

Hawaii Forest Farms, 19-4610 Amaumau Road, Volcano, HI 96785

Brief Description Of Company:

Hawaii Forest Farms (HFF) was originally created to support Shaka Tea, a local herbal beverage company whose primary ingredient is *māmaki* (*Pipturus albidus*). We are located on thirty acres of old-growth indigenous forest on the slopes of Mauna Loa, in Volcano Village, not far from Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Here we defend the forest from encroaching invasive species, educate visitors and the community about Big Island habitats and culture, and of course grow *māmaki* to supply Shaka Tea and our other wholesale & retail customers.

What Our Volunteers Can Expect From Us

Volunteering on our farm is a rewarding experience for all ages. We want our volunteers to feel that their contributions are important, and that their safety and health is a priority while on our farm. We give safety briefings at the start of each volunteer day to address appropriate use of the selected tools, and at the same time we give the context of the day's work as it relates to the mission and vision of our forest farming model. We provide all tools, an on-site first-aid kit in case visitors don't have their own, and a liability waiver for each person to sign at the start of their first day. Possible projects include removing invasive species, planting/propagating/relocating native plants, processing mamaki leaf, fertilizing/watering/weeding in-ground keiki plants, clearing land, monitoring electric fencing, and tidying up blow-downs and storm damage. Some projects are long-term, and returning volunteers will have the opportunity to see an entire project through in multiple visits. General benefits of volunteering at HFF include:

- Opportunity to experience and learn firsthand the operations of a unique, established forest farm
- Learning how to identify invasive plants and native plants in the Volcano area
- Learning how to grow your own food/medicine in a way that builds soil health, provides shelter and sustenance for wildlife, and leaves future generations better-off
- All the mamaki tea you can drink while you're with us
- Potential to be considered for future employment
- Gaining competitive experience to prepare you for future positions in regenerative agriculture

What We Expect From Our Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers with an interest in regenerative agriculture who are self-motivated, reliable and enthusiastic about being a part of our farm. We expect volunteers to show up ready to farm with proper footwear and attire for traversing slopes, mud, uneven ground and woody debris in weather ranging from sunny to overcast/rainy. It can get hot here, and it can also get cold. We expect any and all visitors to be prepared for changing mountain weather. There are mosquitos here, and occasionally wasps when in drought season, and certainly honey bees year-round. Please bring your own mosquito repellent and allergen medication if you have allergies. We do have an on-site first-aid kit stocked with basic supplies, but visitors are encouraged to bring their own especially if they have specific medical conditions or allergies. We expect volunteers to conduct themselves responsibly, respectfully, and safely while they are on-site, which includes staying on task and following directions from the supervisor. No experience farming or gardening is required, but we do prefer people who know how to handle basic garden tools such as shovels, soil picks, hard/soft rakes, pruners/loppers, etc. We do not expect volunteers to continue working in inclement weather such as thunder/lightning or prolonged heavy rain. Volunteers should arrive at the start of the workday to be present for safety briefing and introductions, but can leave at anytime they wish.