

THE MAUI FOREST DISEASE AND ITS IMPACT ON
FORESTRY IN HAWAII

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The Maui Forest Disease or Maui Forest Trouble was a widespread dieback of native 'ohi'a rainforest which occurred in the first decade of this century on the island of Maui. This paper outlines the early descriptions of that dieback and discusses the influence of this event on Hawaiian forestry. Dr. Harold Lyon, the botanist who studied the Maui Forest Disease most intensely, later became one of the guiding forces in Hawaiian forestry. His understanding of Hawaiian natural history and his experiences with dieback led him to believe that Hawaiian native forests could not be maintained or restored and that a new forest flora must be built from exotic species in order to save the Islands' watersheds.

ABSTRACT