

July 31, 2015

**‘Ōhi‘a Log Shipments
HDOA Certificate of Inspection Required for All ‘Ōhi‘a from Island of Hawai‘i**

Dear Valued Customer,

A new plant disease is killing hundreds of acres of ‘Ōhi‘a trees on the Island of Hawai‘i, which has so far not been found on other islands. **As part of a critical effort to control the spread of this disease and in cooperation with the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (HDOA), Young Brothers will require, effective immediately, that all shipments containing ‘Ōhi‘a logs or ‘Ōhi‘a products be accompanied by a HDOA certification of inspection, similar to the certificate required for live plant shipments. Young Brothers will not accept any ‘Ōhi‘a shipments (whether live or otherwise, including all ‘Ōhi‘a plants and associated soil, logs, firewood) for interisland shipment unless it is accompanied by an HDOA certification of inspection.**

Multiple government agencies are working to learn more about this fungus and the ways it spreads. Here is a summary of what is currently known:

- The disease, more commonly known as Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death (ROD) or ‘Ōhi‘a wilt, has killed large numbers of mature ‘Ōhi‘a trees in forests and residential areas of the Puna and Hilo Districts of Hawai‘i Island. The infestation appears to be spreading on the island.
- It is caused by a fungus (*Ceratocystis fimbriata*) which can be found not only in the plant but also in soils around infected trees.
- Trees can become infected through open wounds (either natural or mechanical damage, or possibly insect damage).
- Once inside the tree, it quickly kills it by shutting down its vascular system. When previously healthy-looking trees begin to exhibit symptoms, they typically die within a matter of weeks.
- The fungus appears to be viable for quite a long time even in deadwood. For example, the fungus has been cultured from a dead ‘Ōhi‘a tree that had been killed by the fungus a year prior.

Young Brothers takes our environmental stewardship responsibility seriously, and we will continue to work with public and private entities to prevent the transport of invasive species between islands.

As part of controlling these and other pests, suspected new infestations should be reported immediately to the Department of Agriculture by calling (808) 643-PEST or, in Hilo, (808) 989-9289.

We appreciate your participation and cooperation to protect the environment in all of our communities.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Roy Catalani

Roy Catalani

Vice President, Strategic Initiatives and External Affairs