



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

WILLIAM J. AILA JR
CHAIRPERSON

For Immediate Release: December 24, 2012

**PUBLIC INVITED TO NOMINATE NATIVE AND CULTURALLY IMPORTANT TREES
TO COMPETE IN THE NATIONAL BIG TREES COMPETITION**

**Think you have a champion candidate? Anyone can nominate a big tree
— currently 21 eligible species available for nominations in Hawai‘i.**

HONOLULU -- The Department of Land and Natural Resources invites the public to help Hawai‘i compete in American Forests’ National Big Tree Program*. The Big Tree Program seeks the largest trees of their species in the United States - called National Champions. American Forests’ Fall 2012 *National Register of Big Trees* represents 780 National Champion trees.

There are currently 870 tree species eligible for nomination in the national program and over 200 species without champions. Last year, six trees from Hawai‘i gained national titles, including the following:

- A Koa* in Kona Hema Preserve, Hawai‘i
- Two Coconut trees* in Kapuaiwa Coconut Beach Park, Molokai
- A Hau at Hulihe‘e Palace, Hawaii
- An `A`ali`i at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, Maui
- A Mānele at Kipuka Puaulu, Volcano National Park, Hawai‘i

“These trees form the uniquely Hawaiian rainforest, an essential part of Hawaii's biological and cultural heritage. Because these native trees absorb rainfall and cloud water, protecting these forests is the most cost effective and efficient way to secure Hawaii's water supply,” said William J. Aila, Jr., DLNR Chairperson.

The State of Hawai‘i is looking forward to taking part in the Big Tree Program and is inviting the public to submit nominations for candidates of the following species:

Common Tree Name	Hawaiian Tree Name	Genus & Species
Koa	Koa	<i>Acacia koa</i>
Lama	Lama	<i>Diospyros sandwicensis</i>
Wiliwili	Wiliwili	<i>Erythrina sandwicensis</i>
'ohi'a ha	'ōhi'a ha	<i>Syzygium sandwicense</i>
Malaysian apple	'ōhi'a ai	<i>Syzygium malaccense</i>
White hibiscus	koki'o ke'oke'o	<i>Hibiscus arnottianus</i>
Hibiscus	ma'o hau hele	<i>Hibiscus brackenridgei</i>
Red Kauai Hibiscus	aloalo	<i>Hibiscus clayii</i>
Hawaiian holly	kāwa'u	<i>Ilex anomala</i>
Kolea lau nui	Kōlea lau nui	<i>Myrsine lessertiana</i>
Hawai'ian olive	Olopuā	<i>Nestegis sandwicensis</i>
papala kepau	Pāpalakēpau	<i>Pisonia brunoniana</i>
Hawaiian Sumach	Nenelau	<i>Rhus sandwicensis</i>
Soapberry	Lonomea	<i>Sapindus oahuensis</i>
Mamane	Mamane	<i>Sophora chrysophylla</i>
Oahu prickly-ash	a'e	<i>Zanthoxylum oahuense</i>
Paper Mulberry	Wauke	<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>
Coconut	niu,	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>
Sea Hibiscus	Hau	<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i>
Soapberry Wingleaf	Mānele	<i>Sapindus saponaria</i>
Hopbush	'a'ali'i	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>

To nominate a tree, you need to provide three measurements: Trunk Circumference (inches), Height (feet), and Average Crown Spread (feet). These are combined to assign the tree a score. We also need to know the exact location to verify any candidates. If you have photographs of the tree, please include those in your submission.

American Forests, the oldest national nonprofit conservation organization in the country, advocates for the protection and expansion of America's forests. Since 1990, they have planted more than 40 million trees. They work to restore watersheds to help provide clean drinking water, and replant forests destroyed by human action and by natural disasters.

To learn more about the specific measuring requirements please review the guidelines at the American Forests website <http://www.americanforests.org/our-programs/bigtree/big-tree-measuring-guidelines/>

Please send your measurements by **February 1, 2012** along with GPS coordinates or specific directions to a candidate big tree to:

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*Images of two Hawaii national title winners can be found online at:

<https://plus.google.com/101613020396360217549?hl=en#photos/101613020396360217549/albums/5825701624392116449>

For more information news media may contact:

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