

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

October 1, 2005 – September 30th, 2006

Recognizing natural resource management issues unique to our island ecosystems, the Hawai‘i RREA program has addressed three important natural resource focus areas: forestland, rangeland, and invasive species. Outstanding networking efforts this year resulted in each dollar of RREA funds being leveraged with approximately \$20 of local, state, private and federal funds. RREA funds have supported many diverse projects:

4 Hawaii RREA collaborated with Permanent Agriculture Resources to prepare extension materials for the important native trees: *koa*, *ohia*, *kou*, *kamani*, and *miro*. Profiles for these and 41 other species are included in the new book *Traditional Trees* and are available for free download at the agroforestry.net website. CES staff presented at the related four-day professional development workshop in Kona with 75 professionals and landowners in attendance. Three out of four attendees indicated in a post-survey they would apply techniques that they learned on their own land. CES helped to develop a website with workshop and “virtual” field days at <http://www.agroforestry.net/events/afwksp2006/virtualwksp.html>.

4 Hawaii’s unique and isolated ecosystems are highly vulnerable to invasive species. Approximately 70% of documented invasive plant species in Hawaii were intentionally introduced for horticultural use. Miconia control alone costs several million dollars a year but the greatest threat is the destruction of our unique Hawaiian ecosystems. RREA conducted a major extension effort on this topic. A series of four statewide workshops, *Jumping the Fence Line: Escaped Agricultural Plants in Hawaii*, targeted extension agents, NRCS staff, forestry professionals, and Master Gardeners and attracted 95 attendees. The presentations and other information on invasive species are available at: http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/rmre/invasive_agricultural_plants.asp.

“Very informative! Great discussion and tour.”

“I didn’t have much exposure to the problem of invasives and pastures so this gave me a new perspective.”

“The information provided by the speakers was very informative and provided NRCS employees updated information to share with the land users we work with.”

*~ Miscellaneous participant comments from
“Jumping the Fence Line” Workshops, summer 2006.*

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