

# Year of Our Community Forests 2025 Grant

## Information for Applicants

Online  
December 18th 2024  
12 - 1 PM HST

2025: Year of our Community Forests



**w.** [www.kaulunani.org](http://www.kaulunani.org) **e.** [info@kaulunani.org](mailto:info@kaulunani.org) **ig.** [@kaulunani](https://www.instagram.com/kaulunani) **nl.** [‘ulu bites](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



# AGENDA

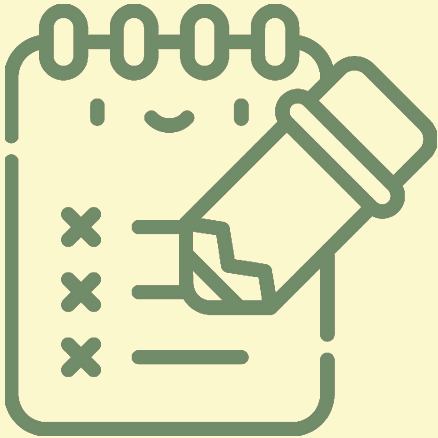
## 1. Introduction to Kaulunani

## 2. Year of Our Community Forests Overview

## 3. Eligibility Requirements

## 4. Questions

## 5. Pau



# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE – funding

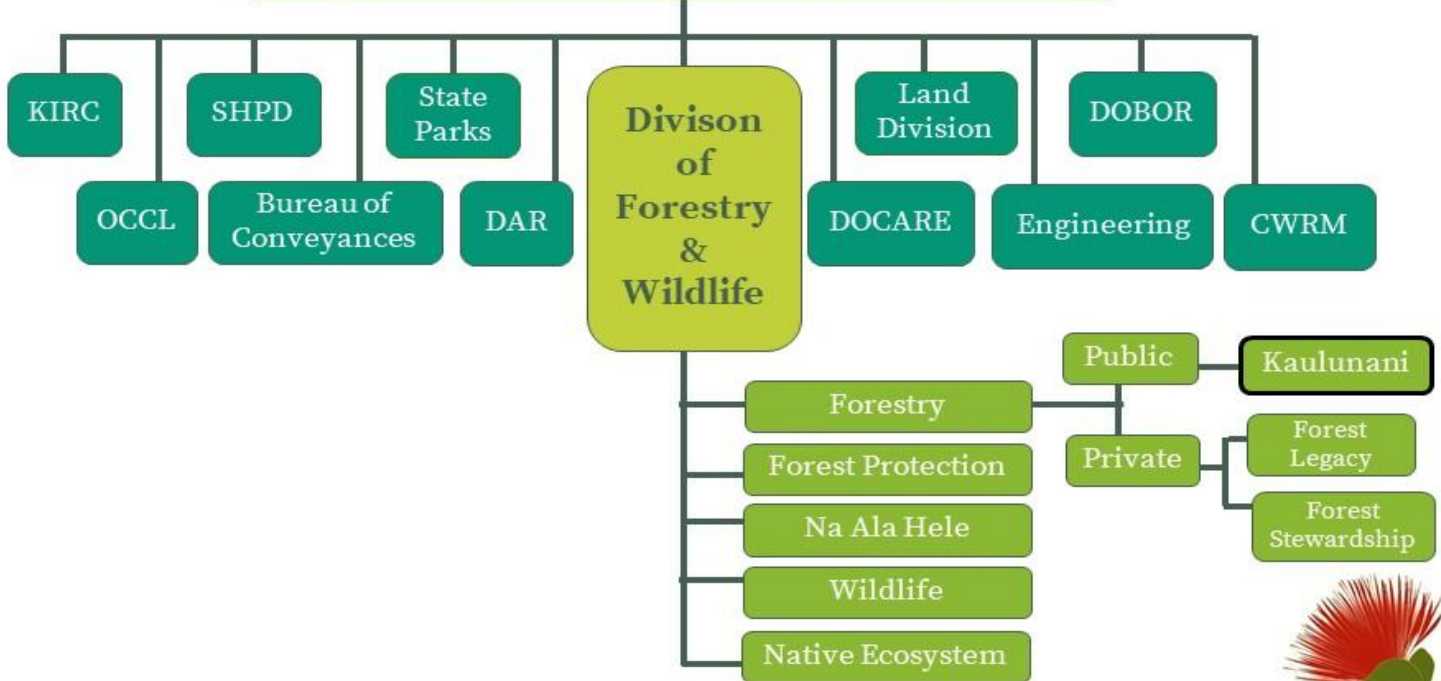


**KAULUNANI**  
urban & community  
**FORESTRY**  
**PROGRAM.**



# Board of Land and Natural Resources

## Department of Land and Natural Resources





# ADVISORY COUNCIL



- 16 members from O‘ahu, Maui, Kaua‘i & Hawai‘i Island (some pictured)
- Three year term
- Represents local government, academia, community & business
- Provides recommendations, direction & strategic guidance
- Learn more [on our website](#)



# MISSION

Our mission is to support all of Hawai'i's communities with a focus on equity to cultivate well-being and resilience through restorative & environmental justice, planting, caring for, and growing relationships with the trees and forests where we live, work, learn and play.





# EQUITY & JUSTICE STATEMENT

**We recognize our mission is best fulfilled through engaging people of diverse backgrounds, beliefs, experiences and cultures with a focus on our underserved and low-income communities as well as Native Hawaiians.**

**[Full statement is available here](#)**



# WHAT IS AN URBAN FOREST?



Trees on Private Property



Street Trees



Urban Park



Campus Trees



Rain Garden



Pocket Park



# Urban and **COMMUNITY** forestry



# AGENDA

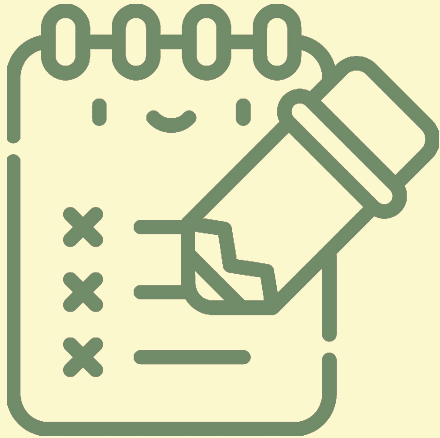
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# Year of Our Community Forests 2025

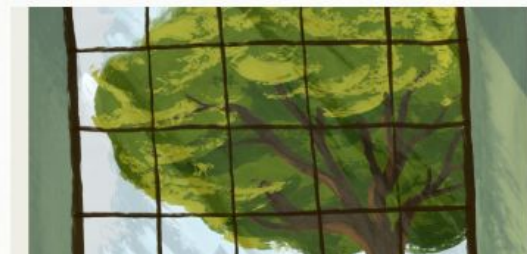
- 2025 will be officially proclaimed as the **Year of Our Community Forests** by Governor Josh Green on January 10, 2025.
- **E ulu lā'au, hānai kaiāulu (Grow trees, sustain community)**
- **Coordinated** by DLNR Forestry & Wildlife and the Kaulunani Urban & Community Forestry program
- **Community celebration** - our campaign provides an umbrella under which messages can be adopted or adapted
- **We are seeking partners to ideate, coordinate, plan, and host activities and events throughout 2025**

## 2025: YEAR OF OUR COMMUNITY FORESTS



**2025 is the Year of Our Community Forests.** We're celebrating trees in the wao kanaka, where we live, learn, and play.

What is a community forest? It's a collection of trees in the wao kanaka, where we live, learn, and play. Community forests include trees in our neighborhoods, yards, parks, schools, and along our streets. They give us gathering places, shade to cool down, air to breathe, food to eat, wood for carving, leaves for weaving, and flowers for lei. Our forests help grow our communities, and we can help grow our community forests by caring for our trees, planting new trees, and learning from trees.



<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dofaw/trees/>

# Request for Proposals

- The purpose of this grant is to support and amplify efforts that celebrate and bring awareness of our community forests.
- ***Projects should:***
  - engage community,
  - enhance urban and community forestry practices,
  - promote the ecological, cultural, health, and social benefits of trees in urban and community spaces.
  - celebrate the connection between people and trees

# Request for Proposals

## Objectives:

- Community Engagement and Community Celebration
- Public Awareness and Collaborative Outreach
- Tree Care and associated upskilling for practitioners and community members
- Cultural and Artistic Inspiration and Expression

# Request for Proposals

## **NOTE: Regarding Tree planting and Tree Giveaway activities**

While not ineligible for this opportunity, proposals must feature and prioritize celebration, education, awareness, and outreach or they will not be considered.

***The Community and Arbor Grants RFP will be released in February 2025 with awards announced in May. If your project is better aligned with these programs please apply directly at that time - your application will be more competitive!***

# AVAILABLE FUNDING

# \$150,000

- Minimum award is **\$10,000** and max is **\$20,000**
- Grant amounts will **vary** based on the **scope and impact** of the proposed projects
- **Project period:** March 2025 – December 31, 2025



# What to Expect: Grant Process Timeline

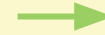
**Jan 26, 2025**

Application closing date (midnight)



**February 13**

Council vote, send recommendations to the State Forester



**February 18**

Applicants notified

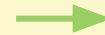
**March–April 2025**

Grant Agreements and procurement paperwork executed (eSign). DOFAW procurement process begins. Notice to Proceed issued (approx 6 week process in total)



**December 31, 2025**

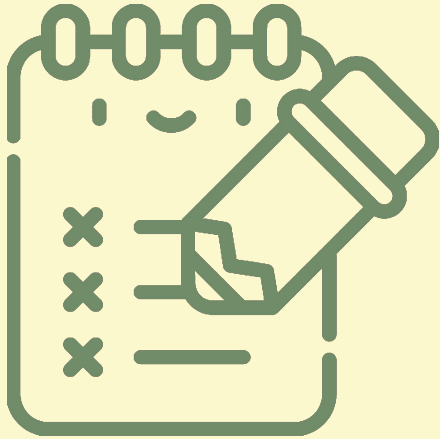
Project funds must be fully expended and activities completed.



**January 30, 2026**

Final project reflections and invoice due

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# ELIGIBILITY – APPLICANTS

- **Organization:** Non-federal entities operating within Hawai`i. 501(c)(3) status not required. Non-profit organizations, private organizations, schools, churches, community groups, and State and County agencies.
- **Partnerships are encouraged!**

# ELIGIBILITY – APPLICANTS

- Registration with **Hawai'i Compliance Express** and current HCE certification is required to receive funding.
- This is a partial **reimbursement** program. 50% payable following issuance of Notice to Proceed, balance upon project completion

# ELIGIBLE EXPENSES



Personnel  
(salary,  
fringe - up  
to 40%)



Print &  
digital  
outreach  
materials,  
"tech  
transfer"



Consultants  
/Subject  
matter  
experts



Maintain /  
monitor  
/care for  
trees



Supplies,  
tools (must  
be <\$5k per  
item)



Tree  
seedlings/  
saplings  
(up to ~  
10%)

# INELIGIBLE EXPENSES



Property acquisition



Projects on property inaccessible to public



Equipment that costs > \$5,000 per unit



Food and refreshments



Construction projects

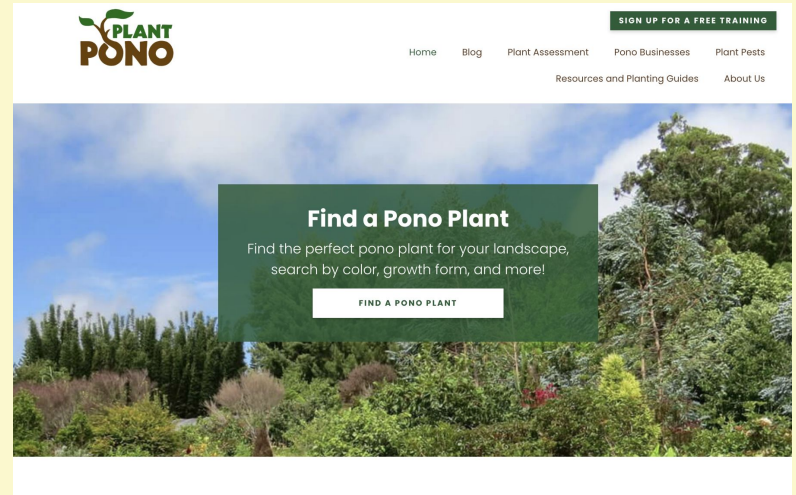


Land clearing, stump removal

# If Tree Planting or Giveaway:

## NEED:

- Landowner permission (PLANTING)
- Maintenance plan & site map (PLANTING)
- Species list (with weed risk assessment scores from Plant Pono) (BOTH)
- Nursery quote (BOTH)



plantpono.org

# REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

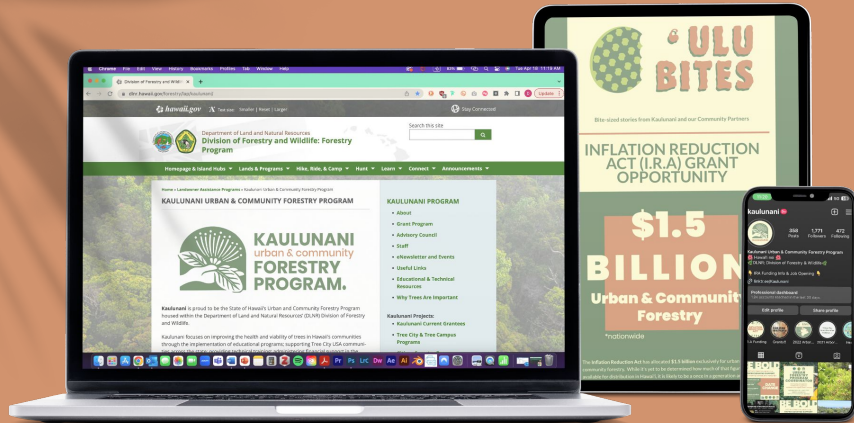
- Due twice a year – midway and upon project completion
- Include:
  - Receipts, explanation of expenditures
  - # of volunteers; # of volunteer hours
  - Accomplishments and photos







# COMMUNICATIONS



website.

[www.kaulunani.org](http://www.kaulunani.org)

[www.dlnr.hawaii.gov/dofaw/trees/](http://www.dlnr.hawaii.gov/dofaw/trees/)

social media.

@kaulunani

eNewsletter.

'ulu bites

email.

[info@kaulunani.org](mailto:info@kaulunani.org)

[kate.e.wiechmann.researcher@hawaii.gov](mailto:kate.e.wiechmann.researcher@hawaii.gov)

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# MAHALO!

**w.** [www.kaulunani.org](http://www.kaulunani.org) **e.** [info@kaulunani.org](mailto:info@kaulunani.org) **ig.** [@kaulunani](https://www.instagram.com/kaulunani) **nl.** [‘ulu bites](#)

