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## **American College of Chest Physicians Brings Nearly \$42 Million Economic Boost, Reforests Koa Trees**

**HONOLULU** – The American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST) contributed significantly to Hawai'i's economy and community while convening its annual meeting at the Hawai'i Convention Center, October 8-11. The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) and Meet Hawai'i worked with the national organization to bring CHEST 2023 to fruition.

During CHEST 2023, the group of 7,500 attendees comprised of medical professionals (including students, physicians and respiratory therapists) and exhibitors from pharmaceutical companies infused nearly \$42 million into Hawai'i's economy, directly supporting local businesses, retailers, restaurants, and community organizations. The meeting also included community-based presentations from Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, Kōkua Kalihi Valley and Hawai'i LGBT Legacy Foundation.

CHEST planted 42 koa trees at Gunstock Ranch with the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative through the Hawai'i Convention Center's [Ho'omalūō](#) (to conserve or manage wisely) sustainability program and Carbon Offset Program, which provides meeting organizers with opportunities to offset the environmental impact of their events in meaningful ways.

In addition, attendees painted a mural designed by artist Jeremy Jarvis and the staff at Waikīkī Health's O'ahu Clinic, which is displayed at the clinic for patients and staff to enjoy.

"Fostering the right type of citywide group business that emphasizes corporate social responsibility, such as CHEST 2023, is integral to our meetings, conventions and incentives strategy to bring forth benefits through visitor spending as well as direct contributions to our communities," said Daniel Nāho'opi'i, HTA's interim president and CEO. "We appreciate CHEST and its members for convening in the Hawaiian Islands, providing local organizations the opportunity to further their mission among the chest medicine community, and contributing to our reforestation and community efforts."

CHEST is a global leader in advancing best patient outcomes through innovative chest medicine education, clinical research, and team-based care. For more information on CHEST 2023, visit <https://www.chestnet.org/Learning-and-Events/Events/CHEST-Annual-Meeting/post-event>.

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**Photos at Gunstock Ranch:** <https://finnpartners.box.com/s/9ulfjhpovphp2pex5xlrnu6qbxae0ay>  
Photo credit: Meet Hawai'i

**Photos of Mural Project:** <https://finnpartners.box.com/s/m1ivkw153erodq0naigtqgbqqvrujd5d>  
Photo credit: CHEST / Jeremy Jarvis

### **About the Hawai'i Tourism Authority**

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority is the state agency responsible for representing The Hawaiian Islands around the world, and for holistically managing tourism in a sustainable manner consistent with community desires, economic goals, cultural values, preservation of natural resources, and

visitor industry needs. HTA works with the community and industry to Mālama Hawai'i – care for our beloved home. For more information about HTA, visit [hawaii tourism authority.org](http://hawaii tourism authority.org) or follow @HawaiiHTA on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), Threads and [Twitter](#).

### **About Meet Hawai'i**

Meet Hawai'i is a collaboration of the Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB) and the Hawai'i Convention Center (HCC) to reinforce the brand of The Hawaiian Islands as a world-class destination for global business meetings, conventions and incentive programs. For information about Meet Hawai'i and the hosting of meetings, conventions and incentives, please visit [MeetHawaii.com](http://MeetHawaii.com).

### **About the Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau**

The Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB) is a private non-profit organization contracted by the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) for global meetings, conventions, and incentives marketing and management services. For more information about the Hawaiian Islands, visit [gohawaii.com](http://gohawaii.com) or follow updates on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

For more information, contact:

T. Ilihia Gionson  
Public Affairs Officer  
Hawai'i Tourism Authority  
[Ilihia.Gionson@gohta.net](mailto:Ilihia.Gionson@gohta.net)

Erin Khan  
Senior Vice President, Public Relations  
Anthology, A FINN Partners Company  
[erin.khan@finnpartners.com](mailto:erin.khan@finnpartners.com)