

community

Adopt a Forest program seeks volunteers

The D.T. Fleming Arboretum in Ulupalakua offers community groups an opportunity to “Adopt a Forest” during the island’s rainy season November through March.

Youth and community groups plant their forest within the 17-acre Pu’u Mahoe cinder cone. Plots are 1,200 to 1,500 square feet. Foresters return seasonally throughout the year to their forest to weed, work on trails, add new plants and apply mulch, replacing non-native plants with a complete cover of upper-, middle-, lower-story native forest.

The reforestation program supports community participation in the Fleming Arboretum’s mission to preserve Hawaiian native plants, forests and wildlife habitat. The program involves youth, school, church and community groups in conservation, promoting volunteerism and care of the land.

For more information about Adopt a Forest email info@flemingarboretum.org or call 572-1097.



BOB BANGERTER photo

Kihei youth work together to plant 50 native seedlings into the D.T. Fleming Arboretum at Pu’u Mahoe on a Choice Mentorship Field Trip in March. Participants planted a 1,500-square-foot area within the 17-acre Pu’u Mahoe cinder cone for their native forest, joining the Fleming Arboretum’s Community Adopt a Forest Program. Choice Mentorship is a program created by Kihei police officers and Kihei Youth Center to teach youth to make good choices. Pictured are (foreground, from left) Liliioe Andrade-Santana, Alicia Crisallu and Kelsey Butihi-Cababat. Heleina Tau is shown in the background.