

Honolulu Zoo Children's Discovery Forest Receives Continued Support

The Hawai'i Forest Institute (HFI) received continued funding support through Hawai'i Tourism Authority Aloha 'Āina Program and Friends of Hawaii Charities grants for the Honolulu Zoo Children's Discovery Forest.

The infrastructure of the Upland Hawaiian Forest Zone has been completed and volunteers continue to enhance and maintain this Zone. Project Coordinator Linda Duling has coordinated efforts to engage over 1,200 volunteers of all ages in maintaining the Discovery Forest and outplanting 925 seedlings. An additional 3,000 trees, shrubs, and ground cover were planted in the Upland Hawaiian Forest by the landscape contractor in 2015.

With assistance from HFI President Dr. Travis Idol, Linda coordinates monthly volunteer events and scheduled learning events with youth groups. In addition to community volunteers, recent groups include US Navy and Marine Corp, Boy Scouts, Punahou Key Club, Hawaii Community College, Kiwanis Young Professionals, and Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind. Natural resource lesson topics include Native Hawaiian Birds, Energy & Nutrient Cycling, Kalo cultural stories and replanting guidelines, El Nino & Global Climate Change, Polynesian vs. Native Hawaiian plants identification and uses, and Island Chance paper airplane activities.

An Upland Hawaiian Forest Interpretive Sign was created in 2016 and installed at the Discovery Forest at a dedication ceremony on April 29, 2017. The sign illustration was created and generously donated by artist Gerald Mayfield and Diana Tusher donated her time to work with Lowell Gillia, Design Asylum Inc. to create the layout and design. The Wayfinder sign was funded by Hawai'i Tourism Authority and Hawai'i Community Foundation.

HFI recently formed a partnership with faculty and students at the University of Hawai'i-Mānoa and the State Division of Forestry and Wildlife to improve the native plant collection and educational signs and other materials in the adjacent Kipuka Nene Exhibit to better highlight native forest bird habitat and conservation efforts.



Boys Scouts volunteer at the Honolulu Zoo Children's Discovery Forest. 4/9/2017



Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind students learn from HFI President Travis Idol. 3-14-2017



Artists Gerald Mayfield and Diana Tusher with the new Upland Hawaiian Forest interpretive sign. 4/29/2017