

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, FY 2008



Recognizing natural resource management issues unique to our island ecosystems, the University of Hawai‘i RREA program addresses three important natural resource focus areas: Forest Stewardship and Health, Rangeland Stewardship and Health, and Invasive Species. RREA funds allocated to the University have supported many diverse projects.

- Two *Range and Pasture Management 101* courses were held on the island of Hawai‘i with 59 participants representing livestock producers, landowners who lease land to livestock producers, K-12 agricultural teachers, federal, state, and county land management agencies, NRCS, and the Cooperative Extension Service. A 317-page manual and six presentations were developed. Work progresses on materials and presentations for the second tier of courses for the Hawai‘i Grazing and Livestock Management Academy.



Grazing and Livestock Management Academy Field day (March 2008)

- Agroforestry demonstration sites for shade-grown coffee in Kona and for koa reforestation on Mauna Kea were begun by the forestry extension program under RREA. Twelve local farmers cooperated in demonstrating coffee agroforestry.
- RREA funding helped support innovative research for controlling invasive grasses in areas being replanted with native species. At the Kona Hema Preserve (managed by The Nature Conservancy – Hawai‘i), herbicide trials combined with scarification improved germination of the valuable native tree, *Acacia koa*. Work at the Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park demonstrated how to control infestations of kikuyu grass in areas to be replanted with native species. New equipment for applying targeted, low doses of herbicide is being demonstrated. This technology shows great application potential for improving thousands of acres across the state of Hawai‘i for koa production, restoration of native vegetation, and controlling invasive plants.
- In September 2008, the Hawaii RREA program expanded onto YouTube to deliver information via virtual field days. HawaiiRREA channel hosts seven videos, with the most popular receiving more than 400 hits. The RREA and Forestry Extension web sites continue to be some of the most popular in our college, receiving tens of thousands of visits a year, reaching thousands of stakeholders and clients in forestry, natural resources, and weed management.



HawaiiRREA channel on YouTube

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