

“How do I donate a tree?”

Private landscaping companies regularly accept donated trees, call companies directly.

Cautionary note: Steve Nimz, a certified arborist with Tree Solutions & Environmental Consulting Services Inc., said there are many reasons why a promised donation might not work out. The size, condition and location of the tree are key factors.

“I’ve been doing this for over 40 years, and out of 20 (offered) trees you might find one (suitable for removal and replanting). The reasons (homeowners) want to get rid of them are the same reasons we can’t take them.”

Being too close to overhead power lines or underground utilities; too close to a fence, swimming pool, house or other structure; or too large to transport without a police escort are common problems, according to Nimz. Other factors:

>> Quantity: Companies are more likely to mobilize staff and heavy equipment for a donation of three or more coconut palms rather than just one.

>> Size: A trunk height of 10 to 20 feet is ideal; this measurement does not include the fronds, just the trunk.

>> Condition: The tree must be healthy and “structurally sound.”

>> Access: A crew will need at least five feet all around each tree to maneuver. Equipment could include a tractor, trencher, backhoe and crane. The work area must be clear of overhead and underground utilities.

>> Timing: Call well before you want the tree gone. For example, Nimz said, given six months’ lead time, he could figure out where to place an acceptable donation and, when the time comes, remove and replant the tree in quick succession, increasing its odds of surviving the move.

Have the company assess the tree in person before agreeing to the work and only contact reputable companies with the proper training and equipment to safely remove and transport the trees.

Another option: the Division of Urban Forestry, which is part of the City’s Department of Parks and Recreation, runs a Tree Acquisition Program that accepts certain tree donations, subject to inspection. You can read more about the [Tree Acquisition Program](#) on the division’s website.

Source (heavily adapted from):

<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2019/09/23/hawaii-news/kokua-line/kokua-line-private-landscaper-is-best-bet-for-coconut-palm-donation/>