

KBCC Discovery Forest Expanded to Eight Acres

An additional four acres has been cleared and planted with native seedling at the Keauhou Bird Conservation Center (KBCC) Discovery Forest this year; bringing the total number of acres restored to eight acres. In addition to restoring native forest habitat, the Discovery Forest project is providing youth with a forest stewardship learning experience as well as fruit and perching limbs for the birds in captivity. To date, KBCC caretaker Iwikau'ikaua (Iwi) Joaquin has engaged 730 volunteers in outplanting 3,080 native seedlings, which will benefit the Hawaiian birds in captivity and in the wild. Outplanted species include koa, Māmane, Maile, 'Ōhi'a, Pa'iniu, 'Ōhelo, Kawa'u, Kōlea, Olapa, and Pilo.



Iwi Joaquin plants a seedling with Volcano School of Arts and Sciences student. 11-16-2015.

The Hawai'i Forest Institute (HFI) has received funding for the project from Friends of Hawaii Charities, American Forests Global ReLeaf Program, Bill Healy Foundation, Hawai'i Community Foundation, Hawai'i Tourism Authority, and DLNR Division of Forestry & Wildlife's Forest Stewardship Program.

The Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) Forest Stewardship Committee recently approved the 10-year management plan, which calls for the restoration of 40 acres over 10 years.

The KBCC is located near Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park on Hawai'i Island. The land is owned by Kamehameha Schools and leased to KBCC, which is part of the Hawaii Endangered Bird Conservation Program, a partnership between the San Diego Zoo Global Institute for Conservation Research, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and DOFAW.



Left: Iwi addresses Kamehameha Schools students prior to planting 10-14-2015. Right: Kona Historical Society member plants seedling. 4-24-2015.

Thank You Anny Rosaura

Thank you so much Anny Rosaura for teaching us about the species of the birds that are becoming extinct and ways that you guys are doing to prevent that from happening. This was an awesome experience because I got to witness birds that in the future some of those species might not be there and the people might not be able to get the chance to see what I saw. The most thing I was interested was when we went into the dark hallway full of birds and we could see them right in front of our faces, and that was really cool because I had a face to face interaction with a bird that might become extinct in a couple or years from now.

I liked it when you showed us the mural of the wild birds because it was very beautiful and gave us an understanding of what was killing of these birds. Also when you showed us the alula because it came close to the window and it was just like the dark hallway of birds, it was a once in a lifetime experience.

From,
Lucas A. Stambaugh

Dear Aunt's Keenan,

Thank you for making me about all of the endangered birds. I really enjoyed the bird walk. Also, I think it really cool. I also think that all the endangered species and the way parents that you help the endangered birds. Also, they will thank you.

*From,
Katie Lane*

Dear Uncle Iwi,

Thank you for telling us about the sacred land. When we first chanted the E ho mai for letting us come in right after and you did a chant response and let us come in. I was really proud of the two classes because we made it strong enough that you could chant right after. Also, when we did OI Aloha my teacher said that that was a response chant that he had never heard chanted back before to the classes before us. I will think about that and maybe come over and help when I get older since I am pretty sure you said we can. Hopefully when we all get older there will be more of the ancient Hawaiian birds in the forests and everywhere in the Hawaiian Islands. Thank you for letting us visit this conservation center. It was very interesting learning about all of the different birds and how many there are left or how many you have now. Hopefully there will be more of all the species of birds in the future and they won't become extinct again. I really hope I will remember about this place when I grow up and maybe help out.

Thank You, Tessa Domingo

THANK YOU.

Sampling of Maryknoll Elementary 5th grade student work after visiting KBCC Discovery Forest. 2-12-15