

FY12 – Reprogrammed from Programmatic DAR Planner (\$71K)

7. Hanakao'o Slope Stabilization (\$1K)

Final Report

A bare roadside hill in Hanaka'ō'ō Cemetery that once sent red dust into the air and red water into the ocean is now home to more than 1000 native plants, thanks to scores of volunteers that came out to make a difference for West Maui on Sunday, June 9th. The plantings are intended to both beautify the historic site and to stabilize the hillside in order to reduce the amount of runoff reaching the ocean via Wahikuli Gulch.

The purchase of a weed mat, covered by this project, was critical to the success of the 650ft long bank slope. The weed mat has allowed the planting to be relatively weed-free, as the soil is completely covered except where holes were made for the native plants and drip line. Without the weed mat, the community project could not have been able to proceed with the project since they rely on volunteer support to maintain the area which is over 9000 square feet. Without the weed mat they would not have had a maintenance plan able to satisfy the county partners. As it stands, in just over four months since the planting, half a dozen volunteers spending a couple of hours a month and one group effort of approximately 18 people over 2.5 hours has been enough to keep the area clear of weeds. In another six months, the native plants will have filled in further, reducing the maintenance burden; the weed mat will remain intact long after the canopy closes over it.