



KŌKUA

Caring for the future of the State of Hawai'i, The Department of Land and Natural Resources' "The Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection plan will ensure that Hawai'i's precious forests are protected by:

- Restoring and protecting our forests through controlling invasive weeds and animals, and monitoring forest threats such as fire, predators and natural diseases
- Employing over 150 FTE Hawai'i residents with a variety of natural resources jobs
- Over the next 10 years, doubling the amount of priority watershed protection acreage in Hawai'i and thus protecting our freshwater sources, beaches, ecotourism and marine ecosystems
- Educating Hawai'i's residents and visitors about the cultural, economic, and environmental importance of conserving native forests



PHOTO AIR MAUI

THE KŌKUA RAIN FOLLOWS THE FOREST



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII • MANOA CENTER FOR RESEARCH & TRAINING •
CONSERVATION NATIONAL TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN •
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL
RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FORESTRY & WILDLIFE •
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE - PACIFIC SOUTHWEST
REGION • U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES • HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL
RESOURCES, DIVISION OF AQUATIC
RESOURCES HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • NOAA NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES PROGRAM • NOAA NATIONAL MARINE
FISHERIES SERVICE • BISHOP MUSEUM •

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE • OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ARMY GARRISON • NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX • KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS •
HAWAII NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM • U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE,
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST RESEARCH STATION • U.S. GEOLOGICAL
SURVEY - PACIFIC ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS RESEARCH CENTER
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HAHAI NO KA UA I KA ULULĀ'AU

Created by the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance in support of
The Rain Follows the Forest: A Plan to Replenish Hawai'i's Source of Water



HAWAII CONSERVATION ALLIANCE
www.hawaiiconservation.org

FOREST



HAWAI'I'S FORESTS ARE ESSENTIAL

reduce greenhouse gas.

On Hawai'i Island, high densities of carbon can be found in old growth 'ōhi'a forests. 'Ōhi'a forests can contain anywhere from 19 to 162 tons of carbon per acre. Protecting our intact healthy forests can help local and global efforts to offset the impacts of climate change.

*"the most valuable
product of the
forest is WATER."*

– Ralph Homser

culture.

The upland forests are wao akua, realm of the gods. In these special forests the plants and the animals have deep cultural significance. Protecting our prime forest habitats ensures the vitality and perpetuity of cultural resources, practice and spirituality.

recreation.

Residents and visitors alike hike and enjoy Hawai'i's forests. Our forests also absorb rainfall and reduce sediment run-off, keeping our coastal waterways clear. Through better management of run-off and non-point source pollution, protecting our healthy forest serves 10 million people who enjoy our world renowned beaches and dramatic coastal landscapes. Without immediate and comprehensive watershed management, sedimentation will continue to travel to the sea and muddy our streams and coastal environment.



fresh water. Essentially every drop of fresh water used in Hawai'i starts as rain collected in the forest canopy on leaves and branches. Acting like a sponge, a healthy forest allows rain to infiltrate the ground and eventually become the water we drink and depend on. Fog drip and condensation in the cloud rain forest can increase rainfall collection and absorption by as much as 30%. Without native vegetation and forests, most of the island's precious rain would be lost in runoff to the sea.

biodiversity. Native species are the backbone of a resilient forest ecosystem. In Hawai'i, a great number of the plants found in our forests can be found nowhere else in the world. Hawai'i has 395 listed Threatened and Endangered species; of these, 295 are plants. Protecting our unique wildlife and plants, will ensure entire ecosystems have a greater capacity to survive natural disturbances and climate changes.



MĀLAMA OUR FORESTS. MĀLAMA HAWAI'I.

↑↑ FOREST PROTECTION = ↑↑ \$\$

KO'OLAU FOREST has a net present value of up to **\$14 BILLION**. Approximately HALF of this value is attributed to the forest's contribution to ground and surface **WATER** quality and quantity.

↓↓ SEDIMENT RUN-OFF = ↑↑ \$\$

CORAL REEFS generate approximately **\$800 MILLION ANNUALLY** in added value to Hawai'i's economy from **MARINE TOURISM**. Stabilizing our economy means conserving **OUR NATURAL CAPITAL**.