Together We Are Helping Kīpahulu

MAKE ‘OPIHI MOMONA AGAIN

Our Kīpahulu community is reviving the traditional practice of resting an area from ‘opīhi harvest so that it will be momona (abundant) again. The concept is simple – allowing one area to rest means those ‘opīhi have the chance to grow larger and produce more keiki that can spill over into neighboring areas, providing more ‘opīhi for all of us!

Our study, which began in 2014, is already showing more ‘opīhi in some areas. But more ‘opīhi doesn’t mean enough ‘opīhi. In order for the population to recover to a sustainable level, it needs a few generations to re-establish. Even now, occasional harvest in the rest area has noticeably decreased the population. The good news is ‘opīhi reproduce quickly – every six months – so if we all work together, we can bring the ‘opīhi back to sustainable and harvestable levels.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

• Respect the voluntary ‘opīhi rest area – which means no ‘opīhi harvest while this area replenishes
• Follow best practices when harvesting outside of the rest area
• Share this information with family and friends
• Join Kīpahulu ‘Ohana to help monitor ‘opīhi to inform management decisions

Before
After

When there are a lot of ‘opīhi close together, they produce many more keiki than if they are far apart. As prime spawners, very large ‘opīhi also produce more keiki. Our community hopes to see more and larger ‘opīhi side by side in the near future.

BEST PRACTICES

Please pick ‘opīhi only outside of the rest area and follow best practices wherever you harvest.

‘Olelo: Communicate with other families so you don’t pick the same area at the same time
Pick just a few for today: ‘opīhi don’t make more ‘opīhi in the freezer
Inch & a quarter is too small: pick bigger than 1¼ in, but leave the really big ones
Huli Hele (search everywhere): keep moving, pick from different areas
‘Ihi Kō’ele (respect Kō’ele): leave the Kō’ele alone, they live under the water line

LEARN MORE

Visit kipahulu.org/opahi or contact opahi@kipahulu.org for more information on monitoring efforts both inside and outside of the rest area that will help us better understand ‘opīhi and our efforts to perpetuate them.

KĪPAHULU.
OUR MOKU. OUR KULEANA.