

HFII Joins Collaborative Project “The Symphony of the Hawai‘i Forests”

The Hawai‘i Forest Institute (HFI) has joined partners in a new project titled, “Symphony of the Hawai‘i Forests”, which will be a performing arts project that will foster the breadth of Hawaii’s artistic genres, media, and practitioners, while maximizing public access and exposure to a quality arts experience.

HFI received a \$15,000 grant from the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) for the project and funds awarded from the HTA and HCF Aloha ‘Āina Program will be allocated to developing “Symphony of the Hawai‘i Forests” educational materials for students and teachers and for the Honolulu Zoo Children’s Discovery Forest educational program. The project is also funded by a Kaulunani Grant (US Forest Service/DLNR DOFAW).

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 will create new music compositions and artistic presentations devoted to the forests of Hawai‘i and our relationships with them; and teach K-12 students and statewide residents on the importance of planting and caring for trees. These two strands will culminate in an integrated educational performance by the Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra consisting of original music compositions, artwork and animations, and hula. The program will be recorded for wider dissemination throughout the state.

To ensure that the project results in lasting change, teachers of various disciplines will be able to include lessons about forests in their subjects. To bridge the gap between awareness and action, the project will show participants specific actions they can take such as educating others, volunteering at conservation projects, taking care of trees in their own communities, advocating, or altering their consumer choices. Partnerships with forest stewardship organizations will provide participants with a place to put their newfound knowledge and awareness into action.

The Symphony of the Hawai‘i Forests will be modeled after [Symphony of the Hawaiian Birds](#), a collaboration of University of Hawai‘i and Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra. Learn more about [The Symphony of the Hawai‘i Forests](#).



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