

Little Outcrop Sales Benefit KBCC Discovery Forest

For every online sale of [Needle Felted Bird Ornaments](#), Little Outcrop donates to the Keauhou Bird Conservation Center (KBCC) Discovery Forest



Dorrance Family Foundation Supports KBCC Discovery Forest

The Hawai‘i Forest Institute (HFI) received a \$20,000 grant from the Dorrance Family Foundation for the Keauhou Bird Conservation Center (KBCC) Discovery Forest. The project is providing service-learning opportunities for volunteers and habitat and food for native birds. Using conservation breeding and release techniques for over 20 years, the KBCC has been saving critically endangered Hawaiian birds from extinction and restoring these species in the wild. Birds being cared for at KBCC are the ‘Alalā, Puaiohi, Palila, Kiwikiu, ‘Akeke‘e, and ‘Akikiki.

KBCC Caretaker Iwikau‘ikaua (Iwi) Joaquin has been steadily keeping up with site maintenance. Two acres were prepared for planting and weeding was conducted in planted areas in December 2020. Iwi purchased 200 ‘Ōhi‘a seedlings and propagated native seed at his onsite nursery, which he will be planting in the newly cleared acres this year.

Iwi had not taken groups to the KBCC DF since March 2020 due to COVID-19. Now that he has proper safety protocols and safeguards in place, he hosted his first group in July 2021. Pacific Islander Program for Exploring Science (PIPES) college students visited the site for stewardship and learning on July 2nd. In order to keep stakeholders engaged in the project, Iwi and HFI Fund Development Coordinator Paul Ari-naga produced a project video; [A Day in the Life of Keauhou Bird Conservation Center Discovery Forest, Site Coordinator Iwi Joaquin](#).

To date, 17.8 acres of the Discovery Forest have been prepared for planting and 12,720 native seedlings have been outplanted. Planted species include Maile, Koa, Pa‘iniu, A‘ali‘i, ‘Ōhi‘a, ‘Uki‘uki, Kōlea, ‘Ākala, Māmane and 'Iliahi. Twenty different native species have been planted at the Discovery Forest since 2014.

Since the ‘Alalā (Hawaiian crow) has a breeding season from March through September, Iwi minimizes most management actions to allow the birds to enjoy comfort and peace while breeding and nesting. Once the breeding season is over, however, he can again focus on controlling invasive species and preparing to plant more native seedlings to recover grassy open canopy areas and to replant areas where seedlings did not survive.



▲ KBCC Discovery Forest onsite nursery.

In addition to Dorrance Family Foundation, mahalo to Little Outcrop, O‘o Hawaii, and individual donors through the Mahalo ‘Āina: *Give Back to the Forest* Initiative for funding this year’s restoration and education at KBCC Discovery Forest.

Komo Koa-Woodsmen Jewelry Supports HFI’s Mahalo ‘Āina: Give Back to the Forest Initiative

Ché Garcia, [Komo Koa-Woodsmen Jewelry](#) CEO- Chief of Entrepreneurial Operations has donated to [Mahalo ‘Āina](#) for many years. Komo Koa works with customers and nonprofit organizations towards the common goal of healthier forest and aquatic ecosystems in Hawaii. “We use responsibly sourced woods, reclaimed lumber or wood scraps for our wood inlays”, says Ché. “We use a state of the art, eco-friendly wood finishing system and our titanium bands yield substantially less waste in production compared to traditional methods. As a small family owned and operated business, we are committed to quality and customer satisfaction”.



▲ Hawaiian Koa Heart Necklace