

Tree City County of Hawai‘i



Selecting a tree at Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden Arbor Day 2024

Le‘a Ka‘aha‘aina, Education & Outreach Coordinator
Kaulunani Urban & Community Forestry Program (DLNR-DOFAW)
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WHO WE ARE

MISSION

To support all of Hawai'i's communities with a focus on equity to cultivate well-being and resilience through restorative & environmental justice, planting, caring for, and growing relationships with the trees and forests where we live, work, learn and play.



Trees and forests where we live, work, learn, and play



Wao Kanaka





TREES HELP IMPROVE





WHAT WE DO





TREE CITY USA

Started in 1976. For **communities** to manage and expand their public trees.



TREE CAMPUS HIGHER EDUCATION

Started in 2008. For **colleges and universities** to establish and sustain healthy community forests.



TREE CAMPUS K-12

Started in 2022. For **K-12 campuses** to inspire the next generation of tree stewards through experiences that bring the benefits of trees to life both inside and outside the classroom.

WHAT IS TREE CITY USA?

Tree City USA is an **annual national recognition program** designed to:

- **raise awareness** of the value of community trees
- **set foundational standards** for communities of all sizes
- **celebrate community improvement**



WHY BE A TREE CITY?

Tree City USA provides a framework for...

1. Management
2. Policy
3. Investment
4. Celebration



How to become a TREE CITY

To qualify as a Tree City USA community, **you must meet four standards** established by the

- Arbor Day Foundation
- National Association of State Foresters



TREE CITY USA

Program Standards

1. Tree board or department
2. Public tree care ordinance
3. Spend at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry
 - Tree planting, care, maintenance, etc.
4. Arbor Day Observance
 - Signed Arbor Day proclamation



APPLICATION

- Applications recognize work done in the past year
- Create an account at:
 - recognition.arborday.org
- Follow the prompts for each standard
 - Fill-in boxes, upload documents
- **Deadline to Submit: Dec 31 (each year)**



TIMELINE

Second Tues. in Sept.	Application Opens
Dec 31	Deadline to Submit
Mar – Apr	Application Review – State Coordinator (Kaulunani) – Arbor Day Foundation
Apr 30	Final deadline to submit revisions
May	Award Announcement

TREE CITY IN HAWAI‘I

Counties are a great fit!

- County of Maui (1976)
- City & County of Honolulu (1980)
- County of Hawai‘i (2005–2007, 2025!!!)

& 6 Military communities on O‘ahu



Hawaii

49

Longest recognized
community

1,801

Trees planted

\$13

Contributed per capita

1

Growth Awards

7

Longest Growth Award

2

Tree Campus Higher
Education campuses

9

Tree City USA communities

97%

of state living in a Tree City USA

5,030

Volunteer hours

\$18,557,468

Contributed to community forestry



MAHALO, Charla!

Thank you to Charla Thompson, a dedicated community volunteer, for applying on behalf of Hawai'i County in 2025!

With the support and encouragement of the Action Committee members, Long Term Planning Department members, Kaulunani Urban Forestry Program, The Outdoor Circle, County Council members and Mayor Alameda



TREE CITY USA

Program Standards

1. Tree board or department
 - *Mayor's Arborist Advisory Committee (AAC)*
2. Public tree care ordinance
 - *Exceptional Tree Ordinance*
3. Spend at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry
 - *Dept. of Parks & Rec. budget*
4. Arbor Day Observance
 - *OSCER plant giveaways*
 - *Signed Arbor Day proclamation – Mayor Alameda in 2025, can also be county council*



OPPORTUNITIES

- Designated role for applying annually. Who will compile and submit the application?
- Updating Ordinances (Exceptional Tree, AAC role)
- Support from Mayor & County Council
- New Ordinances (use Maui County example & ADF tool)
- County Arborist position
- Tree City Growth Award

RESOURCES

[Arbor Day Foundation Tree City Website](#)

[ADF Tree Care Ordinance Assistant](#)

[Kauluanani Tree City Website](#)



2023 Arbor Day celebration at Fort Shafter.



MAHALO!

CONTACT

LE'A KA 'AHA 'AINA

Education & Outreach Coordinator, Kaulunani
lea.a.kaahaaina.researcher@hawaii.gov

w. www.kaulunani.org **e.** info@kaulunani.org **ig.** [@kaulunani](https://www.instagram.com/kaulunani)





Questions?

