



2022 Annual Progress Report

Marine 30x30 Initiative



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Executive Summary

With the challenges facing our environment today, it is necessary that we take collective action to secure a healthy and thriving ocean for future generations to live off of and enjoy. *The Hawai'i Community Foundation's (HCF) Marine 30x30 Fund* is a pooled fund that supports the state's Holomua: Marine 30x30 Initiative, which calls for 30 percent of Hawai'i's nearshore coastal waters to be effectively managed by 2030.

During this second year of the Marine 30x30 Initiative, HCF has coordinated closely with partners such as the HCF Marine 30x30 Advisory Committee and the Hawai'i State Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to establish core elements needed for a successful program: empowering community efforts, ensuring a strong foundation in science, building a movement through communication and outreach, leveraging private investment with public funding, and setting the stage for good governance.

This report provides select grantees from our grantees this past year, The Nature Conservancy and Conservation International, recapping their work to help build community capacity around marine monitoring and data management. The report also covers current efforts to establish a cohort training program to build capacity within communities to support the Marine 30x30 effort.

The Initiative's focus on strengthening its foundations in science is highlighted through the work of the Hawai'i Monitoring and Reporting Collaborative (HIMARC) and through a Community-based Monitoring Hui hosted by DAR.

HCF has contracted facilitation and communications specialists to assist DAR with outreach to the community, beginning with the island of Maui.

DAR also won notable victories in the State legislative policy arena this past year, and secured public dollars for the Holomua program that leverages private philanthropic investments.

Overall, the work this past year has seen the Initiative's partners pulling together resources and laying plans for the push of activities that will mark the public facing launch of this program beginning this year.

Empowering Community Efforts

As we strive to reach our 30x30 goal, we want to ensure that all engaged entities have grown in capacity, competency, and leadership. To this end, we must prioritize the needs of the community as well as develop the state's commitments to community co-management. The following grantee updates shows shows some of the work that's been done so far to address these priorities.

Grantee Update: Conservation International

In year one, **Conservation International Hawai'i (CI Hawai'i)** built relationships and collaborations to elevate coastal communities in marine monitoring through the Community-based Monitoring Hui (CBM). CI Hawai'i along with key Hawai'i non-profits and agency partners facilitated three virtual workshops in year one with 13 coastal communities represented:

- Ho'okena
- Ka'upulehu/North Kona
- Kipahulu
- Pāpūkea
- Miloli'i
- Ka'akepa
- East Moloka'i
- Papa'ikou
- He'eia
- Kīholo
- Mo'omomi
- Hōnaunau
- Hā'ena



Collectively, CBM Hui members have a significant reach across Hawai'i and over the last year have accelerated collaborative marine monitoring efforts in over 10 communities.

Using a culturally informed legal issue identification process, two CI Hawai'i interns from the University of Hawai'i have provided an understanding of the current practices, concerns, and expectations of community members related to the protection of Indigenous and traditional knowledge. This research identified considerations for: 1) establishing a repository

and operational safeguards for marine monitoring of cultural data and knowledge and 2) the relationship agreements necessary to support the equitable use and management of that data in multi-stakeholder collaborations. Their next phase will explore how specific legal tools might incorporate these considerations into a statewide marine monitoring network.

To support place-based marine management action, CI Hawai'i initiated community-based marine and human-use monitoring in three communities. In Miloli'i, CI Hawai'i's Mohala Nā Konohiki program has been incorporated into the implementation of its management plan and apprentices continue to collect and analyze reproductive data on target species. 'Ohana and community engagement has set the stage for the facilitation of marine monitoring assessments and complimentary monitoring efforts at Hōnaunau Bay. CI staff continue to work with Maunaloa Bay community organizations and fishers to complete a fisher-dependent monitoring strategy. Collectively, the efforts in these communities demonstrate CI Hawai'i's commitment to positioning coastal communities as the architects of co-management efforts.

Grantee Update: The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy's Marine 30x30 project has increased its local capacity to monitor nearshore marine species through the development of fish, 'opihi and limu monitoring programs at Kīholo and Ka'ūpūlehu, and a first-of-its kind creel and human use survey at Kīpahulu.

At Kīholo, nine community trainings were held throughout the year to ensure data collected by the community was consistent to ensure data quality and accuracy.

At Ka'ūpūlehu, to address a community identified data gap, a new fish aggregation survey methodology will be incorporated into its monitoring program to gain a better understanding of the shallow (0-5 feet) nearshore reef area.

At Kīpahulu, the development of the creel and human use survey is unique in Hawai'i due to the length of coastline it spans and the inclusion of both day and night surveys.

The Marine 30x30 grant has strengthened relationships with the Nature Conservancy's community partners and its ability to monitor and co-manage marine resources in collaboration with the state. It has provided employment and engaged lineal descendants who have deeply held kuleana to monitor and care for their places. The Conservancy's partnerships with the Community Monitoring Hui and the Hawai'i Monitoring and Reporting Collaborative (HIMARC) have created the space and opportunity to evaluate data analysis and reporting options to best meet community and DAR needs, and to bring the latest scientific data and analysis tools that HIMARC is creating into community planning processes.



In the Works: A New Community Capacity-building Cohort

The HCF Marine 30x30 Advisory Committee decided that the Initiative's next phase of community support should be focused on building the knowledge, skills and capacity of community members to effectively participate in the Marine 30x30 Initiative in partnership with DLNR.

The skills identified by the Advisory Committee include learning about the civic engagement process for 30x30, managing resource users, facilitating effective community engagement, and developing conflict resolution skills, among others.

This training will be offered to a cohort of communities as a pilot program across the islands of Maui and Lāna'i. These are the islands where DAR will be launching its island-wide community engagement and 30-percent designation process, and this cohort program will compliment that parallel effort. HCF is contracting a strong community partner, Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA), a networked, community-based organization serving grassroots communities working in natural resource management across Hawai'i. It has run community cohort trainings for HCF in the past and we look forward to this new partnership and support for communities beginning in Fall 2022.

Building a Strong Foundation in Science

Building an effective conservation effort with such ambitious goals requires a solid foundation in science, as well as input from all stakeholders, including the cultural and historical expertise of those who live in Hawai‘i’s coastal communities. Here are a couple of ways in which Marine 30x30 has been laying the groundwork for success.



HIMARC Data Scientists Help Organize Numbers into Knowledge

The waters around Hawai‘i are among the most studied marine environments in the world. Yet, even though volumes of data were being collected, nobody was putting it together to see the big picture, says Mary Donovan, a marine scientist at Arizona State University.



That’s the problem the Hawai‘i Monitoring and Reporting Collaborative, or HIMARC, was created to solve.

“Agencies like NOAA were doing big surveys around the whole state every three years, and then other organizations like The Nature Conservancy were collecting massive amounts of data about one reef,” says Donovan, who is principal investigator for the group. “The consensus was lacking.”

Established in 2012, the collaborative brings together more than 10 organizations, including the University of Hawai‘i, Arizona State University, the Hawai‘i state Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), The Nature Conservancy, and grassroots community groups, to aggregate, correlate, and

analyze data about Hawai‘i’s marine environment.

“We’ve taken massive amounts of information—more than 18,000 fish surveys and 11,000 benthic (seafloor) surveys over 20 years—and compiled that with other information, like wave activity, temperature, fishing, land-based pollution,” she says. “Putting it all together helps paint a picture and guide management decisions.”

The HIMARC collaborative produces maps and other data products visualizing these overlapping indicators of ecosystem health.

Using data to see the big picture can help guide critical decisions, such as selecting which coastal areas to designate for management in the state’s plan to set aside 30 percent of nearshore waters by 2030.

But data also helps at the grass-roots level, she notes. Recently, HIMARC has been working with the community group Mālama Pūpūkea Waimea, which is working to protect the Pūpūkea Marine Life Conservation District on O‘ahu. Compiling data helps group members understand whether Pūpūkea has more or fewer fish than nearby areas, whether fish populations are increasing or decreasing, and how those changes might relate to oceanographic conditions, fishing, and pollution.

Dana Okano, 30x30 program manager for HCF, says HIMARC plays a vital role in the effort.

“Science-informed decision-making is a key tenet of the Marine 30x30 Initiative,” she says. “Data-informed management can provide common understanding and build trust among stakeholders.”

A New Community-based Monitoring Hui Lets State Scientists Collaborate with Traditional Knowledge-Holders

Fishers at some of Hawai'i's most important traditional fishing grounds had a problem. They wanted better population management for 'opihi, octopus, and other seafood they harvested, but the state didn't have the data needed to support new regulations. The solution? A community-based monitoring hui that empowers local fishers and state officials to work together.

“When these fishers go out on the reef and collect lobster, they know when to say, ‘OK, we’ve taken enough, let’s go to the next spot,’” says Luna Kekoa, program manager with the state Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR). “But that kind of knowledge hasn’t been accepted or brought into a government management system until now.”

The hui was an especially good opportunity for officials to access information on limu, 'opihi, lobster, and octopus—four species DAR does not monitor, he said. In addition to filling gaps in the data, the hui facilitates relationship-building and collaboration, he notes. Recent meetings have included workshops to help local groups speed up the permitting process for monitoring projects. The hui was formed in 2019 and includes DLNR and DAR officials and biologists; groups from recognized community-based subsistence fishing areas (CBSF) at Hā'ena, Kaua'i; Mo'omomi, Moloka'i; Kīpahulu, Maui; and Miloli'i, Hawai'i; as well as community groups from Pūpūkea, O'ahu; and Hanalei, Kaua'i, areas that are not yet officially recognized as CBSFs.

The Hā'ena CBSF will be the first to formally publish its monitoring data, with a report to be released in August, Kekoa noted. The hui is being funded by DAR.

Dana Okano, 30x30 program manager for Hawai'i Community Foundation, says community-based organizations should be included in monitoring efforts, to ensure that traditional knowledge is represented, and to facilitate better resource management decisions.

“Community and government collaboration and partnership is how we ensure these resources are managed in a way that we all value,” she says. Kekoa says the community groups make a vital contribution to the Marine 30x30 Initiative.

“They don’t have PhDs, but they’re just as smart and maybe better,” he says. “What they have is kūpuna knowledge that’s grown from years of observation and paying attention through their fishing. For these species in these places, they have intimate knowledge.”





Building a Movement Through Communication and Outreach

Improving the Initiative's Community Engagement Process

In its efforts to effectively engage with community, DAR has recognized the need to have a designed community engagement process and trained facilitation staff to implement that process. DAR has also recognized the need for effective communication materials and processes to align with and support this community engagement.

Given these needs, DAR has requested Marine 30x30 Fund support for these tasks, as they were beyond the capacity or resources of existing agency staff.

The HCF Marine 30x30 Advisory Committee agreed with DAR that the success of the Holomua: Marine 30x30 Initiative relies on DAR having good relationships with communities, and that is achieved through an effective community engagement and communications process. As such, the Advisory Committee recommended HCF hire consultants in communications and community facilitation to assist DAR lead this work.

The communications consultant has already

begun working on branding and design work, and the facilitation team is finalizing a design process and schedule for community engagement, beginning with the island of Maui in Fall 2022.

The goal of the design process is to have an entire island designate 30 percent of its marine managed areas through a unified community process, rather than the current process, which requires individual communities to designate areas on a piecemeal basis. The island of Maui will serve as a pilot for the island-wide process, which is estimated to take between a year and 18 months, and can then be revised and rolled out across the state.

Leveraging Private Investments with Public Funding

Bolstering the State's Ability to Enforce Natural and Cultural Resource Laws

Successful management of Hawai'i's nearshore waters requires the use of science, education, and law enforcement. Each of these components are interwoven, with each component's success dependent on the other components.

That's why it was a problem when the state Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE), which is responsible for enforcing natural and cultural resource laws, reported a staffing shortage that was limiting its abilities to effectively conduct law enforcement activities in marine environments.

To remedy this shortfall, the 2021 state Legislature awarded DOCARE \$2.5 million in American Rescue Plan funds to train and equip 30 existing DOCARE positions. These positions were subject to the COVID-19 Executive Branch hiring freeze, and thus were not able to be filled until the freeze was lifted in Summer 2021.

With the hiring freeze lifted, DOCARE sought to fill 46 of its existing position vacancies, **TK** of them dedicated to marine enforcement, with recruitment opening in December 2021. As of May 2022, conditional offers of employment have been extended for these positions, with a projected Academy start date of August 2022.

More reinforcements are on the way, as well: The 2022 Legislature has provided an additional 12 new conservation and resources enforcement officer positions in DOCARE, with funding starting in fiscal year 2023.



Setting the Stage for Good Governance

2021 Policy Wins

The 2021 legislative session was a busy one for the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR). The division submitted eight administrative bills, seven of which passed. Of those, six were supportive of Marine 30x30 efforts:



Crustaceans, **HB1017:**

This bill repeals the statute which prohibits the taking or killing of female spiny lobsters, Kona crabs, and Samoan crabs. With the statute repealed, DAR can modify crustacean regulations as needed through the administrative rule process. There is no change to regulations yet, but DAR plans to go through the rulemaking process to allow take of female Kona crabs. Other potential crustacean rule amendments that are being considered include extending the Kona crab closed season to May-September and establishing daily bag limits for spiny lobster. HB1017 was signed into law on June 8, 2021 as Act 44 (2021).



Lay Net Permits, **HB1018:**

This bill authorizes DLNR to adopt rules to establish a lay net permit for use or possession. At the present time, lay nets must be registered, but the registration is a one-time event. An annual permit requirement would enable DLNR to withhold or revoke the permit of a net violator, creating an incentive for compliance with rules. HB1018 was signed into law on June 8, 2021 as Act 45 (2021).

Ocean Stewardship Special Fund & User Fee, **HB1019:**

This bill establishes an Ocean Stewardship Special Fund and User Fee. Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOB-OR) Commercial Use Permit holders would collect a one dollar per head fee from each passenger or customer. That money would be transferred to DAR's special fund, and used for management measures intended to conserve, restore, and enhance marine resources. HB1019 was signed into law on June 8, 2021 as Act 46 (2021).

Natural Resource Rules; Adaptive Management, HB1020:

This bill authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resource (BLNR) to temporarily adopt, amend, and repeal certain natural resource rules by formal action at a public meeting if BLNR finds it necessary to implement effective and adaptive management measures in response to rapidly changing resource conditions. Could be applied to size and bag limits, closed seasons, and gear restrictions when needed in extraordinary situations. HB1020 was signed into law on June 8, 2021 as Act 49 (2021).

Natural Resource Inspection HB1022:

This bill was part of the administrative package submitted by the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE). It authorizes DOCARE officers to inspect coolers or other containers which could carry regulated aquatic life. HB1022 was signed into law on June 8, 2021 as Act 47 (2021).

Nonresident Recreational Marine Fishing License HB1023:

This bill establishes a recreational marine fishing license requirement for nonresidents of Hawai'i. Any nonresident fishing in the ocean would need to have a license, including guests on a boat. Fees would be \$20 for a one-day license, \$40 for seven days, and \$70 for an annual license. Revenues would go to the state for use in marine fisheries management. HB1023 was signed into law on June 8, 2021 as Act 48 (2021).

In addition to the above administrative bills, a number of other bills were introduced by others in the community who are advocating to protect our ocean resources.

Protection of Sharks, HB553:

This bill would prohibit the taking of sharks in state waters, and authorizes DLNR to adopt rules to implement the measure. Exemptions would apply for permitted activities (e.g. scientific research), protection of public safety, and self-defense or defense of others. HB553 was signed into law on June 8, 2021 as Act 51 (2021).

Special License Plates, SB772:

This bill authorizes the issuance of special license plates with designs relating to forest and ocean conservation. Revenues (\$100 to \$200 per plate) will be deposited in special funds for forest stewardship and beach restoration. SB772 was signed into law on June 8, 2021 as Act 50 (2021).



You can find more information about each of these bills at

<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/announcements/aquatic-resource-bills-introduced-in-the-2022-state-legislature/>



The Road Ahead

Remaining Goals

Much of what the Marine 30x30 Fund has focused on these first two years have been foundational work, identifying gaps and needs, strengths and opportunities, and providing support to meet those demands or bolster those advancements.

This upcoming third year will be when we start to see pilot programs implemented, lessons being learned, and setting the stage for wider implementation of the Initiative in following years.

We look forward to reporting out next year on the community monitoring established through our grants and the work of the DAR community-based monitoring hui. We look forward to sharing how the DAR community engagement process served Maui and what they plan for engagement with the rest of the state.

We look forward to meeting our cohort of community partners and helping them on their journey to establish marine managed areas in their communities.

Our goal is to enable increased support for the communities and the state in their efforts to create this system of marine managed areas beyond the foundational work accomplished in the first three years of the program.

A Program Timeline is in the Works

Our vision is that by 2023, DAR and HCF will have collaborated to identify a timeline for the Holomua: Marine 30x30 process that expands across the state by 2030, and the resources needed to accomplish that goal.

Mahalo to our Funder Partners

Philanthropy's role is vital to launch and sustain the local efforts of this initiative. Our donors share the passion and vision for a resilient Hawai'i with vibrant reefs and marine life that benefit generations of residents and visitors alike. Mahalo for supporting this unprecedented partnership between government and philanthropy, proving that what we do locally in Hawai'i can demonstrate leadership globally for other similar collaborative efforts.

Aditi Fund
Anonymous (2)
Dorrance Family Foundation
Harold K. L. Castle Foundation
Kamehameha Schools
Kōanianani Fund
Marisla Foundation
Oak Foundation
Oceans 5
Padmani Brown and David Luedtke
Charitable Fund
The Tiffany & Co. Foundation
Vibrant Oceans Initiative,
a program of Bloomberg Philanthropies
Weissman Family Foundation

Advisory Committee

The 10-member Advisory Committee was formed in July 2020 and is charged with identifying funding priorities that are best suited for philanthropic support to reach the goals of the Marine 30x30 Initiative. The Advisory Committee consists of representatives from various sectors of the community that share kuleana (responsibility) for the nearshore marine environment in Hawai'i including marine science, conservation, community organizations, fishers, and cultural experts.

Brian Neilson, administrator,
Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources,
Department of Land and Natural Resources

Eric Co, senior program officer for ocean
and resiliency, Harold K.L. Castle Foundation

Phil Fernandez, project manager,
Hawai'i Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation
and Tradition

Jocelyn Garovoy Herbert, program officer
and attorney, Resources Legacy Fund

Hi'ilei Kawelo, executive director,
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Dana Okano, program director,
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co-founder, Coral Reef Assessment
and Monitoring Program

Presley Wann, president,
Hui Maka'āinana O Makana

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