

## **KA'AHAHUI 'O KA NĀHELEHELE**

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



*Dedicated to  
Revitalizing Dryland  
Native Plant Communities*

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*501c3 non-profit status*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Dryland Forest Symposium set for February 25**

KAILUA-KONA, Hawai'i—January 18, 2011—The 2011 Nāhelehele Dry Forest Symposium will highlight dryland forest ecology and restoration efforts in Hawai'i. The symposium will be held on Friday, February 25, at the Outrigger Keauhou Beach Resort from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This year the conference will emphasize effects of drought and climate change on Hawaiian dry forests.

The dry forests of Hawai'i are fragile habitats that are home to many of the rarest plants in the world. Dry forests were once considered to be the most diverse forest ecosystem on the Hawaiian Islands but today they are extremely deforested and degraded. In North Kona, only remnant patches of the habitat remain to remind us of the highly diverse community of plants and animals that once dominated the landscape of West Hawai'i. How to take care of—and restore—these remaining patches of forest is the challenge Hawai'i now faces, and the topic of this year's Dry Forest Symposium.

This is the fifth annual Nāhelehele Dry Forest Symposium, and it features presentations by Hawai'i native plant experts from around the state. The program includes talks about climate change and its effects on Hawaiian dry forest, hybrid ecosystems and dry forest restoration, the battle for water and other resources in native forests invaded by introduced plants, and ways to increase the impact of restoration activities. There will be other talks about restoration efforts at Auwahi (Maui) and the Waikoloa Dry Forest Recovery Project, and ways to ensure the best seedlings for outplanting in restoration areas. Researchers will also present results of studies about natural regeneration in the Palamanui dry forest and impacts of invasive plants on native plant communities.

Two optional field trips will precede the symposium on Thursday, February 24. One field trip will visit the Waikoloa Dry Forest Recovery Project near Waikoloa Village. Project Manager Dave Faucette will lead the trip and discuss progress made towards preserving and restoring wiliwili and endangered uhiuhi trees in the preserve, as well as efforts to reintroduce other Hawaiian dry forest plants. The second field trip will visit the Pu'u Wa'awa'a Forest Reserve. Pu'u Wa'awa'a coordinator Elliot Parsons will lead the trip and discuss restoration and research activities in this 38,000 acre State forest reserve.

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The public is welcome to attend the symposium and field trips. Register by downloading the registration form at <http://www.kohalacenter.org/pdf/naheleregistration.pdf> and email to Cortney Hoffman at [choffman@kohalacenter.org](mailto:choffman@kohalacenter.org), or fax to 808-885-6707. For more information about the program and field trips, go to <http://www.drylandforest.org/events>.

Symposium registration by February 15 is \$50, which includes lunch. After February 15, the registration fee increases to \$65. Student registration is \$35, increasing to \$45 after February 15. Workshops are \$25 each (\$15 for students, ID required) and no late registrations will be accepted.

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, Hawai‘i Forest Industry Association, Hawaii Tourism Authority Kūkulu Ola: Living Hawaiian Culture Program, The Kohala Center, Kamehameha Schools-LAD, Leonard Bisel Associates LLC, and Hawai‘i Wildfire Management Organization.