

HFIA Feature Member

By Aspen Billiet, HFIA Membership Recruitment & Outreach

Sheri S. Mann, HFIA Director and Corporate Member representing DLNR DOFAW

Sheri is the District Manager of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) on Kaua‘i and oversees the management of 100,000 acres (about 1/3 of the island). Programs Sheri oversees include: Forestry, Wildlife, Trails & Access, Native Ecosystem Protection & Management, Watershed Protection, Lehua Wildlife Sanctuary and more. In addition, she works at the policy level and as a liaison with local and regional decision makers.



An exciting project Sheri is working on is an effort to reduce high wildfire fuels from non-native plantation timber (Eucalyptus and Pines) by chipping up timber and distributing it across the landscape. Chipping the timber allows the wood to hold more moisture, making it less flammable. The hope is that these same woods can also be used for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) for alternative, affordable housing and for an educational center at the Kaua‘i Mana Plains Wetlands.

Sheri is an active member of the [Hawai‘i Wood Utilization Team \(HWUT\)](#), a group of experts from various wood-related industries including forestry, architecture, design, engineering, wood products, construction, finance, marketing, and cultural practice. The team is implementing innovative, cross-sector projects that expand wood product markets in Hawai‘i. The HWUT created a [Hawai‘i wood products website](#), which features a directory that facilitates the establishment of business connections between the broad array of interests in Hawaii’s wood product sector.

Prior to her current position, Sheri spent time in Niger, West Africa doing agroforestry work. She also worked in American Samoa as the Territorial Forester and eventually on O‘ahu working as the State Cooperative Resource Forester and then the State Forestry Program Manager. Sheri has held her current position as DOFAW District Manager on Kaua‘i for five years.

When asked about Hawaii’s greatest challenge within the wood industry/forestry, Sheri explained that the DLNR only receives about 1% of the State’s budget. This small margin of funds does not afford DLNR the ability to convert non-timber state lands, or existing non-native timber plantations, to timber at scale to be available as an industry resource. She also noted that Hawai‘i does not have the infrastructure (roads, ports and shipping rules) necessary to harvest and transport large amounts of timber.

“While Hawai‘i faces hurdles, we also find ourselves with great opportunities; carbon markets as possibly the greatest opportunity” she said. She adds, “Most of Hawaii’s native hardwoods are slow growing, however improved seed stock for Acacia koa (that is resistant to Fusarium- Koa Wilt) shows a lot of promise for growing koa at lower elevations (more accessible via existing infrastructures)”.

Sheri has vast experience and knowledge in the field of forestry and we are fortunate to have her as an HFIA member and Director. We thank her for your dedication to forestry and wildlife, environmental protection and her commitment to HFIA for the past 17 years!