



Outplanting, as part of the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) in the Pu'u Wa'awa'a Unit of the HETF.

"Providing the research necessary for the management of the land" – USFS



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service



Clockwise from top left: Dr. Susan Cordell measures photosynthesis on a plant; the highly recognized i'iwi (Hawaiian honeycreeper) is a symbol of Hawai'i and can be found in both Units of the HETF; the endangered nēnē goose, Hawai'i's state bird; and a controlled burn in the dry forest.

About the HETF

The Hawai'i Experimental Tropical Forest (HETF) was established on Hawai'i Island in 2007 and includes two Units, Laupāhoehoe wet forest and Pu'u Wa'awa'a dry forest.

Land Designation

The HETF overlays existing State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) (www.dlnr.hawaii.gov/) managed lands. The USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station in Hilo, works with the DLNR – Division of Forestry and Wildlife and State Parks to manage research and education activities within the HETF.

The HETF is part of a network of Experimental Forests and Ranges across the continental United States and its territories (www.fs.fed.us/research/efr/).

Research and Education Infrastructure/Facilities

Both Units include long term climate monitoring equipment as well as forest dynamics plots. The Laupāhoehoe Unit also includes hydrology monitoring equipment. Facilities to support education and research activities are also available in each Unit.



Ric Lopez, Ph.D.
Director

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Research Station

Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry
60 Nowelo Street
Hilo, HI 96720

Voice: (808) 854-2601 * FAX (808) 456-0352
Email: rdlopez@fs.fed.us

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



'Ohi'a lehua

Hawai'i Experimental Tropical Forest

USDA Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Research Station, Hilo, HI

For details and information about the HETF please visit www.fs.fed.us/psw/ef/hawaii/ or www.hetf.us

Laupāhoehoe Wet Forest Unit

Located on the east (windward) side of the island, this 12,343 acre (5,000 ha) Unit includes Forest Reserve (4,449 ac, 1,800 ha) and Natural Area Reserve (7,894 ac, 3,195 ha) Hawai'i State land designations. It contains native-dominated forested landscapes from lowland forest at 2,300 feet (700 m) above sea level extending through four life zones to almost 6,200 feet (1,890 m) in elevation. This Unit contains magnificent examples of tropical rain forest and is the habitat of numerous endangered plant and animal species.



Photo credit: Corinna Pinzari

Ōpe'ape'a

Kawilāhala stream in Laupāhoehoe



Climate station

Ōhi'a mamo

Ō'iao chicks



Hapu'u understory in Laupāhoehoe

VISION

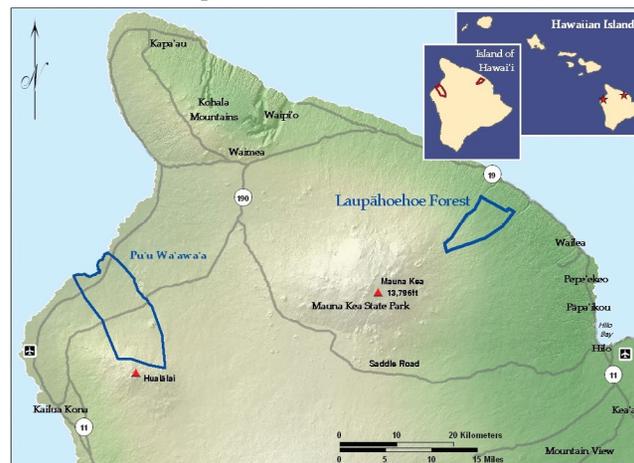
The Hawai'i Experimental Tropical Forest (HETF) is an important research, education and demonstration forest where globally relevant activities are conducted to benefit the people and ecosystems of Hawai'i, all Pacific islands, and the tropical world.

HETF Goals

The HETF has four main goals:

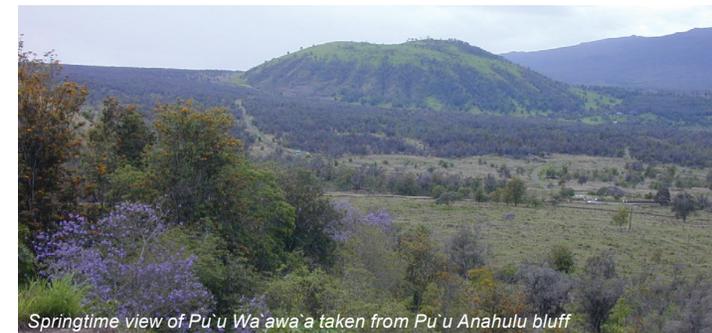
- Promote a better understanding of how to restore, preserve, and sustainably manage native tropical forests, streams, and entire watersheds of the Pacific and to provide information to land managers challenged with management of these important landscapes;
- Serve as a center for demonstration, education, training, and outreach on tropical forestry, conservation biology, and natural resources research and management;
- Provide sites dedicated to long term research on tropical forestry, ecology, hydrology, conservation biology, and natural resource management; and
- Foster research cooperation and collaboration between State and Federal agencies, educational and other institutions in tropical forestry research.

Hawai'i Experimental Forest - Unit Locations



Pu'u Wa'awa'a Dry Forest Unit

Located on the west (leeward) side of the island, the landscape of this 38,811 acre (15,706 ha) Unit consists of tropical dry and moist forests, mixed savanna, and exotic-dominated grasslands. The Unit has an elevational range from sea-level to 6,400 feet (1,951 m). Tropical dry forests are considered among the most endangered forest types in the world, and in Hawai'i the few remaining remnants are severely threatened by wildfire, invasive plant species, and non-native ungulates. This Unit encompasses Forest Reserve (31,475 ac, 12,743 ha), Wildlife (Forest Bird) Sanctuary (3,806 ac, 1,542 ha), and State Parks (3,530 ac, 1,430 ha) Hawai'i State land designations.



Springtime view of Pu'u Wa'awa'a taken from Pu'u Anahulu bluff



Dry forest scape



Pua kala



Cave skylight



Education tour



Awikiwiki

Photo credit: Elliott Parsons