

Honolulu Zoo Children's Discovery Forest Hosts Volunteers

Volunteer Coordinator Linda Duling has continued to host volunteers and youth groups at the Honolulu Zoo Children's Discovery Forest. So far this year, 100 volunteers have helped with site weeding, outplanting, and harvesting sweet potato, sugar cane, taro, and banana for animals at the zoo.

The Hawai'i Forest Institute (HFI) recently produced a [Docent Workbook Interpretive Guide](#) and [Forest Friends Coloring Book](#) featuring native animals and their habitat, funded by a City & County of Honolulu 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 weeding at the Discovery Forest. 10/23/2021.

HFI Awarded Steve and Gloria Gainsley Fund of the HCF Grant For "Go Native: Growing a Native Hawaiian Urban Forest"

The Hawai'i Forest Institute (HFI) has been awarded a \$5,000 grant for its *Go Native: Growing a Native Hawaiian Urban Forest* project, which encourages Hawaii's residents and businesses to grow native Hawaiian and Polynesian-introduced ("canoe") plants. *Go Native*, also seeks to increase public awareness of the value and benefits of planting native plants and trees. The grant is funded by the Steve and Gloria Gainsley Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation.

The project was launched in 2020 with a grant of \$8,979 from 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. HFI was also awarded a \$10,000 Atherton Family Foundation grant for the project in August.

The *Go Native* project will promote the growing of Native Hawaiian and "canoe" plants by creating a series of videos and a quick reference guide. The videos will target a non-technical 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 teach readers to identify the native plants that are most suitable to their climate zone.

"Our long-term goal is to create a series of *kīpuka* or micro-forests within the urban and suburban core," says HFI's President, Dr. Travis Idol. "Once we convince enough homeowners, renters, businesses and landscape architects to use more native Hawaiian and canoe plants in their landscaping, these Hawaiian gardens can collectively become a human-made surrogate for the natural forests that once existed in abundance, particularly in dryland and mesic areas." Dr. Idol is Professor of Tropical Forestry and Agroforestry at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management.

The grant funding is supporting ongoing work including the quick reference guide, tentatively called the *#GoNativeHawaii Growing Guide*. The guide will allow users to look up their growing zone to find recommended combinations of plants that they can grow in their zone and are more likely to flourish. It will also recommend plants based on other considerations such as the type of space and landscape function, and it will provide sample garden plans.



▲ Indigenous Pōhinahina (*Vitex rotundifolia*) grows well in full sun. Its bell-shaped flowers are used for lei.