



## Hawai'i Volcanoes News Release

September 25, 2007

### **Volunteers Invited to Help Oust Alien Plants on National Public Land's Day**



Rhonda Loh, Chief of Natural Resources Management, helps volunteers identify alien plants that have invaded the cinder field of the 1959 Kilauea Iki eruption. Photo by Linda Jane Irwin

On September 29, 2007, Hawai'i Volcanoes will be one of 147 National Park Service sites to offer free visitor admission for National Public Lands Day.

In addition, park staff and Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park invite those who come to the park on Saturday to join one of the following work projects to help restore native ecosystems by eradicating alien plant pests:

From 8:30 am to 11:30 am, remove myrica faya and other invasive plants from the Special Ecological Area near Keanakako'i crater.

From 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, weed the Native Plant Garden near the Kilauea Visitor Center

From 10:00 am to 11:00 am, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, and 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm, cut and uproot kahili ginger on the summit of Kilauea volcano.

Volunteers should meet at the Kilauea Visitor Center at least 15 minutes prior to the work project's starting time and bring gloves, small garden tools, snacks, and water. It's a good idea to wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for sunny or wet weather. Those who join in will receive a free one day pass valid for future use at any National Park Service site.

"Hawai'i Volcanoes preserves for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations, the significant resources that reflect Hawai'i's geological, biological, and cultural heritage," said Superintendent Cindy Orlando. "I encourage everyone to rediscover the wonder of their park on this fee free day and lend a hand to help the land."

Nine federal agencies, 125 state and local partners, dozens of non-profit organizations, tens of thousands of individuals, and national sponsor Toyota Motor Sales, USA are expected to participate in more than a thousand volunteer projects across the country. Visit <http://www.publiclandsday.org> for more information.

One third of the land in the United States has been set aside as open space. Six-hundred million acres of parks, refuges, forests, wetlands, cultural sites, and other shared areas provide a variety of public resources.

#### **EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.