



2024 Impact Report

Holomua Marine Initiative



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Executive Summary

I ola nā kai o Hawai‘i i ka nui i‘a
— So the waters of Hawai‘i thrive with abundance

The ocean and its resources are central to Hawai‘i’s livelihoods, culture, health, and lifestyle. To ensure that there are healthy marine ecosystems and abundant nearshore resources that allow the people of Hawai‘i to enjoy coastal waters, support livelihoods, and feed our families, today and for future generations—collaborative action is needed. To that end, the Holomua Marine Initiative Fund is a pooled fund at Hawai‘i Community Foundation (HCF) that supports the state’s Holomua Marine Initiative, a community-based planning approach that will ensure local knowledge is guiding marine resource management planning at every step in the process.

This year, the Holomua Marine Initiative partners were able to strengthen and expand their efforts, funding a total of 11 members of the Makai Watch Community Organization Network.

Community groups have continued their roles as stewards of marine management areas and Hawai‘i’s marine resources. The Maui Marine cohort that launched in 2022 continued their work together in 2023 and 2024, notching several exciting and influential wins, including the designation of Kipahulu, Maui, as a Community-based Subsistence Fishing Area, making it the third such protected area in the state.

A strong foundation in science continues to anchor the Holomua Marine Initiative, with the Hawai‘i Monitoring and Reporting Collaborative (HIMARC) coordinating with the state Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) and a diverse group of partners to deliver data

management tools and products that enable effective monitoring of marine resources. In 2023, for example, HIMARC created a new series of statewide data products (maps and graphs) of ecological indicators representing pre-bleaching conditions, from 2004 to 2014, that improved on the data previously available.

It has been a productive and inspiring time for the Holomua Marine Initiative. HCF expects that momentum will continue to build as the Holomua Marine Cohort grows from island to island, with Hawai‘i Island being next on the list, as the Makai Watch community program expands, as the efforts of HIMARC continue to strengthen agency and community capacity for monitoring and data management, and as stakeholders become even more engaged in achieving our collective goals of community stewardship, management effectiveness and good governance for Hawai‘i’s marine resources and ecosystems.

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Empowering Community Efforts

The Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources launched the Holomua Marine Initiative planning process on Maui first as a pilot, and will continue island by island to ensure that enough resources and effort can be dedicated to the initiative, as each island is unique and there is no one-size-fits-all approach. This initial pilot on Maui will help the Holomua Marine team identify strengths and opportunities in the planning process and approach, and allow the process to be adapted and revised as needed.

Maui Navigation Team Work over the Past Year:

Since July 2023, the Maui Navigation Team has discussed rules relating to bag and size limits for important key species; issues including water quality/quantity, land-based sources of pollution, and sedimentation; and enacting placed-based management, monitoring, and enforcement. In August 2023, after the Lahaina fire, the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) and the Maui Navigation team paused the Holomua Marine Pilot process, allowing members to focus on themselves and 'ohana. Work was reconvened in February 2024.

Looking Ahead

- The Maui Navigation Team drafted a proposal for island-scale management, to be further refined after review from the Holomua Advisory Network and communities.
- Community Information Exchanges will be held this summer for broader Maui feedback.
- A Maui Island Nearshore Management Plan will be drafted after the proposal has had extensive review and input from local resource users.
- The Holomua Marine team is also drafting a "lessons learned" document based on all the experiences gained during the Maui Pilot Process so far. These reflective lessons will help the team inform next steps for the Initiative as they start planning and looking forward to the next Navigation Team process.



DLNR is currently in Step Two of the process, which involves the Maui Navigation Team, a group of community members who represent Maui ocean users and fishers, working closely with DAR and the Holomua Marine team to identify management priorities for the island and draft management plans. The Navigation Team will utilize available science, Maui based data, and community input to set management goals and priorities for Maui's nearshore reefs. Examples of management can include educational efforts, new or updated signage, enhanced outreach, restoration projects, additional monitoring, or the creation of new marine management areas.

Management Plans for Marine
 Managed Areas (MMA) Moving
 Forward

Plans have now been fully drafted for MMA’s on Maui and Lāna‘i, and DAR will start engaging in consultations with community groups on finalizing and implementing these plans.

In consultation and collaboration with Mālama Pūpūkea Waimea, the Pūpūkea MLCD management plan was completed and an implementation kick-off meeting was held April 2, 2024, during which interjurisdictional partners came together to work on an action plan for tackling the objectives described in the plan.

Strengthened Staffing
 for DLNR

Several DLNR positions that were previously funded by HCF’s Holomua Marine Initiative Fund have now been converted to publicly funded civil service positions:

- One of the legal fellows funded by HCF has been converted to a civil service position; a second legal Fellow also funded by HCF has applied for a similar civil service legal position.
- Two additional positions and a contractor have all been included in a 3-year contract with RCUH—Hawai‘i Coral Reef Initiative. This includes the Holomua planning associate and the community engagement assistant.
- The previous SeaGrant Grau Fellow (50 percent funded by HCF) has been selected for the Marine Management Area Biologist Civil Service position. In addition, HCF funds are not being used for the 2 Grau fellows currently with the team.

Makai Watch and DOCARE

A Maui Nui Makai Watch coordinator was hired in July 2023. Additionally, DOCARE is actively working to secure two permanent state-funded positions for Makai Watch coordinators on Hawai‘i Island and Maui. These positions will be supported via funding from the Hawai‘i Community Foundation Holomua Marine Initiative Fund as well as Congressionally Directed Spending requests (federal earmark funding).

The Makai Watch program continues to work directly with communities across the state. There are currently 17 active Makai Watch communities, and the program anticipates increasing this number to 20 by the end of 2024.

The Hawai‘i State legislature created 12 DOCARE positions to support revamping of the Marine Patrol Unit. These 12 positions are currently in recruitment and DOCARE is anticipating the Academy program to commence in June 2024. DOCARE also received a Congressionally directed spending request to support the marine patrol program with new and upgraded equipment, vessels, and vehicles.



Update on the Maui
 Marine Cohort

In 2022, Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo (KUA), a grassroots organization with a broad and diverse network of community groups stewarding Hawai‘i’s natural resources, was engaged to convene and support a cohort of community-based organizations on Maui dedicated to effective nearshore marine management.

1. Maui Hui Mālama
2. Ka‘ehu
3. Ke Ao Hali‘i
4. Na Mamo O Muolea
5. Kipahulu ‘Ohana
6. Coral Reef Alliance, in partnership with Kipuka Olowalu

These six organizations gathered together virtually in December 2023 to discuss strengthening Board engagement. The cohort also gathered together in Hana in 2024, during a two-day retreat, to strengthen connections and collaboration, identify priority areas of focus, and share lessons and insights regarding the collection, management, and use of data.



Maui Marine Cohort
 Challenges, Opportunities,
 and Successes

For the island of Maui, the wildfires of August 2023 brought tragedies and challenges that were previously unthinkable, including to families and community members who are also members of Maui Marine Cohort organizations. Organizations such as Kipuka Olowalu, which stewards an area of West Maui directly affected by the fires, were severely impacted and are still recovering.

There were also bright spots. One of which was the enormous success of the East Maui community of Kipahulu, and Maui Marine cohort member Kipahulu ‘Ohana, which ushered its

marine area into a Community-based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) designation after 14 years of planning, community engagement, and collaboration. The Kipahulu CBSFA was established by approval of the BLNR and signature of the Governor of Hawai‘i in March 2024, making it the third CBSFA established in the state, along with Haena, Kaua‘i and Miloli‘i, Hawai‘i Island. The Kipahulu CBSFA spans close to six miles of East Maui coastline with 1,650 acres of marine area, and will help ensure healthy marine ecosystem and abundant marine resources now and in the future by addressing community concerns about declining resources and reaffirming customary fishing traditions.

Did You Know?

Community-based Subsistence Fishing Areas (CBSFAs) are established with community partnerships and co-management to ensure abundant stocks of priority marine species for current and future generations of community and visitors. A CBSFA designation supports the perpetuation of customary and traditional fishing practices for Native Hawaiian communities. Each CBSFA is developed, established, and managed in partnership with the community that stewards the site, with site-specific rules regulating marine species, harvest amounts, and traditional gathering seasons and methods.

Makai Watch

The Makai Watch Program is a collaboration between communities and the State DLNR which recognizes that effective marine management engages the community in helping to manage their resources. The community is engaged in monitoring uses, educating the public about the resources, and encouraging compliance with rules and regulations. The State DLNR helps to enforce the rules when education and community engagement is not enough. The Makai Watch Program has been in operation for two decades.

In 2022, HCF funded a contract with Conservation International (CI) to conduct an assessment of the program and review opportunities for growth, success and sustainability. The assessment provided a set of recommendations, including supporting the growth and organizational capacity of Makai Watch community organizations.

In 2023 and 2024, the Holomua Marine Initiative supported organizational capacity strengthening grants to the following Official Makai Watch Community Organizations:

GRANTEE:

He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve, University of Hawai'i – Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology

PROGRAM: HE'EIA NERR COASTAL TRAINING PROGRAM

He'eia NERR will design, plan, and implement an open house event at He'eia State Park, and develop a logo that will be used on volunteer and outreach materials and help convey an organizational identity to the community and He'eia NERR's team and partners.

GRANTEE:

Hui Aloha Kiholo

PROGRAM: MĀLAMA KĪHOLO: INCREASING OUR CAPACITY TO SUPPORT STEWARDSHIP IN PERPETUITY

Hui Aloha Kiholo will improve its on-site office and storage space, conduct marine resource surveys, host a learning exchange for Makai Watch communities, and establish guidelines for Kiholo fisheries that will eventually serve to underpin rules in support of the Holomua Marine Initiative.

GRANTEE:

Kīpahulu 'Ōhana

PROGRAM: KĪPAHULU MOKU MAKAI WATCH PROGRAM

Kīpahulu 'Ōhana will recruit and retain a Makai Watch coordinator, conduct education and outreach, recruit and train volunteers, strengthen coordination with DAR and DOCARE, share experiences with other communities, and strengthen governance in the co-management framework for Kīpahulu Moku CBSFA.





GRANTEE:

Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea

PROGRAM: BUILDING ON THE
SUCCESS OF 20 YEAR OF MAKAI
WATCH AT THE PŪPŪKEA MARINE
LIFE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea will strengthen targeted outreach, build its Makai Watch team's knowledge of lawai'a pono (ethical, balanced, and responsible fishing) to effectively address and engage fishers and local community audiences, support decision-making with monitoring, and effectively collaborate with DOCARE.

GRANTEE:

Hanalei Watershed Hui

PROGRAM: HANALEI MAKAI
WATCH PROGRAM

The Hanalei Makai Watch Program will recruit a Makai Watch Coordinator, train volunteers, conduct community outreach and education, and promote the practice of community kuleana.

GRANTEE:

Manu Iwa O Malanai

PROGRAM: MIOM BRANDING
AND COMMUNITY EXPANSION

Manu Iwa O Malanai aims to strengthen its staffing, strengthen dialogue with night spearfishers, expand community outreach and education, engage with local schools, identify stressors, and advocate for management enforcement thru policy change outreach.

GRANTEE:

Hui Maka'āinana o Makana

PROGRAM: HOA'ĀINA O HĀ'ENA
— MAKAI WATCH

The Hui Maka'āinana o Makana will build capacity by hiring dedicated Makai Watch program staff to strengthen its volunteer recruitment and training, education and awareness programs, as well as monitoring and reporting. The goal of the program is to build awareness of the CBSFA, strengthen management and compliance, and provide an opportunity for meaningful conservation employment.

GRANTEE:

Hui 'Ohana O Hōnaunau

PROGRAM: 'ĪNANA HŌNAUNAU

The Hui 'Ohana O Hōnaunau will hire a Hui 'Ohana Makai Watch lead, work on 501c3 development support, manage Makai Watch volunteer and community training and workshops, and conduct Hōnaunau Mele and Mo'olelo Nights and a Hōnaunau Lawai'a 'Ohana Camp.

GRANTEE:

Kalanihale

PROGRAM: 'ĪNANA HŌNAUNAU

Kalanihale will expand its Makai Watch program staffing, maintain its volunteer program, coordinate and facilitate Makai Watch meetings, events, workshops and training, participate in co-management meetings with community and state agencies, and conduct data collection and monitoring, including invertebrate counts, human-use surveys, stock assessment dives, and fish sampling.

GRANTEE:

Kauhakō 'Ohana Association

PROGRAM: KOA MALAMA
HO'OKENA

Kauhakō 'Ohana Association is proposing to rest 10 ko'a 'ōpelu in the project area for three years and re-establish traditional ko'a hānai practices. KOA will obtain volunteers, education, outreach, community meetings, supplies and equipment, and fuel to support ongoing reef and shoreline monitoring.

GRANTEE:

Nā Moku Aupuni O Ko'olau Hui

PROGRAM: MĀLAMA I
KE KAI O KO'OLAU

Nā Moku will be hiring a part-time Makai Watch Program Coordinator, conducting capacity building training, purchasing program supplies, conducting visitor surveys, implementing education and outreach to community and visitors, and strengthening data-tracking, monitoring and evaluation.

A Strong Foundation in Science

The Hawai'i Monitoring and Reporting Collaborative (HIMARC) provides scientific support for marine resource management in Hawai'i by addressing the gap between data collection and decision making using a collaborative approach that brings together scientists, managers, and stakeholders.



HIMARC currently encompasses 10 organizations and more than 50 individuals dedicated to marine management, and, throughout the past two years, with the support of the Holomua Marine Initiative Fund, HIMARC has grown its program and made several important impacts.

HIMARC Work Completed in 2023

HIMARC's combined database of underwater reef survey data is now updated through 2021; created a new statistical calibration model that revolutionizes the way data can be combined from multiple sources; created a series of statewide data products (maps and graphs) of ecological indicators (measures of reef condition) representing pre-bleaching conditions (2004-2014) that overcome previous barriers such as uneven sampling, and different stories being told in different places. These data products underpin several significant contributions to marine management in Hawai'i, for example:

- HIMARC generated maps and graphs for all seven indicators for all 55 existing MMAs that provide both place-specific information and statewide comparisons.
- HIMARC provided multiple analyses that underpin the ecosystem-based motivations for herbivore fisheries management, including data/graphics that were used at multiple intersections of DAR's recent scoping and rule making process.
- HIMARC contributed analyses, graphics, and interpretations for the Maui Island Profile, and created print and virtual/interactive data products for the Maui Navigation Team.

HIMARC also helped inform future monitoring by providing input to new monitoring plans, identifying gaps and informing effort allocation, and convening monitoring teams in a 3-day workshop to build community and share best practices.

HIMARC listened, learned, and educated partners on best practices and recommendations for weaving together multiple types of knowledge for marine management and have participated in discussions about how that work can occur equitably, justly, and with respect of indigenous peoples and places. This work helped HIMARC scope its role (where HIMARC does and does not fit) in community-based data collection and informed its future ideas and proposals, including the development of a detailed plan for HIMARC intends to move forward with community-centered work.

HIMARC Work Ongoing in 2024

With new funding support from the Holomua Marine Initiative, HIMARC is continuing its collaboration with partners working towards four broad objectives:

1. Collaborating to combine and calibrate reef monitoring data,
2. Creating data products in support of marine management,
3. Enhancing support for Hawai'i's communities to access data products, and
4. Supporting broad public education and outreach.

Strengthening a Community-based Monitoring Network for Nearshore Marine Management in Hawai'i

A key component of effectively managing Hawai'i's nearshore waters is establishing highly functional statewide frameworks that incorporate information and data from a range of sources, including indigenous knowledge, community expertise, and applied science. Community-based organizations (CBOs) interested in participating in programs toward achieving the collective goals of the Holomua Marine Initiative, and in having their place-based monitoring data integrated into the statewide framework, have the opportunity to clearly define monitoring goals, strategies, and purpose, while in close coordination with DLNR on integration.

In 2023, three organizations serving communities in Hawai‘i statewide, Kua‘aina Ulu ‘Auamo, Conservation International, and The Nature Conservancy, continued programs to strengthen, uplift, and coordinate networks of communities and community organizations stewarding Hawai‘i’s nearshore marine areas towards integrating indigenous knowledge, community expertise, and community perspectives into current monitoring regimes that play a key role in achieving effective nearshore marine management. This is just part of the continuing story of progress made by Hawai‘i’s Community-based Monitoring Hui (CBM Hui).

Kua‘aina Ulu ‘Auamo (KUA)

KUA’s first step was to listen. KUA then responded to community discussion that surfaced requested needs and increased engagement and expertise in community-based monitoring through training in culturally rooted monitoring frameworks and piloting a complementary co-created kilo (observation) app. KUA also supported and promoted other kilo/monitoring tools and methods including:

- 1. The “Makahiki Overview” created by Roxanne Keliikipikaneokolohaka and contributed to by the Kilo Malama Panana Collective Training;
- 2. Huli‘ia framework and tool created by Pelika Andrade and practices and taught by Na Maka Onaona; and,
- 3. Supporting apprenticeship and growth in expertise through active succession and perpetuation of traditional knowledge with the Na Kai Ewalu (NK8) moi collective



statewide monitoring project which included Uncle Mac Poepoe and monthly meetings, three physical gatherings, and the preparation of a journal article intended for publication.

Through this program cycle, KUA collaborated with more than 60 organizations to strengthen community voices and participation in nearshore marine monitoring and management. Examples include supporting Malama Pupukeya Waimea (MPW) in the completion of a management plan and assisting Hui Maka‘āinana o

Makana (HMOM) with the completion of strategic plans.

Communities made progress as resource managers and decision makers. KUA supported the CBM Hui with tools to deepen kilo practice and increase efficiency in data collection and monitoring. Ten lawai‘a (fishing) practitioners now apprentice under Uncle Mac Poepoe’s mentorship to merge traditional ecological knowledge with emergent scientific research techniques.

Conservation International (CI)

CBM Hui workshops were held, monitoring collaborations and exchanges supported, and sustained support and participation in the CBM Hui has guided its ongoing evolution as an action-oriented space. CBM Hui participation has grown to over 50 Native Hawaiian marine resource users, cultural practitioners, researchers, and managers since it began in 2018.

In Miloli‘i, CI Hawai‘i’s Mohala Nā Konohiki (MNK), a traditional marine monitoring and management program, has been incorporated into the implementation of Miloli‘i’s Community-based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) stewardship plan.

At Maunaloa, a hui of commercial and recreational fishers have organized an effort to establish a Fisheries Management Area (FMA) to increase protections from the harmful impacts of night spearfishing while piloting an innovative approach that elevates the involvement and voice of area residents.

In Hōnaunau, lineal descendants and area ‘ohana have organized themselves with the goal of kickstarting fisheries management activities in Hōnaunau Bay. Project staff facilitated a community-based marine monitoring needs assessment and co-developed with Hōnaunau partners a draft marine monitoring plan for the bay.

The MNK program also expanded with a second cohort focusing on bringing together experienced fishers from Maui, Kaua‘i, Moloka‘i, and Hawai‘i who gather, track, and compare growth and fish development stages throughout the year. The Nā Kai ‘Ewalu cohort (NK8) conducted independent in-field

monitoring and held virtual workshops focused on field observations, data collection and monitoring method refinement, and future potential work.

CI Hawai‘i worked with two interns from the University of Hawai‘i (UH) at Mānoa’s William S. Richardson School of Law doing qualitative research and literature reviews. They created a draft handbook that explains the unresolved inequities that exist in Hawai‘i, with power dynamics rooted in the illegal overthrow of a sovereign nation followed by ongoing colonialism that continues to influence and govern the relationships and collaborative efforts of people in Hawai‘i. The draft handbook makes recommendations on how to use the imperfect tools currently available within this context of unresolved injustice to achieve more equitable outcomes.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

At Kaupulehu, community members have drafted a fisheries management plan to be implemented through an administrative rule with DAR to ensure that the fishery is sustainably managed when fishing resumes after the 10-year rest period (Try Wait) is complete in 2026. Ten Kaupulehu individuals have been trained on fish or ‘opihi survey methodology, three of them with Native Hawaiian ancestry. Community monitoring sites are located along a 4.48 mile stretch of nearshore reef.

The Kiholo community is in the process of drafting a fisheries management plan as well, to strengthen fisheries rules by incorporating traditional practices and reducing overharvest issues. Eleven Kiholo individuals have been trained at community monitoring methodology, six of them with Native Hawaiian ancestry. Community monitoring sites are located along a 1.28 mile stretch of nearshore reef.

Liliuokalani Trust Kona Kipuka has established a team of four trained surveyors, all with Native Hawaiian ancestry. Community monitoring sites are located along a 1.45 mile stretch of nearshore reef.

Implementing the creel and human use survey provided Kipahulu ‘Ohana staff and community members with opportunities to interact with fishers and their marine resources, to observe use patterns, and to learn about structuring a social science study to obtain useful data.

The results of the 2023 surveys showing the trends of species abundance and biomass at survey locations were shared with partners in December 2023. The Kipahulu CBSFA proposal was heard by the Board of Land and Natural Resources and final approval was granted, with designation going into effect soon thereafter.

Building a Movement Through Communication & Outreach

HCF collaborates closely with DLNR's Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to build and strengthen partnerships that support the delivery of Holomua Marine Initiative's goals and objectives.

Strengthening Rules for Managing Marine Herbivores

Fish Pono—Save Our Reefs is an informal, volunteer hui of marine professionals and ocean lovers concerned about losing an important natural resilience mechanism on Hawai'i's coral reefs- herbivory- the consumption of plant material by marine animals. Fish Pono launched a strategic communications campaign in 2022 to strengthen state policy regarding the management of Hawai'i's marine herbivores, an essential biological component for maintaining healthy coral reef ecosystems. In 2023, the Holomua Marine Initiative helped to support Fish Pono strategic communications activities, which contributed to the passage of strengthened herbivore fishing rules by the BLNR in December 2023. HAR chapter 13-95 was amended for enhanced protections of important herbivore fish species and for updated pāpa'i kualoa (Kona Crab) rules to match the recently amended relevant statutory language.

Changes to the Initiative's Name and Goal: Navigating Challenges and Solutions

In early 2023, senior policy makers decided to change the name of the Initiative and forego the original goal of having 30 percent of Hawai'i's nearshore marine areas managed as a marine management area by 2030. By dropping the 30 percent goal, DAR is now able to engage in more meaningful discussions with fishers about the opportunities and possibilities that the process offers, via both regulatory and non-regulatory management tools. There have been challenges relating to how to best communicate the new Initiative goals and their clearly defined impacts. Holomua Marine Initiative partners have navigated the challenges with the aim of strengthening community and partner capacity for strategic communications.

DAR has also worked to clarify the new goal of the initiative, which is to achieve effective nearshore marine management in Hawai'i with an emphasis on strong community engagement and partnerships, cultural relevance, and improved process and outcomes at all stages of management.

2023 Policy & Governance Updates

The overall aim of the Holomua Marine Initiative is to achieve and maintain effective management of Hawai'i's nearshore marine areas, anchored in good governance. This year, progress was made in several areas towards setting the stage for effective management and good governance.

New Vessel and Dealer Licenses

The DLNR provided comprehensive updates to its licenses and permits, including updated fee schedules and 3 new licenses: a nonresident recreational marine fishing license, a commercial marine vessel license, and a commercial marine dealer license.

Aloha I Ke Kai (Ocean Stewardship User Fee)

The DLNR adopted HAR chapter 13-78, establishing provisions for an Ocean Stewardship User Fee.

Molokini MLCD Revisions

The DLNR made crucial amendments and additions to its rules for the Molokini MLCD and Day-Use Mooring program.



The Road Ahead

We have entered an exciting new period for the Initiative during which community programs are strengthening and expanding. State agency capacity is building and resources to support community efforts are increasing. As momentum grows, our goal will continue to be strengthening support for communities and resource managers in Hawai'i as we continue to collaborate towards the goal of effective management of nearshore marine areas with strong community partnerships and engagement.

The Marine Cohort program will continue to grow and expand into new cohorts. Over the next year, the next Marine Cohort will be created on the island of Hawai'i. HCF is excited to see the outcomes of the Makai Watch Community Organizations' great work at strengthening their own capacity with support from the Holomua Marine Initiative. HCF also looks forward to seeing the Maui Navigation Team strengthen, as well as the decisions the Navigation Team will make later in 2024 to further

guide effective management of nearshore areas on Maui. We look forward to developing funding opportunities that support implementation of their community-led decision-making.

In June, HCF released a funding opportunity to support any organization, program, and project making a meaningful contribution to the achievement of Holomua Marine Initiative goals and objectives. The funding opportunity, Holomua Marine Initiative Laulima Grants, will open the door for many more community groups doing impactful work in nearshore marine resource management in Hawai'i.

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)
Harold K. L. Castle Foundation
Koaniani Fund
Marisla Foundation
Oak Foundation
Oceans 5



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 Committee meets quarterly to review proposals and make recommendations to HCF's Board of Governors on funding, and/or to review progress on existing awards and the status of identified priorities. The Advisory committee consists of representatives from various sectors of the community that share kuleana 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 Fisherman's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition

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

Hi'ilei Kawelo, executive director, Paepae o He'eia

'Ekelu Lindsey, president, Maui Cultural Lands; co-founder Polanui Hiu

Justine Nihipali, program manager, Office of Planning, Coastal Zone Management Program

Dana Okano, program director, Hawai'i Community Foundation

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