

Healthy and Productive Forests

A Growing Part of Hawaii's Future

The Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA) is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to promoting the health and productivity of Hawaii's forest ecosystems. HFIA created this message to help build awareness about Hawaii's forests as components of sustainable agriculture with economic, environmental and social benefits.

Hawaii's forests are critically important to the Hawaiian culture, the health and well-being of Hawaii's people, and the state's economy. Our forests provide watershed, soil, and species habitat protection as well as recreational, educational, cultural and employment opportunities.

Why Protect Forests?

Healthy forest ecosystems are the forest's own ecological life-support systems. These ecosystems are often viewed as a free benefit to society. Forest ecosystems have intrinsic economic and social worth relative to human health and livelihood. These ecosystems should be conserved to ensure healthy and productive forests in the future. Natural assets in forests known as ecosystem services include:

- Wildlife habitat
- Watershed services
- Carbon Storage
- Scenic Landscapes

Forests' Future

Forest management that sustains the health and growth of Hawaii's forest over the long term is important to the future of Hawaii's forests. Where appropriate, a return from less productive agricultural lands to more productive forests with the right trees planted in the right places helps ensure healthy forests for future generations.

Learn about sustainable forest management and stewardship opportunities and find student lesson plans, quizzes and other resources at the following websites:

- <http://drylandforest.org/dry-forest-resources>
- www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/kids/jewels/index.html ("Click and Color It")
- www.hear.org/hawaiinoxiousweeds/index.html
- www.HawaiiForest.org
- www.HawaiiForestInstitute.org

Take Action

Incorporate educational materials in curricula so students understand the intricate life-giving role forests play. Encourage hands-on learning. Students can and should become the champions that help ensure Hawaii's forests are sustained.

- Grow native plants at home and at your school
- When hiking, clean your shoes to remove weed seeds before entering the forest – especially a native forest
- Don't release your pets into the wild where they can hurt flora and fauna
- Join or form an environmental club at your school



- Help keep our forests free of litter by organizing your class to adopt a forest
- Get outdoors and learn from and experience our forest ecosystems
- Make sure the plants you grow are not weeds. Visit the [HEAR](#) website for more information
- Encourage our State legislators to help protect Hawaii’s forests by strengthening quarantine regulations and by getting appropriations for native forest restoration

To learn more about the *Healthy and Productive Forests, A Growing Part of Hawaii’s Future* campaign, visit our webpage at www.hawaiiforestinstitute.org/hawaiis-forests.

Established in 1989, the Hawai‘i Forest Industry Association (HFIA) is a nonprofit corporation founded by and for people committed to managing and maintaining healthy and productive forests. As Hawaii’s recognized forest industry trade association, HFIA, through education, planning, information exchange, and advocacy, encourages the responsible growth of Hawaii’s forest industry. HFIA’s programs promote healthier forests, increased business, and more jobs within the sector.

HFIA projects and activities include:

- Dryland forest restoration and education at Ka‘ūpūlehu Dryland Forest, Kalaemanō Cultural Center, and La‘i‘Ōpua Dryland Forest in West Hawai‘i
- Hawaii’s Woodshow™, *Na La‘au o Hawai‘i*, an annual statewide exhibition that promotes appreciation for the participating artists and the positive role forests play economically and ecologically
- Promotion of Hawaii’s Wood brand™
- Symposia and professional training programs
- Website at www.hawaiiforest.org



Enthnobotanist Jill Wagner gives planting instructions to students at Ka‘ūpūlehu Dryland Forest. Photo: Brad Ballesteros.

Mahalo to campaign sponsor:
**County of Hawai‘i Department of
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