

## ‘Āina Mauna Christmas Tree Demonstration Project Workshops

HFIA is planning a New Farmer Business Training Workshop for Friday, October 21 at the Hilo Yacht Club. Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Hawaii Business Instructors will conduct the workshop. Topics will include Business Planning, Financial Management, and Marketing. While this workshop is part of the ‘Āina Mauna Christmas Tree Demonstration Project, topics will be applicable to those interested in growing or selling Christmas trees as well as other agricultural crops. The workshop will be free of charge with limited seating. Those interested in attending the workshop should email HFIA at [hfia@hawaiiforest.org](mailto:hfia@hawaiiforest.org).



Douglas fir seedling in Waimea DOFAW Nursery.

On March 18, HFIA held a Christmas Tree Planting Workshop on Department of Hawaiian Homes Lands (DHHL) land in Humu‘ula/Pi‘ihonua. The Planting Workshop was attended by 22 participants who enjoyed presentations and outplanted Douglas fir seedlings. Click through each agenda item below to view videos of the presentations.

### March 18, 2016 Planting Workshop Presentations

1. [Welcome: Mike Robinson](#)
2. [Block B Site \(2002 Trials\): Aileen Yeh](#)
3. [Melissa Irene Sprecher, DOFAW Forestry Program Coordinator: 2013 Hawai‘i-grown Christmas Tree Market Potential Needs Assessment Study](#)
4. [Mike Robinson, DHHL Forester: Site Preparation](#)
5. [Aileen Yeh, Hawaii Agriculture Research Center Horticulturalist: Seed vs. Seedlings and Nursery Protocols](#)
6. [Anthony S. Davis, University of Idaho: Seedling Selection and Care](#)
7. [Nick Koch, Forest Solutions, Inc. Forester: Site Maintenance](#)

### [‘Āina Mauna Christmas Tree Demonstration Project Handout](#)

Seeds are being imported from the mainland and propagated by Aileen Yeh (Hawaii Agriculture Research Center) at the Division of Forestry & Wildlife (DOFAW) State Nursery in Waimea. HFIA has been consulting with Anthony S. Davis, PhD, Director of the Center for Forest Nursery and Seedling Research and Associate Professor of Native Plant Regeneration and Silviculture at the University of Idaho. Dr. Davis, who presented at the March 18<sup>th</sup> workshop, grew seedlings from the same seed lots as Aileen Yeh and will use his seedlings to help HFIA set targets for the Hawai‘i seedlings.

According to the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture, shipments of Christmas trees from the Pacific Northwest have been found to be widely infested with slugs and other pests that are not found in Hawai‘i. The concern about the heavy infestation of slugs is that they may carry the parasite, *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*, or rat lungworm, which causes a disease that affects the human brain and spinal cord. Once an invasive pest or disease becomes established in Hawai‘i,

it may have a devastating impact on Hawai'i agriculture by causing damage to crops and is often costly for the state and growers to control.

Providing the Hawaiian Islands with locally grown Christmas trees will support import replacement and promote the "Buying Local, It Matters" message. Our goal is to show that Douglas fir is suitable for Hawai'i production and to establish protocols to grow top quality trees that can compete with imported trees in our local markets.

Mahalo to project funders and partners State of Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, USDA Department of Agriculture, County of Hawai'i Department of Research & Development, College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources, Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species, Hawaii Invasive Species Council, US Forest Service, Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance, DHHL, HARC, and DOFAW.

For more information, visit the project [webpage](#) or contact HFIA Executive Director Heather Simmons at 808-933-9411 or email [hfia@hawaiiiforest.org](mailto:hfia@hawaiiiforest.org).



Anthony Davis with the University of Idaho gives a planting demonstration at the March 18<sup>th</sup> Planting Workshop.