2018 Rapid ʻŌhiʻa Death Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 4

~ ka ua kihene lehua o Hāmākua~

The rain that produces the lehua clusters of Hāmākua

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

Research Updates

- We're excited to share a major opportunity to help move ROD research forward! According to the National Park Service press release on the ʻŌhiʻa Challenge: "The Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park, U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Native Hawaiian Relations, Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge, and National Invasive Species Council (NISC) Secretariat are working in partnership with Conservation X Labs on this innovative challenge to address ROD by harnessing emerging science, technological innovations, and the ingenuity of people around the world." This challenge is currently open to all U. S. citizens and has a prize purse of $70,000. On savetheohia.org webpage, anyone can submit a proposal for a project that provides solutions that identify infected trees early and minimize the spread, with the goal of saving Hawaiʻi's iconic ʻōhiʻa tree. Applications are currently open until February 2019. To read more about the challenge or to apply click here.

- Since *Ceratocystis huliohia*, the less aggressive of two species causing ROD, was found on Kauaʻi in May of 2018, crews from various organizations have been partnering to assess the ROD situation on that island. More staff have been dedicated to work on ROD related efforts which has increased sampling efforts across the island. After island-wide mapping is complete, response crews will have a better idea of where symptomatic trees are located. They will then conduct ground sampling of those symptomatic trees to find the extent of the disease spread.

- After quarterly aerial forest assessments of Hawai‘i Island concluded earlier this year, ROD was found in symptomatic trees in the Kalopa State Recreation Area along the Hāmākua Coast of Hawai‘i Island. In July 2018, crews sampled symptomatic trees in the area and found five out of six samples tested positive for *Ceratocystis lukuohia*, the more aggressive of the two fungal species causing ROD. This latest detection site is roughly 12 miles from the nearest ROD infected area. For the DLNR press release, click here.

Management Tips

- Our researchers are still looking into the question of how long to keep infected ‘ōhi‘a wood covered with a tarp or other plastic covering. Covering the wood can keep boring beetles out of the wood and infectious material contained, but ultimately the wood must be dried in order to be moved safely. Researchers have recovered live fungus from trees that were cut and covered 4 years prior. Burning the wood will destroy the fungus and may be the best option for dealing with infected wood at this point. Our researchers are experimenting with lumber kilns to dry ‘ōhi‘a posts and hope to have recommendations out soon.

FREE TRAINING!

CONSERVING HAWAI'I'S NATURAL RESOURCES

BEST SANITATION PRACTICES FOR TOUR OPERATORS

- CREATED FOR OPERATOR MANAGERS & GUIDES LEADING VISITOR TOURS IN THE TERRESTRIAL OUTDOORS
- LEARN SANITATION METHODS TO PREVENT SPREADING INVASIVE DISEASES, PLANTS, & PESTS
- EACH PARTICIPATING BUSINESS RECEIVES A SANITATION KIT WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

LIVE TRAININGS

HAWAI'I ISLAND - **NOV. 27 KONA, DEC. 6 HILO**
MAUI - **NOV. 28**
O'AHU - **DEC. 5**
KAUA'I - **DEC. 12**

REGISTER @ RAPIDOHIADEATH.ORG
QUESTIONS? OHIALOVE@HAWAII.EDU

HAWAI'I TOURISM AUTHORITY

Upcoming Event

Biosanitation Trainings for Tour Operators

Do you manage or work for a company that leads visitors on land-based tours in Hawai‘i? Do you want to stand out as an active protector of Hawai‘i's natural resources? If so, then you won't want to miss out on a **FREE TRAINING** for terrestrial tour operators being offered this fall! This team-taught training brings expertise together from your local Invasive Species Committees and the Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death Response Team. The course covers best sanitation practices for your tour operation so that your guides and guests can feel confident about minimizing impact to our unique native landscapes. Each participating business will receive a FREE LARGE SANITATION KIT to kick-start or complement your tour operations while supplies last. Choose from five training dates offered on Hawai‘i Island, Maui, O‘ahu, and Kaua‘i. Register today at rapidohiadeath.org! Questions may be directed to ohialove@hawaii.edu.

This training is supported by: University of Hawai‘i, Department of Land & Natural Resources -Division of Forestry & Wildlife, Hawai‘i Invasive Species Committees, Hawai‘i Tourism Authority, and Hawai‘i Ecotourism Association.

TRAINING DATES

Hawai‘i Island (Kona) November 27
West Hawai‘i Civic Center
74-5044 Ane Keahokolole Highway
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
Time: 9:30AM-12:00PM

Maui November 28
Maui Nui Botanical Gardens
150 Kanaloa Avenue
Kahului, HI 96732
Time: 9:30AM-12:00PM

O‘ahu December 5
Ho‘omaluhia Botanical Garden
45-680 Luluku Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Time: 10:00AM-12:30PM

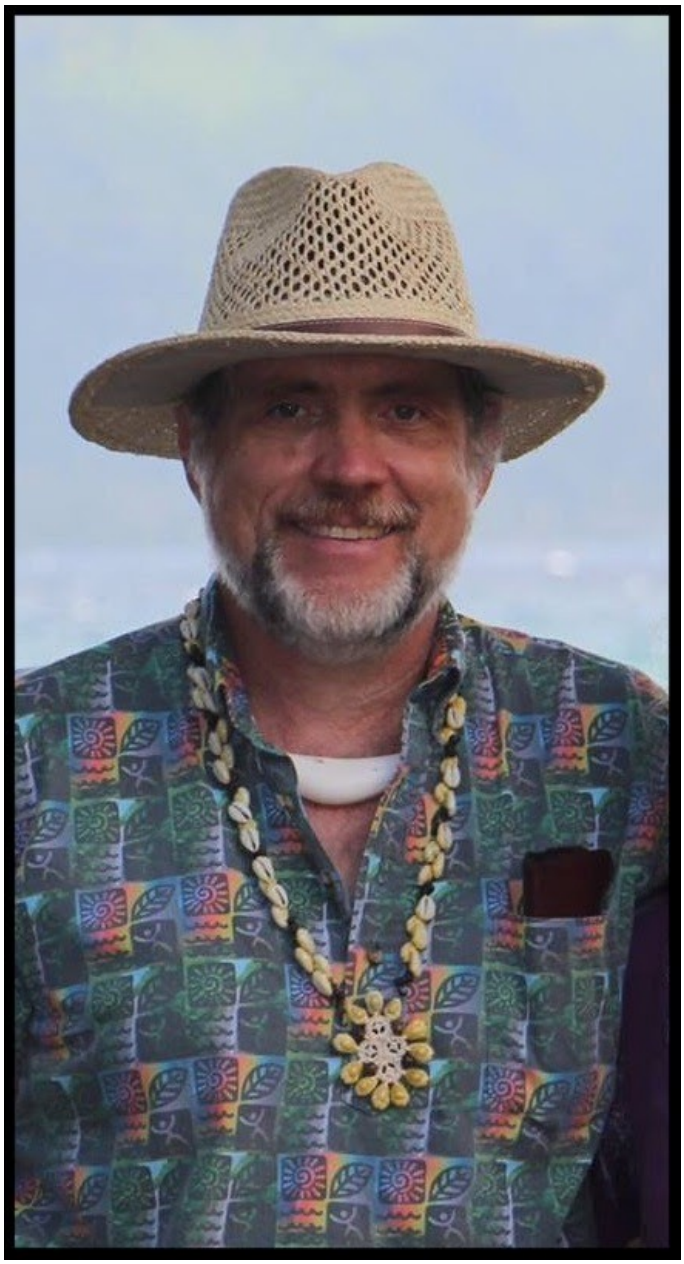
Hawai‘i Island (Hilo) December 6
Komohana Research & Extension Center
875 Komohana Street
Hilo, HI 96720
Time: 9:30AM-12:00PM

Kaua‘i December 12
Kaua‘i Agricultural Research Station
7370-K Kuamoo Road
Kapa‘a, HI 96746
Time: 1:00PM-3:30PM

Our annual ROD Symposia, held on Hawai‘i Island, have been scheduled for 2019. PLEASE SAVE THE DATES!!

ROD Symposium -East Hawai‘i Island
March 9, 2019, 9AM-12PM
University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, Hilo, HI

ROD Symposium -West Hawai‘i Island
March 30, 2019, 9AM-12PM
West Hawai‘i Civic Center, Kailua-Kona, HI



Meet Our People
Dr. J.B. Friday

As the Extension Forester for the University of Hawai‘i Cooperative ExtensionService, Dr. J. B. Friday works with forest landowners and natural resource professionals to manage and protect Hawaii’s forests. He has been working on Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death (ROD) since landowners first started reporting a rapid mortality in their ‘ōhi‘a trees in Puna in 2012. Although ROD seemed an insurmountable problem at first, J. B. now sees hope as we learn about the disease, what spreads it and how we can prevent the spread, and in why some forests seem less vulnerable to the disease.

In addition to ROD, J. B. works on koa reforestation, family tree farms, and peer to peer learning programs for forest landowners. He also has a program on forest and conservation nurseries in the American-affiliated Pacific Islands. J. B. studied biology at Dartmouth College, forestry at the Yale School of Forestry, and got his doctoral degree in agriculture at UH Manoa. He finds having degrees in three different fields really helps with extension work, as he encounters something new every day.

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