Skyline Eco-Adventures Demonstration Project Summary

Activities
- A volunteer planting was held on November 11, 2018. Skyline Eco-Adventures staff and their families and HFI representatives (20 volunteers) 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.
- A Boy Scout Troop 82 volunteer planting was held on March 2, 2019, in which 10 Boy Scouts planted 100 Kalo (Colocasia esculenta).
- PR Firm Current events notified Hawaii Tribune Herald of the March 2, 2019 Boy Scout planting and reporters from the newspaper covered the event. Articles were printed in West Hawaii Today and Hawaii Tribune Herald.
- Skyline created and installed two interpretive signs: one for ‘Awapuhi and one for ‘Olena describing the plantings, including how each species plays essential roles in Hawaiian culture. The new signs match the existing Skyline signage including the Kalo interpretive sign.
- HFI produced an informational brochure for posting on the webpage and for distribution to Skyline Eco-Adventurers visitors.
- HFI created a webpage with project updates and photo documentation at https://www.hawaiiforestinstitute.org/our-projects/skyline-eco-adventures-project/.
- Project articles were printed in HFIA Winter 2018 and Summer 2019 E-news.

Results
In addition to enhancing Skyline Eco-Adventures site, two volunteer planting events provided a unique opportunity for Skyline staff and community volunteers to learn how to properly plant seedlings as they gained knowledge about Hawaii’s Polynesian-introduced plants (Canoe Plants). HFIA Director and Aileen’s Nursery/Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC) Horticulturalist Aileen Yeh led the November 2018 planting 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. Boy Scout leader Charles Lockhart lead the March 2019 planting after the scouts enjoyed a day of ziplining.

Interpretive signs and a project brochure provide information about the significance of Polynesian-introduced plants and taking care of the land to Skyline staff, community volunteers and an estimated 15,000 residents and visitors to the site annually.

People worldwide learn about the demonstration project through the project webpage, social media, and newsletter and newspaper articles.

Skyline Eco-Adventurers achieved their goal of enhancing their working environment where staff members and their families participate in Hawaii conservation efforts and feel good about the place they work. Creating more opportunities for employees to volunteer their time helped them feel like they are making a difference in enhancing Hawaii’s natural resources.

Due to the problem of nature deficit disorder (NDD) among our youth, there is a need to bring children to nature. NDD refers to the trend that youth are spending less time outdoors, resulting in a wide range of behavioral problems. This project addressed NDD by providing Skyline staff’s children and local boy scouts with outdoor volunteer experiences. They learned about the significance of Polynesian-introduced plants and environmental conservation while gaining experience as team members and stewards of the land.
Skyline Eco-Adventurers Plantings September 2019

Kalo                         ‘Awapuhi

‘Olena

Mahalo to the Atherton Family Foundation for providing grant support.