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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP MALAMA MAUNA KEA INVASIVE SPECIES WEED PULL SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

Hilo, Hawaii—The Office of Maunakea Management (OMKM) is seeking volunteers to kokua on Saturday, August 20 as part of its Malama Mauna Kea campaign to protect the fragile resources on the mountain. This volunteer weed pull will concentrate on eradicating fireweed (*Senecio madagascariensis*) and other invasive plant species around the Halepōhaku area on Maunakea at the 9,000' elevation. Every OMKM volunteer weed pull helps keep invasive species from being transported to the upper elevation areas of Mauna Kea and prepares the area for future restoration projects.

Transportation to and from Hilo and lunch for volunteers will be provided. Community members coming from other areas of Hawaii Island should plan to meet at 9 am at Hale Pohaku. The Malama Maunakea volunteer day will start with a project orientation and acclimation to the high elevation. From 10 am until 12 noon volunteers will pull fireweed along the Mauna Kea Access Road followed by lunch. An interesting lecture on the Maunakea resources completes this fulfilling day on the mountain.

Items to bring:

- water, sunglasses, sunscreen, sun protection, light rain gear, warm clothing, hiking boots or good walking shoes. Long-sleeve shirt and pants, sun-hat, and layer(s) to protect from wind or wet and cool weather are recommended.
- OMKM will provide: lunch, snacks, transportation, drinking water, gloves for pulling weeds

Families are welcome. Space is limited. Email omkmvolunteers-grp@hawaii.edu to sign up or contact OMKM Natural Resource Program Manager Fritz Klasner at fklasner@hawaii.edu

Log onto malamamaunakea.org for more information.

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About Office of Mauna Kea Management

The Office of Mauna Kea Management is charged with day-to-day management of Mauna Kea Science Reserve as prescribed in the Master Plan. The adoption of the Mauna Kea Science Reserve Master Plan by the University of Hawai'i 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 Master Plan 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.

It places the focus of responsibility with the University of Hawaii at Hilo. The UH-Hilo Chancellor established the Office of Mauna Kea Management and the Board of Regents established the 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.

The mission of the Office of Mauna Kea Management is 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.