

Atherton Family Foundation Supports the Skyline Eco-Adventures Demonstration Project

In partnership with the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA), HFI is working with [Skyline Eco-Adventures-Akaka Falls](#) to implement the Skyline Eco-Adventures Demonstration Project. In addition to adding a new cultural education component for an estimated 15,000 Skyline residents and visitors annually, this project is providing a unique opportunity for Skyline staff and their families to participate in enhancing the 300 acre property. Culturally significant plants that once grew in traditional Hawai'i Island farms will be featured, including Polynesian-introduced plants that arrived with migrations in voyaging canoes. These "canoe plants" play essential roles in Hawaiian culture, for food, fiber, tools, implements, building materials, and medicine.



Mahalo to the [Atherton Family Foundation](#) for awarding HFI a \$5,000 grant for the project through the Hawai'i Community Foundation. The Atherton Family Foundation makes grants for programs and projects that benefit the people of Hawai'i with a focus on the arts, culture, and humanities; community development; education; environment; health; human services; spiritual development; and youth development.

The project was initiated with the first volunteer planting, which was held on November 11, 2018. Skyline Eco-Adventures staff and their families planted three linear plots along the walking path at Zipline #4 of the Skyline Eco-Adventures course. Polynesian-introduced plants [Kalo \(*Colocasia esculenta*\)](#), [Awapuhi \(*Zingiber zerumbet*\)](#), and [Olena \(*Curcuma sp*\)](#) were outplanted in the three plots.

HFIA Director and Aileen's Nursery/Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC) Horticulturalist Aileen Yeh led the planting event with assistance from HFI Volunteer Coordinators Iwikau'ikaua Joaquin and Mika Gallardo. HFI/HFIA representatives gave planting demonstrations and provided information about the significance of the plants in the Hawaiian culture. Skyline will be creating and installing interpretive signage describing the plantings, including how each species plays essential roles in Hawaiian culture.

Skyline Eco-Adventures decided to implement this project in order to achieve their goal of having a strong focus on tourist education. According to Skyline Eco-Adventures-Akaka Falls Owner and Operator Megan Boren, "We endeavor to show our guests a part of Hawai'i outside of their resort, and show them the importance of preserving Hawaii's plants and animals". She adds, "We seek to demonstrate the importance of keeping our island clean and flourishing, so that their children can one day visit Hawai'i and have it be even more beautiful than today".

November 11, 2018 Volunteer Planting



Left to Right: Olena Plot, Kalo Plot mulched with banana leaves, Skyline Eco-Adventures staff and HFIA volunteers.