

Progress at the Honolulu Zoo Children's Discovery Forest

The Honolulu Zoo Children’s Discovery Forest has gone through some cycles of shut-down and reopening due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However Volunteer Coordinator Linda Duling was able to host volunteers January through July this year.

The Hawai‘i Forest Institute (HFI) produced a [Docent Workbook Interpretive Guide](#) and [Forest Friends Coloring Book](#) featuring native animals and their habitat, which was funded by the City & County of Honolulu Department of Community Services Grant-in Aid. The interpretive guide and coloring book were created by Paul Arinaga, Linda Duling, HFI President Travis Idol and artist Diana Tusher. The coloring book offers art activities and fun facts about various animals, including the Pueo (Hawaiian Short Eared Owl), ‘Ōpe‘ape‘a (Hawaiian Hoary Bat), Pulelehua (Kamehameha Butterfly), Nēnē (Hawaiian Goose), and many more.

Another new addition to the project is [Honolulu Zoo Children’s Discovery Forest New Plant ID Pages](#).



▲ Volunteers outplant seedlings at the Discovery Forest. 2-20-21

HFIA Awarded Atherton Family Foundation Grant for “Go Native: Growing a Native Hawaiian Urban Forest”

HFIA was awarded a \$10,000 Atherton Family Foundation grant for “Go Native: Growing a Native Hawaiian Urban Forest”. The project includes creating a series of videos and a quick reference guide encouraging Hawaii’s residents and businesses to grow Native Hawaiian and Polynesian-introduced plants, as well as to increase public awareness of the value and benefits of planting native plants and trees.

The videos will target a non-technical lay audience and will walk the viewer through the stages of creating or converting their landscape to native and/or Polynesian-introduced plants.

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 other factors. It will provide clear guidance and take the guesswork out of planning and realizing a native garden, while eliminating frustrations caused by a lack of success.

The project is also funded by the 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. [“Go Native Hawai‘i: Restoring Nature from Mauka to Makai” article.](#)



▲ Hawaiian endemic Koki'o ke'oke'o (Hibiscus arnottianus)
Photo: CTAHR

Newsletter Articles Wanted

If you have a story to share about your forestry-related business or project, please email it in Word format with jpg. photos attached to hfia@hawaiiforest.org.