

FOREST NEWS



A Message from the Editor

Aloha mai kākou,

Just because we practice social distancing doesn't mean we need to be distant. With that in mind, we've created this short newsletter to let you know what's been going on in some of the projects that you may have volunteered in, helped to finance, or just followed with interest. Our project coordinators tell you what it's been like—and kudos to them because, pandemic or not, they've kept things rolling!

— Paul Arinaga, Editor



Pigs, Invasives and a Pandemic? Keauhou Bird Conservation Center Keeps on Going...

Aloha Kākou,

At the Keauhou, Ka'ū Bird Center Discovery Forest we have been steadily keeping up with the maintenance of our reforestation site. But we sure have been missing all of our community engagement groups along with their helping hands and we have had to make adjustments in order to keep up with the 18 acres we have started to reforest. As of November, 13.8 acres have been prepared for planting.

Since the 'Alalā (Hawaiian crow) has a breeding season from March-September we hold off on most management actions to allow the birds to have the most comfort and peace while breeding and nesting. Now that their breeding season is over, however, we can again focus on controlling invasive species and preparing to plant more Koa and

'A'ali'i to recover the grassy open canopy areas and spots where any trees may not have successfully grown after initial planting.

Some areas have since been covered with native canopy and are ready for understory species to be reforested. And just a few areas are at a point where ground cover plants can be introduced to bring more biodiversity and competition against invasive plants.

We started controlling grass off the boundary fence and a tree that fell on our upper boundary fence line last month in October. After the tree fell, we noticed feral pigs got into our fence and started digging up some of our plants. We caught one in a trap and it looks like we may need to catch a couple more—so we have our work cut out for us!

We hope to have the rest of our

management and site prep for this year finished by the end of December which will line us up to be planting just before the 'Alalā breeding season starts back up in March.

Mahalo Nui Loa to the Dorrance Family Foundation and individual donors through the Mahalo 'Āina: Give Back to the Forest Initiative for funding this year's restoration activities at KBCC Discovery Forest.

And Mahalo Nui Loa for your continued support of our Discovery Forests, places where communities can “discover” our native forests, and learn about the conservation of our cultural heritage and the native species that are endemic to our one and only Hawai'i.

*Iwikauikaua Joaquin, Site Manager
Keauhou Bird Conservation Center
Discovery Forest*

Keiki o ka 'āina Native Seedlings Bring Another Year of Hope

It was another year of relatively abundant rain for a dryland tropical forest. Ka'ūpūlehu at near the 2000 ft. elevation has had 24.14 inches of rainfall to date in 2020.

This year, as of November 14, the Ho'ola Ka Makana'ā outreach learners and hui helped the Aloha 'Āina site team plant 273 native seedlings representing 29 species for monitoring in addition to the sharing of native seeds from the site. Along with our botany partners from the University of Hawaii and other science partners, the annual monitoring of natural regeneration is being planned for December or soon after if COVID safety rules allow.

Hawaii Conservation Conference goes virtual

The Hawaii Conservation Conference went virtual this year and more of the unfolding story of Ka'ūpūlehu was told in several presentations about both mauka and makai efforts.

Mentoring the Next Generation

The KUPU program continues to partner with Ka'ūpūlehu Dryland Forest. We just completed another year of mentoring for two interns with the
(Continued on next page)



Sharri and Robert Thorton from Hawaiian Electric crew planting a Halapepe at Ka'ūpūlehu. March 7, 2020. Photo by Liz Brawner.

Restoration at the Villages of La'i'Ōpua Still Going Strong

The restoration at the Villages of La'i'Ōpua in Kailua Kona has been progressing since 2012. The site is looking beautiful and the dry forest is really holding its own despite being surrounded by a sea of Koa Haole, *Leucaena leucocephala*.

HFI has run a program for the community for several years. Members of the community have helped with hand weeding, collecting seeds, and planting in the 4-acre community area to return it, like the rest of the preserve, to a native Hawaiian dry forest.

“Native Hawaiian Plant Friends” Video Series Launched on YouTube

The most recent video was created

with the help of two volunteers, Rebecca and John. When we met, I asked them what it is about the workdays that they like. They told me that they like to get outside to work on weeding and see that they are doing something positive for the environment. They said they really like to learn about the native Hawaiian species and know what Hawaii really looked like before all of the land use changes such as cattle, development, fires, and feral ungulates greatly altered the landscape.

I am grateful for John and Rebecca, and for all of the interns, school children, and adults who have come to the dry forest to help and learn about the native species in Kona.

“The dry forest is really holding its own despite being surrounded by a sea of Koa Haole.”

Mahalo also to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority Aloha 'Āina Program and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for funding this year's education and restoration activities at Pāalamanui and La'i'Ōpua Dry Forest Preserves.

--- *By Jill Wagner, Ethnobiologist & Site Manager, Future Forests Nursery*



Honolulu Zoo Children's Discovery Forest: Back in Business!

Here at the Honolulu Zoo Children's Discovery Forest we've gone through some cycles of shut-down and re-opening due to the pandemic, but we're happy to report that we could host a group again this month.

Aside from hosting volunteers to help maintain the native and canoe plants at the Discovery Forest, we've also produced a coloring book that features native animals and their habitats. The coloring book, by artist Diana Tusher, offers more than just a fun art activity,

it also includes fun facts about the various animals. It features animals such as the Pueo (Hawaiian Short Eared Owl), 'Ōpe'ape'a (Hawaiian Hoary Bat), Pulelehua (Kamehameha Butterfly), Nēnē (Hawaiian Goose), and many more. You can download a free copy for personal use at:

<https://hawaiiforestinstitute.org/our-projects/honolulu-zoo-discovery-forest/>

*Linda Duling, Site Coordinator
Paul Arinaga, Project Manager*

Abundance at the Pana'ewa Zoo Children's Discovery Forest



Big mahalo to Heidi Waiamau and her 'ohana for donating mulch to the exhibit! And also mahalo piha to Aileen Yeh's nursery for helping to provide the native seedlings to outplant.

--- Mika Gallardo, Site Coordinator

Help the forest with your spare change!

Register to round up your credit or debit card purchases:

<https://roundup.app/p/hfi>

It's fast and easy, and you control the amount.

Keiki o ka 'āina Year of Hope (continued)

Conservation Leaders Development Program with Chelsea Edinger and Ka'ala Bertelmann. Mahalo nui, Chelsea and Ka'ala, for your commitment to learning about conservation restoration, working and loving Ka'ūpūlehu under the guidance of Site Manager Wilds Brawner and Tech, Kekaulike Tomich.

A new program collaboration with KUPU and Huliaupa'a Archaeology,

made possible in part by the Ka'ūpūlehu Foundation brings a new dimension to our intern efforts that more deeply intertwines our four programs at Ka'ūpūlehu—Ho'ōla Ka Makana'ā, Aloha 'Āina, Kapilina Poina Ole, and Mea La'au. Janali Torres has joined us as a new intern until late August 2021.

Mahalo to the Hawaii Tourism Authority Aloha 'Āina Program, Ka'

ūpūlehu Foundation, and Kamehameha Schools for funding this year's education and restoration activities at Ka'ūpūlehu Dryland Forest.

---Yvonne Yarber Carter, Ho'ōla Ka Makana'ā Director, and Wilds Pihanui Brawner, Aloha 'Āina Director & Site Manager



Hawaii's Woodshow 2020 1st Place Furniture
"Sleeping with Rorschach" by Michael Felig.
Photo: Brad Goda.

The Inside Scoop on Hawaiian Christmas Trees

While the Christmas Tree Project has concluded its most recent phase, the trees are still growing and many of them have been doing well. The Southern Red Cedar (actually a Juniper), Mexican Cypress, and Arizona Cypress have grown pretty quickly, and I think one could harvest a 5-foot tree after 3 years in the ground. The Monterey Cypress is really nice also but doesn't seem to grow as fast as the Mexican variety. Really wet soil might be too wet for some species. Many of the cypress look good as small potted trees, but as they get taller, they don't retain the Christmas tree shape very well, or the tops

get really wispy. Another problem with some of them is browning of the needles at the bottom or inside along the main trunk/stem. I would recommend cloning or making cuttings from the really nice trees, if seed is not available.

This project was funded by the State of Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, US Department of Agriculture, and County of Hawai'i Department of Research & Development.

Aileen Yeh
Christmas Tree Project



Potted Leland Cypress, S. Red Cedar, Arizona Pine, Swiss Stone Pine, Italian Stone Pine, Himalayan Cedar, and Incense Cedar. 3 years old.

2020 Hawaii's Woodshow Na Lā'au o Hawai'i

The 2020 Hawaii's Woodshow™, *Na La'au o Hawai'i*, was the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association's (HFIA) 28th annual juried woodworking exhibition. Attendees were treated to extraordinary heirloom-quality works made from interesting and beautiful Hawai'i-grown woods. Hawaii's Woodshow encourages an appreciation for the participating artists and the materials they use. It promotes the positive role forests play in our economy and ecology and calls for the use of wood from Hawaiian-grown tree species, especially those that have been planted and brought to maturity here in Hawai'i.

Held this year at the Hawaii Opera Theater, the Show also recognized aspiring young woodworkers through the Innovation + Imagination (I+I) Student Challenge Awards.

New Coordinator Diana Ching and her team of volunteers did an excellent job of planning and coordinating this year's Woodshow under very difficult circumstances.

"Go Native" Project Aims to Restore Native Forest from mauka to makai

The *Go Native: Growing a Native Hawaiian Urban Forest* project will promote the growing of Native Hawaiian and "canoe" plants by creating a series of videos and a quick reference guide that walk people through the stages of creating or converting their landscape to native and/or Polynesian-introduced plants. The project is funded by an \$8,979 grant from the Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program of the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

--- *Paul Arinaga,*
Project Manager

Please support our projects.

Make a gift by visiting:

www.hawaiiforestinstitute.org/donate

P.O. Box 66, O'okala HI 96774

Tel: 808-933-9411

www.hawaiiforestinstitute.org

info@hawaiiforestinstitute.org