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Guam Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Soil Resources Division

Natural resource decline from population growth and subsequent urbanization is a growing concern for Guam and island partners. Without expertise to manage, monitor, and mitigate these changes, the natural landscape and the environmental, social, and economic benefits of resources will be impaired. Developing a core team of individuals that are trained as arborists will increase local capacity to understand these patterns of change and work to ensure a sustainable urban social-ecological system. Logistically, offering classroom training is difficult and expensive. By making the curriculum more readily available, at any time and self-paced, it will help educate and maintain the knowledge relating to tree care management for the community.

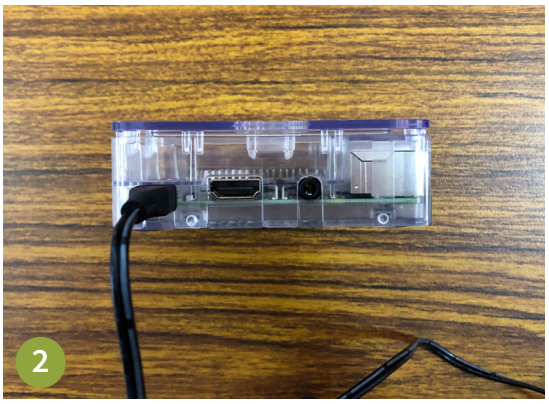
For forestry personnel and tree care managers throughout the Pacific, there are very limited opportunities for tree care management learning, training, and acquiring Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Attending trainings and conferences in the US mainland is very expensive, many Pacific Islands have limited to no internet access, and when webinars are available, many times they are scheduled in the 'wee hours of the morning'.

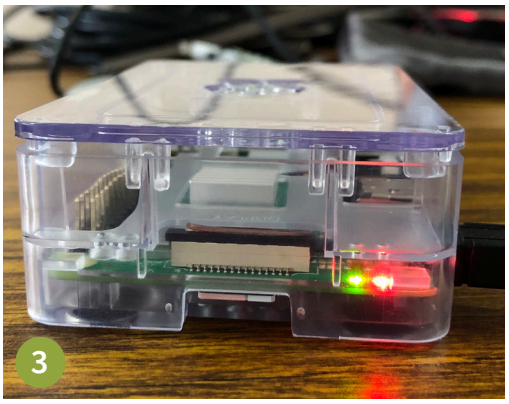
This project proposes to develop the methodology for the modules that will be delivered online using Moodle as the Course Management System (CMS). The course materials are based on training materials developed by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), specifically referencing the ANSI A300 Standards and the ISA Best Management Practices for the modules. Upon going through the ISA training series, it was noticed that not all applications and items are relevant to the Pacific. Rather it was developed to be relevant to the US mainland's trees and conditions. Therefore, these modules will be tailored to better relate to island needs without losing any of the main content.

The course materials include assessment activities, such as quizzes and exams, for assessing the learning outcomes with a certificate of completion after each training module. Having this training available online makes it possible to prepare more tree care specialists for arborist certification. Most importantly, it will allow Certified Arborists to maintain their certification by acquiring up to 30 CEUs. Since the materials are delivered online, the curriculum can now be shared with partners throughout the Pacific region.

Closing the gap through which forestry professionals in the Pacific are able to gain tree care management knowledge as well as being able to maintain their Arborist Certifications through completing modules and gaining CEUs means being able to maintain and increase capacity throughout the Pacific, which in turn will mean a 'Wealth of Health' for island communities in the future.

This online training will allow Certified Arborists to maintain their certification by acquiring up to 30 CEUs.





1. & 2. Step 1: Attach the included power supply cord onto the Raspberry Pi and PLUG the other end into a power source. **3.** Step 2: A flickering green light and constant red light should appear on the device indicating that it's powering on and booting up. Now you're ready to log on to Wi-Fi settings, look for 'Moodlebox' to PLAY. It's that simple! Photo Credit: Dr. James McConnell.

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