



Monthly News & Updates

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JUL, 2016

Rapid Ohia Death

Dr. J. B. Friday of UH Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture made a recent presentation on Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) at NHERC. He gave a visibly concerned audience the latest information about the spread of ROD throughout Puna, Kau and South Kona. Hamakua and North Kohala are the only remaining areas of Hawaii Island with significant numbers of 'ohi'a that are yet to be affected.

That Hamakua is still blessed with healthy 'ohi'a is good news. The bad news is that our good fortune is unlikely to last. As yet there is no means of combating this fungus except by preventing its spread. Dr. Friday outlined all the means by which the spores of the fungus that causes ROD can travel. Very fine sawdust created by small beetles that bore into 'ohi'a that have been killed by the fungus contain fungal spores. These can be blown by tradewinds to 'ohi'a trees some distance away.

Dead 'ohi'a can contain viable spores in the trunk and branches of the tree for a long time after the tree has succumbed. If that wood is moved to another location, be it as fenceposts, building materials, or firewood, the fungus is moved with it. Even the soil around diseased trees can contain the spores. Dr. Friday recommended pressure washing off any road vehicle that travels from areas containing ROD to unaffected areas, a practice that is very unlikely to be followed consistently. More information is available online at www.rapidohiadeath.org/



Internet Improvements in the PMKCA Area

Customer relations at Hawaiian Telcom has confirmed that an internet service upgrade in the PMKCA area is in progress. We are glad to hear it, but details about increases in DSL availability and bandwidth availability have not yet been announced.

Upcoming Meetings

Everyone is invited to the annual PMKCA summer general meeting and potluck, to be held this year at the Kalopa State Park pavilion on July 30th, starting at 11:00 am. In case of inclement weather, we'll meet at NHERC.

If you are new to Pa'auilo Mauka or Kalopa, this would be a good opportunity to meet many of your neighbors and consider joining the association. Community members are also welcome at PMKCA

My takeaway from Dr. Friday's presentation is that rapid 'ohi'a death is coming to Hamakua, probably sooner rather than later. Mortality rates of nearly 100% can be expected. Such a prospect is very sad indeed.

board meetings. The next one is on July 14th at the Hawaiian Vanilla Company building at 7:00 pm.

Here's What's coming up

Don't forget the annual picnic coming up this July 30th at Kalopa State Park. More information will be forthcoming.



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