HFIA E-News Summer 2021

Irene Sprecher Selected as New Forest Solutions, Inc President

HFIA Director Irene Sprecher recently moved from O'ahu to Hawai'i Island to start her new position as President of Forest Solution, Inc. (FSI). "I am super excited about stepping into this new role and supporting a company with such a long history of responsible and innovative forest management," Irene commented. "I am also looking forward to the new challenges and opportunities that come with working in private industry – what a wonderful time to be in the business of growing Hawaii's forests!"

Irene is the former Forestry Program Manager for the State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW). She was with DOFAW for 15 years working in a variety of positions, all of which supported management of Hawaii's forests and watersheds.



Among a number of priorities, Irene has worked towards the development of Hawaii's sustainable forest industry, expansion of wood product markets, native forest management and restoration, land planning, forest carbon certification, perpetual land conservation, and community engagement and stewardship of natural resources. She has extensive experience in program development, contract and grant management, budget tracking, government procurement, environmental and regulatory compliance, and partnership development.

Irene obtained her master's degree in Natural Resources from Oregon State University for her work on Hawaiian sandalwood, and has a bachelor's degree from the University of Hawaii focused in Forest Ecology and Human Stewardship of Natural Resources. Outside of work you may find Irene and her favorite sidekick, Joby dog, exploring the shorelines, streams, or mountains on Hawaii Island, or possibly set-up in a hammock under some trees.

Forest Solutions, Inc is a professional forestry services company established in 1996 and based out of Pa'auilo on Hawai'i Island. For over 25 years FSI has been providing a wide range of land management services in Hawai'i and across the Pacific, including traditional forest management, forest inventory, long-term land use planning, adaptive weed management, native forest planting and restoration, and culturally aware land stewardship. They also run a large-capacity native plant nursery, have certified forests, prepared long-term commercial forestry financial analysis, and regularly perform third-party log scaling services. Learn more about FSI at https://www.forestsolutionsinc.com/.





▲ Left: Irene exploring Hawai'i Island. Right: Irene and her sidekick Joby relaxing in their hammock.