

KAUAI BUSINESS REPORT

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Tiny Erythrina wasp has a big, bad sting

Jon Letman

SPECIAL TO KAUAI BUSINESS REPORT

They've come to Hawai'i from around the world — Asia, Africa and Latin America, but today they are being killed off alongside their Hawaiian relatives.

They are Erythrina, a genus of trees in the bean family which is under attack by an invasive species new to Hawai'i, *Quadrastichus erythrinae*, better known as the Erythrina gall wasp.

The damage caused to the trees is not only a botanist's nightmare, it also threatens to inflict tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage to Hawai'i's economy, and to drive a beloved tree, known in Hawai'i as wiliwili, to extinction.

University of Hawai'i Research Entomologist Dr. Russell Messing, stationed at the Kauai Agricultural Research Center in Wailua explains the crisis:

"Basically we have two problems here. First, there is the economic problem. There are thousands of Erythrina trees around the state. They are widely used as windbreaks and are beautiful ornamental trees. To remove and replace dead trees is very costly," Dr. Messing says. As an example, See **Wasp**, Page 8



Above: Wiliwili trees in a remote westside valley are severely impacted by the Erythrina gall wasp.
 Dennis Fujimoto photo.

(Right): A female adult *Quadrastichus erythrinae*. The tiny wasp is just 1mm long and was first discovered in Hawai'i in April 2005.
 M. Tremblay photo



Underground rides on new retail trend

Kauai Business Report

LIHUE — Some people might say it all started with Lacoste.

In 1929, tennis champion René Lacoste decided he wanted to put an end to the traditional uncomfortable clothes worn on tennis courts so he designed the tennis shirt. Lacoste's invention was also adopted for polo and eventually, he started his own clothing line (Lacoste). Since 1929, the tennis shirt has become so popular that it's now one of the standard categories of clothing. Virtually every major clothing retailer makes some version of Lacoste's tennis shirt, which today is worn by men, women, and even babies in numerous non-athletic contexts.

Perhaps Lacoste was one of the first examples of how athletes and sports influenced fashion. But he certainly wasn't the last. Today, extreme sports athletes and the brands that sponsor them are framing contemporary fashion and culture and even those of us who have never alighted on a skateboard, surfboard, or BMX bike don't think twice about wearing



A grand opening is set for Nov. 17 and 18 for M. Miura Store's new apparel store, *Underground*.

Fox, element, or numerous other brands that today are dressing some of the world's most talented extreme sports athletes.

That's where M. Miura Store, Inc.'s new store, *Underground* comes in.

Underground opened at the end of September in Kukui Grove Shopping Center though a grand opening is scheduled for

Nov. 17 and 18. They sell apparel, accessories and footwear from a wide variety of hot urban wear and extreme sports brands like Volcom, Fox, DC, element, Hurley, RVCA, LRG, Stussy, etnies, éS, DVS, Lakai, Globe, Sanuk, Split, Ainokea, and more. Each of these

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Clearing the way
 SueEllyn Hampton has converted a unique talent into a helping business.

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Second project
 Brookfield is launching a second Kauai project in Po'ipu.

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New service
 Honsador has launched a new truss service for Kauai builders.

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