



**Hawaiian
Electric**

NEWS RELEASE

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Hawaiian Electric grants/donations strengthen environmental protection, sustainability efforts by locally-based nonprofits

A total of \$83,000 awarded

HONOLULU, Oct. 12, 2022 – Hawaiian Electric has awarded a total of \$83,000 in environmental grants and donations to eight local nonprofit organizations contributing to the long-term protection and sustainability of Hawai'i's unique ecosystem. The funds will support habitat conservation and restoration, reforestation, native and protected species recovery, and community engagement programs.

Hawai'i Forest Institute, formed in 2003 to protect and perpetuate Hawai'i's forests, has launched a project to encourage residents, businesses and schools to grow Native Hawaiian and Polynesian-introduced plants. The "Go Native" project includes a video series, grower's guide, community portal and digital database on plants to support individuals with instructions and advice on starting and maintaining a native garden.

Hawai'i Land Trust, the first nationally accredited land trust in the state, is working to protect and restore native ecosystems on O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i Island and Kaua'i. The foundation of the nonprofit's Climate Change Mitigation Program is a deeply grounded belief in using indigenous wisdom and cutting-edge science to steward lands and build resilience.

Hawai'i Wildlife Center, based in Kapa'au, Hawai'i Island, is the first-of-its-kind wildlife response and conservation organization exclusively for Native Hawaiian wildlife. Funding will support the O'ahu Seabird Aid Program which provides rehabilitation and care to injured and downed seabirds on O'ahu during peak fallout season, mid-September to mid-December.

Kāko'o 'Ōiwi is a community-based nonprofit with a long-range project to restore agricultural and ecological productivity to nearly 405 acres within the He'eia, O'ahu wetlands. Community workdays, outdoor educational classrooms and haku lei-making workshops are among its programs that are helping to restore cultural connections between the land and community.

Kupu, a conservation and youth education nonprofit, marked its 15th anniversary with the Lau Kupu Day of service involving more than 150 volunteers in a major effort to remove invasive algae from the nearshore waters of Maunalua Bay in East O'ahu. Volunteers collected 2,700 pounds of algae from 600 square meters within the Paikō Restoration Area. Kupu donated all the algae to the Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center to be recycled as compost.

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Mālama Learning Center, located in West O‘ahu, brings together area schools, residents and businesses around a shared ethic of caring and conservation to create healthy, sustainable living environments. The Ola Nā Kini program, now in its fifth year, aims to heal the land and sea through restoration of native and edible forests and communities in Leeward O‘ahu.

North Shore Community Land Trust is the primary caretaker of Kahuku Point, a culturally and ecologically significant coastal strand on O‘ahu’s northernmost tip. The area is home to a wide variety of Native Hawaiian coastal plants that provide habitat for the endangered endemic Yellow-Faced Bee and a number of seabird species including the Laysan albatross. It also provides nesting grounds for Hawaiian monk seals and sea turtles.

The Kalaeokauna‘oa Restoration Project engages community volunteers to help restore the area through removal of invasive species and marine debris, and out-plantings of Native Hawaiian coastal plants.

The Trust for Public Land in Hawai‘i works closely with communities and advocates to create, protect and steward nature-rich places that are vital to human well-being. In an effort to safeguard the vital lands and waterways of the Maunawili Forest & Lo‘i in Windward O‘ahu, TPL is managing the acquisition from a private landowner.

Once acquired, the land will be transferred to the Division of Forestry and Wildlife – under the Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources – which will manage the lands as a forest reserve in partnership with local nonprofits. The agricultural and lo‘i lands will be under nonprofit community ownership to transform the lands back to productivity, perpetuate ‘āina-based education, restore traditional lo‘i kalo, dryland farming and agroforestry, and increase the islands’ food security.

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