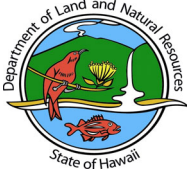


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

April 27, 2021

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LAND
STATE PARKS

The Honorable Ed Case
U.S. House of Representatives
c/o kainan.miranda@mail.house.gov

SUBJECT: FFY22 Community Project Funding Proposal, City and County of Honolulu Street and Park Tree Inventory

Dear Congressman Case:

As the Hawai‘i State Forester and Administrator for the Department of Land and Natural Resources’ Division of Forestry and Wildlife, I am pleased to express my strong support for the City and County of Honolulu’s (CCH) Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding proposal, “City and County of Honolulu Street and Park Tree Inventory.” This project directly addresses the Hawai‘i State Forest Action Plan (FAP) in the areas of Urban and Community Forestry and Urban Tree Care.

An urban tree inventory was identified as one of the top strategies in the Urban Forestry Section of the Hawai‘i FAP. There is no formal inventory of trees currently being used in Hawai‘i, which can hinder efforts to manage, maintain, and replace trees, and plan for equity in the urban forest. Through the state’s Urban and Community Forestry Program, Kaulunani, has developed a Citizen Forester Program where community volunteers collect high quality urban tree inventory data. For the past five years we have supported this community-based Citizen Forester program in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service’s Urban and Community Forestry Program, CCH, non-profit partners, and community volunteers.

To date, our inventory has directly aided in city planning, environmental impact, and public health assessments, while increasing community awareness of the benefits of trees. It has also assessed areas where trees are needed the most and could be planted to increase green infrastructure and community equity. This program has been successful where it has been deployed, but this volunteer effort would take more than a decade to cover the whole of the island at its current pace. Climate change requires swift action. A complete tree inventory will accelerate tree planning and planting, and improve management of the existing tree assets. An accurate City and County street and park tree inventory will save time and taxpayers dollars when managing the urban forest.

The tree inventory project proposal meets the goals outlined in the National 2016-2026 Urban Forestry Action plan by improving urban and community forestry management and maintenance - Goal 1: Integrate Urban and Community Forestry Into All Scales of Planning; and Goal 5: Improve Urban and Community Forestry Management, Maintenance and Stewardship. Completing a baseline urban tree inventory will enhance benefits associated with trees by allowing us to quantify existing benefits across the landscape (ecosystem benefits as calculated

via i-Tree), and in informing planning, planting, and community engagement to maintain the existing tree inventory, and enhance tree canopy benefits in identified gaps across communities.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for the City and County of Honolulu's project proposal. Should you have any questions, please contact Heather McMillen, Kaulunani UCF Program Coordinator and Urban and Community Forester, at (808) 587-0054 or Heather.L.McMillen@hawaii.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DGS', is centered below the word 'Sincerely,'.

David G. Smith
Forestry and Wildlife Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife