

# FROM ENDEMIC TO EXOTIC

## Midsummer's Eve at the Pana`ewa Rainforest Zoo and Gardens Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 4 p.m.

On the longest evening of the year, the Friends of Hawai`i Volcanoes National Park and the Friends of the Zoo will co-host a special event at the Zoo, *From Endemic to Exotic*, a program that invites guests to become better acquainted with the biological wonders contained in this small jewel of a Zoo.

Beginning at 4 PM, docents will lead small groups through the Zoo, where experts stationed throughout the grounds will reveal their passion for their own favorite plant or animal species. This is an opportunity not only to enjoy this spectacular rainforest setting in the early evening but to learn what makes this Zoo and its collections so special. Pana`ewa houses some of the rarest and most fascinating plant and animal species on earth. Find out what these are and discover what makes them so remarkable.

Enjoy the wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm in people like former Zoo Director, Dick Mortemore, who has a decade-long association with Namaste, the zoo's white Bengal tiger. A consummate teacher, Dick has more than a few stories to tell about the zoo's most celebrated resident. Noted biologist Don Hemmes will introduce us to plants that dominated the earth during the Jurassic period ---- the cycads. Under Don's direction the zoo's cycad garden is taking shape. Guests will explore this work-in-progress and learn about the species that will populate a unique prehistoric gardenscape.



Terry Moniz, the zoo's new Education Specialist, will tell us what he has learned about the little-known Asian bear-cat, the binturong. Since one of the triplets born in February was rejected by its mother, Terry has hand-raised this bintlet. Hear what he has to say about his unique experience with the biology and character of this special animal.

Our endemic birds, the nene and the `io, will be spotlighted by State Wildlife Biologists, Ron Bachman and Joey Mello, who will describe their biology as well as their recovery and rehabilitation programs. George Saito, the zoo's head zookeeper, will share his knowledge and interest in some of the zoo's special plants. Faith Elarionoff has led the animal enrichment team for 10 years. You will hear her experiences with the lemurs and especially Andy, the brown lemur, who was paralyzed by rat lungworm.

These special speakers and stations within the zoo will offer a renewed appreciation for the amazing and varied lives found here in our own zoo. What better way to celebrate the diversity and wonder of our planet and relish the summer solstice!

The walking tours will be followed by a light dinner buffet at the Zoo's pavilion featuring curry puffs, summer rolls, curries and other specialties catered by Hilo's own Soontaree's Deli and an informal question and answer session with our guest speakers.

Cost is \$30, and reservations are required. Call 985-7373 or email [admin@fhvnp.org](mailto:admin@fhvnp.org) to reserve your spot. The deadline for reservations is June 15, but don't wait as space is limited!