

Pana‘ewa Zoo Discovery Forest Flourishes

HFIA and HFI, along with community partners, continue to maintain and enhance the Pana‘ewa Zoo Discovery Forest at the Pana‘ewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens in Hilo.

The Discovery Forest features a demonstration of native, cultural, and medicinal plants. Culturally significant plants that once grew in the traditional farms and native forests of East Hawai‘i are featured, including Polynesian-introduced plants that arrived with migrations in voyaging canoes. These "canoe plants", along with many endemic species, play essential roles in Hawaiian culture, for food, fiber, tools, implements, building materials, and medicine. Many of these culturally significant plants have found a place in the Discovery Forest.

Although the zoo closed in March 2020 due to COVID-19, Project Coordinator Mika Gallardo was allowed to continue to maintain the site. She had faded Native Forest and Agro Forest interpretive signs replaced and worked with contractor Scott Mead to level the last section of the site.

The zoo opened in July of this year. Students from Connections Charter School volunteered their time to weed and outplant seedlings in October. The Strong Foundation funded the project this year.



▲ Volunteer at the Pana‘ewa Zoo Discovery Forest.

5 THINGS you can do

www.rapidohiadeath.org



Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death, a newly identified disease caused by a fungus (*Ceratocystis*) is killing ‘ōhi‘a, one of Hawaii’s most important and abundant native trees. Hundreds of thousands of trees have been killed on Hawai‘i Island and the disease has the potential to affect forests statewide.

- 1**  **AVOID INJURING ‘ŌHI‘A**
Wounds serve as entry points for the fungus and increase the odds that the tree will become infected and die from ROD. Avoid pruning and contact with heavy equipment wherever possible.
- 2**  **DON'T TRANSPORT ‘ŌHI‘A INTER-ISLAND**
Comply with the new quarantine rule to help prevent ROD from spreading. Don't move ‘ōhi‘a plants, whole or parts, ‘ōhi‘a wood, or soil from Hawai‘i island without a permit.
- 3**  **DON'T MOVE ‘ŌHI‘A WOOD**
Don't move ‘ōhi‘a wood, firewood or posts, especially from an area known to have ROD. If you don't know where the wood is from, don't move it.
- 4**  **CLEAN YOUR GEAR & TOOLS**
If you must work around or cut ‘ōhi‘a, clean tools and gear before and after use, especially when used on infected ‘ōhi‘a. Brush all soil off of tools and gear, then spray with 70% rubbing alcohol. Shoes and clothes should also be cleaned before and after entering forests. Wash clothes with hot water and soap.
- 5**  **WASH YOUR VEHICLE**
Wash the tires and undercarriage of your vehicles with detergent and remove all soil or mud, especially after traveling from an area with ROD and/or if you have traveled off-road.

ROD Links: [‘Ōhi‘a Lehua/ROD poster](#), [HDOA website](#), [UH CTAHR website](#)

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