



# HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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

## 2020 Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Annual Report

### Outline

Alliance Organization, Governance & Strategic Planning

Programmatic Work

#### 1. Capacity and Leadership

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

1.2. Nāhululehiwakuiapa Subcommittee

1.3. Hawai'i Conservation Conference (virtual)

1.3.1. Pūlama Kuamo'ō Mentorship Program

1.3.2. Student Awards

1.3.3. Nāhululehiwakuipapa Workshop

1.4. Conservation Career Compass

1.5. Conservation Connections

#### 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.

2.1.1. Cultural Integration Subcommittee

2.1.2. Alliance Steering Committee Protocol

2.1.3. Hawai'i Conservation Conference Protocol

#### 3. Effective Conservation

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

3.1.1. Effective Conservation Program Subcommittee

3.1.2. Community Subcommittee

3.1.3. Community Watershed Snapshot Guidebook

#### 4. Addressing Threats

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

4.1.1. Biosecurity Subcommittee

4.1.2. Climate Crisis in Conservation Subcommittee

4.1.3. Emerging Threats

Looking Forward to 2021



# HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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

## **Summary**

The Hawai'i Conservation Alliance (Alliance) is a collaborative effort of conservation leaders representing twenty-six governmental, cultural, educational, and non-profit organizations from across the State of Hawai'i. Collectively the Alliance members are responsible for safeguarding the biodiversity of the States natural resources. This year, the Alliance organized, facilitated and oversaw conservation training sessions, contributed to the development of informational papers on critical conservation issues, facilitated the collection and distribution of information and data for the effective conservation assessment of lands in Hawai'i, and held meetings among stakeholders to promote natural resource management and conservation.

In 2020, Alliance subcommittees and members developed and hosted successful individual presentations, forums, symposiums, and workshops for the 27th annual Hawai'i Conservation Conference (HCC) contributing content to conservation training sessions at HCC. The Alliance organized and facilitated a shift from our usual in person HCC to a virtual HCC where over 1100 conservation professionals met to discuss and promote natural resource management and conservation.

Our Effective Conservation Program (ECP) Subcommittee continued to work on collection and distributions of information and data for the Effective Conservation Assessment of lands in Hawai'i. This group reviewed current existing ECP data layers and discussed adding additional marine data into the analysis. This year the subcommittee has been working to produce layers and is targeted to present their work at the upcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress

Our Alliance members met during three full day Steering Committee meetings (one in person and two virtual) as well as a one and a half day virtual retreat where members would report out on agency updates and task progress quarterly with meeting documents and notes sent out to each member organization in their meeting packets.



# HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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

## **Introduction**

### **Alliance Organization, Governance, & Strategic Planning**

In 2020, initially the Alliance and HCAF collaboratively developed a staffing plan to re-establish a student assistant position with the Alliance and update the part-time operations manager position to a full-time administrative and events coordinator position to increase needed capacity or social media content development, tracking, management, in-person outreach events, logistical support for conference coordination and execution, and coordination support for subcommittees. These changes would provide more time for the Alliance PM and HCAF director to work on project scoping, development, and implementations, targeted outreach and communication, and cultivating additional funding sources.

As a result of the COVID 19 pandemic and budget uncertainty around the conference, the executive committee decided to freeze hiring and revision of the HCAF position, and current Alliance and HCAF staff began working from home on March 16th, 2020. In our March EC meeting the leadership team decided to transition our 4 day in person joint conference to a three day virtual conference.

Recognizing the importance of federal participation in our executive committee, our mission/vision and operating guidelines were revised to remove advocacy from the mission statement which now states: “We provide unified leadership, and collaborative action to conserve and restore native ecosystems and the unique biodiversity of our islands.”

The Alliance held three full day Steering Committee meetings as well as a two and a half day retreat. The Executive Committee Meeting held six half day meetings. The 2020 meeting calendar is attached and complete meeting minutes can be provided upon request. The Alliance continues to recognize the importance of our subcommittees and all groups have been meeting on a consistent basis.



# HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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

## **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 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 Hawai'i 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.



# HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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

## **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 2020 Linnea Heu of the Pacific Island Internship Programs for Exploring Science (PIPES) program served as Chair of the Nāhululeihiwakuipapa subcommittee. The subcommittee also has active participation from Alliance members and partners including University of Hawai'i at Hilo, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Conservation International – Hawai'i, and The Nature Conservancy – Hawai'i. In 2020, the Subcommittee focused on pivoting our annual Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Emerging Professionals Workshop to a virtual format for the 2020 Hawai'i Conservation Conference. In addition, the subcommittee developed two programmatic surveys to evaluate the efficacy of the programs conducted by the Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Subcommittee and to understand where improvements can be made. One survey was distributed to the members of the Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Subcommittee and the other survey was distributed to the members of the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Steering Committee. In addition, the subcommittee brainstormed a list of potential new subcommittee members that could be approached to join the Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Subcommittee in 2021.

#### **1.3 Hawai'i Conservation Conference**

The 27th Annual Hawai'i Conservation Conference was held on Sept. 1-3, 2020 virtually using BigMarker as the conference platform. The theme was *Ola Ka 'Āina Momona: Managing for Abundance*. Content included daily plenary sessions, and 6 concurrent sessions consisting of general sessions, symposia, forums, workshops, and electronic posters. A total of over 1,100 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





# HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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

|                                   |  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|-----------------------------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Student Scholarship Recipients    | 78                                       | 180  | 218  | 193  | 198  | 195  | 203  | 366  |
| Regular Student Rate Attendees    | 129                                      | 99   | 98   | 99   | 105  | 113  | 101  | 27   |
| Total Number of Student Attendees | 207                                      | 279  | 316  | 292  | 303  | 308  | 304  | 393  |
| Total Number Conference Attendees | 1100 (more than 1500 at community event) | 1116 | 1200 | 1327 | 1213 | 1154 | 1145 | 1128 |

### 1.3.1 Pūlama Kuamo‘o Mentorship Program

The Nāhululeihwakuipapa 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. The 2020 Hawai‘i Conservation Conference was the first time we conducted the Pūlama Kuamo‘o Mentorship Program in a virtual format. Despite the program being pivoted to a virtual format, it did not affect the amount of mentors and mentees we accepted into the program this year. In 2020, 20 students and emerging professionals were matched with mentors.

There is interest to further develop the mentorship program to be a longer program for future conferences. By experimenting with a virtual format for the Pūlama Kuamo‘o Mentorship Program this year, the Nāhululeihwakuipapa Subcommittee has already started brainstorming how this can help extend the program. There is a continued high level of interest from both mentors and mentees indicating that there is a high level of need and interest in professional mentorship.

### 1.3.2 Hawai‘i Conservation Conference Student Awards

The Student Awards were open to HCC speed talk and oral presentations submitted by undergraduate (high school, pursuing a certificate, Associate’s, or Bachelor’s degree) and



# HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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

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. In 2020, there were student abstracts submitted under all of the award categories. However, there is a continued trend of little to no presentations under the Undergraduate Oral Presentations category. There were 41 oral presentations judged (40 of them Graduate students; 1 of them an Undergraduate student) and 24 speed talk presentations judged (14 of them Graduate students; 10 of them Undergraduate students) for a total of 65 student presentations.

One of the top winners of the Undergraduate Speed Talk Presentations was a high school student from Kaua'i High School. This is another example of the type of professional development the Alliance and the Nāhululehiwakuipapa Subcommittee want to foster and support amongst Hawai'i's students and emerging professionals.

In 2021, the Alliance will continue to recruit a significant amount of student abstract submissions and develop and host webinars for potential student abstract submitters on how to prepare a well-written abstract during the Open Call for Proposal window.

## HCC Student Award Recipients

| <b>Oral Presentations</b>    | <b>Place</b>      | <b>Name</b>            | <b>Presentation Title</b>   | <b>Award Amount</b> |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---|---------------------|
| <b>Graduate Student</b>      | Outstanding       | Austin Greene          | #449: White Syndrome: Insights from a decade of coral disease monitoring in Guam                                | \$450               |
|                              | Honorable Mention | Alexandra Hilary Nance | #315: Taking invasive rodent management to greater heights  | \$300               |
| <b>Undergraduate Student</b> | Outstanding       | Sofia Ferreira         | #500: Examining coral community composition and 3D habitat structure on shipwrecks located in Apra Harbor, Guam | \$300               |
|                              |                   |                        |   |                     |



# HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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

| <b>Speed Talk Presentations</b> | <b>Place</b>      | <b>Name</b>               | <b>Presentation Title</b>   | <b>Award Amount</b> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---|---------------------|
| <b>Graduate Student</b>         | Outstanding       | Maria Sara Costantini     | #574: Metabarcoding of fecal samples to determine foraging ecology of two insectivorous honeycreepers | \$450               |
|                                 | Honorable Mention | Lukanicole Chihiro Zavas  | #587: (re)Establishing Pilina: Understanding the relationship between communities and 'ālae 'ula      | \$300               |
| <b>Undergraduate Student</b>    | Outstanding       | Kai Mottley               | #629: Using Geographic Information Systems to Model Sea Level Rise Refugia for Endangered Species     | \$300               |
|                                 | Honorable Mention | Felicia Lusero & Jade Lee | #717: Phos-Chek LC95A Native Hawaiian Plant Sensitivity Study   | \$200 each          |

### **1.3.3 Nāhululehiwakuipapa Emerging Professionals Workshop: Engaging in the Political Process to Support 'Āina Momona**

The Nāhululehiwakuipapa Subcommittee developed the “Engaging in the Political Process to Support 'Āina Momona - A Nāhululehiwakuipapa Emerging Professionals Workshop” was developed for HCC 2020 help participants have a better understanding of the different bodies of government and their jurisdictions, with a main focus on Hawai'i's state political processes. Through the workshop we also aimed for participants to feel empowered to leverage their voices, through the different actions highlighted in the workshop, to create representation in our political system that is truly responsive to the needs of our communities and 'āina. This two-hour workshop consisted of presentations from Hawai'i's conservation, political, and government professionals who have extensive experience and expertise with the Hawai'i state political processes. Guest



# HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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

presenters included Linnea Heu – Pacific Island Internship Programs for Exploring Science (PIPES), Katie Kamelamela – Akaka Foundation for Tropical Forests, Christy Martin – Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS), Keanu Young – Hawai'i State Public Access Room (PAR), Virginia Beck – Hawai'i State Public Access Room (PAR), Sharon Ziegler-Chong – (UH Hilo), and Bethany Morrison – (County of Hawai'i).

Total attendance was 322 individuals with 299 engaged individuals, provided by the BigMarker conference platform data analytics report.

## **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](http://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 for the year 2020 COVID-19 has restricted our ability to bring the in-person presentations to students across the Hawaiian Islands. Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation staff will explore virtual presentations for the rest of 2020 and for 2021 until it is safe to travel again.

## **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



# HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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

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](http://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 organizations 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, it continues to operate. Rebuilding the database to ensure its long-term sustainability is a priority for 2021.

In 2020, the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance was represented at 2 tabling events:

- January 22<sup>nd</sup> - Internship Workshop at UH Hilo
- February 28<sup>th</sup> - UH Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources (CTAHR) Hiring Fair

Due to COVID-19, Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation staff did not attend as many tabling events compared to previous years. All tabling events that staff would usually participate in were cancelled for 2020. However, as the Hawai'i community is adjusting to our new virtual world, the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance & Foundation will be represented the 2 upcoming virtual tabling events listed below:

- October 23rd - Waipahu High School's Academy of Natural Resources Project Mentor and Career Exploration Fair



# HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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

- October 28<sup>th</sup> - Kapi'olani Community College (KCC) STEM Expo

Compared to previous years, the Conservation Connections program did not have a Conservation Connections Assistant. The Alliance & Foundation social media presence was not as prominent as it has been in the past. However, during the 2020 Hawai'i Conservation Conference, it was a priority to have a strong social media presence highlighting Conference presentations, speakers, registration, scholarships, etc. We did see an increase of followers and engagement across our social media platforms.

| 2017   | 2018   | 2019  | 2020                              |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| 19,446<br>Connections<br>website users<br>(19,166 new,<br>82.4%) | 22,662<br>Connections<br>website users<br>(22,296 new,<br>82.6%) | 29,243<br>Connections<br>website users<br>(28,674 new<br>82.2%) | N/A                               |
| 29 Instagram<br>Posts  | 87 Instagram<br>Posts; 1,138<br>Followers                        | 272 Instagram<br>Posts 1,556<br>Followers                       | 2,088<br>Instagram<br>Followers   |
| 2,097<br>Followers on<br>Facebook                                | 2,317<br>Followers on<br>Facebook                                | 2882 Followers<br>on Facebook                                   | 2,924<br>Followers on<br>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. They developed and hosted a virtual kuahu during conference opening protocol at the start of the conference described in the section 2.4 below.



# HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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

The subcommittee also led implementation of protocol for all Steering Committee meetings beginning each meeting with the Alliance Oli. During our retreat last year, this subcommittee led an introduction activity to build cultural competency among all Alliance Steering committee members to connect each individual to place.

The subcommittee continued to survey all members assessing current cultural competency training, began translating the position paper and updating the subcommittee website, and contributed to the social and cultural indicators that will be used in the ECP subcommittee State of Conservation Report.

## **2.3 Alliance Steering Committee Protocol**

The Alliance steering committee continues to practice its oli and, in 2020, committed to continuing to improve this component of our work. At steering committee meetings, begin with the oli and elaborate on a specific line at each meeting. At the Annual retreat last year, members of the subcommittee led an introduction activity to help members improve their understanding and importance of place. The steering committee is committed to continuing this work and in 2020 we have now included a ho'olauna activity that all members participate in during their member introductions.

## **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. Due to the virtual nature of the conference this year, the protocol was adapted and this subcommittee developed and hosted a virtual kuahu during conference opening protocol at the start of the conference. Conference attendees participated by providing one photo of an element of 'āina (land and seascapes) – any plant, animal, limu, coral, rock, weather element, one word describing your reason for bringing this to kuahu, and the Island you represent (Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, O'ahu, Kaua'i, Papahānaumokuākea, or 'Āina 'Ē – outside of Hawai'i) which was all brought together with the oli "*E ulu ē*" which was shared, vocalizing our intentions for growth, abundance and aloha and helping maintain our connection to the world around us and its inhabitants, including one another.

## **3. Effective Conservation**



# HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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

**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. The subcommittee has reviewed current existing ECP data layers, discussed adding additional marine data into the analysis. Last year the subcommittee held an all day workshop to identify training and orientation time, talk about the bigger picture initiative of the different conservation practices. This year the subcommittee has been working to produce layers and is targeted to present their work at the upcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress

### 3.3 Community Subcommittee

In 2020 the Community Subcommittee held five meetings and created a subcommittee charter statement “Our role is to ensure HCA is effectively engaging the community in our ECP initiative”. The Community Subcommittee members uploaded the position paper addressing the importance of community co-management and leadership in stewardship of our biocultural resources to the Alliance website. 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.

The subcommittee also provided suggestions for outcome-oriented objectives which were ultimately adopted by the Steering Committee. In collaboration with the ECP Subcommittee, a community section of the report was created and included in the larger draft.

### 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.



# HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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

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 continue to work in 2021 to develop specific actions the Alliance can take to support this implementation as well as compliment its work. This subcommittee also produced a biosecurity specific conference journey document outlining biosecurity presentations at the virtual HCC. Working closely with the climate crisis in conservation subcommittee a series of two presentations that focused on the intersection of invasive species and climate change were completed in 2020 as well as a one hour forum at HCC this year.

### 4.3 Climate Crisis in Conservation Subcommittee

#### Climate Crisis in Conservation Subcommittee

Last year the Alliance recognized the need for developing and implementing resilience and adaptation measures to address the impacts of climate change on native ecosystems and species and created a new subcommittee, the Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations Subcommittee. It was renamed the Climate Crisis in Conservation Subcommittee to better reflect the members' shared sense of urgency. The Subcommittee was chaired by Jeff Burgett.

One of the two charges for the Subcommittee was to identify carbon offset projects in the State of Hawai'i that could be used to offset conference travel for both the World Conservation Conference and the joint Society of Conservation Biology and Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Conservation Conference. Presentations and discussion resulted in a project being selected by the Steering Committee in February 2020. Due to COVID-19 and our limited travel footprint with a virtual HCC, we have postponed the carbon offset for conference travel until we are able to attend and host in-person conferences.



# HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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

The second charge was to develop a summary of the 4<sup>th</sup> National Climate Assessment for use within Hawai'i. Due to the substantial effort required, and the limited desire expressed by member organizations for the potential product, this action was deferred.

The Subcommittee developed and hosted a successful forum at the HCC on “Conveying a message of hope in conservation at the advent of the Anthropocene.” At the October meeting, the Subcommittee selected its next chair, Christian Giardina.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: 2020 Meeting Calendar

Appendix 2: 2020 HCC Evaluation Summary

Appendix 3: 2021 Programmatic Work Plan