



## OFFICE OF MAUNA KEA MANAGEMENT NEWS

July 5, 2012

### VOLUNTEERS MALAMA MAUNA KEA

### INVASIVE SPECIES FIREWEED PULL A SUCCESS

Community members including students from the University of Hawaii Hilo volunteered their time to work alongside the Office of Mauna Kea Management (OMKM) staff members this past Saturday to protect the fragile natural resources on the mountain. The 6-hour outing to control fireweed is part of the Office of Mauna Kea Management's Malama Mauna Kea campaign.



The volunteers' efforts concentrated on pulling the invasive fireweed (*Senecio madagascariensis*) from the gravel road section of the Mauna Kea Summit Access Road from the approximate 9,000' to 12,000' elevation. The fireweed pull helps to keep this invasive species from being transported to the upper elevation areas of Mauna Kea.

The day started at Hale Pohaku with a project orientation and acclimation to the high elevations on the mountain. Volunteers proceeded to pull fireweed along the Mauna Kea Summit Access Road between Hale Pohaku and the summit area. Teams worked together combing the roadside and filling bags of the invasive fireweed.



### OMKM Mission

To achieve harmony, balance and trust in the sustainable management and stewardship of Mauna Kea Science Reserve through community involvement and programs that protect, preserve and enhance the natural, cultural and recreational resources of Mauna Kea while providing a world-class center dedicated to education, research and astronomy.

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"It's so rewarding to work alongside our community members who care about our natural resources and commit their time and energy to malama Mauna Kea," said OMKM Director Stephanie Nagata. "The Office of Mauna Kea Management embraces volunteer programs and community involvement as we continue to move forward to protect, preserve and enhance the natural, cultural and recreational resources of Mauna Kea."

#### **ABOUT Office of Mauna Kea Management**

The Office of Mauna Kea Management is charged with day-to-day management of the Mauna Kea Science Reserve as prescribed in the Master Plan. The adoption of the Mauna Kea Science Reserve Master Plan by the University of Hawaii Board of Regents in June 2000 marked a critical milestone in the management of Mauna Kea.

Meetings and public hearings spanning a period of nearly two years went into the formulation of the Master Plan, which established management guidelines for the next 20 years. The process reflected the community's deeply rooted concerns over the use of Mauna Kea, including respect for Hawaiian cultural beliefs, protection of environmentally sensitive habitat, recreational use of the mountain, and astronomy research.

The Master Plan places the focus of responsibility with the University of Hawaii at Hilo (UHH). The UH-Hilo Chancellor established the Office of Mauna Kea Management and Mauna Kea Management Board in the fall of 2000. The Mauna Kea Management Board in turn formed Kahu Ku Mauna, a council comprised of Hawaiian cultural resource persons to serve as advisors.

