

## ***Hawaii Environmental Restoration (HER)***

### **End of Year 2021 Report**



**Crew: Jon Rathbun, Jeremiah O'Brien, Koa Quitevis, and volunteers of the year Will Stein and Rain Pacifico**

This year of 2021, *Hawaii Environmental Restoration's (HER)* intensive restoration efforts in the Keau'ohana rainforest have continued on a weekly basis, and were very often supported by community volunteer members! In June of this year, our crew completed the fourth systematic pass of Keau'ohana's entire 30 acre restoration site. Additional passes were conducted in the volunteer loops near the roadside (5 acres), as well as the core trail system (>1 mile) during this period according to need (3-4 times per year).

*HER* quarterly solstice and equinox volunteer events in the forest were a great success! A total



of 311 trees were planted as well as a dozen endangered ha'iwaie clusters all of which were started in our Kapoho nursery by our loyal local environmentalist, Ann Kobsa. Drier periods such as we had during summer solstice, were dedicated to weeding efforts, and are a great help as well because weed growth in the summer heat offers no mercy in Hawai'i!

Additionally, special education/restoration events were coordinated with groups from Malamalama

Waldorf School, Core Dance/ Global Waters, Liko Na Pilina/ Keaukaha Military Reserve, Connections Charter School, Church of Latter Day Saints, and the Hawai'i Verto Education Program. In light of the pandemic, the forest has offered a context for people to safely disperse themselves, and volunteerism has not been heavily compromised. Due to covid, outside of the forest *HER* only facilitated talks/ group discussions at an *Activate Puna* community event.

This year the forest received restoration support from 110 volunteers, accruing 513+ volunteer hours; outreach/tech and accounting volunteerism accounted for an extra 180 for a total of 693 volunteer hours. When *HER* started its website in 2019, we had 333 subscribers; we are

currently at 544, with 477 of them subscribed as volunteers. HER Face Book page (11,425)

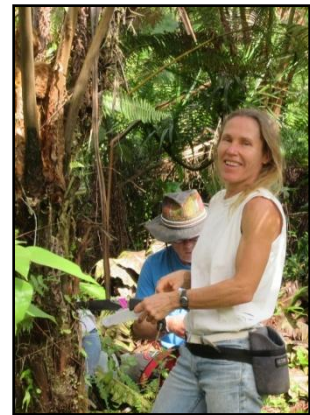


keeps a much broader audience of people informed about our work, and engaged around highlight activities. In the 6 month period Jan 1 to June 30 in 2020, HER reached 1,466 people through FB; for the same period this year HER has reached 9,740 people. We have also just launched a new way to support HER buy purchasing t-shirts, water bottles and cups with our logo and art work. And 100% of *Hawaii Plant World Essentials* book and art work website sales go to HER.

**James Elston, administrative volunteer of the year**

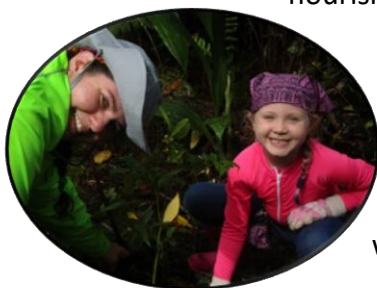
Despite a couple difficult pandemic years with next to no government funding, the forest is still kicking thanks to volunteers and supporters like YOU. We are grateful to have been able to continue our dedications to the environment in thanks to numerous generous community donors and grantors. This year, *HER* Gold Givers contributed \$22,000 (Please visit website for more details); Silver Supporters \$1,050; and Bronze Bloomers \$632, for a total of \$23,682 between 25 donors. As of October of this year, we are proud permanent members of the *Global Giving* community, we were able to raise another \$13,100 from 116 donors globally!

The events held in Keau'ohana served the rainforest with a visible clearing of so many invasive plant species in support of the native plant community while directly informing those attending with essential knowledge for the protection and improvement of Hawaii's particularly fragile and compromised environment. Invasive species can be overwhelming if one does not know what species are harmful to the environment or how to respond to them. One of our core goals is to help empower Hawai'i community members in responding to very real vegetation issues found in their own backyards. It is also inspiring to see people develop an awareness of how to integrate native and Polynesian-introduced plant species into their lives. This kind of knowledge



**Jaya C. Dupusi/President**

nourishes a more sustainable future for the lowland environment and for those of us who rely upon it.



Thank you again for believing in us! We understand that there are countless critical causes to support on this precious planet, and it is an honor for us that you regard our mission and work as worthwhile! This fuels our success!