



HAWAI'I FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Association News

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An Environmental Case for Plantation Forestry

By Don Bryan, President/CEO Tradewinds Forest Products, LLC

The decline of the sugar plantations in Hawai'i left thousands of acres of rich agricultural land idle. Research has shown that the growth rates in the current eucalyptus plantations rival the best in the world. Indigenous forests in the Pacific Northwest require 40 years or more to achieve the same volumes as Hawaiian eucalyptus at age seven.

Plantation forestry is a good fit for the Hāmākua Coast. Plantations are a more gentle use of the land than sugar because there is less need for pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. Further, harvest will occur every eight to 12 years, as compared to every 12 to 18 months for sugar. This results in fewer entrances on the land and less soil degradation through compaction and erosion.

Using wood from plantation-grown trees allows endangered native forests to regenerate and remain undisturbed. Wood from plantation-grown trees is a tremendous renewable resource. Using this wood for veneer as opposed to dimensional lumber represents another gain. Products made from veneer have greater strength and elasticity than conventional lumber and offer the availability to provide better utilization of each log.

Plantation forestry, and particularly tropical plantation forestry, is a sound and positive environmental practice. Let's consider a few basics. First, people need wood and wood products. Thousands of products we use in everyday life are made from wood--it is used in everything from clothing to xylophones, from Kleenex to bridge beams. The use of wood is not new to Hawai'i. The ancient Hawaiians made canoes, surfboards, weapons, paddles, house frames, tapa beaters, drums and cooking utensils from wood. Most of us use paper in a dozens of ways dozens of times every day. We find wood in our furniture and homes as well. Even signs that people wave at protests are made of wood products. Nearly half of the raw material used in manufacturing in the United States comes from wood. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that worldwide wood use will continue to increase by about 2.5 % every year. What is important is not just that we use wood, but that we should use wood. Wood is indefinitely renewable. It is readily recyclable and is biodegradable (particularly in Hawai'i). Perhaps more importantly, manufacturing wood products requires only a fraction of the energy necessary to produce alternative materials such as plastic or steel.

Production and consumption of energy in all its forms may well be the world's leading environmental issue. Any one of these reasons should make wood the environmentalist's choice for raw material. The lands in use for



▲ Eucalyptus plantation.

plantation forestry in Hawai'i are nearly all abandoned or underutilized agriculture lands. Plantation forestry is probably the most benign possible productive use of the land, in terms of frequency of soil disturbance and low rates of pesticide and fertilizer use. People plant trees on private and trust land because there is a market for wood products. Trees absorb carbon and release oxygen, temper the flow of rainwater, build and preserve the soil, and provide habitat for many forest dwelling creatures. Harvesting exotic species from state land creates income, which in turn can be used for conservation projects.

There are two additional reasons, from an environmental standpoint, that tree plantations should be maintained on the Island of Hawai'i. Both have to do with the almost magical rate of growth. First, these plantations are so effective at producing oxygen and storing carbon that there are companies who will pay growers to get "carbon credits". Second, an acre of tropical trees on the Hāmākua Coast grows wood 20 times as fast as the world average for natural forest. This means that harvesting one acre of plantation-grown eucalyptus eliminates the need to harvest 20 acres of natural forest elsewhere.

I have been an environmentalist for 40 years and a professional forester for 35 years. I believe that plantation forestry, and particularly tropical plantation forestry, can be a sound and positive environmental practice. The old model of jobs vs. the environment doesn't need to apply here. The growing, harvesting and manufacturing must be done in responsible ways, and Tradewinds LLC is very aware of this responsibility. Progress will happen if we think, talk, and work together.



▲ Eucalyptus seedling.

Developing Resistant Koa-Early Results, From Disease Survey to Seedling Resistance Testing in Hawai'i

By Nick Dudley, Robert James, Richard Sniezko, Phil Cannon, Aileen Yeh, Tyler Jones, and Michael Kaufmann

In Hawai'i, Koa (*Acacia koa*) is a valuable tree species economically, ecologically, and culturally. With significant land use changes and declines in sugarcane, pineapple, and cattle production, there is an opportunity and keen interest in utilizing native koa in reforestation and restoration efforts. However, moderate to high mortality rates in many of the low to moderate elevation plantings have impeded past efforts. The primary cause for this mortality, particularly in young plantings, is thought to be koa wilt, caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *koae* (FOXY) (Gardner 1980). *F. oxysporum* is a relatively common agricultural and nursery fungus, but the origin of strains of FOXY virulent to koa in Hawai'i is unknown.

Identifying and developing koa populations that are genetically resistant to virulent strains of FOXY may be the key to successful koa restoration and re-

forestation (Sniezko 2006). Great differences in mortality among seed sources in young koa field trials planted in the 1990's was the impetus for developing a seedling screening test and investigating genetic resistance to FOXY (Sniezko 2003).

A state-wide survey was conducted to determine distribution of koa wilt/dieback disease across the four main Hawaiian Islands: Kaua'i, Maui, O'ahu and Hawai'i. A total of 386 samples were taken at 46 different sites covering approximately 13,830 acres of natural and planted koa forest. Koa trees and seedlings infected by *F. oxysporum* were found on all of the major islands in forest tree seedling nurseries, natural, and plantation forests. From these samples more than 500 isolates of *F. oxysporum* were obtained. Of these, 160 isolates have been tested for virulence on koa seedlings in controlled greenhouse inoculation tests. From isolate

screening tests, ten highly virulent isolates have been identified for use in screening selected koa families for disease resistance (Dudley and James 2007).

Between 2006 and 2009, more than 150 koa families were evaluated for their potential FOXY resistance in greenhouse tests. Most of the seed lots came from wild populations. However, several seed lots were from survivors of family level progeny trials at the HARC's Maunawili Field Station. All seed lots were open-pollinated. A composite of five virulent isolates of FOXY were used for inoculation (Dudley and others 2007). Seedling wilting and mortality in the greenhouse was monitored over a 90 day period for each test. Seedling mortality among seed lots varied widely (4 to 100%) and averaged 61.5%. These initial results indicate that natural resistance to FOXY is low within native koa populations.

Continued screening of additional koa families for pathogen resistance, retesting putative resistant families, and developing koa seed orchards with disease-resistant stock are either on-going or planned. For more information, contact Nick Dudley, Hawaii Agriculture Research Center at ndudley@harc-hspa.com.

References:

Dudley, N.S., James R.L., Sniezko R.A., Yeh A. 2007. Investigating koa wilt and dieback in Hawi'i-pathogenicity of *Fusarium* species on *Acacia koa* seedlings. *Native Plants*: 259-266.

Gardner, D.E., 1980. *Acacia koa* seedling wilt caused by *Fusarium oxysporum*. *Phytopathology* 70:594-597.

Sniezko, R. 2003. Potential for selecting for genetic resistance to *F. oxysporum* (koa wilt) in koa for conservation, restoration and utilization in Hawaii. Trip Report (8/23/2003). Cottage Grove: OR. USDA Forest Service, Dorena Genetic Resource Center. 13p.

Sniezko R.A. 2006. Resistance breeding against nonnative pathogens in forest trees-current successes in North America. *Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology* 28: S270-S279.



▲ Nick Dudley measuring a healthy Koa tree.

Hawai'i County R&D Supports *Ka Pilina Poina 'Ole* "Connection Not Forgotten" Project

The Hawai'i County Department of Research and Development awarded HFIA \$10,000 for its *Ka Pilina Poina 'Ole* "Connection Not Forgotten" project.

The project involves sustaining fragile endangered dry forest ecosystems and sharing their unique historical, cultural, restoration, and scientific aspects to benefit Hawai'i residents and visitors.

The project will connect two culturally significant destinations in North Kona; Kalaemanō Cultural Center and Ka'ūpūlehu Dryland Forest Preserve. An eco-friendly, audio story center, interpretive materials, and curriculum will be developed and a stewardship outreach program will link the two cultural heritage

sites. The story center will feature live voices from oral histories, bringing connections to the past alive. The project will give visitors and residents a unique opportunity to experience and understand the traditional Hawaiian use of ahupua'a lands, the significance of place names, and the importance of seeing the interconnection between preservation of the mauka and makai environs.

Other project supporters include: Will J. Reid Foundation, Bishop Museum, Change Happens Foundation, Group 70 Foundation, Hawai'i Forest Institute, Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Kamehameha Schools, and US Fish and Wildlife Service ❖



In the Spotlight

Featuring HFIA Business Member Ricardo Vasquez

For the past 30 years Master Artisan Ricardo Vasquez has been designing and creating unique custom furniture and cabinetry that satisfies his clients' desire for functionality while adding beauty to their environment. Ricardo speaks of his work, "I approach furniture as functional pieces of art. As a studio craftsman, my primary focus is on the holistic aesthetics of the piece; the way each piece of wood is joined in harmony with the others. Curves and different species of wood are used in a sparingly and thoughtfully intentional manner so as to enhance the feel of a piece of furniture and keep with the integrity of the design."

Largely self-taught, Ricardo has designed and built custom furniture for executive offices, private homes, and custom interiors for mega-yachts. Ricardo works with hand-selected quality woods and veneers, incorporating metals, glass, and stone as needed by the design. Combining the unique character and beauty of various woods and materials in a way that complements each design is what makes Ricardo's work come alive.

"I'm really excited about my new piece "Holo moku". It has really allowed me to stretch my creativity and utilize the skills I honed working on mega yachts years ago. The shape of the sails of the Hawaiian voyaging canoes was the inspiration of my design for this piece," said Ricardo. He continues, "I lived on a cruising sailboat for 25 years, so my "roots" are definitely in the ocean. My three years on O'ahu's North Shore in the early 70's has also increased my love and respect for the ocean." The translation for "Holo moku" is "anyone who sails, to sail, to take an ocean trip". Ricardo will debut his "Holo moku" at the "Roots of Inspiration Show" at the Shaffer Gallery at Maui Art and Cultural Center in November.

Ricardo won first place in the Furniture Category in the 2008 HFIA Hawaii's Woodshow, was featured on the HGTV series Modern Masters, was selected for publication in *The Custom Furniture Source Book - A Guide to 125 Craftsmen* by Taunton Press, and has been profiled in numerous magazine and newspaper articles. His work is featured in the Masterworks Collection of Hana Coast Gallery and at the NaPua Gallery at the Grand Wailea Resort on Maui.

Ricardo believes in the value of old-fashioned craftsmanship, however avails himself of the latest techniques and materials to produce truly exquisite free-standing furniture as well as built-in cabinetry. "My goal is to design, construct, and deliver pieces that exceed my clients' and collectors' expectations," he said. To see more of Ricardo's work, visit him on the web at <http://www.r-vasquez.com> or call him at 808-269-2745.



◀ Ricardo's magnificent "Holo moku" is made of Bamboo on the interior and Koa, Curly Mango, Ulupalkua-grown Cook Island pine, and coconut fiber on the exterior.

Airport Display Bench Crafted of Hawai'i Island Grown Mahogany

The beautiful, new bench in HFIA's Airport Display was custom designed and crafted for the case by Tai Lake. Tai designed the bench to fit in with the overall display using Hawai'i Island grown mahogany to highlight one of our most popular reforestation trees. He also custom designed a double-sided koa frame for HFIA's Hawaii's Wood poster.

The Airport Displays are an important part of HFIA's mission to share its commitment to responsible forest management and promote the forest products industry. If you are interested in participating in this fantastic marketing opportunity, please contact us at hfia@hawaiiiforest.org. ❖



▲ Mahogany bench and koa poster frame in progress in Tai Lake's workshop.



▲ Finished products in Airport Display.

ITTO Tropical Forest Update Getting more money for forests

In 2006, ITTO launched a process aimed at encouraging investments in natural tropical forests. As part of this process it convened six forums—one at the global level, three at the regional level (Latin America, Asia and the Pacific, and Africa) and two (Bolivia and Republic of the Congo) at the national level.

The first of the forums, held at a global level in Mexico addressed the following questions:

- Who are the potential investors in natural-forest-based enterprises in the tropics?
- How do such investors make investment decisions, and what kind of information do they need?
- What characteristics of natural tropical forest-based enterprises are particularly attractive to investors?
- How does the overall country-level business climate affect the attractiveness of forest-related investment, particularly of natural tropical forest-based enterprises?
- How can governments and companies attract more investment for natural tropical forests, and what are they currently doing?
- How can an investment promotion strategy improve both

international and domestic investment?

- What other mechanisms can be used to make investment in tropical natural forests more attractive?

The Mexico forum led to a series of three regional forums (Africa, Asia Pacific, and Latin America/Caribbean), which examined the strengths and weaknesses of investments in forest-based enterprises in each region. They also identified possible ways forward and specific actions to be taken by the stakeholders involved.

The forums were organized in collaboration with a range of partners, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, industry associations, national forestry chambers and non-governmental organizations (NGOS). Collectively they brought together over 600 people representing private investors, private and development banks, fund and asset managers, forest industries, forest owners, brokers, governments, and NGOs.



All forums pointed out that current levels of investment in natural tropical forests fall short of ensuring their sustainable management and the avoidance of conversion to other land uses. Nevertheless, the forums agreed that economic interests can be aligned with forest sustainability and poverty alleviation by improving conventional financial mechanisms such as taxation and by adopting innovative approaches such as payments for environmental services, as well as by introducing or strengthening government incentive policies and programs.

The forums made a number of recommendations for the main stakeholder groups, including national and local governments, small and large-scale enterprises, private-sector organizations, regional and international organizations, NGOS, and local communities. They can be summarized as follows: To create an enabling environment for investment in natural tropical forests, actions should be to:

- Secure land tenure and access rights;
- Strengthen forest governance;
- Develop less complex and more equitable taxation;
- Simplify bureaucratic and regulatory procedures;
- Provide financial incentives for the adoption of sustainable forest management (SFM) in natural forests;
- Develop appropriate public procurement policies for timber, taking into account SFM in natural forests;
- Promote accessible credit lines for small-medium forest enterprises; and
- Link forest operations to capital markets.

The forums also recommended the further promotion of investment in natural forest management through national approaches. ITTO is already following up on this recommendation by supporting a series of national-level forums during 2008 and 2009. These have been tailored to the needs of individual countries with the aim of assisting them to strengthen policies that create a conducive environment for forest investment, develop action plans and identify opportunities for investment.

The Bolivian National Forum in March 2008 concluded that Bolivia has good investment opportunities in the processing of value-added products, particularly given that the sector already has strong links to export markets. There is considerable potential for investment in forest plantations because land is available and conditions are favorable for species such as teak, serebo and eucalyptus that have steady market demand. The forum suggested that incentives

for the establishment of plantations together with technical assistance are needed in order to boost such potential. Other financing mechanisms such as payments for environmental services are just being conceptualized in local policies and need to be strengthened at the national level. The forum was followed by a series of business roundtables organized by the Bolivian Chamber of Forestry, which clearly demonstrated the potential for investment, recording business investment intentions valued at us \$27.6 million.

A similar forum was held in the Republic of the Congo, and others are planned for 2009. While these forums have 'planting a seed' in the different countries and regions that will, it is hoped, stimulate new investments in natural forest management in the tropics, it is important to recall that all such investments must be made on the basis of SFM. This, in turn, requires participatory decision-making processes that imply dialogue, negotiation and agreement among the stakeholders involved. It also requires that forest-based development take into account and respect the multi-functionality of the forest ecosystem, the cultural diversity of its inhabitants, and national laws and policies. ITTO will continue facilitating the promotion of investment in tropical forests and the development of financial mechanisms for SFM, including through actions now under way, in association with a range of partners, as part of its 2008–09 biennial work program.

References: ITTO. 2007. *Issues and opportunities for investment in natural tropical forests*. ITTO Technical Series 27. ITTO, Yokohama, Japan. van Dijk, K. and Savenije, H. 2008. *Hacia estrategias nacionales de financiamiento para el manejo forestal sostenible*. FAO, Rome, Italy. ❖



▲ Photo: H. Castro (Conservation International)

Local Boy returns to Hawai'i Island – Mainland group ventures to the Island for a great cause

Eagle Scout Jacob D. Seabury and the Boy Scouts of America Venture Crew 51 from St. John's Lutheran Church in the City of Orange, California completed a substantial tree planting this summer at the Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) on Hawai'i Island.

The group planted 3,000 trees of various endangered species in a four day period. The refuge was established to conserve endangered forest birds and their habitat. Hakalau Forest supports nine endangered bird species, one species of endangered bat, and more than 20 rare and endangered plant species.

The vision of the advisor and resident horticulturist, Mr. Baron Horiuchi, is to gradually raise the forest habitat above the 6,000 foot elevation. Hakalau Forest NWR is a very sensitive area and the planting is an integral part of the Hakalau Forest plant and animal recovery.

The Hakalau Project is Eagle Scout, Jacob D. Seabury's second Hornaday project. Jacob was born and raised on O'ahu before moving to Southern California. His love for conservation and the Islands cultivated his idea to return. As they say in Hawai'i, "Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i nā 'ōpio - The life of the land is perpetuated by its youth".

Hornaday projects are substantial conservation projects that are eligible for the highest national award that a Scout can earn. Hornaday projects have



▲ Eagle Scout Jacob D. Seabury plants a tree at Hakalau Refuge.

very similar criteria to a large Eagle Scout project and a sizeable investment in time. In Jacob's case, he is striving to complete four such projects. All projects are reviewed and must be approved by the National Committee in order to receive the Hornaday Silver Medal Award, the highest conservation award a Scout can earn.

Funds to cover the expenses for the Hakalau project were raised by Jacob. Travel for this trip was paid for by each participant. "The group consisted of five Venture Crew/Boy Scouts and four adult advisors, including myself", said Al Remyn, Orange County Conservation Chair and Hornaday Advisor – Orange County Council. Remyn continues, "It is not very often that Scouts such as this group take on such a big task. Having an impact on the environment and for an area such as the Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge will be a lifelong memory that Jacob and the group will never forget".

To learn more about Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge, go to www.fws.gov/hakalauforest. Mahalo to Carol Kwan and Al Remyn for sharing this story. ❖



▲ Work Crew at Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge.

Meet HFIA Treasurer Peter D. Simmons

Peter Simmons has provided over 20 years of dedicated service to HFIA. He is a Charter Member, served as President for seven years, and currently serves as Treasurer. Developing the original agreement between Kamehameha Schools (KS) and HFIA for the restoration of Ka'ūpūlehu Dryland Forest and leading the effort to establish HFIA's signature event, the Hawaii's Woodshow, are among many of the contributions Peter has made to HFIA.

Peter is originally from Madison, Wisconsin and received his Bachelor Degree in philosophy and history from the University of Wisconsin in 1976. He has made Hawai'i Island his home for the past 30 years and has embraced Hawai'i and the Hawaiian culture. And Hawai'i has embraced him. Peter's 25 year old son Joshua is currently attending law school at Columbia University in New York. "Joshua always embraced island life, I just wish his island home Manhattan, was closer to Hawai'i", said Peter.

While Peter comes from a family with ranchers and forest products producers, his land management experience in Hawai'i began 23 years ago at the 66,000-acre McCandless Ranch located in South Kona. As Ranch Manager, his responsibilities included supervising 19 men, a 2,000 head cow herd, koa timbering, and manufacturing kiln dried lumber as well as coffee and macadamia nut leases.

As Kamehameha School's Hawai'i Island Regional Assets Manager, Peter has been responsible for operations to improve the health and well-being of 282,000 acres of land and about 1,200 leases on Hawai'i Island. These lands included pastureland, industrial forestland, conservation forestland, orchards and conservation lands.

Peter's many accomplishments at Kamehameha School's include:

- ❖ Leading the team in the purchase of 30,000 acres of former Hāmākua sugar land;
- ❖ Establishing a tree farm lease on tens of thousands of acres of former sugar land and seeing the further expansion of the project to Kamehameha Schools' Ka'ū lands and Parker Ranch's Hāmākua lands;

- ❖ Overseeing Forest Stewardship Council certification on 33,000 acres of South Kona forest land;
- ❖ Establishing a balanced approach when writing pasture leases between pasture productivity and conservation stewardship;
- ❖ Developing cost effective ways of reforestation that combines tree farm technology with sensitivity to conservation issues;
- ❖ Developing stewardship agreements for dry forests at Ka'ūpūlehu, North Kona and wet forests at Keauhou, Ka'ū;
- ❖ Coordinating many interest groups including biologists and landowners and participating in amending the State's Endangered Species laws; and
- ❖ Initiating and participating in the passage of the State's "right to harvest" legislation.



In addition to serving on various natural resources and watershed task forces, Peter's notable affiliations include: Society of American Foresters – Hawai'i State Chairperson and Hawai'i Cattlemen's Beef Council, Charter member, former Vice President. He is an avid tennis player and enjoys crafting bowls and furniture pieces on his 12-foot lathe.

"I hope that my debt of gratitude to Hawai'i for allowing me the opportunity to live and contribute here and to those who were willing to share their knowledge and wisdom with me has been partially repaid. I have been blessed with mentors with deep wisdom, kind hearts and abundant patience. What I have accomplished that is good is a reflection on them, my errors are my own." said Peter.



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Contact Marian Yasuda at:
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