

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa



The Hawai‘i RREA program has matured to address three important natural resource focus areas: forestland, rangeland, and urban forestry. Recognizing natural resource management issues unique to our island ecosystems, RREA funds are typically leveraged with \$5 to \$7 of local, state, private and federal funds to deliver excellent programming to serve our stakeholders. In recent years RREA funds have supported many diverse projects.

- At CTAHR’s Urban Garden Center, O‘ahu youth and their families enjoy hands-on learning experiences at the Children’s Garden. Docent volunteers (23) have lead over 1750 students on educational tours. Local support, expressed through cash contributions (\$7500) and more than \$19,000 worth of in-kind volunteer man-hours have made this educational garden so successful with over 3,200 people visiting the open house in August of 2004.
- A demonstration site on Moloka‘i is being used to teach agroforestry cropping systems. Under the canopy of native trees, trials on high value understory crops such as kava ('awa), torch ginger flowers, pepeiao (mushroom), anthuriums, and vanilla are being explored. An estimated 600 people have visited or viewed exhibits about the project and a \$20,000 grant obtained to educate Hawaiian Homesteader families about establishing timber plantations on their agricultural lots.
- To counter the wave of invasive alien weed species impacting Hawaii’s 845,000 acres of rangeland, extension staff, state foresters, land managers and landowners are learning how to use very-low-volume basal bark applications of herbicides to control these prolific plants. RREA supports “weed tours” and educational publications to help local and state, public and private land managers reduce labor costs while slowing the spread of noxious weeds.
- In January 2005, the RREA supported Forestry Extension Program and the Hawaii Forest Industry Association (HFIA) brought together over 100 scientists, professionals, and landowners to discuss woodland management. Most major landowners on the Big Island were represented, as well as the USDA Forest Service, USDA NRCS, Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and Department of Hawaiian Homelands.



School tour children learn about the environment in the Butterfly Garden, Pearl City, O‘ahu.

“Opened eyes about the extent of ecological damage.” “Good to interact with other agencies.” “Excellent program—well worth attending.” Miscellaneous participant comments from Kaua‘i Weed Tour, summer 2004.

“The children were very engaged by the tour guide and interested in the stories, garden decorations and touching the plants. This is the true meaning of hands on learning! Lisa Wong, Le Jardin Academy (Grades 1-5) about Urban Garden Center’s Children’s Garden Tour.

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