



Hawai'i Volcanoes News Release

September 13, 2007

Another Opportunity to Connect with Kahuku

On Tuesday, October 9, 2007 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, park rangers will again host *Kahuku Connections: Linking Science to the Past*, the third offering of a program that encourages people to discover Kahuku.

Participants will help plant 300 kolea and pilo seedlings in a fenced enclosure protected from grazing animals. Both tree species are endemic—unique to Hawai'i.

"This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the park's native plant restoration program and see the natural recovery of forest species," said Sierra McDaniel, park horticulturist.

Kolea trees were used by Hawaiians as a source of house timbers, and bark and sap were used in dyeing bark cloth. The reddish orange fruit of the pilo, a native coffee plant, is a favorite food of 'oma'o, the Hawaiian thrush. Some 'oma'o have even have been observed guarding fruit-laden pilo trees and chasing off intruding birds.



Volunteers Carol and Mark Johnson plant native 'olapa seedlings at Kahuku

Participants should be able to hike at least one mile over rough uneven terrain. They should wear sturdy shoes, long pants, sunscreen, and a hat and bring lunch, water, and rainjacket.

The program is limited to 12 people and pre-registration is required. To register, call 985-6019 and leave a message that includes a contact phone number and the names of each participant; no more than four in a group.

Carpooling and 4-wheel drive vehicles are highly recommended. It is important that participants thoroughly check and clean their vehicles beforehand to make sure they are not transporting Coqui frogs and non-native seeds into Kahuku.

The entrance to the Kahuku Unit is located in Ka'u between mile markers 70 and 71 on Highway 11. The gate will open Tuesday morning between 8:15 and 8:45 a.m. to allow entrance to those pre-registered for the program. No late-comers or walk-ins will be allowed.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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