Hawai‘i Forest Stewards Program

The Hawai‘i Forest Stewards program is a volunteer program that seeks to educate community leaders in good forest land management and empower them to reach out to their friends and neighbors to improve forest conservation in a peer-to-peer learning context. The program, now in its fourth year, consists of an intensive, three-day workshop on forest land management in Hawai‘i, including Hawaiian natural history, wildlife habitat, tree farming, invasive species, forest protection, koa forestry, agroforestry, working with professionals, taxes, estate planning, financial matters, and Hawaiian culture. Half-day classroom sessions will be balanced with afternoon field trips to managed private forests. Field trip transportation is included in the program. Participants will receive a “book bag” with valuable reference materials.

This program is provided by the UH Mānoa CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service free of charge, except for meals. In return, upon completion of the program, participants are asked to design and carry out a volunteer program of their own to “give back” at least as much time as they received in training (about 30 hours). Past participants have led field days to their own forests, worked with local invasive species eradication efforts, and worked with local schools. Other possibilities include:

- holding coffee hours to explain how property tax incentives for forest conservation work
- hosting student work from local high schools and colleges
- writing articles for local media to inform citizens on forestry and conservation issues
- other efforts to help other landowners better manage their forests

Participants are expected to share their knowledge and experience with their neighbors and participate in program evaluations by the UH forestry extension program. Planning for the outreach project will be part of the program.

WHERE

The program will be held at the Kīlauea Military Camp, Volcano, Hawai‘i, with field trips to surrounding forests in East Hawai‘i. Lodging will be covered by the program. Participants will be responsible for the cost of their own meals at the KMC cafeteria or in Volcano Village and transportation to Volcano.

WHEN

The program will start the evening of Thursday September 10th and run through noon Sunday September 13th, 2015.

TO APPLY

Only 20 slots are available for this program and we expect more applicants than we can accommodate. Participants will be selected on the basis of their experience in managing their land, involvement in conservation efforts, involvement in the community, and geographic and gender diversity. The program is aimed at private landowners, not professional foresters or resource managers. To help us make our selection, please tell us something about your forest land and volunteer efforts in the attached volunteer application.
Hawai‘i Forest Stewards application form

Please fill out and return by July 10th, 2015 to:
J. B. Friday, jbfriday@hawaii.edu (email preferred)
UH Cooperative Extension Service, 875 Komohana St., Hilo, HI 96720
Tel. 808-969-8254; fax 808-981-5211
Questions please e-mail or call J. B. Friday.
Acceptance notices will be sent out early July.

Your Name:
Address (box or street, city, state, zip):
Telephone and best time to call:
Email:
How long have you lived in your community?
How many acres of forest or potentially forested land do you own or manage?
In which district is your land (Hilo, Hāmākua, etc.)?
What type of forest do you manage (for example koa forest, new timber plantation, native forest, etc.)?

What management activities have you carried out on your land in the past three years (for example, tree planting, invasive species control, wildlife habitat improvement)?

What experience do you have with conservation volunteer service projects (for example service projects to wildlife refuges, parks, or reforestation areas):

What experience do you have with community outreach efforts (for example neighborhood organizations, local non-profit groups, or other educational efforts)?
How much do you know about forest land management in Hawai‘i? (please circle or mark the appropriate letter)

A. I know little about forest land management in Hawai‘i

B. I know and can explain the basic principles of forestry, conservation, and Hawaiian natural history

C. I have substantial experience in managing forest lands in Hawai‘i

D. I have a professional education including land and natural resource management

Mahalo for your interest in the program!