LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Another turn of the calendar, and another incredible year made possible by all of your support. In years to come, I feel like 2023 will be seen in much the same light as we view 2009, when we secured funding for the Great Huki. The launching of the Great Huki initiated a process of reversing the degradation from invasive algae at Paiko Beach. Today, Paiko is a shining example of the power of volunteers, and one of the best examples of community restoring a nearshore Hawaiian ecosystem.

Why will we view 2023 in the same way? Two big reasons: One, we relaunched the Restore With Resilience initiative, and, Two, we secured $8M through a NOAA grant to undertake ridge-to-reef restoration in Maunalua Bay. The Restore With Resilience initiative plants corals that can better survive warmer waters from climate change, without a doubt the greatest threat to coral’s long-term survival. The initiative officially started several years ago, but in 2023 we deployed two new professionally engineered tables that are much sturdier and more condition-resistant than our initial version.

For the NOAA grant, it is the largest we have ever received and is addressing terrestrial pollution at its source, while also helping accelerate our Restore With Resilience work. Approximately 90% of the grant is going to partners in the region, and will aid in everything from creating healthier native forests, to installing rain catchment and retention devices in homes and schools, to installing stream applications that will reduce sediment and pollutant transport. My hope is that we take this incredible opportunity, build off it, and in 10 years have success that mirrors the success of the Great Huki. Given the funding, and our amazing partners, I’m highly optimistic.

And as always, none of it is possible without your support. Your gifts have sustained us in hard times, and allowed us to grow in good times. Without this foundation, and continuing support, we would never have the track record and credibility for the larger game-changing grants, like NOAA’s. We thank you for your support, and look forward to continuing to work together, and make Maunalua Bay a more healthy and resilient place.

Mahalo nui loa,

Doug Harper
Executive Director
2023 AT A GLANCE

H U K I

61
TOTAL HUKI EVENTS

113
GROUPS HOSTED

2,907
TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

62,100 LBS
TOTAL INVASIVE ALGAE REMOVED

8,528
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

12,700 SQUARE METERS
AREA RESTORED
Our Education and Outreach program is built around inspiring the next generation to become advocates for our mission, and life-long stewards for Maunalua Bay. This year alone, we engaged 4,549 people at our education and outreach events and educated 2,219 students in the classroom. We hosted a total of 75 education and outreach events, comprised of classroom visits, outreach booths, workshops, and public presentations at conferences and seminars.

Mahalo nui to all the students and teachers for welcoming us to their schools, and to our funders and community supporters who have made it possible for us to teach students about the culture, history, and ecosystems tied to Maunalua, and the importance of taking care of our ʻāina and kai.
Imagine our Maunalua Bay reef with 4,000 more coral colonies growing on it! This is the goal of our Restore with Resilience (RWR) project in 2024.

We took significant steps forward in implementing the Restore with Resilience initiative, the largest community-led climate resilient coral restoration effort in the state. Working with our core partners - Kuleana Coral Restoration, NOAA, the State of Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources, and Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) - we trained a large and constantly growing team of Core Volunteer Leaders who are now skilled enough to run Hana Pūkoʻa Events, events where the community helps fragment corals. Through their and the community’s support, we created 260 coral biopsies from 130 coral colonies. The biopsies are currently undergoing thermal resilience testing at HIMB, which will indicate the coral colonies more resilient to warmer waters. In 2024 we will fragment those colonies for out-planting and growing the climate-resilient reef in Maunalua Bay.

To house the corals until they are out-plantted, two new nursery tables were deployed. We also installed on the tables three intern-constructed Kilo Cameras - homemade underwater cameras. The cameras will capture coral and ecosystem changes.

Please contact us if you are interested in joining this exciting effort!

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**CORAL BY THE NUMBERS**

- **Held 2 Hana Pūkoʻa Events**
- **Fragmented 260 Corals**
- **Deployed 2 Nursery Tables**
- **Deployed 3 Kilo Cams**
- **Held Multiple Hands-On Trainings for Core Volunteers**
Presenting to, meeting with, and hearing from some of the world’s foremost experts on coral restoration gave MM an incredible opportunity to explain why Maunalua Bay is a key demonstration on how to restore a reef using community input, and why more help should be focused on the Bay. The Symposium was a great success, with over 100 participants, 20 organizations represented, and 33 presentations.

CO-HOSTED THE ANNUAL CORAL SYMPOSIUM

MM co-hosted the 3rd annual coral restoration symposium at the Kahala Hotel and Resort. The symposium brought together the leading coral researchers and managers from the state of Hawai‘i to update attendees on the latest developments, and identify ways in which greater collaboration can improve coral health.

TERRESTRIAL RESTORATION

Funding for Ahapua’a Management

MM is extremely blessed and excited to have been awarded an $8.1M grant from NOAA in 2023. The 3-year grant is a partnership between eight organizations active in Maunalua Bay, with MM organizing the hui and submitting the grant on the group’s behalf. Drawing inspiration from the native Hawaiian concept of ahupua’a management, the project looks at each aspect of the Niu, Wailupe, and Kul‘ou’ou watersheds to conduct restoration from the ridge to the reef.

The overwhelming bulk of funding will go to MM’s partners to:

- Install ungulate-proof fencing to aid in native forest restoration;
- Remove invasive species in the region’s forests and replace them with native species;
- Redesign a portion of Wailupe Stream to better capture runoff and pollution, and look at best management practices for sediment basins;
- Promote the installation of green infrastructure in homes, schools, and commercial buildings;
- Outplant climate resilient corals.

It is the largest grant MM has ever received, and provides us with a significant step forward in restoring the health of Maunalua Bay, and the region. The effort utilizes a holistic approach to restoration that includes major benefits to several ecosystems within the three watersheds.
MM is excited to partner with the following organizations on the Ahupua’a Project:

- Kuleana Coral Restoration
- Hawai’i Institute of Marine Biology Coral Resilience Lab
- Ko’olau Mountain Watersheds Partnership
- Protect and Preserve Hawai’i
- The Aloha Tree Alliance
- Inter-Fluve, Inc.
- Roth Ecological Design International LLC

Cherish, Protect, Restore (C.P.R.) Maunalua Bay continues with a SMART YARDS Workshop

MM continues our mission to C.P.R. Maunalua Bay by addressing land-based sources of stress. MM worked with over 100 property owners individually to identify ways to implement rain capturing strategies – such as rain catchments, rain garden, or permeable pavement. The homes were chosen based on maps produced by Birchline and Hey & Associates that show overland water flow.

While conducting assessments, property owners shared the main hindrances to implementing rain capture strategies being cost and lack of knowledge. Our solution – hold a SMART YARDS workshop! In December, over 60 community members spent the morning with us and a suite of experts from City & County of Honolulu Department of Facilities and Maintenance, Roth Ecological, and Hui o Ko’olaupoko, to learn first-hand about the strategies and to connect with professionals. Multiple people won prizes - including 2 rain barrels - and everyone learned more about what they can do on their property.

Stay tuned for details on a workshop to be held in 2024!
Thank you so much for being with our humble little class on Tuesday. As a teacher, there is nothing more satisfying than seeing students engaged and working toward something that really matters. I know the students made amazing memories, and we have you to thank for them. Mahalo nui for a beautiful morning.” — Megan K., Teacher

“Thank you Mālama Maunalua for taking time to teach us about Maunalua Bay and how to take care of our oceans. I was shocked to find out that Gorilla Ogo was invasive! I see those kinds of limu in the water and I always thought it wasn’t harming our waters. Thank you so much again!” — Maia, Student

“One thing that I really like learning about/doing was pulling the invasive algae as well as being able to learn about the sea creatures that live there. This field trip was fun and engaging and I hope to do it again soon! Thank you so much for hosting us! We enjoyed working with you for this project.” — Matthew, Student
The Tree to Sea Camp is the only outdoor, weeklong camp in the Maunalua region where students learn about traditional and modern ahupua’a resource management, while developing stewardship skills and deepening their understanding of science and Hawaiian culture. In March, 20 campers from 11 schools across O’ahu participated. Under the guidance of cultural practitioners, scientists, conservationists, and environmental community leaders, the campers planted 110 native Hawaiian plants, removed 400 lbs of invasive algae, removed 100+ lbs of invasive forest plants and mangrove, made and deployed 50 seed bombs to restore our native forests, removed invasive tilapia, collected water quality and weather data, dissected fish, learned how to do coral surveys, made hala cordage, learned mo’olelo of Maunalua, practiced traditional knots and lashing techniques, gained experience flying drones, made art with native plants, algae, and microplastics, and so much more! The students were incredible, as were our partners at making this experience such a huge success!

We look forward to hosting next year’s camp!
Mālama Maunalua’s internship program has continued to evolve over the last decade hosting more than 125 emerging professionals in various environmental research projects across the Bay. We have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to mentor so many talented individuals and watch them go on to achieve undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees and to cheer them on as they eventually go on to pursue careers within environmental conservation sectors across the globe. We’re grateful that although their time with us is brief, we’re able to instill with them a sense of what it truly means to mālama ‘āina, or to take care of the environment here in Hawai‘i.

In 2023 we hosted 11 interns to assist with projects ranging from coral restoration, stormwater runoff and green infrastructure, native urchin biocontrol to education and outreach. They volunteered at over 60 volunteer events, contributed over 696 hours of fieldwork, worked with 2,833 community volunteers (1,313 of which were students), helped remove over 27,940 lbs of invasive algae, and helped restore 5,100 square meters of marine habitat within Maunalua Bay. Over the course of the summer, interns learned how to conduct scientific assessments surveying marine vegetation, coral bleaching, benthic floor cover, fish biomass, and stormwater runoff.

“The most important thing is probably feeling like I contributed by being active in the field, helping with both conservation efforts and the wellbeing of the island and people (I felt like I understood more of my purpose in life and what I hope to do more of in the future: volunteer, field work, lend a helping hand)” —Leigha Dick, 2023 Summer Intern
Ralph Dykes
Ralph began volunteering with Mālama Maunalua in 2008, working with a small group of people led by Niu Valley resident Kimo Franklin, and pulling algae until they ran out of bags.

When he’s not volunteering with Mālama Maunalua, Ralph dedicates his free time volunteering at the Hawai‘i Kai dog park, collecting water samples for the Blue Water Task force, which monitors water quality at many sites on O‘ahu, and serves on the Board of Directors for the homeowners’ association where he lives. Ralph says he volunteers because he believes that everyone should “give back” after retiring.

Lewis “Buddy” Morris
Lewis “Buddy” Morris, started volunteering with MM in 2022. In 1980, he moved from Virginia to Hawai‘i, and earned a Masters in Public Health from the University of Hawai‘i. Throughout his life, Buddy has enjoyed photography, outdoor sports, has acquired a fascination with computing technology, and has been fortunate to have traveled around the world. Buddy always strived to be in a position to provide service to his communities, which is what connected him to Mālama Maunalua.

“The work itself has been physically hands-on, mentally challenging, and always fulfilling. When I think about what I do with MM I picture myself 1) wading knee-deep through Maunalua Bay alongside like-minded friends, identifying and removing invasive algae; 2) Teaming up with scientists and fellow volunteers, meticulously collecting and evaluating important data points about the bay; 3) Improving my skills through participating in the Restore with Resilience coral restoration initiatives, and last but not least, 4) lending a hand in the Koko Head rain garden project. It has been a privilege to participate in these endeavors and I’m grateful to be a part of the effort.”

Michael Koster
A former journalist, Mike has a quarter century of experience running a performing arts nonprofit, organizing festivals and performances on the mainland (heavy on reggae, world music, and New Orleans jazz), infusing events as much as possible with sustainable practices. When he relocated to O‘ahu several years ago, he had the good fortune of moving next door to Mālama Maunalua core volunteer Ralph Dykes. In short order they kayaked together in Maunalua Bay to the first of what would be dozens of algae surveys for Mike. He’s been at it ever since, volunteering every chance he gets for algae, coral, and rain garden work. When asked what he enjoys about volunteering, Mike replied “When my feet are in the ocean or my hands in the dirt, doing something direct and constructive, all my anxieties and stresses just melt away. For me, it’s like therapy.”

Mahalo to Ralph, Buddy, and Mike for their dedication to Mālama Maunalua’s mission of restoring the health of Maunalua Bay!
FINANCIAL REPORT

**TOTAL REVENUE**

$1,209,053

- **Agencies**: 70.3%
- **Contributions**: 18.4%
- **Foundations**: 10.6%
- **Interest**: 0.7%

**REVENUE**

**TOTAL EXPENSES**

$1,074,202

- **Contractor/Consultant**: 40.4%
- **Payroll**: 50.2%
- **Others**: 9.4%

**EXPENSES**
**Mano - Shark**  
($25,000 or more)

- City and County of Honolulu Grant in Aid  
- Fish and Wildlife Service  
- Kosasa Foundation  
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
- The D’Olier Family Foundation  
- Jennifer Taylor and Paul White

**Kohala - Whale**  
($5,000 - $24,999)

- 3R Water Inc.  
- Cooke Foundation  
- Flora Family Foundation  
- Priscilla Growney  
- The Andrew and Ellen Bradley Fund of HCF  
- The Omidyar Ohana Fund of HCF  
- Graham Burns and Erika Sox  
- Tim and Robin Johns  
- Marilyn and Steve Katzman  
- Rhona and Paul Lubormirski  
- Michael and Winnie Mohr  
- Amy and David Monk  
- Michael A. and Judy Pietsch  
- Leighton and Linda Taylor  
- Jean and Kent Tsukamoto

**He’e - Octopus**  
($2,000 - $4,999)

- AECOS Inc.  
- The Hirota Sandia Family Fund at HCF  
- Kamehameha Schools  
- Joan and Paul King  
- Pledgling Foundation  
- Punahou School  
- Jake Schatz

**Honu - Turtle**  
($500 - $1,999)

- David Allison  
- Don Bondarenko and Joan Nakamura  
- Steven Ching  
- Custom Ink LLC  
- Shirley Daniel  
- Allen and Christina Doane  
- Fidelity Charitable  
- Carol Kirsch and Thomas Gottlieb  
- Kahala Hotel and Resort  
- Malia Kamisugi and Michael B. Pietsch  
- William and Judy Kern  
- Dennis Lombardi and Reneau Kennedy  
- Maui Brewing Company  
- Lynne Nakata  
- Jadine and Chris Nielsen  
- Ports and Paws LLC  
- Ramona Sayre  
- Stephen and Petra Schatz  
- Spectrum Wealth Management  
- Barry Sullivan  
- The Taketa Ohana Fund at HCF  
- Robert and Corrine Taylor  
- Rai St. Chu and Richard Turbin  
- University of Hawaii  
- Waialae Elementary School  
- Joan Weiant  
- WestPac Wealth Partners  
- Gaylord and Carol Wilcox

**Nai’a - Dolphins**  
(Up to $499)

- Aloha United Way  
- Amazon Smiles  
- Anonymous  
- Brey and Kam Fund  
- Robert Burkhead and Gloria Lau  
- CAFA Cybergrant  
- Laurie Chang  
- Deidra Coriz  
- Timothy Craig  
- Jane Culp  
- Deborah Deshais  
- Phyllis Dilley  
- Sachi Edwards  
- Maria Christina Glidden  
- Ivan and Kathleen Ishii  
- Michael and Valerie Ishii  
- Ben Kezar  
- Jane Kirton  
- Daniel Libby  
- Arlynna and Michael Livingston  
- Lu’ukai Designs  
- Judith Meyer  
- Movement Stream LLC  
- Juli Nakano-Holmes  
- Omidyar Group  
- Nicole and Michael Pedersen  
- Alexandrya Robinson  
- Schwab Charitable  
- Stefani Spencer-Cook  
- Michiko Tachibana  
- Melinda Wilson

We are thankful for every supporter, and would like to mahalo these generous donors who have helped make our success possible.
We’d like to give a huge mahalo to one of our core volunteers and adopt-a-plotters Kim Matsukawa! Kim currently works at Kupu as an Administrative Manager. While she lives in Pa‘uoa Valley, Kim says she doesn’t mind the drive to work on her plot at Paikō. After attending a couple of huki events with Mālama Maunalua through work, she wanted to learn more about how she could help out on her own.

“Adopting a plot allowed me to do just that,” she says. “Although the beginning was a little rough and I didn’t get out as much as I could this year, it definitely has changed, and coming out a few times a month with friends and co-workers has been fun. It’s also been really rewarding to see the many sea creatures that I hadn’t seen in my plot before starting to swim on by. Adopt-a-plot, it’s rewarding!”

Thus far, Kim has brought out a whopping 141 volunteers to her tiny plot, accruing a total of 318 volunteer hours and removing over 3,200 lbs of invasive algae. She’s volunteered at numerous community huki and hana pūko’a events and we’d like to give a big mahalo nui loa to Kim for the fantastic work she’s done and continues to do in the bay.