of ROD, there were two articles in the Maui News about the threat of ROD and efforts to detect it on Maui. Since the July detection, there has been media coverage in the Maui News, and statewide about the detection and planned community meetings in August. In July, MISC partnered with Maui Nui Botanical Gardens and Skyline Conservation on an activity for youth with the Maui Economic Opportunity summer program. They spent the day learning about 'ōhi'a, how to identify them, what to do to prevent the spread of ROD, and seed collection efforts.

Hawai'i Island

Since May, Hawai'i Island Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death outreach has completed a 2nd round of statewide Biosanitation Trainings for Tour Operators, meeting with school groups, talking story with pig hunters, tabling at local events, and preparing for the 3rd Annual 'Ōhi'a Love Fest to be held at 'Imiloa Astronomy Center in Hilo, August 25th, 2019 from 9am-4pm. We have provided several gallons of rubbing alcohol, boot brushes, spray tops, educational materials, and keiki activities to community members stationed at Pu'u Huluhulu at the base of Mauna Kea to assist with bio-sanitation. We've also worked with a team of stewards to help create messaging for good bio-sanitation practices for those staying at or traveling to and from the Mauna Kea area.

3RD ANNUAL

'Ōhi'a Love Fest



**AUG
25TH**
SUNDAY 9AM - 4PM

A Festival Celebrating
'Ōhi'a Trees!

Held at
'IMILOA ASTRONOMY CENTER

**FREE ADMISSION TO MUSEUM
AND SHOWS ALL DAY!**

EVENTS

LIVE MUSIC · GAMES
HULA · Face Painting
FOOD AND DRINK · KEIKI CRAFTS
Entertainment · PHOTO BOOTH
TALKS · Demonstrations
Educational Displays · ADULT CRAFTS
RAPID 'ŌHI'A DEATH INFO · prizes

A ZERO WASTE EVENT

Water re-fill stations available



FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE VISIT:
rapidohiadeath.org

Upcoming Events

'Ōhi'a Love Fest – August 25th, 2019

'Imiloa Astronomy Center

The goal of this FREE public event is to celebrate 'ōhi'a and promote awareness about this important tree. Bring your keiki and make fun 'ōhi'a crowns. Hear about the traditional Hawaiian practice of using 20+ ft 'ōhi'a poles to fish. Take a 3D tour through 'ōhi'a forests. All these fun activities and more will promote ways we can help to prevent the spread of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death. In addition, we will have games, prizes, a photo booth, live music, hula, food vendors, and there will be free access to 'Imiloa Center and the planetarium.



Meet Our People

Bill Stormont
Service Forester
DLNR-DOFAW

Bill Stormont has worked as a professional natural resource manager for over 30 years here in his home state. (Actually over 40 years if you count his time as a YCC corps member and staffer in the 70's). He grew up in a kama'aina family in Hilo, graduated from Hilo High School, and received his B.S. in Wildland Recreation Management from the University of Idaho. Returning

home Bill served in various positions with Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) for 15 years, most notably as the Natural Areas Program Manager on the Hawai'i Branch for 11 years. In late 2001, he left DOFAW for UH-Hilo to serve as Director of the fledgling Office of Mauna Kea Management, serving in that capacity until mid-2008. After leaving UHH, Bill worked for the next 8 years as the managing forester for 14,000 acres of private timberlands on Hawai'i island, overseeing all management activities and 4-1/2 years of harvest operations. In July of 2017 Bill returned to DOFAW's Hawai'i Branch where he is the Service Forester. His primary responsibility is coordinating DOFAW's response to Rapid `Ōhi`a Death: closely coordinating survey, sampling and active management operations with primary partners at the Big Island Invasive Species Committee and the broad array of remarkable management, research and outreach partners; assisting with guidance for all our neighbor island partners as well; and taking part in every meeting imaginable.



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