

Akaka Foundation for Tropical Forests



Position Description

Closing Date: November 9, 2020

Position Title: Reforestation Technician, Pu'uwa'awa'a Community-Based Subsistence Forest Area

Employment Status: Full-time

Department: Pu'uwa'awa'a Community-Based Subsistence Forest Area

FLSA Status: Non-Exempt

Effective Date: TBD

Compensation: \$35,000 - \$41,000 / year

Benefits: Health Insurance, Paid Holidays, and Paid Time Off

Purpose of the Position

The Reforestation Technician will fulfill a broad range of responsibilities to support the Pu'uwa'awa'a Community-Based Subsistence Forest Area (PCBSFA) and achieve the goals of the USDA Forest Service Large Scale Restoration (LSR) grant.

The objectives of the LSR include:

1. To support community-based reforestation and stewardship;
2. To increase gathering access to culturally important plant species;
3. To sequester carbon to mitigate climate change and ocean acidification;
4. To increase capacity for biocultural education; and
5. Provide a model for community-based reforestation on public lands.

The Reforestation Technician will assist the Community Managed Forest Administrator to coordinate, including planning, organizing, and implementing LSR related activities in support the work of the PCBSFA, as directed by the Hui Kaiāulu representing the PCBSFA's community-based leadership.

Who We Are

The PCBSFA is a community led stewardship partnership focused on the restoration of an 84-acre pasture area to a community forest on the summit of the Pu'uwa'awa'a cinder cone in the North Kona district of Hawai'i Island. The Ahupua'a of Pu'uwa'awa'a encompasses over 35,000 acres of mixed forest and open grassland and extends from sea level at Kīholo Bay to 6,400 ft above sea level on Hualālai. The region is home to over 200 species of native plants, land snails, butterflies, arthropods, and birds, most of which are endemic with many that are federally listed as threatened or endangered. Pu'uwa'awa'a is also home to a vibrant rural community that includes Hawaiian cultural practitioners who have been stewarding these lands for centuries. The PCBSFA is an effort to restore the 84-acre area to a thriving forest that can be enjoyed, managed and utilized by the local community.

Primary Responsibilities

Mālama 'Āina

Implementation of on the ground LSR Grant Project Objectives and the PCBSFA Stewardship Plan (once it has been created), including:

- Lead coordination and implementation of all outplanting and seedling care/maintenance; construct irrigation and storage for watering plants;
- Where needed, collect seeds and deliver to Kamuela State Nursery for propagation or lead propagation at the PWW nursery, or other locations for plant propagation; work with the nursery to ensure seedlings are grown appropriately for the project;
- Lead coordination and implementation of native seedling planting days for staff, volunteers, and community members;
- Maintain ungulate-proof fences, gates, and hardware including adding skirting; monitor for ungulate ingress and facilitate ungulate removal with the PCBSFA/DOFAW if animals get inside/are detected;
- Establish and coordinate PCBSFA volunteer days for seed collections, plantings, weed control, fire fuels control, and other activities;
- Other duties as assigned.

Program Administration

Support management of the PCBSFA including:

- Maintain detailed notes of project progress and communicate with community partners as needed;
- Assist with reporting and documentation including volunteer hours for funders;
- Other duties as assigned.

Outreach & Education

- Co-develop reforestation outreach materials to share at public events (such as Pu'uwa'awa'a Advisory Committee Meetings, the residential tree planting outreach [giveaway referenced in the LSR Grant])
- Coordinate and implement residential native tree plantings and related community events.

- Work with PCBSFA partners to co-develop reforestation outreach materials to share at public events.
- Other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications (Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities)

- High School Diploma or GED; One year of related experience or relevant coursework (mālama ‘āina, community capacity building, education, or ecological sciences);
- Familiarity with local flora and fauna;
- Strong organizational skills and spoken and written communication skills;
- Clean driver’s abstract and ability to drive State or Federal 4WD vehicles on back country roads;
- Ability to follow directions, hike in rough, exposed, and uneven terrain and off of roads/trails, and able to lift 50lbs.
- Ability to type, use word processing programs, ability to create and maintain spreadsheets.

Preferred Qualifications

- Two years college or equivalent work experience in forestry, forest management or conservation;
- Working knowledge of Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a;
- Work experience in a greenhouse, nursery, fencing, and/or restoration setting;
- Experience planting native Hawaiian plants for conservation or restoration and experience with control of non-native plants in Hawai‘i;
- Experience with coordinating or supporting volunteer programs and leading bioculturally-based immersive conservation education programs;
- Ōlelo Hawai‘i.

Physical Demands and Work Environment

The Reforestation Support will work out of the Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a office. Forest restoration activities will occur at the Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a Unit of the Hawaii Experimental Tropical Forest, with outreach activities taking place both on site and in surrounding locations where schools and community events are being held. Terrain may be wet or very dry, muddy, cold or very hot. Rain gear and appropriate tools will be provided.

Supervisor and Organization

The PCBSFA is a community-based collaboration. The Hui Kaiāulu, or Community Group guides decision-making for the program, and will thus have a significant and substantial supervisory role for the big picture of this position. For day to day operations, the Reforestation Support Technician will be supervised by Rebekah Ohara, CEO of Akaka Foundation for Tropical Forests, with on the ground support provided by USFS. The Akaka Foundation for Tropical Forests is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the protection and promotion of Hawai‘i’s natural and cultural resources. We focus on biocultural education, biocultural restoration, and sustainable

livelihoods as a way to realize our vision of vibrant forest communities alive with the voices of Hawai'i from one generation to the next. To learn more about our organization, please visit www.akakaforests.org. The Foundation supports the PCBSFA through fundraising, facilitation, and administration of project-related staffing.

Note

This job description in no way states or implies that these are the only duties to be performed by the employee(s) incumbent in this position. Employees will be required to follow any other job-related instructions and to perform any other job-related duties requested by any person authorized to give instructions or assignments. All duties and responsibilities are essential functions and requirements and are subject to possible modification to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities. To perform this job successfully, the incumbents will possess the skills, aptitudes, and abilities to perform each duty proficiently. Some requirements may exclude individuals who pose a direct threat or significant risk to the health or safety of themselves or others. The requirements listed in this document are the minimum levels of knowledge, skills, or abilities. This document does not create an employment contract, implied or otherwise, other than an "at will" relationship.

The Akaka Foundation for Tropical Forests is an Equal Opportunity Employer, drug free workplace, and complies with ADA regulations as applicable.