

2025: Year of Our Community Forests



In 2025 we're celebrating our community forests: the trees of the wao kanaka where we live, learn, and play. We invite you to create videos celebrating the trees and forests that are important to you. These could be trees on your school campus, around your home or neighborhood, or other trees to which you feel connected.

Tell your story in a 1-3 minute video that uses one or more of these themes:

- How do trees contribute to your sense of community? Tell us why the tree or forest you selected matters to you personally, your school, or your neighborhood.
- How do forests help grow our communities? Tell us about the benefits that you, your school, or your neighborhood receive from the trees around you.
- How does your community help grow forests? Tell us how you, your school, or your neighborhood help protect community trees and forests.
- How do community forests root us in Hawai'i? Tell us how your trees relate to cultural practices and native species, or how trees are part of your 'ohana.

We encourage you to gather your own footage of trees and community activities, but you may also use images from our website, credited to DLNR unless otherwise noted. All entries must be submitted to 'Ōlelo and follow their guidelines and due dates at olelo.org. To learn more about the Year of the Community Forests, visit dlnr.hawaii.gov/trees.



'Ōlelo Youth Xchange Competition 2025 category
sponsored by DLNR Forestry & Wildlife, Kaulunani
Urban & Community Forestry. Artwork by Kelsie Dayna