



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hawai'i Volcanoes
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Hawai'i Volcanoes News Release

For Immediate Release
Dean Gallagher, Park Ranger
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Kahuku's Kipuka'akihi

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park invites the public to join the park's ongoing Kahuku Stewardship Program in Kipuka'akihi, a precious remnant of native forest. On Saturday, June 20, 2009 from 10:30 am to 3 pm, a group of 20 participants will remove invasive weeds from this steep-sided valley where difficult terrain has protected the forest from grazing by cattle and other animals.

More than 150 years of ranching at Kahuku have transformed thousands of acres of biologically rich koa-'ohi'a forest into pastureland. Protected in craters and gulches, a few remote pockets of native forest remain to serve as a seed sources and inspiration for restoration projects. One of these islands of native forest is Kipuka'akihi. A wonderland of ancient ferns, giant native trees and beautiful flowering plants, Kipuka'akihi offers a glimpse into the past and a vision for the future.

Join park ranger Dean Gallagher to help preserve native plant communities while learning about our remarkable diversity of native plant species, the resilient nature of life following Mauna Loa's numerous eruptions and the rich history of plant use in Hawaiian culture.

This program involves a short but challenging hike over fallen trees, slippery rocks and wet terrain. Sturdy hiking boots, long pants, protection from sun or rain, water and lunch are a must. The park's Kahuku Unit entrance is on the mountain side of Highway 11 near the 70 mile marker. From 10 am to 10:30 am on Saturday, June 20, the gate will be open to registered participants. Due to the fragile nature of this area, the group size is limited to 20. To register, call 808-985-6011.

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