

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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On the Cover

Young Koa Tree

Photo: Sandy Baz

The koa tree, *acacia koa*, indigenous to Hawaii, exists naturally nowhere else in the world. Koa trees were known to reach over 150 feet tall with trunks nearing 10 feet in diameter. While it is still a fairly common tree, only about 10% of the original koa forests remain.

In the native Hawaiian language, *koa* is translated as *brave, bold, courageous; a warrior, soldier, hero*. It implies strength, longevity, growth and fearlessness.

The young koa tree was chosen for this budget presentation to reflect the nature of the County of Maui. We have a responsibility to invest the resources required, however bold and courageous, to assure the strength and longevity of the county, its infrastructure, economy and people.

The photo was taken from land proposed in this budget to be acquired for a new central Maui regional park system. It also includes Waikapu valley, a source of *wai*-water that represents the *waiwai*-resources required.

E ola koa- live like a koa tree, long, strong, and courageous.

