



HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

A Partnership Dedicated to Environmental Stewardship, Community Engagement, and Conservation Capacity

DRAFT 2018 Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Annual Report

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Looking Forward to 2019

Alliance Organization, Governance, & Strategic Planning

In 2018, the Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance adopted a revised organizational structure and developed strategic objectives consistent with SMART objective guidelines.

Objectives developed and adopted at the 2018 retreat addressed 3 out of 4 goals. Objectives for the final goal will be adopted early in 2019 to complete the Strategic Plan.

Under the new organizational structure, the Program Coordinator Position was redescribed to be a Program Manager, absorbing some responsibilities from the Program Director position which was sunset. The Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance Foundation committed to hiring an Executive Director and developed policies and procedures to ensure that the Foundation ED and Board of Directors would be guided by priorities of the Alliance as adopted in their Strategic Plan.

The recruitment for the Program Manager position was completed in 2019 and the position was accepted by Michelle Lazaro who will start February 1, 2019.

The Alliance also reviewed existing subcommittees and determined that effective execution of the Strategic Plan will require the expertise of the following subcommittees: Nāhululeihiwakuipapa, Effective Conservation, Community Co-Management, Cultural Integration, and Biosecurity. Additionally, the Steering Committee established a hui to support tracking the Hawai‘i Commitments from the 2016 World Conservation Congress and coordination of efforts around the 2020 Congress. The Steering Committee also identified the need for a working group to focus Alliance efforts addressing the threat of climate change. These groups may be formalized as subcommittees in 2019 as needed.

Recognizing the importance of the relationship of the Alliance with the University of Hawai‘i system, the Executive Committee along with a handful of Steering Committee members also initiated a conversation with UH leadership to identify ways to grow that relationship system-wide. A successful meeting with University of Hawai‘i system President, Dr. David Lassner, and Chancellor for Research at UH Mānoa, Dr. Michael Bruno, resulted in agreement from both sides that there are significant opportunities for the Alliance and UH system to work more closely and a commitment to identify specific ways to do so in 2019. Additionally, the Alliance was granted a blanket indirect waiver so all member contributions will only be charged 10% indirect rate rather than the standard 26%.

The Alliance held three full day Steering Committee meetings as well as a two day retreat. The Executive Committee Meeting held four half day meetings. The 2018 meeting calendar is attached and complete meeting minutes can be provided upon request.

Vision

The Hawai'i Conservation Alliance envisions thriving, abundant lands and seas with their native ecosystems actively cared for by generations of stewards, steered by excellent science and Hawaiian values and practice.

Mission

We provide unified leadership, advocacy, and collaborative action to conserve and restore native ecosystems and the unique biodiversity of our islands.

Goals

1. There is vital capacity and leadership in the Hawaiian islands to effectively conserve and restore native ecosystems and species.
2. Conservation in Hawaii is grounded in and guided by Hawaiian knowledge, values, and practice, contributing to an inclusive culture of conservation.
3. Native ecosystems are healthy and productive, native species thrive, and ecosystem services are valued and protected.
4. Existing and emerging threats to native species and ecosystems, including climate change and invasive species, are effectively addressed.

Programmatic Work

1. Capacity and Leadership Development

Goal: There is vital capacity and leadership in the Hawaiian islands to effectively conserve and restore native ecosystems and species.

1.2 Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Subcommittee

The mission of the Nāhululeihiwakuipapa subcommittee is to cultivate and model conservation leadership in Hawai‘i using trans-disciplinary strategies, generational bridging, and Hawaiian Values to support the growth of future generations of environmental stewards. Through monthly meetings, this subcommittee supports development and implementation of projects that help to meet the capacity and leadership goal of the Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance. Additionally, the group shares regular updates to increase collaboration and coordination and to avoid duplication in supporting the next generation of conservation professionals and leaders.

In 2018 Sean Marrs of The Nature Conservancy – Hawai‘i served as Chair of the Nāhululeihiwakuipapa subcommittee with Ulu Ching of Conservation International – Hawai‘i serving as Vice Chair. The subcommittee also has active participation from Alliance members and partners including University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Kupu, and Hau‘oli Mau Loa Foundation. In 2018, the Subcommittee updated their Road Map to identify specific actions the group will take to realize strategic objectives.

1.3 Hawai‘i Conservation Conference

The 25th Annual Hawai‘i Conservation Conference was held on July 24th – 26th, 2018 at the Hawai‘i Convention Center in Honolulu. The theme was *Ulu Ka Lālā i ke Kumu: From a Strong Foundation Grows and Abundant Future*. Content included daily plenary sessions, and 7 concurrent sessions consisting of general sessions, symposia, forums, workshops, and electronic posters. A total of 1,154 people registered and attended for the three-day event. The Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance ensured the conference provided a robust opportunity for professional development, sharing of cutting-edge research, networking and engaging and empowering students and emerging professionals. The Alliance, with support from staff, developed the Call for Proposals, reviewed abstracts, developed the conference schedule, liaised with Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance Foundation staff to coordinate logistical details, assigned moderators, recruiting and confirming keynote speakers, and managing the plenary sessions. Four Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance awards were given at the 2018 conference: Outstanding Leadership Award to Neil Hannahs; Conservation Innovation Award to the Hawai‘i Ant Lab; Distinguished Service Award to Audrey Newman; and Legacy Award to Hampton L. Carson. Keynote speakers were Dr. Fikret Berkes and Brutus La Benz. The 3rd opening plenary, a Gubernatorial Candidate’s Forum on the Environment, was hosted by the Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance Foundation.

An evaluation of the conference is attached to this report.

Student Involvement in Hawai'i Conservation Conference

The Hawai'i Conservation Alliance members and staff recruited student presenters and attendees and helped to develop and solicit content targeted at students and emerging professionals.

This year, 195 students and emerging professionals to attend HCC were awarded heavily discounted registration with the support of the Hau'oli Mau Loa HCC Student Scholarship program. This included 132 students and emerging professionals who received the Student Scholarship for the first time in 2018. Additionally, 113 students registered at the student rate. This amounts to slightly more than ¼ of total attendees.

The 2018 Conference saw an increase in student presenters, sixty (60) compared to 2017's thirty-one (31). Out of the sixty presenters there were 47 graduate presentations and 13 undergraduate presentations.

Hawai'i Conservation Conference: Student Numbers Over the Years

Total Number of:	2012	2013	2014	2015	2017	2018	
Student Scholarship Recipients	78	180	218	193	198	195	
Regular Student Rate Attendees	129	99	98	99	105	113	
Total Number of Student Attendees	207	279	316	292	303	308	
Total Number Conference Attendees	1100 (more than 1500 at community event)		1116	1200	1327	1213	1154

1.3.1 Pūlama Kuamo'o Mentorship Program

The Nāhululeihiwakuipapa subcommittee also continued the Pūlama Kuamo'o Mentorship. The program provided a means and structure to engage emerging and established professionals in meaningful dialogue on interests, experiences, and opportunities at the HCC. For emerging professionals, (selected from the HCC Student Scholarship Program) the program was a change to hone networking skills and to make, at minimum, two new academic or professional contacts with shared interests. For established professionals, it was an opportunity to mentor the next generation of conservationists. In 2018, 26 students and emerging professionals were matched with mentors. There was a record high number, (71), of established professionals who signed up to participate as a mentor. This increase was a result of the commitment by the Nāhululeihiwakuipapa and Alliance Steering Committee members to recruit mentors and participate themselves.

There is interest to further develop the mentorship program to be a longer program for future conferences. The high level of interest both from mentors and mentees indicates a high level of need and interest in professional mentorship.



Mentors and mentees at the Pūlama Kuamo'o Mentorship Program Meet & Greet Luncheon on Tuesday July 24th



“This mentorship was the highlight of my conference experience. It enabled me to connect with someone I may not have connected with otherwise, and I felt that we mutually benefited from the experience. I think the most beneficial aspect was just sitting down and talking story, hearing about my mentees dreams and how I might be able to help in some small way to make those happen.” – Ali Bayless, NOAA, Mentor

“I had a great experience with the program and learned much about resource management from my mentor. I benefited the most from talking with my mentor about my goals and interests, and the steps to take to reach those goals.” – Devon Aguiar, Mentee



Figure 6. Mentor Jeannine Rossa (EcoLink Consulting) and Mentee Crystal West at HCC’s Conservation Conversations Photo Booth.



Figure 7. Mentor Heather Tonneson (USFWS) and Mentee Rosebelle Ines at HCC’s Conservation Conversations Photo Booth.

1.3.2 Hawai‘i Conservation Conference Student Awards

The Student Awards were open to HCC presentations submitted by undergraduate (high school, pursuing a certificate, Associate’s, or Bachelor’s degree) and graduate (pursuing a Master’s or Doctoral degree) students. Staff from Alliance member organizations and partners helped to coordinate student awards and evaluate student presentations. 2018 Student Awards were coordinated by Noelani Puniwai of University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

The top winners of Undergraduate Poster Presentations were two high school students from Molokai High School. The Alliance will continue to recruit student abstract submissions and hope to provide resources such as workshops/webinars on how to prepare a well-written abstract during the Open Call for Proposal window in the future.



Figure 12. The 2018 Student Award winners of HCC along with Student Committee members and representative from funder The Wildlife Society Hawai‘i Chapter

HCC Student Award Recipients

Oral Presentations	Place	Name	Presentation Title	Award Amount
Graduate Student	Outstanding	Genevieve Blanchet	Genomic diversity in the "critically-endangered" 'alalā, (Hawaiian Crow; <i>Corvus hawaiiensis</i>)	\$600
	Honorable Mention	Stacey Torigoe	Staying Alive: Rare Plant Survival, Microhabitat, and Ex-Situ Rescue in Kīpahulu Valley, Haleakalā National Park	\$400
Poster Presentations				
Graduate Student	Outstanding	Brigitte Ululani Russo	Increasing Middle School Students Science and Cultural Interests Through Relevant Community Stewardship	\$500
	Honorable Mention	Koa Matsuoka	Evaluating the Seed Dispersal Efficacy of Hawai‘i’s Last Functionally Extant Frugivore	\$350
Undergraduate Student	Outstanding	Marion Powell, Cameron Kahalewai	Comparing the Difference in Plant Diversity and Soil Characteristics Between Native and Non-native Forests	\$400
	Honorable Mention	Anne Harshbarger	Assessment of Disturbance to Hawaiian Monk Seals and Birds in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands by a Hexacopter UAS	\$250

1.3.3 Nāhululeihwakuipapa Emerging Professionals Workshop: Harnessing the Power of Tacit Knowledge in connecting Communities and Building Partnerships

The Nāhululeihwakuipapa Subcommittee developed the *“Harnessing the Power of Tacit Knowledge in connecting Communities and Building Partnerships – Nāhululeihwakuipapa Emerging Professionals Workshop”* for the 2018 HCC. Facilitated by the Subcommittee’s own Keahi Makaimoku (Hau‘oli Mau Loa Foundation) and Sharon Ziegler-Chong (UH Hilo), the workshop focused on those oft-ignored tacit skills/knowledge and its importance in conservation work worldwide and how those hard-to-explain skills are influenced and passed between teacher and learner. “Tacit knowledge”, in contrast to codified knowledge that can be written down and taught in steps, is described as personal knowledge residing within the mind, behavior, and perceptions of individuals, involving experiences, insight, emotion, individual values, group norms, intuition, instinct, and judgement—or collectively an your identity or worldview.

Total attendance was estimated by volunteers to be 130.



Figure 2. Workshop panelists and moderators. Top row, from left: Keahi Makaimoku, Sharon Ziegler-Chong. Bottom row, from left: Neil Hannahs, Kamana Beamer, Serena Kaldi, and Kuhea Asiu.

Figure 1. Break out group with facilitator Linnea Heu (Nāhululeihwakuipapa Subcommittee & PIPES)

“The mentor mentee structure accompanied by the inquiry/experiential based activity with specific scenarios to contemplate was such a powerful reframing for bringing up this idea. Not only did it ask participants to recognize and mobilize our own tacit knowledge the use of real world scenarios that the presenters encountered was helpful to imagine the kinds of things folks in different areas of this field experience conflict and need to mobilize tacit knowledge to prosper in a holistic way that honors and benefits all parties.” – Andrea Charuk, Workshop participant



Figure 3. Workshop panelists Neil Hannahs speaking with a break out group.

“I was really nervous going into this conference as I’m just starting out in this new career path and as such am still learning the basics and just beginning to immerse myself in conservation life. I was able to connect with people in the field already and hear that they’ve had some of the same struggles and confidence issues I have currently, but that through asking questions and being a sponge to learning that I can obtain my goals. In addition, that I already possess so many skills that are necessary to go forward and that made me feel like I am in the right place and doing the right thing.” – Laura Doucette, Workshop participant

1.4 Conservation Career Compass

The Conservation Career Compass was designed by the Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance, with significant input from the Promise to Pae‘āina initiative partners, to inform, engage, and inspire youth and emerging professionals to successfully navigate their conservation career. The program engages students with established professionals and provides them with digital tools to chart a conservation career pathway. There are 2 primary components of the Conservation Career Compass project: an online tool (www.conservationcareercompass.org) and in-person outreach conducted by Foundation staff along with established professionals from Alliance member organizations and partners. The program is targeted at high-school students through early professionals statewide.

The Conservation Career Compass website houses a broad scope of resources about conservation careers. The website includes a) Navigator Spotlights: written and video interviews with current conservation professionals sharing their journey into the field and advice, b) Career Guidance: These blog styled articles cover topics providing advice on relevant topics such as, interviewing, writing a resume, etc., c) Academic Programs: a listing of programs in the state of Hawai‘i that can lead to a conservation career, d) Scholarships: a listing of scholarships that can help students pay for school, e) Fellowships, and f) Jobs, Internships, and Volunteer opportunities. The Next Gen Coordinator continually works with Alliance members and partners to develop additional content as well as to ensure timely and relevant opportunities are posted and available.

The project scope is state-wide although at this time limited travel funds have restricted our ability to bring the in-person presentations to students outside of O‘ahu. Alliance members statewide are committed to working with the Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance Foundation staff to bring in-person resources to Hawai‘i, Maui, and Kaua‘i in 2019.



New Conservation Career Compass sticker.



New Conservation Career Compass pop up Banner at the 2018 Kupu Environmental Fair.

Additionally, at this year’s Conference the Next Gen Program Coordinator and the Kupu AmeriCorps Conservation Connections Assistant created a “Conservation Conversations Photo Booth” to boost traffic to the Compass and Connections table and to engage with HCC participants. The “Photo Booth” allowed for HCC participants to take photos with colleagues and new friends with thematic framing. For 2019, we hope to implement this “Photo Booth” again but also incorporate video testimonials.

1.5 Conservation Connections

The Conservation Connections program is intended to enhance engagement in conservation across the archipelago through targeted outreach, volunteer engagement, and professional networking. It consists of an online database and website, in-person outreach at tabling events, and strategic application of social media.

The Conservation Connections website (www.conservationconnections.org) was created in 2013 and launched in 2014. It has undergone several updates but now includes:

1. a directory of conservation organizations and project sites which can be searched by name, geographic location, and type of work conducted.
2. A list of current opportunities including: outreach events, volunteering needs, internships, and part-time and full-time jobs.
3. An “impact” report that tracks the number of sites and users as well as a function in which organizations hosting events can input work completed.

Sites and organization create their own profiles and post opportunities. Users can browse all information and can also create their own accounts which allows them to follow specific sites and be notified about all postings from those sites. There is no charge for sites or users.

Conservation Connections has over 250 active sites and over 2300 users.

The opportunities database is the source for all current opportunities that are also highlighted on the Conservation Compass website.

Alliance members recommitted to ensuring their organizations’ profiles are current and to assigning staff to post all relevant opportunities. Additionally, members agreed to explore ways to help track the efficacy of Connections as a professional recruiting tool.

The website depends upon an aging database that is in urgent need of reconstruction, but thanks to dedicated work of the Foundation Next Gen Coordinator and Connections Assistant, it continues to operate. Rebuilding the database to ensure its long-term sustainability is a priority for 2019.

In 2019, the Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance was represented at 13 tabling events:

- UH Mānoa Spring Volunteer & Engagement Fair
- UH Mānoa Earth Day Celebration
- Navy Exchange Earth Day Celebration
- Mauka to Makai Festival
- Honolulu Zoo Earth Day
- Manu o Ku Festival
- Kupu Environmental Fair
- HEEA Symposium
- UH Mānoa Fall Volunteer & Engagement Fair
- KCC STEM Expo
- UHWO E Ola Pono Health & Wellness Fair
- Arbor Day Hawai‘i

These events were all on O‘ahu due to a lack of travel funds, however, Alliance members identified the critical need to attend tabling events statewide. Alliance staff and members will work together with the Foundation to obtain travel resources for 2019.

Throughout 2018, the Alliance staff worked with Foundation staff to develop and implement a social media strategy and calendar intended to raise awareness about priority conservation issues, about the Alliance and the tools and resources the Alliance offers including Conservation Connections, Conservation Career Compass, and the Hawai‘i Conservation Conference. As a result of this strategy, the Alliance social media presence has increased significantly and visitation to our websites has increased as well.

2017	2018
19,446 Connections website users (19,166 new, 82.4%)	22,662 Connections website users (22,296 new, 82.6%)
29 Instagram Posts	87 Instagram Posts; 1,138 Followers
2,097 Followers on Facebook	2,317 Followers on Facebook

2. Integrating Hawaiian Knowledge, Values, & Practice

2.1 Goal: Conservation in Hawaii is grounded in and guided by Hawaiian knowledge, values, and practice, contributing to an inclusive culture of conservation.

2.2 Cultural Integration Subcommittee

As in past years, the Cultural Integration Subcommittee provided input to the Conference planning team and coordinated Conference opening and daily protocol. The subcommittee also lead implementation of protocol for Steering Committee meetings. Additionally, the subcommittee provided specific suggestions for outcome-driven objectives for the Alliance Strategic Plan. In 2019, the subcommittee will inform and support implementation of these objectives.

2.3 Alliance Steering Committee Protocol

The Alliance steering committee continues to practice its oli and, in 2018, committed to improving this component of our work. At steering committee meetings, we will repeat the oli multiple times and at the Annual retreat, members of the subcommittee held a ½ hour workshop to help members improve their understanding as well as vocalization of the oli. The steering committee is committed to continuing this work in 2019.

2.4 Hawai‘i Conservation Conference Protocol

As in past years, the subcommittee coordinated the opening and daily protocol for the Hawai‘i Conservation Conference. This protocol grounds the Conference in place and sets a focused and serious, but welcoming mood for the Conference.



Conference attendees and hosts participate in opening protocol.



3. Effective Conservation

3.1 Goal: Native ecosystems are healthy and productive, native species thrive, and ecosystem services are valued and protected.

3.2 ECP Subcommittee

The effective conservation subcommittee identified the need to conduct a report summarizing the status of our ecosystems and native species. An initial scope of work was developed and the Steering Committee adopted an objective for which this report will be a critical first action step.

3.3 Community Subcommittee

In 2018, the Community Subcommittee members finalized a long-awaited position paper addressing the importance of community co-management and leadership in stewardship of our biocultural resources. In time for the 25th annual Hawai‘i Conservation Conference, the Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance adopted a position paper entitled: *Community-Based Adaptive Collaborative Management in Hawai‘i*. Hawai‘i is a national and global leader in recognizing the importance of community in effective conservation and this paper is an important tool for the Alliance to continue to provide that leadership and support the institutional changes needed to realize Alliance objectives in this area.

Members of the Subcommittee worked through the latter half of the year to modify the paper for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

The subcommittee also provided suggestions for outcome-oriented objectives which were ultimately adopted by the Steering Committee.

3.4 Community Watershed Snapshot

In 2018, the Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance, with support from the Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance Foundation, completed and released the Community Watershed Snapshot Guidebook (Guidebook). The Guidebook is a critical tool for widespread implementation of the Community Watershed Snapshot (CWS) as a tool for engaging and empowering communities to lead stewardship efforts. Through in-kind support from the Office of Planning, the project team released 100 hard copies for distribution and Alliance member, NOAA National Marine Fisheries, provided in-kind support to print an additional 100 copies for distribution in 2019. Additionally, a pdf of the Guidebook is available online and print-quality versions have been shared with partners.

A Community Watershed Snapshot (CWS) provides a status report on ridge-to-reef health. The snapshot can help communities understand the status of their priority watershed resources and ecosystems, and it can provide a foundation for management. The purposes of the guidebook are as follows: 1) To share the CWS process with community representatives who wish to unite their communities around and catalyze mauka (towards the mountains) to makai (towards the ocean) ecosystem-based management. 2) To capture and share local watershed-related knowledge alongside available agency natural resource data to inform and engage communities in collective decision-making.

4. Addressing Threats

4.1 Goal: Existing and emerging threats to native species and ecosystems, including climate change and invasive species, are effectively addressed.

4.2 Biosecurity Subcommittee

The biosecurity subcommittee continued to share progress on the implementation of the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan. This subcommittee will work in 2019 to develop specific actions the Alliance can take to support this implementation as well as compliment its work.

4.3 Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation

In 2018, the Pacific Island Climate Change Cooperative was dissolved due to Department of Interior policy. The Alliance continues to recognize the need for developing and implementing resilience and adaptation measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change on native ecosystems and species. The Steering Committee will continue to identify ways in which member organizations as well as the Alliance as a body can support this work.

Appendices

Appendix 1: 2018 Meeting Calendar

Appendix 2: 2018 HCC Evaluation Summary

Appendix 3: 2019 Programmatic Work Plan