

Resolution

No. _____

CONGRATULATING THE PŌHAKUOKALĀ
GULCH COMMUNITY FOREST RESTORATION
PROJECT ON REACHING SIGNIFICANT
MILESTONES IN 2020, DESPITE THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, Pōhakuokalā Gulch Community Forest Restoration Project, a program of Nā Koa Manu Conservation and Skyline Conservation Initiative, announced the completion of a new phase of its native habitat rehabilitation project last month; and

WHEREAS, the native habitat rehabilitation project is located at the site of the Skyline Hawaii zipline tour on Haleakalā Ranch in Kula; and

WHEREAS, the project was led by Joseph Imhoff of Skyline Conservation Initiative, a Makawao resident who has been spearheading land restoration and community forest projects that created jobs for the unemployed in 2020 and have made significant steps toward restoring and regenerating Pōhakuokalā Gulch, an important watershed in Upper Kula on Maui; and

WHEREAS, over 500 native trees were planted in place of nearly 2,000 invasive eucalyptus trees between September and December of 2020 through partnerships with Skyline Hawai'i, Haleakalā Ranch, and Kupu Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, the Pōhakuokalā Gulch project aims to convert a watershed marked by an intermittent stream bed overtaken by invasive trees into a 100% native forest ecosystem and species habitat; and

WHEREAS, since its inception in 2002, the project has organized the planting of over 13,000 native trees and removal of eucalyptus from a total of ten acres; and

WHEREAS, Imhoff credits this latest milestone and the ability to provide economic relief to our community during the pandemic to volunteers, partners, and sponsors who have supported the project's mission; and

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WHEREAS, funding to offset the project's expenses were provided by Hawaii Tourism Authority and the County of Maui's Office of Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, the County of Maui is lucky and grateful to be a contributor of this project, which will benefit our islands through its fight against climate change and invasive species, its economic development, and its beautification and cultural restoration of our islands; and

WHEREAS, despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions and hardship it caused, the project plans to safely continue building on its momentum into 2021 with the planting of 4,000 native trees in newly cleared areas; and

WHEREAS, the project welcomes interested volunteers to sign up at its website, skylineconservation.org; now, therefore,

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

1. That it congratulates the Pōhakuokalā Gulch Community Forest Restoration Project on reaching significant milestones in 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to Danny Boren, President, Skyline Conservation Initiative; Joseph Imhoff, Program Manager, Skyline Conservation Initiative; Hanna Mounce, Executive Director, Board of Directors, Nā Koa Manu Conservation; John Leong, Chief Executive Officer, Kupu Hawai'i; Don Young, President, Haleakalā Ranch; John De Fries, President and Chief Executive Officer, Hawai'i Tourism Authority; and the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui.