

## KHON NEWS



### City's "Trees for Success" gets National Recognition

By Manolo Morales

Palolo District Park now has more trees thanks to a campaign sponsored by the Home Depot and Arbor Day Foundations.

"We like to help out real urban places in the communities such as the parks and since there's a lot of schools close to this park, we figured we could help out a lot of people," says Jennifer Boettcher of the Arbor Day Foundation.

It's nothing quite like raising the flag at Iwo Jima but each tree planted here is a symbol of victory. Honolulu is one of 16 cities out of more than 200 that applied to get the trees. As a reward, Honolulu is getting 109 trees from local nurseries.

Students from area schools were invited to help, Palolo Elementary, Jarrett Middle, and Anuenue Schools.

"It's gonna make this park look cool," says Vivienne Luangrath.

In addition to making their park look better, the work they put in also teaches them the importance of having more trees.

Fifth grader Caitlin Okamoto says, "It helps the pollution go down and it provides more oxygen to the world."

"It makes our environment healthier and helps animals live," says fifth-grader Laven Manny.

Of the 109 trees, 29 were planted in Palolo, the rest will be planted in Kailua, Aina Haina, and Pearlridge.

As for the students, there's hope that they too will eventually help their children plant more trees.

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