

August 7, 2009
For Immediate Release

Contact: Christine Ogura
Hawai'i Association of Watershed Partnerships
Cell: 388-9699



**The Hawai'i Association of Watershed Partnerships receives
Group 70 Foundation Fund award for the Environment**

On July 28th, 2009 the Hawai'i Association of Watershed Partnerships (HAWP) and its fiscal sponsor Tri-Isle Resource and Conservation Development Council Incorporated was awarded a grant from the Group 70 Foundation Fund at Hawaii Community Foundation. The grant will be used to increase statewide capacity to engage communities, schools, and volunteer groups in the effective management and protection of mauka forested watershed areas across six islands. HAWP was one of fifteen other recipients who received a grant, categories which included environment, culture and arts, education, housing and community, and design. Total grant awards totaled \$50,000 with individual grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$7,300.

“During these hard economic times, it is more important than ever to mālama the natural resources that make our communities resilient and are the backbone for our state’s sustainability,” stated Christine Ogura, HAWP coordinator. “Forested watersheds provide billions of gallons of freshwater for our residential, agricultural, and business use, protect near shore marine areas which we fish, swim, and comprise a large part of the state’s tourism industry, house many of the culturally important plants used by Native Hawaiians, and generate jobs and support local businesses. We are grateful to Group 70 for recognizing the importance of supporting healthy forested watersheds as critical for promoting community resilience and sustainability.”

The Group 70 Foundation Fund is designed to support projects that contribute to a better living environment in Hawai'i. The 2009 focus of the Foundation was to support projects which benefit Hawai'i communities and have a broad reach that create sustainable, compassionate and resilient communities where all people flourish for generations to come. The Fund was established as a donor advised fund at Hawaii Community Foundation in 2002 by employees of Group 70 International Inc. to benefit non-profit organizations that focus their efforts on a better living environment in Hawai'i. Currently, all funding is contributed by partners, employees, and spouses of Group 70 International Inc.

“Group 70 International is truly an exceptional leader and model of a business which embodies the culture and spirit of aloha. The fact that Foundation funds are generated by employees and partners highlights that its corporate culture and ethic are not just words on paper, but actively practiced and encouraged. I hope Group 70 International inspires other companies in a similar manner,” said Ogura.

Established in 2003, the Hawai'i Association of Watershed Partnerships includes nine Watershed Partnerships (WPs) on six islands (Kaua'i, O'ahu, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, Maui, Hawai'i). WPs are alliances of 60 public and private landowners and other partners working collaboratively to protect over 1.2 million acres of forested watersheds statewide by removing threats such as feral ungulates (hoofed animals such as cattle, pigs, goat, sheep, and deer) and invasive species through protective forest fencing, invasives control, native plant restoration, and outreach and education. HAWP was created to address statewide issues that affect all of the WPs. Its mission is to increase the effective management and protection of mauka watershed areas by raising the capacity of WPs, facilitating

sharing of watershed management expertise, building public support for protecting watershed values, and developing sustainable funding sources. To learn more, visit: www.hawp.org

The Group 70 Foundation Fund is a fund established at the Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF). HCF helps people make a difference by inspiring the spirit of giving and by investing in people and solutions to benefit every island community. It is a public, statewide, charitable services and grantmaking organization supported by donor contributions for the benefit of Hawai'i's people.

Established in 1970 and managed by 17 board members and four staff, Tri-Isle Resource Conservation and Development Council Incorporated's mission is to support projects that enhance the quality of life in Hawai'i through economic development and protection of our natural resources. Tri-Isle RC&D provides a mechanism for local residents to work together to actively solve economic, environmental, and agricultural problems. Tri-Isle RC&D has managed over 90 projects in cooperation with 25 partners.

#