



Proclamation

WHEREAS, 'ōhi'a lehua trees are the most abundant native trees and comprise approximately 80 percent of the Hawaiian Islands' rainforests; and

WHEREAS, 'ōhi'a lehua trees are vital to our ecosystem, providing shelter and food for numerous native birds, insects, and other invertebrates, and helping to replenish our island aquifers which provide drinking and irrigation water for our communities; and

WHEREAS, 'ōhi'a lehua trees play a key role in watershed protection and water conservation by retaining water and preventing erosion and floods; and

WHEREAS, 'ōhi'a lehua trees have many culturally symbolic uses such as creating kapa, poi pounding boards, medicinal properties, and adorning hula dancers; and

WHEREAS, Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death, a fungal disease that is killing healthy 'ōhi'a lehua trees on Hawai'i Island, Maui, Kaua'i and O'ahu, was first identified in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Department of Land & Natural Resources, along with other agencies and non-government organizations, continue to fight against Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death by conducting helicopter