

KA'AHAHUI 'O KA NĀHELEHELE

*a non-profit affiliate
of the Dryland Forest Working Group*



*Dedicated to
Revitalizing Dryland
Native Plant Communities*

*PO Box 764
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745-0764
(808)325-1070
pililaau@hawaiiintel.net*

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Contact: Kathy Frost, Nāhelehele Symposium chairperson
Phone: (808) 325-6885
E-mail: kjfrost@hawaii.rr.com
Web Site: <http://www.kohalacenter.org/nahele10.html>

Dryland Forest Symposium set for February 26

KAILUA-KONA, Hawai'i—January 20, 2010—Diverse dryland forests once thrived in many low rainfall areas of Hawai'i Island, including on the leeward slopes of Hualalai. These forests played a vital role in the life of the Hawaiian people. Less than 100 years ago, broad expanses of healthy forest stretched across the landscape of West Hawai'i. However, once-common native trees have undergone an astounding decline in their populations and experts estimate that only 5 percent to 10 percent of dryland forest habitats in Hawai'i and worldwide now remain. Only a few scattered remnant dry forest ecosystems survive today. These dryland forests are home to some of the world's rarest native Hawaiian plants.

On Friday, February 26, the *2010 Nāhelehele Dryland Forest Symposium* will highlight dryland forest ecology and restoration efforts in Hawai'i. The symposium will be held at the Outrigger Keauhou Beach Resort from 9 am to 5 pm. This year the conference will emphasize managing human impacts on Hawaiian dry forests.

The Nāhelehele Dryland Forest Symposium features presentations by community stewards, educators, researchers, and conservationists. This year's symposium will include talks about scientific and cultural perspectives on dry forest plants and ecosystems; climate change and its effects on Hawaiian dry forest; and backyard preservation as insurance for endangered plant recovery. There will be other talks about growing the right plant in the right place, invasive weed management, non-native grasses and native plants, restoration efforts at La'iōpua and the Pelekane Watershed Management Project on the Big Island and an update on insect threats to Hawaiian plants.

On Thursday, February 25, there will be hands-on workshops including: 1) native plant propagation, 2) invasive weeds, and 3) fire mitigation relative to native plants.

The public is welcome to attend this symposium. Register by calling The Kohala Center at 808-887-6411 or at <http://www.kohalacenter.org/nahele10.html>.

Symposium registration by February 12 is \$50, which includes lunch. After February 12, the registration fee increases to \$65. Workshops are \$25 each. Attendance is limited, so individuals are encouraged to register early. No workshop registration accepted after February 12.

The Nāhelehele Symposium is a project of Ka‘ahahui ‘o ka Nāhelehele, a non-profit organization dedicated to dry forest advocacy and partnerships. Sponsors of this symposium include Bishop Museum’s Amy B.H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden, The Kohala Center, National Tropical Botanical Garden, Kamehameha Schools-LAD, Outrigger Keauhou Beach Resort, Leonard Bisel Associates, LLC, Hawai‘i Wildfire Management Organization, Hawai‘i Forestry Industry Association and Hawai‘i Forest Institute.