



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

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**MAKAKUPA‘IA SECTION OF MOLOKA‘I FOREST RESERVE
TO REMAIN CLOSED**

KAUNAKAKAI -- The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife today announced that the Makakupa‘ia Section of the Moloka‘i Forest Reserve will remain closed until further notice as a result of the wildland fire that was first reported on Saturday August 29, 2009.

This past Monday, an announcement was made closing the entire Molokai Forest Reserve as concern arose for the safety of the general public observed in the burning forest area. As efforts continue to control the fire, it remains necessary to keep the public out of the Makakupaia section of the Forest Reserve.

“Falling trees, smoldering hot spots and underground burning within the interior of the burned area present extreme danger to persons on foot and vehicles”, said Paul J. Conry, Division Administrator “Any person entering the fire area is subject to injury, including severe burns or even fatality,” Conry said.

The known vehicular accesses into this section of the Forest Reserve will be posted with signage. Other sections of the Forest Reserve are again open for recreational activity.

Wildland firefighters will continue to mop-up hotspots and enhance firebreaks over the next several days.

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