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## Front cover

Piko Kea, a variety of kalo (taro), is a member of the larger Piko 'ohana. The unique lau (leaves) of piko varieties have morphologically adapted to windy areas, with the mahae (leaf sinus) cut to the piko (junction of the leaf and stalk). This makes it less susceptible to the tearing that often affects the lau of other varieties in high winds. The alternate name for the Piko 'ohana is Haehae, which gives us insight as to where this kalo thrives. The "kea" in Piko Kea's name comes from the light-green color of the hā, coupled with the light color of the uncooked corm flesh. This kalo tends to grow long corms and can handle deeper planting in the 'āina. Its beautiful lihi māwae showcases the marks of green, red, and black that are reserved for a select few varieties in Hawai'i. Similar to many of the kalo of Kohala, Piko Kea tends to thrive ma uka in the cold wai. Once Chinese farmers arrived in Kohala for the plantations, they preferred other kalo varieties, and Piko Kea was no longer cultivated en masse in Kohala (Emmerson and MacCaughy, 355). Piko Kea holds a special pilina to Kohala, where it was the only known location of a unique planting method of alternating the huli from dry to wet land plantings. This is still practiced today in certain locations of Kohala, mainly to reduce disease and pest damage in the lo'i.

*Photograph and mana'o provided by Ka'iana Runnels*

# Letter from Our Leadership

*Aloha friends,*

The Kohala Center was founded nearly 20 years ago in response to the expressed needs and aspirations of North Hawai'i residents who were asked to answer a seemingly simple survey question: What would it take to create conditions for healthier, happier local communities? Residents' answers focused on education, preparing our workforce for the local jobs of the future, and fostering an 'āina-based economy, paving the way for many of our organization's efforts and programs. While our journey has taken us from North Hawai'i to communities across Hawai'i Island and the pae 'āina, today we have a renewed focus on our home—Kohala—as the center of our work. From summit to sea, Kohala provides us a place to respectfully receive and share knowledge, engage in aloha 'āina stewardship, and nourish and sustain healthier ecosystems toward a state of pono—for Kohala and beyond.

In 2019, we paused to reflect on nearly two decades of hana in order to guide our work moving forward. We started with a seemingly simple, yet complex, question: As we enter a new decade, *"What does a state of pono look like?"* This led to the creation of a five-year Wayfinding Plan, an effort of shared leadership crafted by our staff and board of directors representing the voices of their many communities across the islands.



*Left to right: Roberta F. Chu, Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui*

Over the years, the expanse of our work has been vast and diverse, at times seeming disparate. The “big picture” that has held the totality of our efforts together, however, is the goal of improving ecosystem health—ecologically, economically, culturally, and socially. But what is an ecosystem? Derived from the Greek words oikos (house, extended family unit) and systema (organized whole), ecosystem to us means “the whole house” or “the whole family.” Too often, modern-day Western interpretations of this word separate people from the environment, viewing the natural world as something that serves and is controlled by humans. The Hawaiian point of view, like that of many indigenous communities, recognizes the interdependent, inextricable relationship between healthy 'āina (land, that which feeds us) and healthy kānaka (people). Within an ecosystem, we are but one member of a household, with kuleana (responsibility) to care for all members of our families—the people, plants, animals, soil, and water—so that we are all contributing our very best to the collective.

In this 2019 Annual Report, we not only reflect on our activities and accomplishments of the past year, we also introduce our intentions for our organization's future over the next five years. We are excited to share our community-based research questions and pathways toward what a state of pono might be in four distinct yet interdependent ecosystems.

As we grew closer to completing this document, something unexpected happened: the coronavirus pandemic shut down economies and societies locally and globally, resulting in both minor and major disruptions. While we have been fortunate to be able to continue our work during this time, this experience reminds us of the multitude of relationships that define thriving ecosystems. Our desired outcomes through it all remain pilina: meaningful relationships with our food, water, place, and people. By creating conditions for stronger pilina, we hope to see more resilient local farms and community-based food systems, deeper culture-based educational opportunities with 'āina (even if virtually for now), and ongoing respectful stewardship of our native reefs and forests.

Thank you for continuing this journey with us toward greater ecosystem health and a state of pono for Hawai'i once again.

Mahalo nui loa,

Roberta F. Chu  
Chairperson, Board of Directors

Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui  
President and Chief Executive Officer

# Cloud Forests

Wai, a Hawaiian word for fresh water, surfaces in many of Hawai‘i’s place names, including our homes of Waimea (reddish water) and Keawewai (Keawe’s water). Wai also emphatically forms the word waiwai, meaning wealth, value, and importance. With an abundant and perpetual supply of fresh water in all its forms, whole ecosystems can thrive. Simply put, water is our source of life.



Jack Jeffrey

Where does our precious wai of Kohala come from? High up Kohala Mountain in the wao akua, the sacred realm of the gods, were pristine cloud forests teeming with native and endemic species of plants and animals coexisting in a healthy and harmonious ecosystem. Ancestral knowledge embedded in the ‘ōlelo no‘eau, “Hahai nō ka ua i ka ululā‘au” (the rain follows the forest), tells us that our forebears knew the essential relationship between forests and wai. Kohala’s rare cloud forest of ‘ōhi‘a lehua, koa, māmane, ‘iliahi, and many other native flora capture rain and mist, retaining water and channeling it into the aquifer for future generations and ma kai to communities that respect its flow downstream.

Today, our cloud forests are compromised by invasive plants and animals that are diminishing their capacity to attract and collect moisture. Below the forest line, agriculture, development, and population growth have increased demand for water and decreased vegetation, leaving communities downstream vulnerable to not having enough water for

their needs. A 2019 study estimates that, if all of Kohala’s vulnerable forests were protected from further proliferation of non-native and invasive species, approximately 378.7 billion gallons of water yield and 193.1 billion gallons of groundwater recharge would be saved from loss over 50 years.<sup>1</sup>

As we envision our priorities for the next five years, being mindful of the source of our water and those who need it, we are guided by the question: ***How do we bring more water down Kohala Mountain in a pono way?*** Kohala Mountain’s streams currently provide more than 154 million gallons of water per day for Hawai‘i Island, while demand for water continues to rise. We know that watersheds with healthy native forests capture more fog and transpire less water than forests dominated by non-native species. By protecting Kohala’s cloud forest and honoring their sacred functions, these native forests can become regenerative once again, connecting with wai and sustaining life for many years ahead.

<sup>1</sup> Wada, Christopher et al. *Identifying Areas of Cost-Effective Watershed Management for Groundwater Recharge Protection on Hawai‘i Island*. University of Hawai‘i Economic Research Organization (UHARO), January 2019, 7.



*How do we bring more water down  
Kohala Mountain in a pono way?*



Nate Yuen

Our intentions to preserve Kohala's cloud forests will focus on strengthening relationships with the native trees and shrubs, ferns and mosses, birds and bugs, spiders and snails, soils and streams, and winds and wisdom that make up our watershed families:

**Engage: Kilo Kohala Mountain native species and unique habitats**

We seek permission to enter our sacred cloud forest so that we may identify the members of our forest 'ohana and the optimal conditions of their homes. We kilo to understand their needs and adjust our activities to best preserve their home environments.

**Learn: Gather and share knowledge from Kohala Mountain's inhabitants and the 'āina itself**

Through research, kilo, data collection, and knowledge exchanges with the forests, their residents, and other forest stewardship and conservation groups, we can develop protocols, tools, and trainings to support place-based native forest research and practices.

**Work: Invasive species control**

Our efforts to preserve critical habitats in biodiverse, high-yield watershed units continue through new and retrofitted fencing to keep feral ungulates out, as well as removal of non-native plants and animals that degrade our cloud forests. Maps and a Kilo Database will be continually updated to track progress and impacts of non-native species eradication on native biodiversity and water quality.

**Sustain: 'Āina ecosystem assessments**

Monitoring the diverse habitats and inhabitants of Kohala's wao akua will guide thoughtful and careful interactions to support their natural regenerative processes. As we deepen kinship with our source of water, we are better able to craft approaches to preservation that combine culture-based watershed stewardship and modern technologies.

# 2019 Accomplishments

A photograph of a tree trunk with a vine and ferns in the background. The tree trunk is covered in moss and has a vine wrapped around it. The vine has several green leaves. The background is a lush green forest with ferns.

Inspected and maintained **36.5 miles** of protective fencing in various environmentally sensitive areas on Kohala Mountain

Continued routine **weed control** on Pu'u Pili and Kanea'a Ponoholo

Planted **2,801 native trees** and shrubs including koa'i'a, 'a'ali'i, and 'iliahi

Removed **eight feral pigs** and controlled feral ungulates in Pu'u Pili by checking and resetting 260 traps quarterly and repairing fence to keep ungulates out

Facilitated **seven Hoa'āina Stewardship Days** for **105 community members** to engage with and learn about native forests and reverence for water

Hosted **seven school field trips** that introduced **125 local students and teachers** to the source of their water

# Ahupua'a 'o Kawaihae

As we look to ancestral knowledge and practices to guide us toward being more “of” Kohala rather than merely “in” Kohala, we are reminded how ahupua'a—traditional mountain-to-sea land divisions—fostered regenerative practices and self-sustaining communities.



In the Hawaiian worldview, 'āina sustains people, and the people are responsible for maintaining pono relationships with it, as evidenced in the 'ōlelo no'ēau, “He ali'i ka 'āina, he kauwā ke kanaka” (the land is chief, man is its servant). Kohala's ahupua'a—from leeward to windward, inner and outer—have been in long-standing relationship with those who care for these lands as generational kuleana. We begin this journey in the ahupua'a of Kawaihae, where history runs as deep as its gulches. Which leads us to the question that will guide our work in Ahupua'a o Kawaihae over the next five years: *How do we strengthen relations ma uka to ma kai as an ahupua'a-stewarded community?* The key element of this question is recognizing that our role is to observe, listen to, and allow our ahupua'a to steward us. By learning from 'āina, we develop pilina, ensuring our actions are respectful of the whole ecosystem.

The 'āina of Kawaihae calls us to the propagation of practices that will help our dryland and mesic forests, riparian corridors, and pili grasslands heal from more than two centuries of unsustainable land-use practices and

development. As we ourselves reconnect to this place, we enter into an ancient exchange of aloha 'āina. It will take kumu of all kinds to create conditions that improve the total well-being of 'āina and kānaka. We look to teachers, practitioners, and mauiauhonua (people and families residing in a place for generations) to help impart skills, knowledge, and intention that rekindle an innate sense all of us hold—regardless of ancestry—of 'ohana that includes our forest, field, and reef families.

Our pilina-building begins with strengthening our relationships with several beloved places in Ahupua'a 'o Kawaihae:

- **Keawewai:** A piko of our ahupua'a stewardship pathway is the 'ili 'āina of Keawewai, which includes 60 acres generously gifted to The Kohala Center in 2014. Keawewai has provided us with a place for meaningful convergence: of at least three prevailing winds of Kohala; of our staff to further our collective knowledge of and kinship with Kohala; of community,



*How do we strengthen relations ma uka to ma kai  
as an ahupua'a-stewarded community?*

educational, and agricultural leaders from across the pae ‘āina; of Hawaiian and Western pedagogies; and of scholars and cultural practitioners invested in Hawai‘i’s future. This cherished place is ideal for inspiring the culture-based guides and leaders that will help knowledge flow to create abundance for others, steward our natural resources, and cultivate food sustainably.

- **Kailapa and Honokoa:** Honokoa is one of two watersheds, formerly Crown Lands, traditionally known as Kawaihae Komohana or Kawaihae ‘Ākau. Kailapa is the name of the Hawaiian homestead community located ma kai and most impacted by what happens ma uka in Honokoa. We are expanding our stewardship efforts in the Honokoa watershed through our partnership with the Kailapa Community Association. The reciprocal exchange of skills and knowledge through mo‘olelo and kilo of natural cycles is one of the first steps towards understanding the practices of native forest and reef regeneration.
- **Koai‘a Corridor:** Along Waiakamali‘i Stream lies a remnant of dryland, mesic native forest protected by fencing installed in the 1960s. This riparian corridor is sanctuary to a diversity of native plants such as naio, hala pepe, māmane, ‘ōhi‘a, ‘a‘ali‘i, and, of course, koai‘a. Our recent work extends this small preserve to include more than 22 acres that will be revegetated with native trees and shrubs. As we learn from this place, practice kilo, plant natives, and deepen understanding of aloha ‘āina, all who visit build pilina to carry back to their own places with a strengthened sense of belonging.



What we learn and apply from these places reveals a stewardship pathway that all of us can take to become more effective and committed stewards of the ahupua‘a that care for and sustain us:

### **Engage: Hoa‘āina invitation and ma uka ma kai orientation**

We offer Hoa‘āina Stewardship Days for island residents and visitors to journey with us to Kohala Mountain to get to know and care about where our water comes from, nearby pu‘u (hills) and streams, kilo, and the kuleana of reforestation in a modern world. In 2020, we will release a ka‘ao (Hawaiian legendary tale) about the journey of water, as well as two “heirloom” songs unearthed by families with deep roots in Kohala.

### **Learn: Forest to reef learning journeys**

As we assess for learning from the field as practitioners, we create culture-based tools and trainings that share knowledge with others in classroom and community settings. A collaboration with Kohala and West Hawai‘i teachers will result in the 2020 release of our Forest Stewardship Curriculum and Forest to Reef Toolkits, providing elementary- and middle-school educators with training to integrate ‘āina-based classroom and field lesson plans aligned to state and federal education standards.

### **Work: Applied native forest research and regeneration projects**

Our Kohala watershed field technicians continue to work on riparian corridor restoration projects ma uka along Kawaihae’s vital streams, as well as in communities ma kai to reduce erosion, feral ungulate populations, and wildfire risks. Technicians and teachers are field-testing our toolkits so they can facilitate more intimate connections between students of all ages and the ‘āina that sustains them.

### **Sustain: Indicators of improved ecosystem health**

Our staff and community members engage in kilo to track indicators of improving ecosystem health. Educators use stewardship lesson plans and toolkits in their classrooms and students gain deeper appreciation of the natural world around them. We are also uniting with other ‘āina-based non-profits to conduct research drawing on local and traditional ecological knowledge systems to advance native forest management practices.

# 2019 Accomplishments

A photograph of two children sitting on a grassy hillside. The child on the right is wearing an orange shirt and dark pants, and the child on the left is wearing a dark blue shirt and jeans. They are both looking down at a book or paper held by the child in orange. They are sitting in front of a large, gnarled, leafless tree. The background shows a vast landscape with green hills and a blue sky with some clouds.

Collaborated with educators to design and deliver **30 field trips** and **32 class-based learning experiences**, benefiting **300 students and teachers** who planted **583 native trees and plants**

Co-hosted the two-day, statewide **HĀ Summit** in Kohala, providing teams of attendees with HĀ learning experiences at Keawewai and in the Kohala watershed

Expanded capacity at Keawewai to **produce food for hostings** by establishing a kitchen garden and composting to regenerate all food waste

Hosted **27 groups** at Keawewai to further develop capacities of Hawai'i's education and agriculture leaders

Continued **Hawai'i Island Vog Network** in partnership with Massachusetts Institute of Technology; shifted program to focus on weather and climate from Hawaiian and Western points of view. **Twenty-one teachers** and **462 students** participated in hands-on classroom and field projects, culminating in educational presentations to the Waimea community.

Completed **nine miles of ungulate-proof fenceline** from ma uka to Kailapa community ma kai, resulting in growth of erosion-controlling vegetation

Set upon a journey to revive and record **two "heirloom songs" of Kohala** shared with us by families with deep roots in the moku, with a documentary and music videos to be released in 2020.

Continued development of a **ka'ao** of the journey of water from the highest reaches of Kohala Mountain toward the sea. The book will be published in 2020.

# Kula Agroecosystems

“By caring for ‘āina, ‘āina will care for us.” Perhaps no one understands this saying better than mahi ‘ai. While many consider the meaning of “mahī ‘ai” as “farmer,” we think of mahi ‘ai as all the cultivators of food who hold caring, reciprocal relationships with soils and natural elements that provide the unique conditions for Hawai‘i’s nourishment, food security, and ultimately good health.



Since 2007, The Kohala Center has focused on building and strengthening local food systems in an effort to reduce Hawai‘i’s significant and highly volatile dependence on imports. Over the years, our initiatives have increased the availability of fresh, locally grown food in schools; created and distributed new open-pollinated seed cultivars suited for Hawai‘i’s diverse microclimates; supported local food producers through business consulting and financial services; educated youth about local agriculture and career opportunities; and prepared adults seeking to join Hawai‘i’s next generation of beginning farmers.

Building on many years of inspiring, training, and supporting local food producers, and collaborating with partners to increase access to fresh, local food, our work in the coming years will explore a broader question: ***How do community-based food systems nurture the health of our working lands and people across moku?*** We enter 2020 with intention to investigate the effect of local food systems on the health

of the ecosystems that support and are supported by them. While we will continue to offer cooperative, business development, and financial planning services to our farmers, value-added food producers, and small businesses, we will look to hana mahi ‘ai, the wisdom and practices of Hawai‘i’s traditional agricultural stewards and food producers, to guide us as we seek knowledge to strengthen local food systems and deepen our relationships with Hawai‘i’s kula lands and agroecosystems.

Kula lands were cultivated in ways that produced abundant crops and sources of sustenance, lovingly tended to by kānaka who revered ‘āina as a vital member of their communities and families. Ancestral knowledge and expressed needs from our communities inspire us to advance and share regenerative agricultural practices that increase viability of diverse gardens, farms, and field systems to support healthy lands and people once again.

*How do community-based  
food systems nurture the  
health of our working lands  
and people across moku?*



With our Demonstration Farm in Honoka'a providing a dynamic, living classroom for sharing knowledge, our priority will be to cultivate strong communities of mahi 'ai families, food producers, and businesses. We hold a collective commitment to restoring healthy relationships with 'āina, food, and each other, in which we all contribute to a sustainable food system that feeds the health of both land and people.



To foster communities capable of supporting interdependent and communal food systems, we are creating spaces and opportunities for all who have an interest in nurturing healthy, reciprocal relationships with 'āina:

#### **Engage: Hoa'āina engagement and Demonstration Farm orientations**

We look forward to offering Hoa'āina Stewardship Days at our Demonstration Farm in Honoka'a to introduce community members to the power of 'āina, food, and seeds to nourish and care for us.

#### **Learn: Ōhāhā education and training programs**

Our agricultural education programs for adults and high school students will unite as Ōhāhā (where land and people flourish together) learning journeys for families and community members of all ages to learn how to grow food for their households, neighborhoods, and communities. Mahi māla (the cultivation of gardens) workshops will continue the learning for those growing food on a smaller scale.

#### **Work: Applied agroecosystem research and technical assistance**

Our Rural and Cooperative Business Development Services efforts will support emerging farmers and ranchers, seed growers, and cooperative and value-added businesses with a demonstrated desire to contribute to healthier land, people, and environments. Community members can become part of their support network through Kiva, an independent online crowd-funding platform for community-based lending. In addition, we will focus in our backyard of North Hawai'i through research on businesses and family-operated enterprises that use ancestral knowledge and indigenous agricultural systems to grow traditional crops for community consumption, and/or use regenerative agricultural practices to grow crops for local markets.

#### **Sustain: Cooperatives and cooperation**

A cooperative is member owned, member benefitting, and member controlled. The cooperative business model provides a pathway for individual businesses to work together to address shared business goals. By fostering greater collaboration and cooperation among many stakeholders including workers, businesses, consumers, policymakers, community groups, and families, we can collectively build secure food systems and sustainable communities that can serve as models for others.

# 2019 Accomplishments



Provided technical assistance and consulting services to **196 local businesses, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit organizations**

Assisted in the launch of **three new cooperative businesses** and provided technical assistance to **14 existing co-ops**

Helped **39 clients** complete grant and loan applications, resulting in acquisition of **\$3,524,755 for business development and agricultural initiatives**

Lent **\$135,000 in low- and no-interest microloans** to **13 businesses**

Graduated **18 new mahi 'ai** from our Beginning Farmer-Rancher Development Program and **35 students** from our Ōhāhā High School AgriCULTURE Program

Assisted **seven Hawai'i seed producers** to make **44 locally adapted varieties**, including **15 new ones**, available to consumers through the Hawai'i Seed Growers Network

Contributed to collective efforts to **promote healthy community food systems** as an active member of Hawai'i Good Food Alliance, Hawai'i Island Food Alliance, Local Food Coalition, and Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Continued to heal and nourish the depleted soils at our **Demonstration Farm** in Honoka'a through cover cropping and biotilling, resulting in less soil compaction in uncultivated areas and improved crop health in established fields

Hosted **23 public workshops** across the islands for farmers, ranchers, and rural small business owners to build and strengthen knowledge and skills

Researched affordable farmworker housing solutions, helping **one farmer** obtain a loan from USDA Rural Development to build affordable housing for employees

# Coral Reefs

The Kumulipo tells us that ‘uku ko‘ako‘a (coral polyp) was the first organism created and is the building block from which all life follows. Coral reefs thus become the foundation of Earth’s diverse marine life, the protector of coastal areas from storm surges, the supporter of food supplies for millions of people around the world, and contributors to coastal economies through research and tourism.



Today, Hawai‘i’s coral reefs are struggling to survive against climate change, sunscreen chemicals, non-point source pollution, unmanaged tourism, and development. Our own survival is dependent on keeping coral—our oldest ancestors—healthy and thriving.

Although 60 miles from our home in Kohala, Kahalu‘u Bay has been a beloved member of our ‘ohana for many years. After being invited by Kahalu‘u residents and University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant to manage ReefTeach, a program to educate bay visitors on “reef etiquette,” we officially formed a partnership with the County of Hawai‘i to commit to caring for the bay and beach park over the long run. Each year, our team at Kahalu‘u directly engages more than 65,000 bay visitors and community members to empower them to care for Kahalu‘u Bay. We continue to teach about proper reef etiquette and how to interact with marine life respectfully. Starting in 2018, we launched a reef-friendly sun protection campaign to reduce the volume of harmful sunscreen chemicals entering the bay. While the efforts of our staff

and community stewards have had a visibly positive impact on protecting Kahalu‘u’s corals, the bay is telling us that these efforts are not enough. Numerous other stressors are hindering Kahalu‘u Bay’s water quality and the health of the coral reef ecosystem. Our ancestors are asking for our help, and in response we are asking the question: ***How do we reduce stressors and increase the resiliency of our coral reef ecosystems?***

Moving forward, we consider ReefTeach as more than a program in which we teach others about marine conservation: it’s a call for us all to learn from coral reef ecosystems so that we may understand what Kahalu‘u Bay and other coastal ecosystems need from us in order to survive and thrive. In addition to our existing activities, our stewardship of Kahalu‘u Bay will include daily kilo (traditional environmental observation) and expanded ecological monitoring by trained ReefTeach staff and volunteers to identify changing indicators of ecosystem health; applied research pilot projects that investigate adaptive, community stewardship-driven solutions to improve water quality; and opportunities for residents

*How do we reduce stressors and  
increase the resiliency of our  
coral reef ecosystems?*





and visitors to participate in Hoa‘aina Stewardship Days to deepen their connection to place. Among the research projects our teams are embarking on in 2020 is a Coastal Assessment and Hazards Analysis study with the County of Hawai‘i, Sea Engineering, and Hawai‘i Tourism Authority, so that future management planning efforts incorporate estimated impacts to the nearshore environment due to climate change. We are also interested in investigating innovative solutions to the region’s wastewater management challenges to keep sewage and other pollutants from entering the ocean, as well as continued collaboration with the County to close the park during peak coral spawning days and other times of sensitivity or stress to give Kahalu‘u’s ecosystem time to recover.

By continuing to engage Kahalu‘u as a revered place of learning—appreciating each generous gift of knowledge offered by the bay and its environs—we will respond with regenerative solutions to heal the bay and share our experiences with other coastal communities facing the same or similar challenges.

To foster conditions that lead to improved water quality and marine health along the Kona-Kohala Coast, we invite all who care about coral reef ecosystems on this journey toward effective, collective stewardship:

#### **Engage: Hoa‘aina engagement and ReefTeach orientations**

Community stewards of all ages are invited to Kahalu‘u Bay and Beach Park to connect with the history, cultural significance, and ecological diversity of place, as well as to understand challenges to the health of Kahalu‘u’s ecosystem and ways to reduce human impacts.

#### **Learn: ReefTeach trainings and knowledge sharing**

Those who are ready to be more active in community stewardship are welcome to join our ‘aina-based educators in the transmission of knowledge from these unique coral reef ecosystems, and to inspire behavior change at Kahalu‘u Bay and beyond.

#### **Work: Applied coral reef research regeneration projects**

Community members of all experience levels can become stewardship practitioners, helping to collect samples and observe and record ecosystem health indicators to inform academic and community-driven research.

#### **Sustain: Indicators of Ecosystem Health**

When all of us—residents, visitors, area businesses, tour operators, policymakers, schools, and community groups—carry the kuleana together for treating marine ecosystems as vital and cherished members of our ‘ohana, observed changes and water-quality data will show that we have strengthened pilina with our food, water, place, and people.

# 2019 Accomplishments



Continued to work with more than **80 active ReefTeach community stewards** to directly empower more than **1,300 students, 3,000 community members,** and **65,000 beachgoers** with information about how they can care for marine resources

Collected more than **300 bottles of harmful sunscreen**, distributed more than **10,000 samples of reef-friendly sunscreen**, and educated more than **80,000 visitors and residents** about reef-friendly sun protection

Hosted more than **360 local students** to teach them about water quality monitoring, kilo, reef ecology, and healthy marine ecosystems

Hosted **105 visiting high school students** from around the world during Coral Camps to teach them about marine science and Hawaiian culture

Worked in partnership with County of Hawai'i, University of Hawai'i Hilo, and Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources to **close Kahalu'u Beach Park for two days** during **cauliflower coral** (*pocillopora meandrina*) **spawning** to collect valuable data about a rapidly declining species

Conducted **reef health surveys** that have revealed numerous mound and cauliflower coral recruits, as well as the first observation in years of **ālo'ilo'i**, an endemic species once abundant in the bay

# Partners and Supporters

It is because of the generosity of our partners and supporters that we are able to continue our work. Our efforts would not be possible without these people, public agencies, and organizations that support us and our mission.

All partners and supporters listed below contributed to our efforts between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019. *Mahalo nui loa* for your support and for believing in us.

## \$25,000 and above

County of Hawai'i Department of Research & Development  
The Dorrance Family Foundation  
Hawai'i Community Foundation  
Freeman Foundation Agricultural Development Fund of the  
Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF)  
Ulupono Fund at the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF)  
Hawai'i Tourism Authority Aloha 'Āina Program  
Hawai'i Tourism Authority Kūkulu Ola Program  
Honu'apo  
Johnson Ohana Foundation  
Kahiau Foundation  
Kamehameha Schools  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
The Posner Foundation of Pittsburgh  
State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawai'i, Department of Education, Office of Hawaiian  
Education  
State of Hawaii, Department of Health  
State of Hawai'i Public Charter School Commission  
United States Department of Agriculture  
United States Department of Commerce  
United States Department of Defense  
United States Small Business Administration

## \$10,000 to \$24,999

Anonymous  
Garman Foundation  
The Joseph & Vera Long Foundation  
Dick and Sharon Shlegeris  
State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture  
United States Environmental Protection Agency

## \$5,000 to \$9,999

Anonymous  
Cornell University  
Deviants from the Norm Fund of the Hawai'i Community  
Foundation  
Hawaii Appleseed Center  
Kahalu'u Bay Education Center Customers

## \$2,500 to \$4,999

Balbi Brooks  
Roberta and Newton Chu  
Hawai'i Public Health Institute  
Hawaii Zipline Tours, LLC  
University of Hawai'i  
United States Department of the Interior

## \$1,000 to \$2,499

Betsy Cole  
Susan Foster  
Harbor Gallery  
The Marine Mammal Center  
Medtronic  
Captain Gary and Constance Monell  
Dr. Paul and Elizabeth Nakayama  
Rob and Cindy Pacheco  
Susana Pereira  
John and Cyndi Prater  
Ian F. Robertson

## \$500 to \$999

Anonymous  
Georgine Busch  
Judy Gooch and Paul Dobosh  
Chris and Mona Hubbell  
Cheryl and Boots Lupenui  
Valerie Ossipoff  
Pat Tietbohl and Doug Romich  
Angie Von Holt  
Peter and Jan Wizinowich

## \$250 to \$499

Anonymous (2)  
Aqua Engineers Inc  
Puanani Burgess  
Pat Cunningham  
Timothy and Caitlin Harrington  
Hawaii Captive Insurance Council Corp  
Lyn Howe and Geoffrey Rauch  
Heather K. Nix

Anna-Lisa Okoye  
 Valarie Pagni  
 salesforce.com  
 David Shoup  
 The Earl and Doris Bakken Foudation  
 The Riverbridge Partners Community Fund  
 Lesley and Curtis Tyler

## **\$100 to \$249**

Daniel and Anna Akaka  
 Kelley Asbell  
 Nitasha Bhambree and Declan Mulvey  
 Dennis and Joy Blazak  
 Megan Blazak  
 Tom Blazak and Darlene Parks  
 Blue Zones Project  
 Jeffry Borror

Russ and Melissa Clark on behalf of  
 Kathleen Clark

David and Carolyn Leuthold Fund

John and Bev Dawson

Nelson and Whit Hairston

Matt Hamabata and Kevin Cawley

Naomi Hayakawa

Tha Hazzards

Holualoa Foundation

Loring Howell

Harry and Georgette Ka'uhane

Joan and Peter Kinchla

Christine Kobayashi

Diane Ley

Rachel Laderman

McGuire Family

Nicole Milne and Charles Oldfather

Cortney and David Okumura

Jamie Pardau

Doug Perrine

Barbara Schaefer

Robert Shoup

Louise and Florian Smoczynski

Dennis Stichman

James Takamine

Jim Thiele and Sue Pope

June van Leynseele

Dr. J. Kim and Dr. Kathleen Vandiver

Richard Vogler

Pat and Linda Ward

Mark Wheeler

Judy Wormington

Janna Wyman

Patricia Zuccaro



## **Up to \$100**

Amazon Smile

Anonymous (6)

Adam Atwood

Aukai

Mervia Balancio

Royelen Boykie

Kirk Caldwell and Donna Tanoue

Bria Clark

Complete Art Service Hawaii

Marjorie and Donald Erway

Richard Esterle and Dana Moody

Elaine Evans

David Eyre

Fair Wind, Inc.

J.A. Gehring

Kaliko Grace

Jerry Griffith

Ilene Grossman

Bill and Susie Hansley

Karen Hoffman

Josephine Kalahiki-Morales

Victoria Kaplan

Cindi Punihaole Kennedy

Liam Kernell and Kenji Mizuno

Susan Klingelhafer

Clemson and Janet Lam

Jan Levitan

Gaylien Luke

Al-Qawi N. Majidah

Robert and Judy Miller

Donna Mitts

Peter Moulton

Supi Radul

Danford Sabo

Barbara Sarbin

David Siegel

David Simon and Andrea Jason

Kirby and Sharon Sumner

Karl Toubman and Kathie Pomeroy

Patric Vitek

D. Keawe'ehu Vrendenburg

Loren White

Donn and Jadine Yonemitsu

Douglas Zipes

## **In-Kind Donations**

Dr. Rick Bennett

Body Glove Hawaii

Clare and Daniel Bobo

Body Glove Hawaii

Katherine Buckovetz

Daylight Mind Coffee Company

Fair Wind, Inc.

Goddess Garden Organics

Island Naturals Market & Deli

Island Thyme Gourmet

Patagonia

Raw Elements USA

Red Ohia LLC

Schlack Ito

Sea Quest Hawaii

Thermo Fisher Scientific

UFO Parasail Hawaii

Carl Wargula

Janna Wyman

# Financial Matters

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019

## Support and Revenue

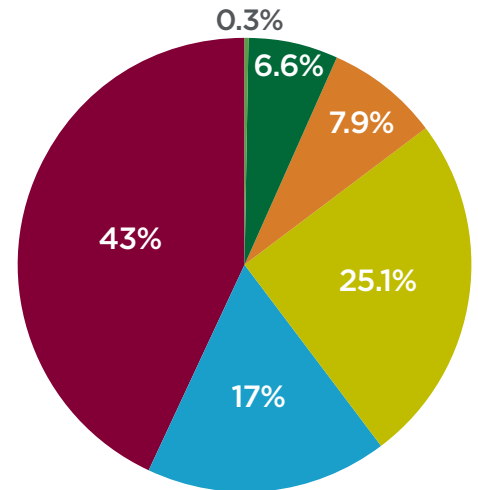
Federal	\$1,502,699
State and Local	\$594,494
Trusts and Foundations	\$875,034
Earned and Others	\$276,727

## Contributions

Cash	\$232,063
In-Kind*	\$9,967

**Total Support and Revenue** **\$3,490,984**

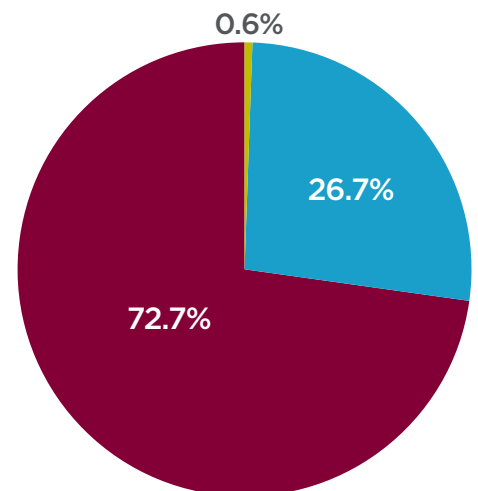
*\*In-Kind contributions include equipment, stocks, and property.*



## Expenses

Program Services	\$2,517,087
Supporting Services	\$924,607
Fundraising	\$21,152

**Total Expenses** **\$3,462,846**



Change in Net Assets	\$28,138
Total Net Assets	\$7,786,367
Total Liabilities	\$796,784
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$6,633,722
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$1,152,645
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$8,583,151</b>

# Board of Directors and Staff

*As of June 1, 2020*



## Board of Directors

**Roberta F. Chu**, Chairperson  
*Senior Vice President, Bank of Hawaii*

**James Takamine**, Treasurer  
*Executive Vice President, CU Hawaii Federal Credit Union*

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*Vice President, Marketing and Sales, Kona Beach House*

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*Poet, Peacemaker, and Hawaiian Cultural Consultant, One-Peace-at-a-Time*

**Robert Lindsey Jr.**, Director  
*Board of Trustees, Office of Hawaiian Affairs*

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*Principal, The Robertson Company*

**Peter Vitousek, Ph.D.**, Director  
*Clifford G. Morrison Professor in Population and Resource Studies, Senior Fellow at the Woods Institute for the Environment and Professor, by courtesy, of Earth System Science, Stanford University*

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*Staff, Kahalu'u Bay Education Center*

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*Community and Resource Relations Manager*

**Yasuko Banville**  
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*Business Development and Services Integration Coordinator*

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*Staff, Kahalu'u Bay Education Center*

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*'Aina-Based Education Specialist*

**Kathleen Clark**  
*Marine Stewardship and Education Specialist, Kahalu'u Bay Education Center*

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*Special Projects Liaison*

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*Ranch Operations Director*

**Ilene Grossman**  
*Environmental Education Specialist*

**Kendyll Howard**  
*Office Manager and Operations Assistant*

**Liam Kernell**  
*Director of Communications*

**Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui**  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

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*Staff, Kahalu'u Bay Education Center*

**Susan Menton**  
*Staff, Kahalu'u Bay Education Center*

**Jake Merkel**  
*Kohala Watershed Field Supervisor*

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*Accounting and Payroll Assistant*

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*Program Assistant*

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*Kohala Field Stewardship Technician*

**Kāhele Nahale-a**  
*Culture-Based Education Manager*

**Kupa'a Naone**  
*Kohala Field Stewardship Technician*

**Cortney Okumura**  
*Executive Assistant to the President & CEO  
Director of Human Resources*

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*'Aina-Based Education Specialist*

**Cindi Punihaole**  
*Director, Kahalu'u Bay Education Center*

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*Mabi 'Ai Education Specialist*

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**Desmond Toson**  
*Kohala Field Stewardship Technician*

**Koa Watai**  
*Maintenance Staff,  
Kahalu'u Bay Education Center*

**Melanie Willich, Ph.D.**  
*Director of Applied 'Aina-Based Agriculture*

**Donn Yonemitsu**  
*Financial Controller*

**Teresa Young**  
*Rural and Cooperative Business Development Specialist*



P.O. Box 437462  
Kamuela, Hawai'i 96743

Phone 808-887-6411 | Fax 808-885-6707 | [info@kohalacenter.org](mailto:info@kohalacenter.org) | [www.kohalacenter.org](http://www.kohalacenter.org)

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