



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

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**COMMUNITY DAY AT HAMAKUA MARSH IMPROVES HABITAT,
ILLUSTRATES PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION**

HONOLULU – More than 100 volunteers from the Actus Lend Lease office on O‘ahu joined wildlife staff of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) on Friday, Oct. 2 in a large-scale environmental service project to help improve habitat for native birds in Hamakua Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary and Kawainui Marsh.

Volunteers worked side by side with DLNR’s Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) staff to plant native plants, pick up litter, and remove invasive weeds between the wildlife sanctuary and adjacent parking lots and businesses along Kawainui Stream.

This natural barrier of the newly planted naupaka and naio (sandalwood) plants will encourage birds, including four native federally-listed endangered waterbirds, to remain in their natural habitat and avoid dangers associated with developed areas, as well as improve air and water quality in the marsh and surrounding habitat.

“Actus Community Day at Hamakua Marsh improves the quality of habitat and thereby the health of surrounding communities. The work conducted at the marsh illustrates public-private partnerships in action and demonstrates how effective and valuable these relationships are,” stated Laura H. Thielen, Chairperson, Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Actus Lend Lease and its subcontractors also provided invaluable expertise, skilled labor, and materials for the construction of a boathouse and renovations to an office building at the Kawainui baseyard to improve management capabilities in the marsh areas.

“Community Day is a global event which provides employees with an opportunity to give back to the community. Everyone in our office looks forward to this event every year, and we’re glad to be able to

work with the state to complete restoration and construction projects in the marsh areas,” stated Tim Musselman, Community Day Project Leader for Actus Lend Lease.

The estimated value of materials and labor donated to the projects equals over \$70,000. Subcontractor companies include All State Painting, DME Construction, Electrical Contractors Hawaii, Hawaiian Cement, Protech Roofing, Servco Raynor Overhead Doors, South Pacific Steel, and Sunrise Construction.

DLNR-DOFAW is committed to the long term management of the Hamakua and Kawainui marsh sites and is working with numerous partners, including the O‘ahu Invasive Species Committee, to manage natural resources, improve degraded lands and provide better habitat for native species.

“With the support of \$450,000 from the Legacy Lands Conservation Program and the generosity of the Castle Foundation, the state DLNR-DOFAW was able to leverage \$740,000 in Federal Recovery Land Acquisition funds to purchase 65 acres of the adjoining hillside in order to further protect and manage the Hamakua marsh area,” said David Smith, DOFAW O‘ahu branch manager.

The protection of the two marsh sites provides multiple benefits to the residents of O‘ahu, including water purification and retention, habitat for native endangered birds, recreational opportunities, bird watching, and scenic beauty.

This project, and others like it will improve management capabilities at Kawainui Marsh, as well as enhance ongoing recovery efforts for endangered Hawaiian waterbirds and plant species in the Hamakua Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary.

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