

Hilo Boy Scout Troop Plants Kalo at Skyline Eco-Adventures Demonstration Project

In partnership with 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 are being planted, 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.

A volunteer planting was held on March 2, 2019, in which Boy Scouts from Troop 82 planted 100 Kalo (*Colocasia esculenta*). The project was initiated with the first planting, which was held in November 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.

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.



Boy Scouts Troop 82 volunteers plant Kalo at Skyline Eco-Adventures-Akaka Falls. Photo: Hollyn Johnson Tribune Herald 3-2-2019