

Arbor Day & Community Grants 2026

Information for Applicants

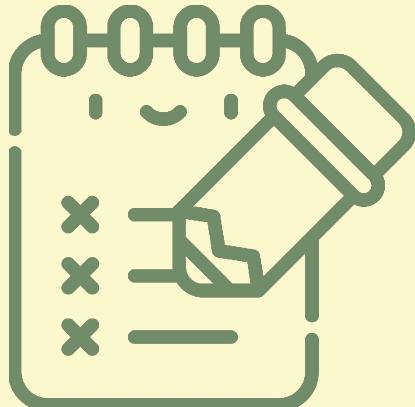
Online
Tuesday Feb 10th
10 - 11 AM HST



w. www.kaulunani.org e. info@kaulunani.org ig. [@kaulunani](https://www.instagram.com/@kaulunani) nl. ['ulu bites](https://www.ulubites.com)



AGENDA



- 1. Introduction to Kaulunani**
- 2. 2026 Funding Overview**
- 3. Arbor Day Grants**
- 4. Community Grants**
- 5. Eligibility Requirements**
- 6. Questions**

Pau

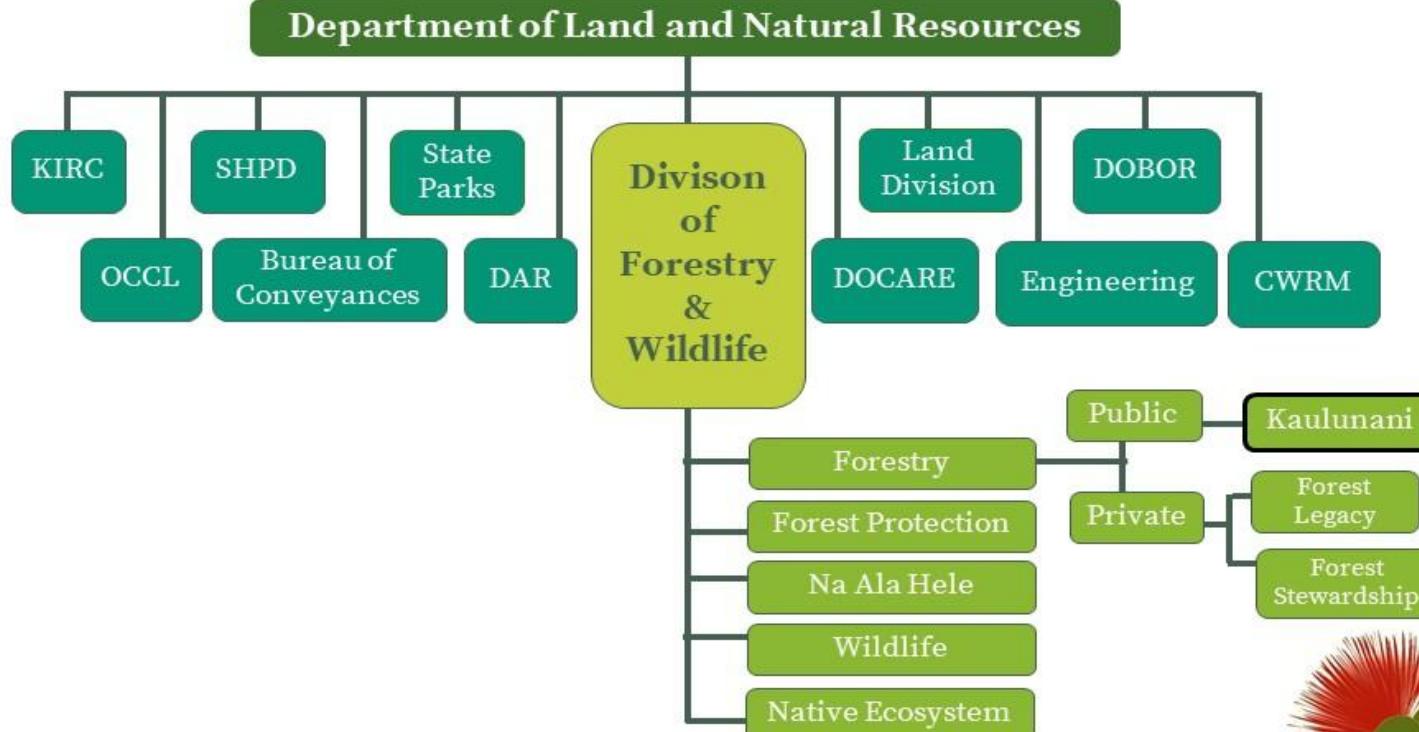
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE – funding



KAULUNANI
urban & community
FORESTRY
PROGRAM.



Board 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

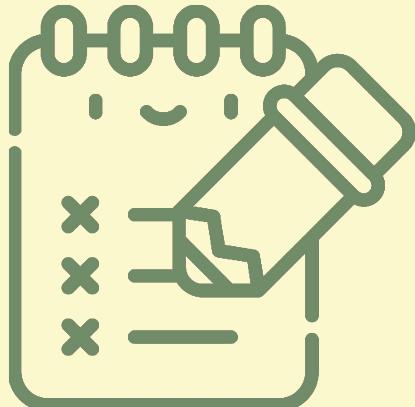


Pocket Park

Urban and **COMMUNITY** forestry



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PURPOSE OF FUNDING

Support **local** urban and community forestry **initiatives or projects** that develop and sustain programs that **grow urban and community trees and forests**.

Arbor Day Grants

- **Award Amount: \$10,000**
- **Total pool: \$80k**
- **Project Period: late May 2026 – Dec 31 2026**
- Funds to support tree planting, adoptions, celebrations on or around Arbor Day 2026 (Nov 6th)

Community Grants

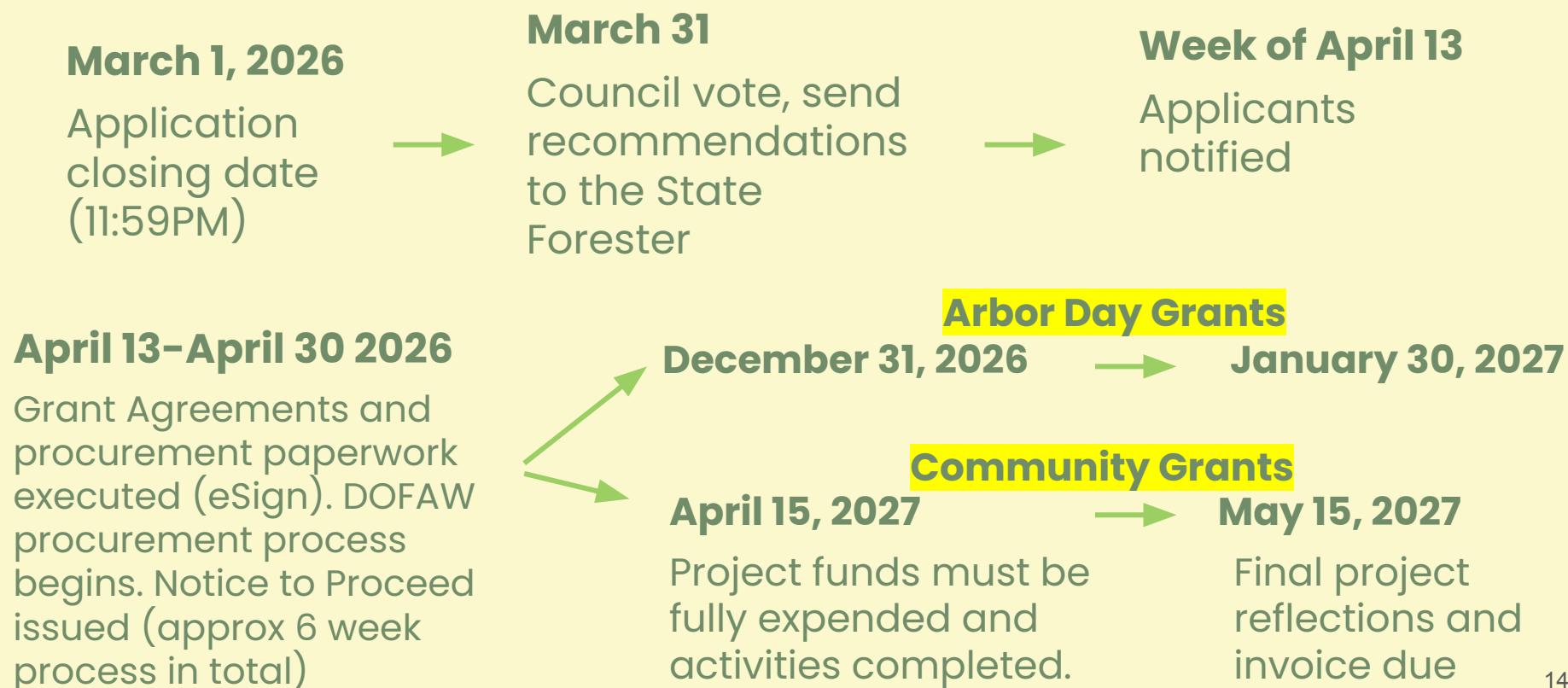
- **Award Amount: \$20k-\$50k**
- **Total pool: \$400k**
- **Project period: late May 2026 – April 15, 2027**

Arbor Day Grants

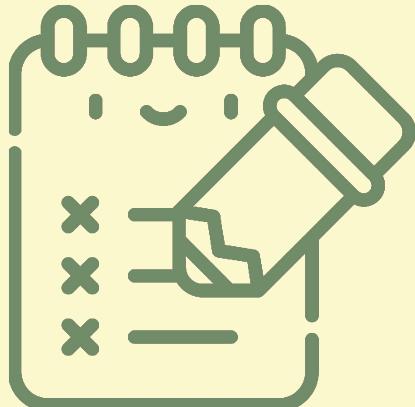
Community Grants

- **Q: Can our organization apply for both opportunities?**
- **A:** Yes, but:
 - We recommend making projects clearly distinct from one another.
 - The advisory council is committed to distributing funding across organizations and geographies.

What to Expect: Grant Process Timeline



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Request for Proposals: Arbor Day

- The purpose of this grant is to support community tree planting, tree adoptions, celebrations, and activities on or around Arbor Day 2026 (Friday, November 6th)
- ***Additional components may include:***
 - Tree care and maintenance, both education and application
 - Education and/or outreach*
 - Cultural and artistic expression*
 - Invasive species, pest and disease management for trees

**Related to urban and community forestry*

Project Examples: Arbor Day



Mālama Learning Center 2025: E Ulu Mau Ke Kaiāulu O Wai‘anae – Tree to Table event with education, hands on demonstration, and tree distribution



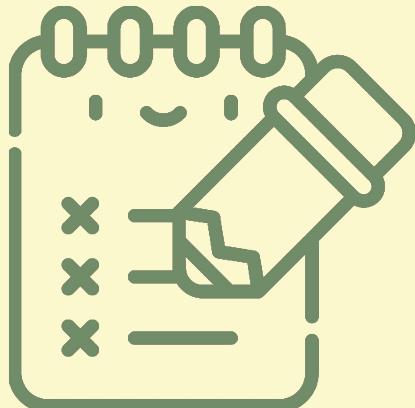
Maui Nui Botanical Gardens: Arbor Day 2025 – 1800 trees gifted, nursery partnerships. Full day event with education, games, 164 staff/volunteers

Project Examples, Arbor Day and Community Grants

https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/forestry/lap/kaulunani/grants/kaulunani_funded_projects/



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Request for Proposals: Community Grants

- The purpose of this grant is to promote the protection and enhancement of urban and community forest ecosystems – tree planting, the care of trees, and education on tree issues where we live, work, learn, and play
- Tree planting, care, and education is prioritized, but a wide range of approaches and project activities are eligible.

Example Community Grant Project Components (1/2)

- Tree plantings & giveaways
- Tree care and maintenance, both education and application
- Education and/or outreach about Urban & Community Forestry issues
- Cultural and artistic expression related to urban and community forestry
- Stipend, mini-grant programs for tree-related activities

Example Community Grant Project Components (2/2)

- Training for staff and/or volunteers; workforce development
- Tree / urban forestry management plan development
- Invasive species, pest and disease management for trees
- Tree nursery capacity building
- Trees as green infrastructure (e.g. to manage stormwater runoff, firewise landscaping)
- Urban wood utilization
- Agroforestry

Project Examples: Community Grants



Hālau Kū Māna - Lā 'Ohana: 8th grade students hosted their families to engage in tree planting and stream ecosystem restoration



Aloha Pu'u Kukui - Wao Kele o Honolua: Site preparation and large-scale planting volunteer day to establish 1,200 koa and 1,200 'a'ali'i

Project Examples: Community Grants



MA‘O Organic Farms – Agroforestry

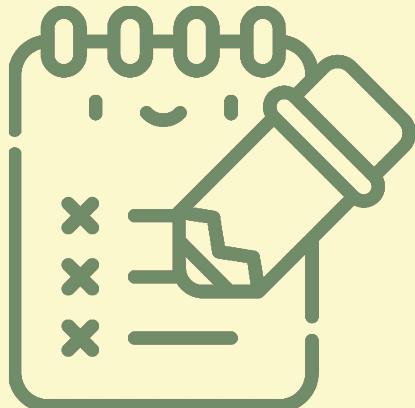
Planting and Mentorship: Offered interns a series of workshops covering tree maintenance and care.



North Shore Community Land Trust – I Lei

Waiale‘e I Ka Hala: propagation, care, outplanting of trees, including training of two Kupu members and volunteer support₂₄

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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, places of worship, community groups, and State and County agencies.
- **Partnerships are encouraged!**

ELIGIBILITY - APPLICANTS

- Registration with **Hawai'i Compliance Express** and current HCE certification must be provided with your application.
- This is a partial **reimbursement** program
 - **Arbor Day:** 50% payable following issuance of Notice to Proceed, balance upon project completion
 - **Community Grants:** one-third following Notice to Proceed, one third at mid point, balance upon project completion

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES



Personnel
(salary,
fringe - up
to 40%)

Indirect up
to 10%



Consultants
/Subject
matter
experts



Print &
digital
outreach
materials,
"tech
transfer"



Maintain /
monitor
/care for
trees



Supplies,
tools,
equipment
(must be
<\$10k per
item)



Tree
seedlings/
saplings
(70% plant
costs =
trees)

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES



Property acquisition



Projects on property inaccessible to public



Equipment that costs > \$10,000 per unit



Food and refreshments



Construction projects



Land clearing
(Site prep & invasive, hazard tree removal ok)

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, if purchasing)



plantpono.org

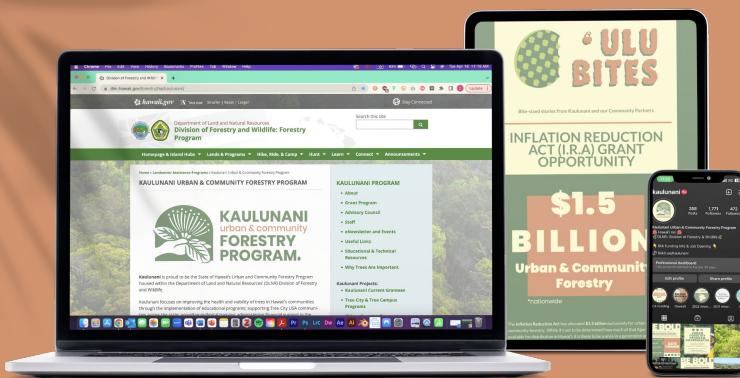
REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- Due upon project completion
- Include:
 - Receipts, explanation of expenditures
 - # of volunteers; # of volunteer hours
 - Accomplishments and photos
 - HCE certificate
- Optional for Community Grants
 - mid point report for $\frac{1}{3}$ reimbursement





COMMUNICATIONS



website.

www.kaulunani.org
www.dlnr.hawaii.gov/dofaw/trees/

social media.
@kaulunani

eNewsletter.
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kate.e.wiechmann.researcher@hawaii.gov

MAHALO!



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