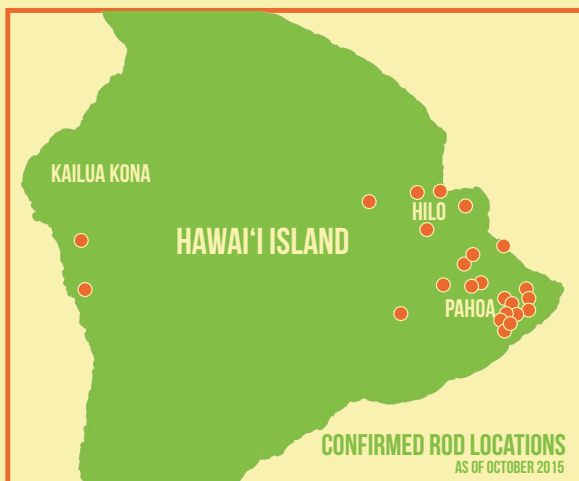


# RAPID 'ŌHI'A DEATH A NEWLY IDENTIFIED DISEASE

A disease that is new to science and new to Hawai'i has killed thousands of 'ōhi'a trees (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) across 6,000 acres of Hawai'i Island. Known as **Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD)**, it is caused by a **fungus** called *Ceratocystis fimbriata*. **We can all help minimize further spread**, and buy time to help researchers find answers and potential treatments. **New information is being uncovered almost every week.**

This disease has the potential to kill 'ōhi'a trees statewide. The most important thing we can all do now is help **prevent ROD from spreading.**

'Ōhi'a lehua is the backbone of Hawai'i's native forests and watersheds which are our source of fresh water in these islands. 'Ōhi'a trees cover more than 1 million acres statewide—they are perhaps the most important tree in Hawai'i.



BROCHURE UPDATED OCTOBER 2015

FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION, MAPS, AND  
UPDATES ON RAPID 'ŌHI'A DEATH PLEASE VISIT:

[www.rapidohiadeath.org](http://www.rapidohiadeath.org)

[f www.facebook.com/rapidohiadeath](https://www.facebook.com/rapidohiadeath)

IF YOU SUSPECT ROD IN YOUR AREA  
PLEASE CONTACT:

**Dr. J.B. Friday**

UH Cooperative Extension Service

Email: [jbfriday@hawaii.edu](mailto:jbfriday@hawaii.edu)

Phone: (808) 969-8254

**Dr. Flint Hughes**

USDA Forest Service

Email: [fhughes@fs.fed.us](mailto:fhughes@fs.fed.us)

Phone: (808) 854-2617

**Dr. Lisa Keith**

USDA Agriculture Research Service

Email: [Lisa.Keith@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Lisa.Keith@ars.usda.gov)

Phone: (808) 959-4357



UH MĀNOA COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

USDA AGRICULTURE RESEARCH SERVICE

USDA INSTITUTE OF PACIFIC ISLANDS FORESTRY

DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE

# RAPID 'ŌHI'A DEATH



WHAT YOU CAN DO  
TO HELP PREVENT THE  
SPREAD

Artwork by Laurie Sumida



# 5 THINGS YOU CAN DO

## 1 DON'T MOVE 'ŌHI'A

Do not 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.

## 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, wood, or other 'ōhi'a plant parts interisland without a permit.

## 3 CLEAN YOUR TOOLS

Use only these proven cleaning methods—other methods have been tested and they don't kill the fungus. Tools used for cutting 'ōhi'a trees (especially infected ones) should be cleaned with 70% rubbing alcohol or 10% bleach (if using bleach be sure to oil afterwards to prevent corrosion).

## 4 CLEAN YOUR GEAR

Clean your shoes, and clothing. Decontaminate shoes by dipping the soles in 10% bleach or 70% rubbing alcohol to kill the ROD fungus. Other gear can be sprayed with the same proven cleaning solutions. Wash clothing in hot water and detergent.

## 5 WASH YOUR VEHICLE

Wash the tires and undercarriage of your vehicles with detergent especially after traveling from an area with ROD and/or if you have traveled off-road.

## NEW QUARANTINE RULE

Because this disease could have devastating impacts on Hawai'i's 'ōhi'a forests, and people could accidentally spread it, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture passed a new quarantine rule that prohibits interisland movement except by permit of all 'ōhi'a plant or plant parts including:

- Logs, wood, leaves, twigs, flowers, seeds, stems, cuttings.
- Untreated wood, green waste, mulch, sawdust, wood chips and frass (wood dust from boring beetles).
- Beginning in Jan 2016 soil will also be restricted.

All these materials could carry the fungus and spread the disease. The fungus can stay viable for over a year.

To apply for permits to move 'ōhi'a products that can be demonstrated to be free of disease, please visit: [HDOA.HAWAII.GOV](http://HDOA.HAWAII.GOV)



## Symptoms of the Disease

- **Crowns** of 'ōhi'a trees that appear healthy turn **yellowish** or **brown** within days to weeks; **dead leaves remain** on branches for some time.
- **All ages** of 'ōhi'a trees can be affected and can have symptoms of browning of branches and/or leaves.
- If a tree with ROD is cut down, or a section of the tree is removed, the **fungus shows up as dark staining in the sapwood** along the outer edge, and there may be an over-ripe fruit-like odor.
- Trees within a given stand **die in a haphazard pattern**; the disease does not appear to radiate out directly from infected or dead trees.

Radial staining of sapwood.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
VISIT [rapidohiadeath.org](http://rapidohiadeath.org)