



GO NATIVE: GROWING A NATIVE HAWAIIAN URBAN FOREST

Join the movement to restore nature from *mauka* to *makai*

Hawaii has earned the dubious distinction as “the extinction capital of the world.” It’s not only animals that are disappearing, however, plants have also been disappearing at an alarming rate.

In former times, nature flowed uninterrupted from *mauka* to *makai*. Much of the natural environment, however, has been severely degraded and disrupted over time by development and other factors. Although we cannot reverse decades of development, there is a way to return nature to even the most urbanized areas in Hawaii.

Forests are Disappearing

- Up to 95% of Hawaii’s dryland forest has been destroyed
- Only 40% of moderately or seasonally wet forest remains
- Nearly 10% of the state’s 1,360 native plant species have already gone extinct
- 236 native plant species in Hawaii each has fewer than 50 plants remaining in the wild

From Concrete Jungle to Urban Forest

While heroic efforts are being made to conserve and restore Hawaii’s nature, one area that has received less attention is the urban forest. The urban forest is the “missing link” in restoration efforts. By “re-foresting” urban and suburban areas of the state, we can restore nature to a semblance of its former self. When the urban forest reaches a sufficient size and density, it can form a connection with existing remnants of natural forests. Then nature can once again flow unimpeded from *mauka* to *makai*.

“The urban forest is the 'missing link' in restoration efforts.”

What is the Urban Forest?

A collection of patches of managed “nature” in:

- Yards
- School grounds
- Public parks
- Median strips
- Commercial landscaping
- ...Any arable urban space



The Go Native Project

The goal of the Go Native Project is to create a patchwork of native forest *kipuka* throughout urban areas by supporting and encouraging homeowners and businesses to incorporate native plants in their landscaping. These *kipuka* would eventually form a “Native Hawaiian Urban Forest Network” that connects with existing natural forests. The project is based on the recognition—as practiced by the ancient Hawaiians and espoused by modern scientists—that we live in an island eco-system that should be viewed as one system.

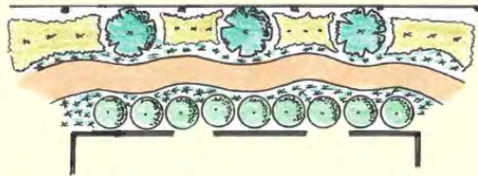
Benefits

- A refuge for native animals
- Wildlife corridors for native birds, bats, and invertebrates
- A genetic databank for plant and animal species
- Native plants require less use of fertilizers, pesticides, and water, and reduce air pollution.
- Preserve cultural and spiritual links with the past

Tools to Support You

The Go Native Grower’s Guide:

Due out in spring of 2022, the guide will enable gardeners, landscape architects, and others to identify the different native plants most suitable to their climate zone, personal tastes, gardening experience, and landscaping needs. It will include plans and suggested combinations of plants.



Video Series (in production):

A series of videos profiling existing Native Hawaiian gardens and their creators.

Community Forum (planned):

- Get your questions answered on the forum
- Share experiences and make new friends at in-person meetups
- Exchange seeds, cuttings, seedlings
- Access experts
- Learn more at webinars and through the blog
- Document and be inspired by success stories
- Get involved in community projects (*kīpuka* on public spaces)



Top: UH Mānoa Shidler College of Business; Middle: Honolulu Museum of Art; Bottom: Diamond Head Residence



Be part of the movement! Visit
www.bit.ly/GoNativeHI

