About the Hawai‘i Forest Institute

HFIA formed the Hawai‘i Forest Institute (HFI), a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, in 2003. The purpose of HFI is to promote the health and productivity of Hawai‘i forests through forest restoration, education, and support for scientific research.

HFI held four Board meetings in 2013. HFIA Directors approved the following slate of HFI Directors: J.B. Friday, Travis Idol, Robert Osgood, Mike Robinson, Peter D. Simmons, Nickolas Koch, Peter Young, and William Yuen. HFI approved the following slate of HFI Officers: Travis Idol, President; J.B. Friday, Vice President; William Yuen, Treasurer; and Peter D. Simmons, Secretary. The Hawai‘i Forest Journal Editorial Review Committee members are Chair Travis Idol, J.B. Friday, Judy Hancock, and Carolyn Stewart. The Grants Committee members are Travis Idol, Robert Osgood, Mike Robinson, Aileen Yeh, and William Yuen.

Christmas Tree Demonstration Project

The Christmas Tree Demonstration Project involves importing and propagating seed and outplanting 1,600 Douglas fir, Noble fir, and Grand fir seedlings on two acres of Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) land at an elevation of 6,500 feet in Humu‘ula on Hawai‘i Island.

DHHL fenced the site and the seed was imported and propagated by Aileen Yeh, Hawaii Agriculture Research Center at the DOFAW State Nursery in Kamuela. A web page was created to document the project and provide information about the benefits of planting trees and protecting and perpetuating Hawaii’s forests. Volunteers will be recruited to outplant seedlings in the summer of 2014. Our intent is to show that Douglas fir, Noble fir, and Grand fir are suitable for Hawai‘i production and to establish protocols and methods to create top quality trees that can compete with imported trees in our local markets. By demonstrating that Hawai‘i can grow Christmas trees locally, we can significantly enhance competitiveness of locally grown Christmas trees and provide a viable option for landowners who would like to grow trees on their land. The funders are State of Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture, DHHL, and County of Hawai‘i Department of Research & Development. Partners include College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species, DLNR Division of Forestry & Wildlife, Hawaii Agriculture Research Center, Hawaii Invasive Species Council, Preserve Hawaii, and USDA Forest Service.

Mahalo ‘Āina: Give Back to the Forest Campaign

HFI initiated plans for the Mahalo ‘Āina: Give Back to the Forest Campaign, which will be the organization’s first, long-term, self-sustaining, marketing program. The goals of the Campaign are to expand HFI’s public/private partnerships and gain support for the protection and perpetuation of Hawaii’s native forest ecosystems. Through a 12-month Kick Off Marketing Campaign, HFI seeks to raise funds for its forest restoration and demonstration projects. Funds raised will help support propagation, outplanting, and long-term care of the seedlings; site maintenance; educational programs; and campaign administrative and promotional activities.

This project will be different from other tree planting programs because in addition to raising funds to plant trees, it will help to support total ecosystem management and provide forest stewardship opportunities and environmental and cultural educational programs. The program will benefit the following projects: Hawai‘i Island
- Hawai‘i Island Native Hawaiian Seed Bank Cooperative
- Humu‘ula Christmas Tree Demonstration Project
- Kaloko Makai Dryland Forest Preserve
- Kapāpala Canoe Forest
Kaʻūpūlehu Dryland Forest
Keauhou Bird Conservation Center Discovery Forest
Kua O Ka Lā Public Charter School
LaʻiʻŌpua Dryland Habitat Preserve
Palama Nui Dry Forest Preserve
Panaʻewa Zoo Discovery Forest

Oʻahu
Honolulu Zoo Children’s Discovery Forest

Projects on Maui and Kauaʻi to be identified.

Hawaiʻi Forest Journal
The HFI Board has selected “Sandalwood in Hawaiʻi” as the main theme for the seventh issue of the Hawaiʻi Forest Journal. The Journal Editorial Committee is developing articles from the presentations made at the 2012 International Sandalwood Symposium.

Hawaiʻi Island Native Seed Bank Cooperative
The Hawaiʻi Island Native Seed Bank Cooperative entails the collection and storage of native Hawaiian seeds that grow in native forests on Hawaiʻi Island. Seeds are being collected, deposited, and withdrawn for fire mitigation, restoration, and research projects.

The need for banking seed is critical as native habitat loss due to wildfires, ungulate grazing, and development continues to alter the landscape at an alarming rate. The precious species of Hawaii’s dryland forests need to be protected and saving seed allows for mitigation of habitat loss through seed broadcasting, restoration, and creating living fuel breaks. All accessions are from Hawaiʻi Island, with a focus on the dryland forest regions. In cooperation with local, Federal and State agencies, the seed bank collects and accepts seed from rare, threatened, and endangered species.

The Hawaiʻi Island Seed Bank became a part of the newly formed statewide Hawaiian Islands Native Seed Bank Partnership this year. In addition to helping to form the new Partnership, Project Coordinator Jill Wagner continued to develop Hawaiʻi Island Seed Bank partnerships. Hawaiʻi Island Seed Bank Cooperative partner sites are:

- Kaloko-Honokohau National Park
- State of Hawaii-Puʻuwaʻawaʻa
- LaʻiʻŌpua Preserve
- Kaloko Makai Dry Forest Preserve
- Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative
- Amy B.H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden
- Kukio Community Association
- Rogers Ranch- Puʻu Wa’a Wa’a
- Kaʻūpūlehu Dryland Forest
- Nakoa Foundation
- Lyon Arboretum Seed Repository
- The National Park Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- Kona Community Individuals
- US Forest Service
- Forest Solutions

▲ Aileen Yeh with Alani seedlings.
▲ Intern Katy Bridges
▲ Pua kala seed.
The West Hawai‘i Wildfire Management Organization initially funded the Seed Bank Cooperative in 2008 and provided funds in 2012 to purchase a 10’ x 10’ walk-in refrigerator. Henk Rogers, Rogers Ranch at Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a granted the seed bank permission to house the fridge at his ranch. The fridge is being operated with solar power, which is a significant savings in electricity costs and a generous contribution by Henk Rogers.

**Kaloko Honokohau & Pu‘uhonua O‘ Honaunau National Historical Park**

HFI’s contract with the National Park Service (NPS) to provide forest restoration services at the coastal dryland forest in Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park in South Kona, Hawai‘i Island was renewed this year. Jill Wagner is working with the NPS to develop a comprehensive program for coastal dryland forest management in Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park, which includes plant propagation, seed collection and storage, maintenance of rare species, nursery management, and development of educational and interpretation materials that link Hawaiian traditional practices to the coastal dryland forest. The long term plan for vegetation management at Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park is to remove exotic plant species, expose the in situ seed bank for natural regeneration, restore native and Polynesian-introduced plants by outplanting cuttings and seed-generated plants and sowing seed collected from within the Park. Jill’s activities include mulching and fertilizing native trees and plants, regularly checking irrigation system performance, collecting seed, monitoring threatened and endangered species, conducting nursery management workshops, outplanting native plants, holding planning meetings on site, processing seed (cleaning seed), storing seed, and maintaining a seed database.

HFI entered into a Kona Coastal Restoration agreement with US Fish & Wildlife Service to conduct restoration work at Pu‘uhonua O‘ Honaunau and Kaloko Honokohau National Historic Parks, expanding Jill’s seed collection, propagation, and outplanting services.

**Pan‘aewa Zoo Discovery Forest**

HFIA and HFI, along with community partners, completed Phase II of the Pana‘ewa Zoo Discovery Forest this year. The project is engaging community volunteers in creating and maintaining native and agro-forest demonstration gardens at the Pana‘ewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens in Hilo, Hawai‘i. Leonard Bisel Associates produced creative, low-maintenance native and agro-forest (Polynesian-introduced plants) design plans. The Phase II Plan connects the two Phase I demonstration gardens with additional native and Polynesian-introduced plants and includes two interpretive signs, a main kiosk, and plant ID signs.

Seven volunteer workdays engaged over 140 volunteers this year. Kiwanis Kids are helping to create and maintain the Discovery Forest on a quarterly basis. One workday engaged 80 Kamehameha Schools first grade students in pulling weeds and outplanting seedlings. Other groups included Pacific Quest, Hilo Girl Scouts, and Ford Institute Leadership Program.

Project Coordinator Mike Donoho, UH Extension Forester Dr. J.B. Friday and Horticulturist Aileen Yeh conducted planting demonstrations and talked to volunteers about the significance of the plantings and landscape architects Leonard Bisel and Meredith Tanioka provided instructions on implementing their design plans.
Phase II funding was received from Captain Planet Foundation, Cleo Foundation, and DLNR Division of Forestry & Wildlife (DOFAW) and USDA Forest Service through the Kaulunani Urban Forestry Program. Phase I funders and contributors were the Change Happens Foundation, Hawai’i Tourism Authority, Aileen’s Nursery, Big Island Candies, Forest Solutions, Hawai’i Community College’s Forest TEAM, Hawai’i Forest & Trail, HPM Building Supply, Jay Warner, Mālama O Puna, Tree Works, Inc., and UH Tropical Forestry Program.

The project features native, cultural, and medicinal plants that once grew in the traditional farms and native forests of East Hawai’i, including Polynesian-introduced plants that arrived with voyaging canoes. These "canoe plants", along with many endemic species, play essential roles in Hawaiian culture, for food, fiber, tools, implements, and medicine. Many of these plants can be found at the Discovery forest.

HFI received funding from Hawai’i Tourism Authority to initiate Phase III, which will include clearing undesirable trees and additional plantings.

**Keauhou Bird Conservation Center Discovery Forest**

The Keauhou Bird Conservation Center (KBCC) Discovery Forest is part of HFI’s Mahalo ‘Āina: Give Back to the Forest Program. Using captive propagation and release techniques, KBCC is reestablishing self-sustaining populations of critically endangered birds in the wild. HFI is working with KBCC to initiate Phase I of the Discovery Forest, which will include 1.8-acres of koa and other native trees. The project will provide service learning opportunities for volunteers and habitat and food for native birds. The land is owned by Kamehameha Schools and leased to KBCC, a project of the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research. Phase I tasks will include: Completing the forest stewardship plan; Preparing the site for planting; Engaging volunteers in planting koa and other native seedlings; and Printing news articles and documenting activities on the project webpage.

**Project Funders**

Hawai’i Community Authority
Hawai’i Tourism Authority

**Project Partners**

Forest Solutions Inc.
Hawai’i Forest Industry Association
Hawai’i Forest Institute
Kamehameha Schools
Keauhou Bird Conservation Center
San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research

▲ Alala at KBCC. Photo: Hollyn Johnson.
Honolulu Zoo Children’s Discovery Forest

HFI and HFIA are working with community partners to create the Honolulu Zoo Children’s Discovery Forest. This forest demonstration project is being created at the Honolulu Zoo, near the zoo entrance, adjacent to the future site of a Native Hawaiian Village. The Discovery Forest will be a representation of natural systems, creating a scene of Hawai‘i before the arrival of humans. The project will demonstrate culturally significant plant and tree species that once grew near traditional shoreline villages of O‘ahu. This replication of coastal ecosystems will provide habitat for Hawaiian plants, birds, and invertebrates. The exhibit is designed to demonstrate culturally significant Hawaiian plant species, the significance of place, and the kuleana of mālama ‘āina by integrating traditional Hawaiian forest ecosystems, forest stewardship opportunities, and innovative land-based education for residents and visitors.

Renown landscape designer, artist, and author Leland Miyano is working with award-winning landscape architects PBR HAWAII & Associates, Inc. to lead the landscape planning and construction process. Leland completed the schematic design plan and PBR HAWAII completed the topographical survey, tree inventory, and grading, landscape, and irrigation plans.

Plans for the exhibit include three zones, Polynesian-introduced species and cultivars, dryland mesic forest, and strand vegetation. Plants that are associated with educational stories will be prominently displayed. For example, a depiction of a lowland loulu (Pritchardia palm) forest will be a unique feature. The landscape of the Polynesian-introduced flora will provide opportunities for educational programs related to topics such as evolution, ecological lessons, endangered species, watershed protection, ahupua’a resource management, and invasive species.

The Discovery Forest provides an outdoor educational setting where visitors learn about the importance of the sustainability of native and Polynesian plantings within a framework of Hawaiian cultural values. The vast cultural, natural, and historical attributes of Hawaii’s coastal flora and geology are being shared, demonstrating the bond that must be formed between people and ‘āina if both are to thrive.

The Groundbreaking Celebration was held in April 2013 and was attended by student volunteers, parents, and invited guests. Council members Ernie Martin and Stanley Chang participated in the groundbreaking ceremony with Landscape Designer Leland Miyano, PBR HAWAII President Thomas Witten, Department of Enterprise Services Director Gerald Saito, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement Grant Administer Kehau Meyer, HFI Treasurer William Yuen, and HFI President Travis Idol. Each of the dignitaries planted a native tree

▲ Honolulu Zoo Children’s Discovery Forest Groundbreaking Celebration.
and watched as the students planted native seedlings. Student were from McKinley High School, Kaimuki Middle School, Jefferson Elementary, Waikiki Elementary, Washington Elementary, Lunailio Elementary, Ala Wai Elementary, as well as pre-k children. UH Mānoa graduate students volunteered to help the children plant their seedlings. Wai-ahole Botanicals donated ‘Ohi’a seedlings for the children to take home and Side Street Inn and Halli’s Hawaiian Foods donated food for the event.

An Early Childhood Advisory Committee provides guidance to HFI in creating educational resources and developmentally appropriate activities at the Discovery Forest, which will benefit students in pre-kindergarten through second grade, as well as early childhood educators. The Committee developed topics for Hawai‘i Early Learning and Development Standards for four year-old children and Hawai‘i Content and Performance Standard Benchmarks for students in kindergarten, first grade, and second grade. The committee also initiated the development of activities and lesson plans.

Funding has been received from Atherton Family Foundation; Cooke Foundation; DLNR Division of Forestry & Wildlife and USDA Forest Service through Kaulunani Urban Forestry Program; Department of Community Services, City & County of Honolulu, Hawai‘i; Hawai‘i Community Foundation; Hawai‘i Tourism Authority; Pettus Foundation; and Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation.

Website
The HFI website provides a wealth of information about HFI, its community partners, and conservation projects statewide. Through the website, HFI has communicated its message of promoting awareness of the intrinsic value of Hawaii’s forests to the local and international community.

West Hawai‘i Civic Center Dry Forest Planting
Outplanting of native dry forest species was completed at the West Hawai‘i Civic Center (WHCC) this year. HFIA and HFI partnered with Hawai‘i County, Nan Inc., and subcontractors Jill Wagner, Future Forests Nursery and Agro Resources to recreate a dry forest community along the new Ane Keohokalole Highway extension, fronting the WHCC. Jill selected 12 species of dry forest plants, including Ohe makai, Aweoweo, Lama, Aali‘i, Wili wili, Ohia, Mamane, and Loulu Palm. There were also groundcovers, shrubs, and trees, planted in groupings that mimic the dry forest and allow for ease of irrigation. Two project signs were produced and installed.
Ka Pilina Poina ‘Ole “Connection Not Forgotten”

The Ka Pilina Poina ‘Ole “Connection Not Forgotten” project connects three culturally significant dryland forest sites in West Hawai‘i: Ka‘ūpūlehu Dryland Forest; Kalaemanō Cultural Center; and La‘i‘Ōpua Dryland Preserve, Kealakehe. The project is a growing revitalization effort to restore, maintain, and perpetuate endangered dryland forest habitat. It is increasing public awareness of the significance of Hawai‘i’s tropical dryland forests as they pertain to Hawai‘i Island as well as to their importance in world ecology. Throughout Hawai‘i, only about 5% of the dryland habitat remains, which makes safe havens such as these sites critical to the perpetuation of native dryland species.

The project provides educational, cultural, and stewardship opportunities for students and other community volunteers, scientists, and national and international visitors. Outreach includes interpretive materials and signage, workshops, group presentations, forest stewardship events, and participation in off-site outreach events. Over 600 youth participated in forest stewardship outreach events at Ka‘ūpūlehu, Kalaemanō, and La‘i‘Ōpua this year. Cultural ecology, safety, restoration, science and stewardship protocols continued to be focal points of the “learning while doing” partnership events. Stewardship activities included invasive species removal; outplanting native plants; trail building; native plant identification and care; and seed collection and dispersal. In addition to new online curriculum, ‘Ohe makai and Wiliwili native plant resource cards were produced.

The partnership Aupaka o Wao Lama was expanded this year among Kealakehe Intermediate School; Ke Kama Pono, transitional teen-male program; Kealakehe High School; La‘i‘Ōpua 2020 Kau I Ka Mālie Cultural Center and Aupaka Ke Kilohana; Hui La‘au Kama‘aina La‘i‘Ōpua; Ho‘ola Ka Makana’a Ka‘ūpūlehu; and Ka‘ūpūlehu Cultural Center at Kalaemanō. This “learn while doing” stewardship education partnership integrates cultural and science ecology. It addresses needs in advancing Hawaiian culture; protecting natural resources; improving quality of life; and providing youth education and volunteer opportunities.

Ka‘ūpūlehu Dryland Forest

HFI has been supporting restoration and outreach efforts at Ka‘ūpūlehu Dryland Forest since 2008. This year, an additional four acres were controlled of invasive weeds, bringing the total acres being intensively managed to 36 of the 76-acre forest. In addition to invasive weed management, 500 native seedlings were outplanted, along with companion species “soldier plants” grown at the on-site nursery.

Kalaemanō Cultural Center
Located along the makai portion of Kaʻūpulehu Ahupua’a, the Kalaemanō Cultural Center at the Kukio Resort is at the site of the traditional salt ponds of Kalaemanō. “Stories of place” come alive through audio story stations, which were funded by HFI. Digitized live voices from oral histories bring connections to the past to life. The audio features set a reverent tone and sense of place for visitors. Ka Pilina Poina ʻOle Program Director Kuʻulei Keakealani is a lineal descendant of this Kekaha North Kona region, an educator, performing artist, and a Hawaiian language teacher. She is dedicated to continuing community traditions with a focus on developing educational programs— reconnecting the upland slopes to the coastal areas through culture, arts, and education.

LaʻiʻŌpua Preserve
HFI is supporting outreach and education at LaʻiʻŌpua Preserve, which is located within the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands residential community Villages of LaʻiʻŌpua in Kealakehe, North Kona. Keoki and Yvonne Carter are creating interpretive signage that show natural occurring native plants of the area in both a restoration context and the context of an historic cultural homeland. The signs will be installed along the groomed trail within the “Piko” area designated as the public and community-learning portion of the larger Aupaka Preserve. Signs will also serve to provide historical highlights so they are not lost as the area becomes more urbanized.

Cultural Ecology Team
Cultural Ecology Team members are Dryland Site Manager Wilds Pihanui Brawner; Education and Cultural Outreach Coordinator Yvonne Yarber Carter; Hawaiian Culture Educator Keoki Apokolani Carter; Restoration Technician Kekaulike Tomich, Cultural Educator Kuʻulei Keakealani, and Cultural Apprentice Lehua Alapai. The Cultural Ecology Team has added several new components to the outreach program this year including Keoki Carter’s Hoʻohele Mea Lāʻau Traveling School, which greatly expands the number of students who benefit from the program. Also there has been an expanded collaboration with Ka Pilina Poina ʻOle Program Director Kuʻulei Keakealani, who is dedicated to perpetuating homeland knowledge and connection to mauka-makai Kekaha and Hualalai lands through place-based story telling, oral traditions, ancestral knowledge, language, and literacy. Hawaiʻi Youth Conservation Corp year-round interns, Tara Seely, Devan "Keoki" Kailiwai-Ray, and Cimberlynn Kawai Lani Lewi provided valuable assistance with invasive weed control and forest stewardship events.

Ka Pilina Poina ʻOle “Connection Not Forgotten” Project Funders
This year’s HFI received funding from Kukio Community Fund and Arthur Lawrence Mullaly Fund of the Hawai’i Community Foundation, and Friends of Hawaii Charities.

Kuʻulei Keakealani with HPA 8th grade students at Kaʻūpulehu. Photo: Keoki Carter.

L to R: Na Kahumoku students learn from Yvonne and under the shade hale. HPA 8th grade students at Kaʻūpulehu. Photos: Keoki Carter.
### Hawai‘i Forest Institute Contributions

#### 2013 Grants and Donations

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▲ Kamehameha Schools Ho‘alauna Kona students clean seed at Ka‘ūpūlehu. Photo: Keoki Carter.
## Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2013

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### TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

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## Profit and Loss January through December 2013

### Ordinary Income/Expense

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| Interest Income | 5.42 |
| **Total Income** | **52,102.32** |

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| Insurance | 2,000.00 |
| Bank Fees | 10.00 |
| Dues and Subscriptions | 150.00 |
| **Total Expense** | **61,677.86** |

| Net Ordinary Income | **-9,575.54** |
| Net Income | **-9,575.54** |
Mahalo to our Partners and Contributors

Aaron Erickson
A&B Foundation
Agro Resources Inc.
Amy Greenwell Garden
Arthur Lawrence Mullaly Fund of the Hawai‘i Community Foundation (West Hawai‘i Fund)
Atherton Family Foundation
Bello’s Millwork, Inc.—Eric and Mary Bello
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