

Resolution

No. 25-106

RECOGNIZING 2025 AS THE YEAR OF OUR COMMUNITY FORESTS

WHEREAS, Governor Josh Green, M.D., has proclaimed 2025 the Year of Our Community Forests; and

WHEREAS, we all live in community forests of trees surrounding our homes, schools, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the presence of trees and community forests has mental and physical health benefits including food security, access to medicinal plants, stress reduction, reduced incidences of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and

WHEREAS, the presence of trees on school campuses has educational benefits including reduced student stress, improved test scores, and higher graduation rates; and

WHEREAS, the presence of trees and community forests has environmental benefits including cleaner air and water, native species habitat, carbon storage, and reduced erosion; and

WHEREAS, the presence of trees and community forests has economic benefits including support for urban forestry jobs, increased property values, and increased spending at businesses near trees; and

WHEREAS, the people of Maui County have the opportunity to strengthen pilina to ‘āina through growing trees for food, medicine, and cultural practices; and

WHEREAS, the people of Maui County can prepare a home for our native species to return to the wao kanaka by creating urban kīpuka in their yards and community forests; and

WHEREAS, investing in forest stewardship requires considerable dedication, effort, expertise, tools, and human resources over time and is often associated with community members’ love of the land and

WHEREAS, there exists a need for sustained, collaborative relationships among communities and agencies that recognize and honor community investment and

WHEREAS, support for community forest stewardship is essential to the future of our Maui County ‘ohana; and

WHEREAS, in the coming year, Maui County will be developing the first Urban Forest Management Plan for Maui to guide the care and growth of the island’s urban forests; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it hereby recognizes 2025 as the Year of Our Community Forests in Maui County; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to Maui Green and Beautiful; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program; Maui County Departments of Management, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Planning, and Agriculture; and the Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr. Mayor, County of Maui.

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris Lee", written over a horizontal line.

Upon the request of the Mayor.