



Captain Planet Foundation Awards Education Grant to Hawai'i Forest Institute

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Captain Planet Foundation Contact:

Becca Iverson

Phone: 404-522-4270

Email: grants@captainplanetfdn.org

Hawai'i Forest Institute (HFI):

Media Contact: Pauline Worsham

Phone: (808) 263-5544

Email: pmworsham@pmwconsult.com

HFI Contact Name: Heather Simmons

Phone: 808-933-9411

Email: hfi@hawaiiforest.org

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Hilo, Hawai'i - September 9, 2012 - The Captain Planet Foundation, an international environmental education foundation for youth based on the successful Captain Planet cartoon, is proud to announce that the Hawai'i Forest Institute (HFI) has recently been awarded an educational grant of \$2,500. HFI will use these funds toward the Pana'ewa Zoo Discovery Forest Project.

"We are thrilled to present this award to the Hawai'i Forest Institute," says Leesa Carter, Executive Director of the Foundation. "We receive hundreds of submissions each year and have to be very selective to whom we award funding. This is one of the few projects from across the country that we chose to fund. We wish the Hawai'i Forest Institute great success as they work to implement this important project. It is our hope that our combined efforts will educate, empower, involve and invest today's youth to cultivate a better tomorrow."



Landscape Architect Leonard Bisel plants a seedling with Prince Jonah, Kuhio Kalan'ana'ole Elementary School student.

"We are pleased to receive support from the Captain Planet Foundation. These funds will allow us to initiate Phase II of the Pana'ewa Zoo Discovery Forest, a forest demonstration project at the Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens in Hilo", said HFI Executive Director Heather Simmons.



Mother and daughter volunteers.

HFI, the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA), project partners, and community volunteers completed Phase I of the Discovery Forest in 2011, which includes Native and Agro-forest demonstration gardens. Phase II will include clearing invasive weeds; introducing native and agro-forest (Polynesian-introduced) plants and trees; and providing volunteer and educational opportunities through volunteer events, interpretive signage, and plant identification signs.



HFI and HFIA Director Peter Simmons and Kamehameha Schools student pull weeds.

About The Hawai'i Forest Institute (HFI)

HFI is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization incorporated in Hawai'i in 2003. HFI's mission is to promote the health and productivity of Hawaii's forests through forest restoration, educational programs, and support for scientific research. Visit HFI on the web at www.hawaiiforestinstitute.org and HFIA at www.hawaiiforest.org.

About The Captain Planet Foundation (CPF)

Founded in 1991, Captain Planet Foundation (CPF) was created to support hands-on, environmental projects for youth. CPF's objective is to encourage innovative projects that empower today's children to become environmental stewards. For more information, visit www.captainplanetfdn.org. The CPF is located at 133 Luckie Street NW in Atlanta, Georgia. It can be reached by phone at (404) 522-4270.

133 Luckie Street NW, 2nd Floor * Atlanta, GA 30303 * 404.552.4270 * www.captainplanetfdn.org

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