HAWAI‘I
Forest Institute

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

▲ Damien Memorial High School Key Club students weeding at the Honolulu Zoo Children’s Discovery Forest. 2/18/2023

## February 2024

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▲ 10 year old koa in a former pasture, windward Mauna Kea on Hawai‘i Island. Photo: J.B. Friday.

# Preface

This Annual Report describes the many activities of the Hawai‘i Forest Institute (HFI) in 2023. To learn more about a project or program, click the link on the project heading to its webpage.

It was a productive year as we celebrated our 20th year promoting the health and productivity of Hawai‘i forests through forest restoration, education, information dissemination, and support for scientific research. HFI initiated the process to update it 5-year Strategic this year.

In addition to expanding and enhancing existing projects and programs, HFI met with community partners to discuss assisting with a new projects on O‘ahu. The Akupu Ridge Restoration Project is located on Gill ‘Ewa Lands LLC properties at Pālehua, which encompass lands to the south of the Wai‘anae Mountains in the ahupua‘a of Honouliuli within the ‘Ewa District of Leeward O‘ahu. HFI is partnering with Gill ‘Ewa Lands LLC and Mālama Learning Center (MLC) to bring volunteers to a 5-acres site currently being restored.

HFI also made progress growing the MAHALO ‘ĀINA: *Give Back to the Forest* Initiative, which promotes awareness and support for forest restoration and education projects and programs throughout the State.

In 2023, HFI in conjunction with the Hawai‘i Forest Industry Association (HFIA), achieved many accomplishments including:

- Propagated/outplanted 1,479 seedlings;
- Managed 118 acres and brought 4.2 additional acres of forest habitat under intensive management;
- Secured contributions for HFIA’s 2023 Hawaii’s Woodshow, *Na La‘au o Hawai‘i*;
- Benefited an estimated 4,704 people through forest stewardship activities and live and virtual classroom and community event presentations;
- Provided the publication “Go Native!: Your guide to growing Native Hawaiian and canoe plants wherever you live, work, or play” to the community; and
- Enhanced our online presence via social media, video tours and presentations, and virtual educational activities.

▲ Ho'omāka'ika'i students collecting seed at Ka‘ūpūlehu Dryland Forest 6-27-23. Photo: Keoki A. Carter.

# About the Hawai'i Forest Institute

The Hawai'i Forest Institute (HFI), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was formed in 2003 by the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA). The mission of HFI is to promote the health and productivity of Hawai'i forests through forest restoration, education, information dissemination, and support for scientific research.

HFI held four Board meetings in 2023. HFIA Directors approved the following HFI Directors at the March 2023 Board Meeting: J.B. Friday, PhD., Travis Idol, PhD., Nickolas Koch, Wade Lee, Peter D. Simmons, and William Yuen, Esq. HFI approved the following slate of Officers: Travis Idol, President; Wade Lee, Vice President; William Yuen, Treasurer; and Peter D. Simmons, Secretary.

## MAHALO ʻĀINA: *Give Back to the Forest* Initiative

HFI continued to raise funds and awareness for its forest restoration and demonstration projects through the MAHALO ʻĀINA: *Give Back to the Forest* Initiative. Funds raised are helping to support propagation, outplanting, and long-term care of the seedlings; site maintenance; educational programs; public and community relations, and project coordination and administration. Che Garcia, Woodsmen Jewelry donated a percentage of their sales and a portion of Oʻo Hawaii and Little Outcrop sales benefited Keauhou Bird Conservation Center Discovery Forest through MAHALO ʻĀINA.

MAHALO ʻĀINA

HFI raised $44,694 in donations this year. A special mahalo to Linda Clifford with William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation for the discretionary gift of $3,000. Sadly we lost Linda's husband Rob Klein this year; $5,250 in donations were received in memory of Rob Klein.

In addition to raising funds to plant trees, MAHALO ʻĀINA is helping to support total ecosystem management and provide forest stewardship opportunities and environmental and cultural educational programs. MAHALO ʻĀINA benefits the following projects:

Hawaii's Woodshow I+I Student Challenge, Oʻahu
Panaʻewa Zoo Discovery Forest, Hawai'i Island
Go Native: Growing a Native Hawaiian Urban Forest, Statewide
Honolulu Zoo Children's Discovery Forest, Oʻahu
Hawaii's Woodshow™, Na Lāʻau o Hawai'i, Oʻahu
Locally-grown Christmas Tree Demonstration Project, Hawai'i Island
KBCC Discovery Forest, Hawai'i Island
Akupu Ridge Restoration Project, Oʻahu
Kaʻūpūlehu Dryland Forest, Hawai'i Island
Symphony of the Hawai'i Forests, Statewide
Hāloa ʻĀina Reforestation Project, Hawai'i Island
MBCC Discovery Forest, Maui

## MAHALO ʻĀINA MESSAGE

We, the Hawai'i Forest Institute and our sister organization the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association give deep appreciation and thanks to our ʻāina. We understand that we are dependent upon the land and its forests; the land is not dependent on us. We are humbled, awed and inspired in the presence of one of the lands' great expressions — its forests. We mahalo the ʻāina and we invite you to mahalo with us by Giving Back to the Forest.

## MAHALO ʻĀINA VISION

Our vision for MAHALO ʻĀINA is to help ensure a thriving future for the Hawai'i Forest Institute's forest restoration and education programs to benefit the ʻāina and people of Hawai'i.

**He aliʻi ka ʻāina: He kauwa ke kanaka**

*The land is chief: Man its servant*

# MAHALO ʻĀINA Donors

**ʻŌhiʻa Māmane Forest: $25,000-$39,999**
Paniolo Tonewoods, LLC/Siglo Tonewoods, LLC
Peter & Heather Simmons: In Memory of our Good Friend Rob Klein

**ʻŌhiʻa ʻIliahi Forest: $10,000-24,999**
Carl & Suzanne Merner/Merner Land Co.
Toby Taniguchi: In Memory of Koichi and Taniyo Taniguchi, Founders of KTA Super Stores and K. Taniguchi, Ltd.
John Ciambrone (in-kind)
Linda Clifford and Rob Klein
Rob and Cindy Pacheco, Hawaii Forest & Trail
William Yuen

**ʻŌhiʻa Naio Forest: $5,000-$9,999**
Bob and Cindy Taylor
Edmund C. Olson Trust No. 2
Margaret Schmidt, Microsoft Employee
Nicholas & Amy Koch, In Memory of Oliver Koch
Skyline Eco-Adventures-Akaka Falls
Tusher Architectural Group
William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation

**ʻŌhiʻa Koa Forest: $2,500-$4,999**
Bob Kennedy (Hawai'i Bird Conservation Marathon)
James B. & Kathleen S. Friday
Komo Koa-Che Garcia
Laurie Ho
Margaret Schmidt, Microsoft Employee
Mike & Phyllis Robinson, In Honor of Those Who Care
Stephen L. McMinn
Stephen E. Smith
Suzy Dameron: In Memory of Rob Klein
Tom and Vi Zapara
Woodsman Jewelry

**ʻŌhiʻa Hāpuʻu Forest: $1,000-$2,499**
A.K Shingle: In Memory of Rob Klein
Alan Ryan: Hawaiʻi Bird Conservation Marathon
Aileen Yeh, In Memory of Leslie Wung
Christine Piper
Core Group One, Inc
Former HFIA Board Member
Hāloa ʻĀina Royal Hawaiian Sandalwood
Heather Kihara
Holly Harding, O'O Hawaii
In Honor of Tracy Holmes
Jay Warner, Awapuhi Farms & Mill
Kathleen Heitz Myers
Kim Regan & Daniel Hoth, In Appreciation of Rob & Cindy Pacheco
Madeline Wilson
Mark Matsuo
Natasha & Gary Spalding
Roy Lambrecht Woodworking, Inc.
Thomas Calhoun
Travis & Courtney Idol
William J. Houston, Alameda Land Company Inc.

**ʻŌhiʻa Lama Forest: $500 to $999**
Barbara Vonnegut
Bethany Rees, In memory of Joseph Lamendola
Christopher Diani
David Deluz, Jr., Big Island Toyota
David Palmer, Café Pesto
Donald Stoddard
Don and Jana Bryan
Edwin Ikeda
Frank Morgan
www.ilustore.com
In Memory of Chris Brosius: To my son who has worked tirelessly to preserve the West Maui watershed for over 20 years
John Bigelow
John Britton, MD
J.P. Casselli
Julie Smolinski
Little Outcrop
Lloyd Jones
Lucy Do
Kohanaiki Club, Inc.
Molly O. Sweeney, In Memory of Rob Klein
Marilyn Gagen: In honor of Peter & Heather Simmons
Paul Conry

▲ Akupu Ridge Restoration Project volunteer event. 8/12/2023

▲ Keauhou Bird Conservation Center Discovery Forest Acacia koa plantings.

**‘Ōhi‘a Lama Forest: $500 to $999 (Continued)**
Penny Souder: In honor of Tom Calhoun
Peter T. Young
Ron Wolfe
Ross Wilson, Jr.
Sally Rice, Agro Resources, Inc.
Saiva Siddhanta Church
Thomas A. Loudat
White Mountain Health, LLC

**‘Ōhi‘a Maile Forest: $100 to $499**
Alan & Ana Gamble
Alyssa Burt, on behalf of Holly Harding, O’o Hawai’i
Andrea Gill
Andrew G. Derugin
Andrew and Catharine Seeto, In Memory of Douglas Bowen
Ann and Dan Burns
Bob Kennedy & Anne Broussard
Bob Masuda
Brandon Najarian
Brandi Pagala, Mac
Brian & Cheryl Kubo: In Memory of Rob Klein
Chad Waters
Charlotte & Charven Rodrigues: In Memory of Rob Klein
Christopher Buell
Claudia nd John Hirasuna, In Memory of Douglas Bowen
Clement Chen Ming
Clifford Bowen
Cherly Laglia
Chip Hartman
Christy Martin
Cindy Beth Davis-Dykema
Constance Davis
Cortney S. Midla
Cynthia Newsome
Danica Sills
David Longacre
David Louie
Dennis Wong
Diane Ornstein: In Memory of Rob Klein
Diane Ware
Dogen Hosokawa
Don and Kerrill Kephart In Memory of Rob Klein
Dorothy S. Billingsley
Erica Keller
Frank Halstead
Gordon Jay
Graciela Fernandez: In Memory of Rob Klein
Guy & Sandy Nakao: In Memory of Rob Klein
Helen Walker
James Warner
Jeff O’Connell
John Bolte
John de Haan
John McCann
Jorma Winkler
Julie Murphy
Karyn Komatsu
Kauai’s Hindu Monastery
Kevin Carl
Lance (Kip) Dunbar
Lehua Alapai
Les & Cindy Martisko
Leslie Resnick
Look Family Visionary Fund
Marci Lu
Marian Yasuda
Marilyn and Ronald Lee, In Memory of Douglas Bowen
Mayuran Sokkan
Medtronic Foundation Volunteer Grant Program
Michael Donoho
Michael Sowards
Michael Weitzenhoff
Molly O. Sweeney, In Memory of Rob Klein
Myra Wyatt
Nathan Richards
Orlo Steele
Paul Arinaga, In Memory of Clifford I. Arinaga
Peter Honigmann, In Memory of LaVerne C McKanna
Randy Akau, Island Trophies and Awards
Ravindra Gade
Richard Cunningham
R. W. Rollo Scheurenbrand
Rob Klein, for Heather Simmons for her commitment to make a difference in our state and for all the good work she has done for many years.
Robert Woodward
Rosemary Adam-Terem

**‘Ōhi‘a Maile Forest: $100 to $499 (continued)**
Sang Lee
Scott O’Neal
Scott Rolles
Scheurenbrand Guitars
Sharon Hurd
Shaun Fleming
Shawn Collins
Shirley Wagner
Suzanne Sophocles
Susan Vaquilar, In memory of Douglas Bowen
Tai Lake
Takahiro and Junko Yoshino
The H Lyfe Method
Thomas Pasquale
Walter Kimo Dehmer
William Dalton
Will and Judy Hancock
William Dement
Willie and Jane Quayle
Woodcraft by Roy Tsumoto
Xann Kuenzli

**‘Ōhi‘a Mala Forest: Up to $99**
Alexa Lum: In Memory of Rob Klein
Alex & Marian Thropp: In Memory of Rob Klein
Allyson Nakamoto
Andy Cole
Anne Hellkamp
Arlene & Glenn Horiuchi
Benjamin Konshak
Bernadette Cacoulidis: In Memory of Rob Klein
Burma Barns
Cabrera Ohana: In Memory of Rob Klein
Christine Kelly, In honor of Danielle Kelly
Christy Martin
Cullen Pagaduan
Dagan Bernstein
Danica Sills
Daniel Leigh
Danielle Himmelsbach, At&T employee
Darin Eastburn
Dennis Wong
Diedra De Coito
Edward Downey
Elizabeth Flint
Erica Dias
Fedeliza Espiritu-Lopez
Glenn Skankey
Gordon Harwood
Henry Biscardi
Herb Kaneko
Hugh McKenzie
In honor of Marla Dorreland Gary Craven
Jack Strada
Jane Flood
Jason Louie
Jeanne Lau
Jennifer Toth, In honor of the remarkable life of Leilani O’Day
Joel Bright
Joel Lange
John Frackrell
Johanna Nurmi
Kara Kansaku
Karen Luke
Koa Grabar
Johanna Nurmi
Kevin Cobarrubia
Larry Levine
Laurie Lee
Laurie Smith-Wishard
Leslie Wolfson
Magalie Ross
Martha Fernandes, In Memory of Jeanie Stark
Martha Schaffer
Marla O’Connell
Mats Fogelvik
Meris Emory
Michael Buck
Michael Gibson
Michael Parker
Michelle Suber
Nancy Schildt
Penelope Greenler
Phuoc Dinh
Randy Steinbruegge
Raymond and Shirley Lum, In Memory of Douglas Bowen
Raymond Salley
Razelle Perkins
Richard Dalton
Richard Sylva
Richard Quinn
Rolina Kiyota
Robert Duffer
Robert Hahn
Robert Kurosu
Satomi Fujimura
Shawn Collins
Susan & Scott Nakahara: In Memory of Rob Klein
Susie Davis
Susan Trester
Taylor Boos
Tom England
Tommy Higashino
Wieteke Holthuijzen
Will and Judy Hancock
Willie and Jane Quayle

Photos by J.B. Friday.

# Projects and Programs

▲ Volunteer cuts Strawberry Guava at Akupu Ridge. 8/12/2023

## Akupu Ridge Restoration Project

HFI joined a partnership to restore a 5-acre site in Akupu Ridge on O'ahu. HFI and landowner Gill Eva Lands (GEL) entered into a Restoration License Agreement to bring volunteers to the site. Project partner Mālama Learning Center (MLC) has been coordinating eco-tours to the site for past few years.

The project is helping to support restoration efforts in the southern Wai'anae Mountains, which are part of a watershed that is facing serious threats. The cyclical effects of wildfires and historic reforestation by invasive species, particularly grasses, fuel more wildfires and accelerate erosion. Strawberry guava (*Psidium Cattlenium*) also known as Waiawi, is an invasive species also threatening the site. Slowing this trend requires finding ways to remove invasive species and reintroduce native plants on terrain that extends from sea level to mountainous ridges.

At approximately 2,500', the 5-acre site encompasses mesic forest that has some native species (ōhia and Acacia koa) as well as invasive weeds. GEL build a trail accessible by ATV, which is important for wildfire suppression, site maintenance, and community involvement. A fence encloses most of the 5-acre site, which helps to protect the native species from the area's feral animals.

In August 2023, 38 community volunteers participated in a workday clearing strawberry guava, a highly invasive species that has caused partial or complete loss of approximately 495,000 forested acres in Hawai'i. See more photos of the volunteer event here. The next volunteer workday will be scheduled for 2024.

## Hawai'i Papahana Lā'au Kalikimaka (Locally-grown potted Christmas Trees)

HFI initiated Phase 3 of the locally-grown Christmas tree efforts this year, titled "Hawai'i Papahana Lā'au Kalikimaka, Locally-grown potted Christmas Trees". Phase 3 includes working with Kealakekua Forest Nursey, Forest Solutions, Inc. and Aileen's Yeh's Nursery to grow six different species; four species previously shown to grew well and make desirable Christmas trees (Italian Stone Pine, Norfolk Island Pine, Cooke Pine, and Western Red Cedar) and two native species ('A'ali'i and 'Alahe'e). The goal is to expand a fledgling local Christmas tree industry, leading to reduced imported container stock, alien species introductions, and work-

◀ Cooke Pine seedlings.

load of State agricultural inspectors. Providing the Islands with locally grown Christmas trees supports import replacement and promotes the State's "Buying Local, It Matters" message.
HFIA Outreach Coordinator Aspen Billiet coordinated two workshops to create mini ornaments for the tabletop Christmas trees; two at Laupahoehoe Charter School Woodshop and one at Aaron Hammer's workshop. A Christmas tree sale was held at the Pana'ewa Zoo in December.

Phase 2, which was completed in 2019, demonstrated that conifer species can be grown at mid-to-low elevations and identified the species and cultivars that produced acceptable Christmas trees – in pots and in the ground. Outplanting at different elevations was done with collaborators. The species that were selected as the trees they thought grew well and would make the most desirable Christmas trees were: American Arborvitae, Western Red Cedar, Southern Red Cedar, Snowbush, Incense Cedar, Norfolk Pine, and Italian Stone Pine.

Phase 1, the 'Āina Mauna Christmas Tree Demonstration Project was initiated in 2014 by importing and propagating seed and outplanting conifer seedlings on Department of Hawaiian Home Lands land in Humu'ula/Pi'ihonua on Hawai'i Island. Due to limited access to the planting site, Phase 2 was initated. Mahalo to Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA), US Department of Agriculture for supporting this project for many years.

▲ Ashley creates ornaments at Laupahoehoe Charter School Woodshop for the Christmas trees. 10/14/2023

## Maui Bird Conservation Center Discovery Forest

HFI is working with Bryce Masuda, Maui Bird Conservation Center (MBCC) and Keauhou Bird Conservation Center (KBCC) Conservation Programs Manager, to create a Discovery Forest at the MBCC. The MBCC Discovery Forest will be modeled after the KBCC Discovery Forest. The MBCC. will be receiving a $5 million grant from landowner DOFAW to install more aviaries for the birds being bred at the facility.

▲ Teachers participating in the MBCC workshops.

MBCC is located in the ahupua'a of Makawao, on about 40 acres. Hawaiian birds being bred at MBCC are the 'Alalā (extinct in the wild) and 'Akikiki. The site was cleared many years ago for agriculture, and now there is a need to restore the native forest to help ensure the birds are comfortable and ready to be returned to the forest. Together with the community, introduced weeds and trees will be removed and native seedlings will be outplanted as part of service-learning activities connecting the birds with the forest.

Former teacher, Sarah Naone is conducting teacher workshops to encourage teachers to bring their students to MBCC for forest stewardship activities at the Discovery Forest and to learn about the endangered birds.

▲ Volunteer plants seedling at KBCC Discovery Forest. 1/25/2023

## Keauhou Bird Conservation Center Discovery Forest

HFI continued working with Keauhou Bird Conservation Center (KBCC) to create the KBCC Discovery Forest, which is providing forest stewardship opportunities and habitat and food for native birds. Using captive propagation and release techniques, KBCC is reestablishing self-sustaining populations of

critically endangered birds in the wild (ʻAlalā, Palila, ʻAkekeʻe, and ʻAkikiki).
Weed maintenance was conducted on the previously cleared 20.5 acres. The forest management plan calls for clearing an additional 1-4 acres per year. This year 16 volunteers were engaged in outplanting 64 native seedlings, which benefit the Hawaiian birds in captivity and in the wild. Outplanted species include Acacia koa, Māmane, Maile, ʻŌhiʻa, Paʻiniu, ʻŌhelo, Kawaʻu, Kōlea , Olapa, ʻOhāwai, ʻUki'uki, Popolo ku mai, and Pilo.

HFI received a $20,000 grant from the Dorrance Family Foundation and $8,900 from the Hawaiʻi Tourism Authority Aloha ʻĀina Program.

▲ Honolulu Magazine volunteers and their families weeding at the Honolulu Zoo Children's Discovery Forest. 4/1/2023

## Honolulu Zoo Children's Discovery Forest

HFI continued working with community partners to maintain and enhance the Honolulu Zoo Children's Discovery Forest. The Discovery Forest is a representation of natural systems, creating a scene of Hawaiʻi before the arrival of humans. The project is demonstrating culturally significant plant and tree species that once grew near traditional shoreline villages of Oʻahu. This replication of coastal ecosystems is helping to provide habitat for Hawaiian plants, birds, and invertebrates. The exhibit demonstrates the significance of place, and the kuleana of mālama ʻāina by integrating traditional Hawaiian forest ecosystems, forest stewardship opportunities, and innovative land-based education.

The infrastructure of the Upland Hawaiian Forest Zone was completed in 2015 and volunteers continue to enhance and maintain this Zone. Volunteer Coordinator Linda Duling continues to coordinate monthly volunteer events as well as forest stewardship learning activities for students.

This year, 243 volunteers participated in stewardship events to plant seedlings, pull weeds, prune vines, and harvest kalo and sweet potatoes, which are donated to the animals at the zoo. The Discovery Forest includes "Upland Hawaiian Forest" and "Birds of the Montane Native Forest" interpretive signs, which were funded by the Hawaiʻi Tourism Authority and Friends of Hawaii Charities.

This year, HFI continued to produce the postcards for teachers and students to enhance their understanding about Hawaiian trees in the Discovery Forest. The postcards, which feature native and Polynesian-introduced plants, native forest birds and other forest fauna, are handed out to volunteers at the Discovery Forest as well as community outreach events.

In 2021, HFI produced a Docent Workbook Interpretive Guide and Forest Friends Coloring Book as well as Honolulu Zoo Children's Discovery Forest Plant ID, Upland Native Birds, and Other Forest Fauna webpages. This years funding was received from Hawaiʻi Tourism Authority Aloha ʻĀina Program.

## Symphony of the Hawaiʻi Forests

HFI joined partners in a unique project, "Symphony of the Hawaiʻi Forests", a performing arts project that fostered the breadth of Hawaii's artistic genres, media, and practitioners, while maximizing public access and expo-

sure to a quality arts experience.
The project is a collaboration among three University of Hawai'i at Mānoa colleges – Arts, Languages, & Letters, Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), and Education , as well as five community partners – Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra, DLNR Division of Forestry & Wildlife, Hālau 'Ō'hia, the Hawai'i Forest Institute (HFI), and the Mālama Learning Center.

The Symphony project includes creating music compositions and artistic presentations devoted to the forests of Hawai'i and teaching K-12 students and statewide residents about the importance of planting and caring for trees. These strands culminated in an integrated educational performance by the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra consisting of original music compositions, artwork and animations, and hula.

▲Symphony of the Hawai'i Forests Keiki Concert Series. April 2023.

The Symphony of the Hawai'i Forests concerts were held in April 2023 at Hawai'i Theatre Center. There were four performances attended by 3,000 students and teachers from 43 schools. The program benefitted students, teachers and the general public through the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra's keiki concert series. The program was recorded for wider dissemination throughout the state. To ensure that the project results in lasting change, teachers of various disciplines included lessons about forests in their subjects. To bridge the gap between awareness and action, the project showed participants specific actions they can take such as educating others, volunteering at conservation projects, taking care of trees in their own communities, advocating, and altering their consumer choices. A second Symphony of the Hawai'i Forests concert series is being planned for February 2024.

Mālama Learning Center developed a teacher's PDE³ course (accredited college/university course), which was completed by a mix of O'ahu and Moloka◎i teachers; 33 teachers from 25 schools. Participating schools were Campbell High, Molokai High, McKinley High, *Molokai* Kaunakakai Elementary, Pearl City Highlands Intermediate, Honouliuli Middle School, Kilohana Elementary, Waianae Elementary, Kailua High, Waianae High, Waialua High & Intermediate, Kapolei Middle School, Kailua Intermediate, Wheeler Middle School, Kualapuu Elementary, Wheeler Elementary, School for Examining Essential Questions of Sustainability, Moanalua High, Hawai'i Tech Academy, Makaha Elementary, University Laboratory School Public Charter School, Inouye Elementary, Farrington High, and Waiau Elementary.

The Symphony of the Hawai'i Forests was modeled after Symphony of the Hawaiian Birds, a collaboration of University of Hawai'i and Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra.

Learn more at Symphony of the Hawai'i Forests; Animations; and Teacher Resources.

▲ Pana'ewa Zoo Discovery Forest volunteers install newspaper and ti leaf mulch. 4/1/2023 Photo: J.B. Friday.

Pan'aewa Zoo Discovery Forest
HFI, along with community partners, continued to maintain and enhance the Pana'ewa Zoo Discovery Forest. The project features native, cultural, and medicinal plants that once grew in the traditional farms and native forests of East Hawai'i.

Project Coordinator Mika Gallardo engaged 192 volunteers in weeding and outplanting 101 seedlings. Hawai'i Tourism Authority Aloha 'Āina Program funded the project this year.

## Go Native: Growing a Native Hawaiian Urban Forest

The Go Native: Growing a Native Hawaiian Urban Forest project includes a reference guide and an online interactive community portal encouraging Hawaii's residents and businesses to grow Native Hawaiian and Polynesian-introduced plants.

▲ Go Native!: Your guide to growing Native Hawaiian and canoe plants wherever you live, work, or play.

In 2022, HFI produced the publication "Go Native!: Your guide to growing Native Hawaiian and canoe plants wherever you live, work, or play". The guide includes a reference table of over 200 native plants, growing zone maps, and 24 landscape scenarios with recommended native and Polynesian-introduced plants. The guide is authored by Hilary Parkinson, Project Manager Paul Arinaga, Jonathan Price, and Tom Foye and can be purchased on Amazon.com. HFIA Membership Committee is helping to promote Go Native and sell the Guide at membership outreach events and through local book stores. Go Native Guide sales totaled $13,195 this year.

The project is funded by Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program of the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and State and Private Forestry branch of the USDA Forest Service, Region 5; Atherton Family Foundation; Steve and Gloria Gainsley Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation, Kosasa Foundation, Zilber Family Foundation, and HEI Charitable Foundation.

## Hāloa 'Āina Reforestation Project

▲ Hāloa 'Āina's Sandalwood seedlings.

Hāloa 'Āina drafted a partnership agreement with HFI to help restore Hāloa 'Āina's high elevation native dryland forest and engage volunteers in planting seedlings, educational presentations, and educational tours of the site. Hāloa 'Āina is a native Hawaiian forestry and education organization committed to economic prosperity and environmental responsibility being guided by cultural values for a more sustainable Hawai'i. Hāloa 'Āina's Royal Hawaiian Sandalwood (*Santalum paniculatum*) is a variety of sandalwood that is endemic to Hawai'i Island and found nowhere else in the world.

Hāloa 'Āina is one of three sites that benefited from HFI's 2022 American Forests grant. The grant funded the outplanting of 5,000 seedlings on Hawai'i Island at Hāloa 'Āina, Keauhou Bird Conservation Center Discovery Forest and Ka'ūpūlehu Dryland Forest Preserve.

## Ho'ola Ka Makana'ā o Ka'ūpūlehu

HFIA has managed Kamehameha Schools' Ka'ūpūlehu Dryland Forest since 1993. In addition to the 70-acre site makai of Highway 30 in North Kona, HFIA manages the National Tropical Botanical Gardens 6-acre forest located mauka of the highway. HFI assists by securing grant funds. This year, 4.2 additional acres were brought under intensive management and 494 native seedlings were outplanted. To date 63.6 acres have been brought under intensive management and 24,505 seedlings have been outplanted since 2000. This year 1,903 people benefited from onsite forest stewardship events and offsite and virtual classroom and community event presentations.

The Cultural Ecology Team engages students in stewardship learning activities at both mauka and makai Kaʻūpūlehu, teaching them about the mauka-makai connections. Located along the makai portion of Kaʻūpūlehu Ahupuaʻa, the Kalaemanō Cultural Center at the Kukio Resort is at the site of the traditional salt ponds of Kalaemanō. "Stories of place" come alive through audio story stations.
The Hoʻola Ka Makanaʻā o Kaʻūpūlehu program is comprised of four strands, three outreach educational strands and one restoration strand. Each strand, while unique, provides curriculum that teaches the ecology of native ecosystems and integrates ideas of culture, mālama, kuleana, and creative thinking. Learning opportunities are offered in multiple ways— solo, as a team, on-site, off-site, and online—depending on what is most appropriate to the circumstances and participants.

▲ "Run For the Dry Forest" Kaʻūpūlehu Outreach Booth. 10/28/2023.

In addition to Kamehameha Schools, funds this year were received from the Kaʻūpūlehu Foundation, Hawaiʻi Tourism Authority Aloha ʻĀina Program, and National Tropical Botanical Gardens.

▲ Kaʻūpūlehu Outreach Booth at Lā Hoʻihoʻi Ea Celebration, Pa'auilo Elementary and Intermediate School. 7/29/2023

## Kaʻūpūlehu Cultural Ecology Team

Dryland Site Manager Kekaulike Tomich; Pili ʻĀina Multimedia Director/Operations and Cultural Advisor Yvonne Yarber Carter; Hui ʻĀina Director and Cultural Advisor Keoki Apokolani Carter; Ka Pilina Poina ʻOle Director/Regional Kekaha Lands Bridge Kuʻulei Keakealani, and Integrated Programs Co-Director Lehua Alapai. After 14 years of dedicated service, former Dryland Site Manager Wilds Pihanui Brawner resigned to pursue other endeavors. Kekaulike Tomich has stepped up and done an excellent job of managing the forest.

The Kaʻūpūlehu Team has continued to expand the outreach program with Keoki Carter's Hoʻohele Mea Lāʻau Traveling School. Kuʻulei continues to perpetuate homeland knowledge and connection to mauka-makai Kekaha and Hualālai lands through place-based story telling, oral traditions, ancestral knowledge, and literacy. The Team has added educational musical concerts to their outreach efforts.

▲ Hawaiʻi Bird Conservation Marathon runners getting ready for the race. 12/17/2023.

# Financial Report

## Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2023

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **ASSETS** | | |
| **Current Assets** | | |
| Checking/ Savings | | |
| CU Hawaii Savings | $ | 459.57 |
| Petty Cash | $ | 500.00 |
| CU Hawaii Checking | $ | 157,435.98 |
| Bank of Hawaii | $ | 991.66 |
| Total Checking/Savings | $ | 159,387.21 |
| **Total Current Assets** | $ | 159,387.21 |
| **TOTAL ASSETS** | **$** | **159,387.21** |
| **LIABILITIES & EQUITY** | | |
| **Liabilities** | | |
| Accounts Payable | $ | 5,633.50 |
| **Total Liabilities** | $ | 5,633.50 |
| **Equity** | | |
| Opening Bal Equity | $ | 2,152.02 |
| Fund Balance | $ | 118,664.41 |
| Net Income | $ | 32,937.28 |
| **Total Equity** | **$** | **153,753.71** |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** | **$** | **159,387.21** |

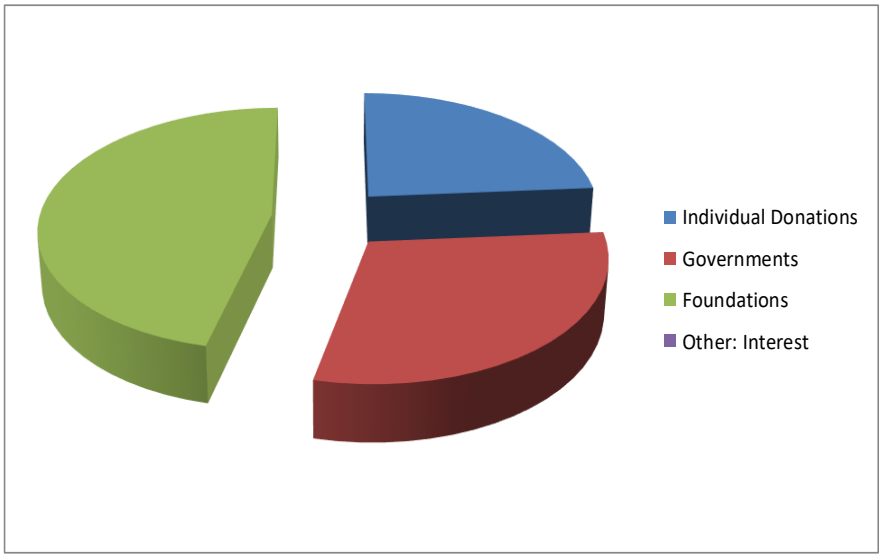
▲ Endangered Hawaiian birds. Above: ʻAlalā chicks. Below: ʻAkikiki. Source: San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

## Profit and Loss January through December 2023

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **INCOME** | | |
| **Individual/Local Businesses** | | |
| Go Native Guide Sales | $ | 13,195.27 |
| Mahalo ʻĀina Initiative Donations | $ | 44,694.48 |
| Locally-grown Christmas Tree Sales | $ | 703.00 |
| **Total Individual/Local Businesses** | **$** | **58,592.75** |
| **Grants/Contracts** | | |
| **Foundations** | | |
| Kaʻūpūlehu Foundation: Kaʻūpūlehu Dryland Forest | $ | 47,500.00 |
| American Forests: Hawai'i Island Tree Planting | $ | 32,500.00 |
| Dorrance Family Foundation | $ | 20,000.00 |
| HCF-Zilber Foundation-Go Native | $ | 5,000.00 |
| Johnson Ohana Foundation-Kaʻūpūlehu | $ | 5,000.00 |
| Office performing arts + film-Kaʻūpūlehu | $ | 3,000.00 |
| HCF-Kent Fund: 2023 Hawaii's Woodshow | $ | 1,292.00 |
| **Total Foundations** | **$** | **114,292.00** |
| **Governments** | | |
| HDOA-Locally-grown Christmas Tree Project | $ | 16,000.00 |
| HTA-CEP: Hawaii's Woodshow (2022 & 2023) | $ | 7,450.00 |
| HTA-AA: Mahalo ʻĀina Discovery Forests | $ | 20,000.00 |
| HTA-KO: Kaʻūpūlehu | $ | 20,000.00 |
| SFCA: 2022 Hawaii's Woodshow | $ | 10,000.00 |
| **Total Governments** | **$** | **73,450.00** |
| **Total Grants/Contracts** | **$** | **187,742.00** |
| **Other Income** | **$** | **0.15** |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | **$** | **246,334.90** |
| **EXPENSES** | | |
| **Project Expense** | | |
| Dryland: Kaʻūpūlehu, Pālamanui-Seed Storage | $ | 35,118.56 |
| Honolulu Zoo Children's Discovery Forest | $ | 9,885.82 |
| Panaʻewa Zoo Discovery Forest | $ | 3,157.50 |
| Locally-grown Christmas Tree Project | $ | 6,090.04 |
| KBCC Discovery Forest | $ | 4,021.31 |
| Hawaiʻi Island Tree Planting Project | $ | 28,600.00 |
| Symphony of the Hawaiʻi Forests | $ | 10,000.00 |
| Hawaii's Woodshow | $ | 13,481.16 |
| Go Native Project | $ | 24,651.91 |
| Website/PR/Outreach | $ | 9,708.03 |
| **Total Project Expense** | **$** | **144,714.33** |
| **Administrative Supplies & Services** | | |
| HFIA-Grant and Project Administration | $ | 20,050.00 |
| Fund Development Coordinator/Project Manager | $ | 32,294.62 |
| Software/Donation and Bank Fees/Office Supplies | $ | 7,423.16 |
| Tax Return/1099s: 2022 | $ | 4,759.16 |
| Insurance | $ | 4,156.35 |
| **Total Administrative Supplies & Services** | **$** | **68,683.29** |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES** | **$** | **213,397.62** |
| **NET INCOME** | **$** | **32,937.28** |

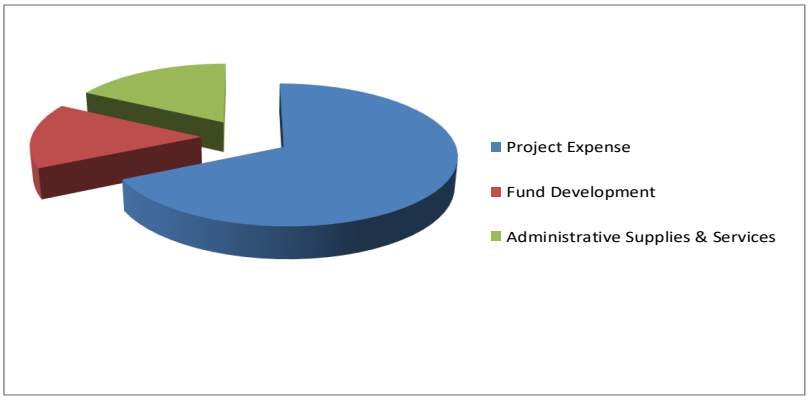
# 2023 Revenues and Expenditures

## Revenues




| Category | Amount | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Individual Donations | $ 58,592.75 | 23.8% |
| Governments | $ 73,450.00 | 29.8% |
| Foundations | $ 114,292.00 | 46.4% |
| Other: Interest | $ 0.15 | 0.0001% |
| **Total** | **$ 246,334.90** | **100.0%** |

## Expenses




| Category | Amount | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Project Expense | $ 144,714.33 | 67.82% |
| Fund Development | $ 31,570.67 | 14.79% |
| Administrative Supplies & Services | $ 37,112.62 | 17.39% |
| **Total** | **$213,397.62** | **100.00%** |

# Mahalo to our Partners and Contributors

A&B Foundation
American Forests
Amy Greenwell Garden
Arthur Lawrence Mullaly Fund
Atherton Family Foundation
Bello's Millwork, Inc.—Eric and Mary Bello
City & County of Honolulu DCS
College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources
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Hawai'i County Parks & Recreation
Hawai'i Community Foundation
Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation
Hawai'i Conservation Conference
Hawai'i County Department of Research & Development
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Hawai'i Life Charitable Foundation
Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture & the Arts
Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra
Hawaii Life Charitable Fund at the Hawai'i Community Foundation
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Healy Foundation
HEI Charitable Foundation
Hokuli'a Community Fund
Kalaemanō Cultural Center
Ka ʻAhahui o ka Nāhelehele
Ka'ūpūlehu Foundation
Kamehameha Schools
Keoki Apokolani Carter
Kohala Center
Komo Koa - Ché Garcia
Kosasa Foundation
KTA Super Stores and K. Taniguchi, Ltd
Kukio Community Fund
Kukio Resort
Ku'ulei Keakealani
Linda Clifford & Rob Klein
Little Outcrop
Mālama ʻĀina
Mālama Learning Center
Mālama O Puna
National Endowment for the Arts
Natural Resource Sector Partners
O'ahu Visitors Bureau
Ouli Wai Art & Multimedia, LLC—Yvonne Yarber Carter
O'o Hawaii
Rev. Takie Okumura Family Fund
Ron & Myra Kent Fund of the HCF
Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation
Servco Foundation
Skyline Eco-Adventures-Akaka Falls
Steven Hill
State of Hawai'i Department of Agriculture
Steve & Gloria Gainsley Fund at the Hawai'i Community Foundation
Strong Foundation
Kosasa Foundation
Three Mountain Alliance
Traut Carson Fund
Tropical Hardwood Tree Improvement & Regeneration Center
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Forest Service
Waiahole Botanicals
Waiahole Nursery & Garden Center
West Hawai'i Civic Center
West Hawai'i Fund
West Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization
William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation
Woodsman Jewelry
Zilber Family Foundation


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