

Maui 'Ōhi'a Disease Resistance Project



The Challenge

'Ōhi'a is a keystone species of Hawai'i's native forests and watersheds, but it is threatened by the disease **Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD)**. We need to collect and preserve seeds of 'Ōhi'a for future restoration and testing for natural resistance to ROD.

Our Solution

Hawai'i Agriculture Research Center (HARC) is leading a project to develop disease-resistant 'Ōhi'a seed orchards for Maui County. By identifying trees with resistance to ROD, we can use natural breeding programs to grow more ROD-resistant 'Ōhi'a trees for future planting and ecosystem restoration. This work is made possible by generous funding from **Maui County Department of Water Supply**.

HARC is partnering with:

- **Maui Nui Botanical Gardens (MNBG)**, which in collaboration with numerous local partners, collects seeds from Maui County's forests and stores them long-term in their seed bank
- **Kalehua Seed Conservation Consulting**, which provides seed collection strategy, protocols, data management, and mapping
- **'Ōhi'a Disease Resistance Program (ODRP)**, which tests 'Ōhi'a for potential resistance to ROD under carefully controlled conditions



'Ōhi'a seed processing at MNBG Seed Bank



ROD resistance testing at ODRP (Hawai'i Island)

