

Protecting Our Forests from Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death

Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death (ROD) has not hit the forest in Volcano as hard as it has hit lower elevation ohia forests on the island, but trees are still dying at an unsustainable rate.

Although the disease is widespread in Volcano, there are still things we can do to protect our forests. The fungi that cause ROD infect wounds in the tree. They can’t get through bark or leaves and don’t seem to be taken up by the roots. Trees are infected when they are injured or damaged and the sapwood is exposed.

If you have to prune a tree, make proper cuts and cover them with a pruning sealer as soon as possible. Consider having trees under utility lines pruned by professionals rather than letting the maintenance workers’ heavy machinery shred them. Bulldozers and excavators also damage ohia roots and leave them open to disease.

We are finding that disease rates are much higher in forests with high populations of feral ungulates such as pigs, goats, sheep, and cattle. It seems that the damage that feral animals do to the trees by peeling bark or digging up roots leaves them vulnerable to infection by ROD. Fencing your forest and protecting it from animals will help keep it healthy.

Don’t put your ‘ōhi‘a wood or trimmings in the county green waste. Be-

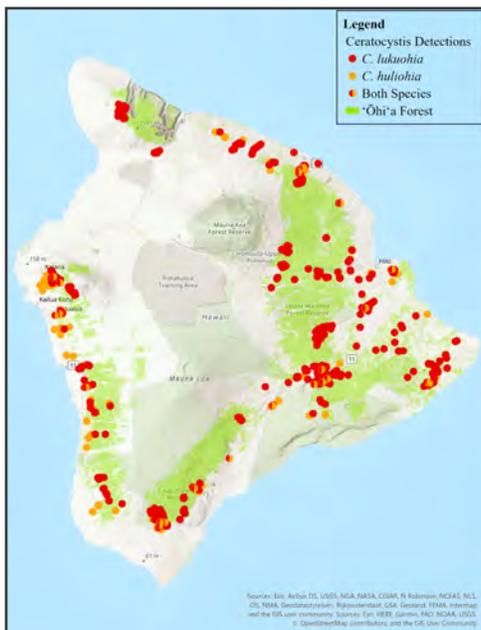
cause the fungus can live a long time in the wood, moving ‘ōhi‘a wood or wood chips can move the disease around.

The solution to ROD isn’t some new pesticide that will kill the fungus. The solution is keeping our current forests healthy by protecting trees from injury. Join us for a virtual **‘Ōhi‘a Love Fest Nov. 3-5** (see rapidohiadeath.org for details and information on ROD in general).

Reference:

Perroy, R.L., and other. 2021. Spatial patterns of ‘ōhi‘a mortality associated with Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death and ungulate presence. *Forests*, 12, 1035. Open access: <https://doi.org/10.3390/f12081035>

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VCA: A Brief History and a Look Ahead

Don’t you love Volcano? I love it so much that if I were ever going to get a tattoo, it’d probably be “Volcano No Ka Oi” right there on my bicep.

Aside from the obvious wonders—Volcano’s history, the cool green sub-alpine rainforest climate, the awe-inspiring national park in our backyard and the unique artist/scientist/farmer character of our residents—it’s the perfect combination of “live and let live” plus can-do community activism that really inspires me.

That’s why I’m honored to serve as a member of the board of the Volcano Community Association. We represent the residents of the greater Volcano area including Volcano Village, Volcano Farm Lots, Cymbidium Acres, Mauna Loa Estates, Ohia Estates, Volcano Golf Course, Royal Hawaiian Estates, and Hawaiian Orchid Isle Estates.

Founded in 1980, the VCA supports local organizations and causes both financially and logistically. We organize presentations

Volcano Community Association (VCA) Mission Statement

To improve and protect the quality of life in Volcano, County and State of Hawaii, on behalf of all residents of the area. To promote the social and educational advancement, increase recreational opportunities, ensure health, protect natural environment, and develop community spirit. Also, it will undertake any consonant project the community may be moved to assign to it.

However, it will remain nonpartisan and nonsectarian.

and meetings on current events, respond to pressing community concerns with education, information and action, sponsor annual events such as the Fourth of July parade and recently the Halloween "Trunk or Treat" event, and help to connect Volcano residents with the many groups and resources already active here.

This small but mighty Association has been instrumental in creating and sustaining the community we all enjoy today. Here are a few of the VCA's notable accomplishments:

In the 1980s, the VCA helped construct the heart of our community, Cooper Center. (The Cooper Center Council was later created to manage the 10-acre space and have a management agreement with the County as to its use.)

The VCA fundraised and then helped to build the Fuhrmann Firehouse at Cooper Center and then staffed its first group of volunteer fire fighters.

Profits from the sale of VCA T-shirts and logo items go back into

the community by generous donations to Volcano CERT, the Volcano School of Arts & Sciences and many more community partners.

The monthly newsletter you're reading now was a creation of the VCA. Over the years, it expanded with VCA keeping these two center pages, known as "The Voice." Other important highlights include supporting the community in the prevention of a heliport at the Volcano Golf Course; assisting with the creation of Kahauale'a as part of DLNR's Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) on Hawaii Island and part of the Three Mountain Alliance Management Plan; the spacious new Volcano Transfer and Recycling Center on Highway 11, and the Volcano Long Range Plan, a blueprint for how we wish to co-create and manage our community as it grows in the future. (We are currently forming a subcommittee to review and finalize the VLRP, and welcome your involvement.)

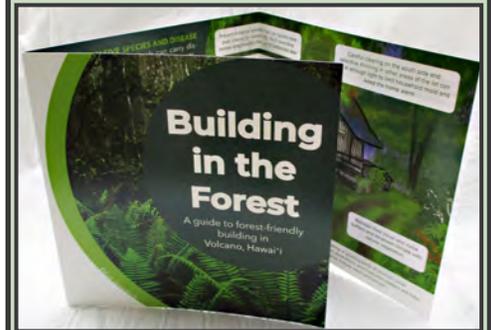
We also produce the Building in the Forest brochure, which has just been updated and reprinted (see sidebar) Beyond these physical accomplishments, the VCA is always

looking to see what the greater need is, and to build a sense of trust and safety in the community where we look out for one another like a good neighbor. Join us!

Mahalo to Marti Lockwood and Jeffrey Mermel for historical data.

submitted by Aubrey Hawk

The New Building in the Forest Brochure is Here!



Stop by the VCA table at the Sunday Farmer's Market and check out the beautiful, newly updated Building in the Forest brochure! This guide to building pono in our community can help landowners understand the importance of careful land clearing to remove invasives and preserve forest canopy, ideal home siting and much more. There's also a new Resources insert listing local landscaping, clearing, hauling and tree trimming pros.

VCA extends a heartfelt mahalo to former board member Evelyn Wight for editing, and to Krystal Meisel of Hawai'i Lit for design and production.

"We must conceive of stewardship not simply as one individual's practice, but rather as the mutual and intimate relationship extending across generations, between a human community and its place on earth."

--John Elder, Inheriting Mount Tom, 1997

The Voice of the Volcano Community Association is published by the VCA Board of Directors: Jim Buck, Chris Corley, Ida Gager, Sher Glass, Aubrey Hawk, Dan Morimoto and Mahi Snell.

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