



KOHALA WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

Protecting and sustaining the forest, the water and the people of Kohala.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Melora K. Purell, Coordinator, Kohala Watershed Partnership
P.O. Box 437182, Kamuela, HI 96743
Phone: 333-0976; E-mail: Coordinator@kohalawatershed.org
Web site: www.hawp.org/kohala.asp

Watershed restoration project invites community participation

KAMUELA, Hawaii—February 13, 2009—The Kohala Watershed Partnership invites community volunteers to plant native trees on Kohala Mountain, as part of the Koai'a Corridor Restoration project. The Saturday volunteer work days this spring are February 21, March 21, April 18, and May 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Adults and children are welcome to participate; tools, gloves, and transportation to the work site are provided.

The long-term goal of this project is to restore a native forest along the strip of land between Waiakamali Stream and Luahine Stream between Kohala Mountain Road and Pu'u O 'Umi Natural Area Reserve. The leadership for this project comes from the State Natural Area Reserve team. They are working with the adjacent landowners and lessees of the State land to install a solid fence to keep out cattle and to plant trees. The project is coordinated by the staff of the Kohala Watershed Partnership (KWP), a coalition of land owners who have combined their efforts to do watershed conservation, in cooperation with The Kohala Center, local schools, and community groups.

A unique thing about this two-mile corridor is the range of native plants that can live here, mostly due to the huge range of rainfall. The makai section receives only 30 inches of rain per year, but the mauka part gets almost 150 inches. As a result, there are more than 50 species of native plants from dry to wet forests of Kohala Mountain that can survive here.

Community members are welcome to participate. To learn more about the project or to get details about volunteer days, contact Melora Purell, the KWP coordinator at 333-0976, or e-mail Coordinator@kohalawatershed.org. Visit the KWP Web site at www.hawp.org/kohala.asp.

The Kohala Watershed Partnership operates in partnership with The Kohala Center, an independent, community-based center for research and education about and for the environment. Visit www.kohalacenter.org or call 808-887-6411 for more information about The Kohala Center's work.