



# HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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

## 2021 Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Annual Report

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## **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.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation hired Pua'ala Pascua as the Ahupua'a Accelerator Initiative Coordinator. The new program was created as a coordinated effort to enhance and accelerate ahupua'a-scale stewardship and restoration at six selected sites statewide in partnership with the Harold K L Castle Foundation, Kamehameha Schools, Hawai'i Conservation Alliance members, and community-based organizations working at each of the sites.

In 2021, Alliance subcommittees and members developed and hosted successful individual presentations, forums, symposiums, and workshops for the 28th 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 839 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 two 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. The Executive Committee Meeting held four half day meetings. The 2021 meeting calendar is attached, and complete meeting minutes can be provided upon request.



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## **Introduction**

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

In 2021, as a continued result of the COVID 19 pandemic and budget uncertainty around the conference, the executive committee decided to continue to freeze hiring and current Alliance and HCAF staff continued to work from home since on March 16th, 2020. On February 16<sup>th</sup>, the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation hired Pua'ala Pascua as the Ahupua'a Accelerator Initiative (AAI) Coordinator. The AAI program was created as a coordinated effort to enhance and accelerate ahupua'a-scale stewardship and restoration at six selected sites statewide in partnership with the Harold K L Castle Foundation, Kamehameha Schools, Hawai'i Conservation Alliance members, and community-based organizations working at each of the sites.

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 half day retreat. The Executive Committee Meeting held six half day meetings. The 2021 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.



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## **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.



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## **Programmatic Work**

### **1. Capacity and Leadership Development**

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

#### **1.2. Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Subcommittee**

In 2021, Lorena “Tap” Wada of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) volunteered to serve as Chair of the Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Subcommittee for 2021 and 2022. The intention is that during the year of 2022 a co-Chair will be selected to be on-boarded by Tap to become Chair of the subcommittee in 2023.

During the year, the Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Subcommittee updated and approved its 2021 – 2023 Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Road Map looking at the programs the subcommittee would like to implement and grow over the next few years. A copy of the 2021 – 2023 Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Road Map has been posted to the subcommittee [website](#) and can be viewed [here](#). In addition, a Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Subcommittee Member Recruitment document was created to aid in efforts made towards recruiting new members for our subcommittee. There were two new members who joined the subcommittee this year – one from UH Honolulu Community College and the other from UH at Hilo. The member recruitment document can be viewed at the website above and [here](#).

The subcommittee has continued and 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. Subcommittee members ensured that our Pūlama Kuamo‘o Mentorship Program and Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Emerging Professionals Workshop were modified for the second completely virtual Hawai‘i Conservation Conference this year. Looking to 2022, the subcommittee hopes its programs can return to in-person while still incorporating some of the new technology and formats used in 2021, as well as growing its subcommittee membership.

#### **1.3. Hawai‘i Conservation Conference**



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The 28th Annual Hawai'i Conservation Conference was held on July 27-29, 2021 virtually using BigMarker as the conference platform. The theme was Kūlia i ka huliau — Striving for change . Content included daily plenary sessions, and 5 concurrent sessions consisting of general sessions (oral and speed talks), symposia, forums, workshops, and electronic posters. A total of over 839 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 2021 conference: Outstanding Leadership Award to the Protect Koho'olawe 'Ohana; Conservation Innovation Award to Kānaena Together; Distinguished Service Award to Edwn Misaki; and Legacy Award to Betsy Gagne. Three Keynote Session Conservation Conversations took place at the conference which included the following “Kūlia i ka Huliau – Transforming Law and Policy” with Malia Akutagawa & Denise Antolini, “Kūlia i ka Huliau – Transforming our Food Systems” with Jhana Young & Dr. Noa Lincoln, and “Kūlia i ka Huliau – Transforming our Economy” – Dr. Kamanamaikalani Beamer & John De Fries.

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 and emerging professional presenters and attendees. This year, 214 students and emerging professionals were awarded a heavily discounted registration rate to attend the 2021 Hawai'i Conservation Conference through the support of the Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation HCC Student & Emerging Professional Scholarship program. Students were able to attend at a discounted price of \$5, while emerging professionals were able to attend at a price of \$15. Being a completely virtual conference, students and emerging professionals received access to all three days of Conference, networking events, and the ability to rewatch conference sessions. There were 153 students and 61 emerging professionals. Additionally, there 11 individuals with no connection to Hawai'i who registered under the Student Rate. These individuals represented the continental U.S., Sweden, and Australia. Lastly, the Student Awards program saw 50 student presenters this year. There were 44 graduate student presentations and 6 undergraduate student presentations.

## **Hawai'i Conservation Conference: Student Numbers Over the Years**



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<b>Total Number of:</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Student Scholarship Recipients	78	180	218	193	198	195	203	366	214
Regular Student Rate Attendees	129	99	98	99	105	113	101	27	11
Total Number of Student Attendees	207	279	316	292	303	308	304	393	225
Total Number Conference Attendees	1100 (more than 1500 at community event)	1116	1200	1327	1213	1154	1145	1128	839

### **1.3.1. Pūlama Kuamo‘o Mentorship Program**

The Nāhululeihiwakuipapa conducted its annual Pūlama Kuamo‘o Mentorship program for the Hawai‘i Conservation Conference in a completely virtual format again this year. The program aims to provide a space where the next generation of conservation leaders can engage and network with established professionals in the conservation field here in Hawai‘i. Mentors and mentees are paired based on the interests and needs of mentees who have applied through the Student or Emerging Professional Scholarship programs. Like years past, mentor/mentee pairs are expected to complete program expectations to make the most of their mentorship experience at the Hawai‘i Conservation Conference.

To make sure mentor/mentee pairs could feel like they were in the same room connecting with one another, the Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Subcommittee decided to use a virtual networking platform called Remo. This platform provided a visual display of a room with multiple tables and with each person showing up in the room as a circle icon with either their initials or a profile picture. The subcommittee assigned 2-3 mentor/mentee pairs to the different table. This was done to alleviate any awkwardness or anxiety that might be felt if meeting just one on one.



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This year there were 17 mentor/mentee pairs. Looking to future years, the Nāhululeihwakuipapa Subcommittee will continue to accept as many mentor/mentee pairs as possible. For 2022, a mentor orientation/on-boarding will be provided to make sure mentors understand the purpose of the program expectations and feel confident in serving as a Mentor during the Hawai'i Conservation Conference.

## **1.3.2. Nāhululeihwakuipapa Emerging Professionals Workshop: “Workshop #51: Conservation Connections: Explore Your Possible Pathways – Nāhululeihwakuipapa Networking Session”**

The Nāhululeihwakuipapa Subcommittee hosts an emerging professional workshop annually at the Hawai'i Conservation Conference to help the next generation of conservation leaders develop and apply new skills beneficial to their career and personal success. This year, the originally intent was to do a workshop engaging in the Design Thinking Process. However, the subcommittee found it difficult to pivot the topic to be taught in a virtual format. Based on surveys submitted by students and emerging professionals who had participated in prior workshops, the subcommittee decided to focus on the topic of networking. Networking opportunities is something that is frequently asked for in post-Conference surveys. At the 2021 Hawai'i Conservation Conference the workshop was entitled “Workshop #51: Conservation Connections: Explore Your Possible Pathways – Nāhululeihwakuipapa Networking Session.”

The subcommittee utilized the Remo platform again for this workshop to have multiple virtual tables where workshop participants could gather around certain conservation topics. The workshop had about 80 participants representing students, emerging professionals, and established professionals which allowed for knowledge sharing and network building. The pre-selected conservation topics included: marine science; biocultural stewardship; partnerships for effective conservation, managing state lands and resources; environmental planning; conservation communications and marketing; environmental education; conservation research; environmental consulting; climate change; and partnerships to link research to communities. There were several Hawai'i Conservation Alliance member organizations that had representatives serve as conversation facilitators. In addition, all participants had access to a “Suggested Talking Points & Networking Etiquette Guidelines” document to help guide participants through the process of networking.

Based on post-workshop surveys, the participants learned a lot from the other participants, made connections, and really enjoyed having the opportunity and dedicated space to network with others at the Hawai'i Conservation Conference regardless of career level. At future Hawai'i Conservation Conferences, the Nāhululeihwakuipapa Subcommittee is dedicated to providing these networking opportunities for the next generation conservation leaders and established professionals.



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### **1.3.3. Abstract Mentoring Program & Student Awards**

To provide capacity building opportunities the next generation of conservation leaders, this year the Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Subcommittee piloted the Abstract Mentoring Program. The program intended to give students and emerging professionals (Mentees), who would be submitting abstracts to the 2021 Hawai'i Conservation Conference, extra support in honing their writing skills to increase the chances of their abstract being accepted to the Conference. Mentors were established professionals who have had experience with submitting abstracts to the Conference, participated as a Conference abstract reviewer, and/or have served on the Abstract Review Committee. There was a total of 6 Mentees who participated in this pilot program, 5 of which had their abstracts accepted into the Conference. Mentees were expected to submit a copy of their abstract prior to the submission deadline to be paired with a Mentor. The Mentor then provided an evaluation and constructive feedback (not direct text edits) of the abstract using the same criteria as the official abstract review process. The Mentees then had the option to incorporate the feedback to abstract and officially submit their abstract or go through another round of evaluation (with permission of the Mentor) prior to officially submitting their abstract. The Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Subcommittee thinks the program was a success and will implement it in future years.

The Student Awards program was also hosted this year at the 2021 Hawai'i Conservation Conference and receiving continued sponsorship from The Wildlife Society – Hawai'i Chapter. The Students Awards program was open to speed talks, posters, and oral 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. Their presentations were evaluated by volunteer judges (Conference attendees) to determine the best presentations in each category. This year, there were 50 student presenters this year. There were 44 graduate student presentations and 6 undergraduate student presentations. The Student Award recipients will be announced before the end of the year.

There is hope that through recruitment, resources, and the Abstract Mentoring Program there will be an increase in student submissions, especially undergraduate submissions, to the annual Hawai'i Conservation Conference.

### **1.4. Conservation Career Compass**

Conservation Career Compass is a conservation career pathway resource developed by the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance and Foundation, with significant input from the 2016/2017 Promise to Pae'āina initiative partners, to inform, engage, and inspire youth and emerging professionals to



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successfully navigate their conservation career. The [website](#) houses: 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.

In 2021, there was a new Navigator Spotlight posted featuring [Hope Ronco](#) of the Joint Institute for Marine & Atmospheric Research working collaboratively with NOAA PIFSC Hawaiian Monk Seal Research Program. Similar to past Navigator Spotlights, Hope shares her pathway to a conservation career and advice that she would like to share with the next generation of conservation leaders. Before the end of the year, another Navigator Spotlight will be posted featuring Janel Scharhag of USDA APHIS Wildlife Services Hawai'i. In addition, a new Career Guidance Blog was posted highlighting "[Tips for Writing a Strong Abstract for the Hawai'i Conservation Conference](#)." This was posted to help the conservation community prepare adequate abstracts for the 2021 Hawai'i Conservation Conference, as well as future Conferences. Based on feedback from different virtual outreach events in 2021, a blog article focused on science communications will be posted to Conservation Career Compass in the near future.

The COVID pandemic has continued to put a strain on the number of in-person events to participate in tabling or to give presentations to students and emerging professionals about the conservation career field and the resources and opportunities available to pursue a career in this field. However, in 2021 the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation Next Gen Program Coordinator presented at 9 virtual events:

- March 3<sup>rd</sup> – UH West O'ahu Spring Career & Internship Fair
- March 24<sup>th</sup> – UH Mānoa & Kapi'olani Community College Community Spotlight
- April 8<sup>th</sup> – Hawai'i Green Growth's Sustainability Pathways Networking Panel Discussion at the IUCN Youth Summit
- April 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> – UH Hilo & Honolulu Community College Lā Honua/Earth Day
- May 7<sup>th</sup> – UH West O'ahu Math+Science+X Seminar Series: "Promoting Transdisciplinary Knowledge to Bridge Careers in STEM and Community"
- September 30<sup>th</sup> – Nā Hua Ho'ohuli i ka Pono Hui Kumu Session: "Care for the 'Āina While Caring For Yourself – Discussions on Strategies and Resources for Building A Successful Career in Conservation"



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- October 7<sup>th</sup> – UH West O‘ahu Fall Career & Internship Fair
- October 14<sup>th</sup> – Kapi‘olani Community College Fall STEM Expo
- October 22<sup>nd</sup> – Waipahu High School Academy of Natural Resources Career Exploration Fair

## **1.5. Conservation Connections**

The Conservation Connections program (complemented by the Conservation Career Compass program) is intended to raise awareness of conservation and environmental stewardship by providing a one-stop shop of the different opportunities and environmental organizations across the state of Hawai‘i. Opportunities include volunteering, internships, community events, as well as full and part-time jobs. These opportunities are posted in real-time to the [website](#) by the 200 plus organizations who have a profile on the website. However, the Conservation Connections website was built in 2013 and is in desperate need of a rebuild for its database that houses all the above-mentioned information.

In 2021, the Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance Foundation Next Gen Program Coordinator and Executive Director put out a [request bids for a Database Rebuild Scoping Project](#) to develop a scope of work to build an effective and efficient database that would feed into, both, Conservation Connections and Conservation Career Compass. Through Catchafire, a skill-based volunteering platform, a volunteer with extensive knowledge on database design and cloud-based platforms helped develop a scope of work for the database rebuild. The Catchafire volunteer took an inventory of all the different features of the Conservation Connections website to identify which items were the most important and how they could be addressed by today’s technology. There is now a [Request for Interest – Website & Database Rebuild](#) document posted to the Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance [website](#) to seek a contractor who will design, implement, and provide ongoing support of an adaptive web-based database and website to replace the currently outdated Conservation Connections. In 2022, the Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance Foundation will seek out funding to recruit a contractor to rebuild this very important resource for the next generation of Hawai‘i’s conservation leaders, as well as the broader Hawai‘i community.

Social media presence of the Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance and Foundation is another part of the Conservation Connections and Conservation Career Compass programs. Due to capacity, there has been a decline in the amount of social media posts produced. A strong social media presence with regards to the different aspects and activities surrounding the annual Hawai‘i Conservation Conference continues to be a top priority. This includes social media posts on the Call for Abstracts, keynote speakers, registration, scholarships, Conference presentations, and



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more. However, despite the decline in the number of posts, there has been a significant increase in the number of followers across our social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
19,446 Connections website users (19,166 new, 82.4%)	22,662 Connections website users (22,296 new, 82.6%)	29,243 Connections website users (28,674 new 82.2%)	30,512 Connections website users (30,243 new, 86.2%)	25,586* Connections website users (25,309 new, 85.6%)
29 Instagram Posts	87 Instagram Posts; 1,138 Followers	272 Instagram Posts; 1,556 Followers	71 Instagram Posts; 2,088 Instagram Followers	44 Instagram Posts; 3,182 followers
2,097 Followers on Facebook	2,317 Followers on Facebook	2882 Followers on Facebook	2,924 Followers on Facebook	3,774 Followers on Facebook

\* This number represents data from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 through November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

## 1.6. IUCN World Conservation Congress Hawai'i-Pacific Pavilion

In September of 2021, after two postponements, the IUCN World Conservation Congress was hosted in Marseille, France. Several Alliance member staff including Alliance Steering Committee members joined a delegation from Hawai'i that attended both in person and virtually. Delegation members lead and participated in global conservation conversations to elevate Hawai'i's conservation needs in areas including biosecurity, climate change, and indigenous-lead conservation and environmental justice. Delegates joined partners from IUCN Oceania at the Oceania-Hawai'i Pavilion, sharing successes and needs. The majority of these presentations were streamed via Facebook live on the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance page so they would be available for local audiences.

## 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 theme development, planning team, and coordinated Conference opening and daily protocol. They



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developed and hosted a virtual kuahu during conference opening protocol at the start of the conference described in the section 2.4 below.

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 is committed to improve this component of our work. At steering committee meetings we always begin with the oli and elaborate on a specific line at each meeting. Members of the cultural subcommittee have been modifying and building upon the ho'olauna 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.



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## **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. This past year, the subcommittee produced layers and presented their work at the upcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress and Hawaii Conservation Conference. An initial draft of the report has been completed and has been shared at our August SC meeting and through an afternoon workshop at our Annual retreat.

### **3.3. Community Subcommittee**

In 2021 the Community Subcommittee held five meetings and created a subcommittee charter statement last year that “Our role is to ensure HCA is effectively engaging the community in our ECP initiative”. In collaboration with the ECP Subcommittee, a community section of the report was created and included in the larger draft. At each subcommittee meeting, updates from the newly created Ahupua‘a Accelerator Initiative (AAI) are shared with the subcommittee in an effort to deepen and expand coordinated support for community-centered restoration within and beyond the AAI network of Site Partners. At the Hawai‘i Conservation Conference members of the subcommittee worked to organize and facilitate a session around terrestrial Community-based Subsistence Forestry Areas (CBFSA) that was well attended and will be uploaded to our vimeo page shared widely on our website. The subcommittee also supported a session convened by the AAI entitled “Nā ‘ono o ka ‘āina: Biocultural stewardship for abundance” which celebrated ongoing statewide efforts to steward for abundance.

### **3.4. Ahupua‘a Accelerator Initiative**

In 2021, hosted by the Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance Foundation, the Ahupua‘a Accelerator Initiative (AAI) was established to support and inform effective ahupua‘a-scale conservation and restoration across Hawai‘i by enabling and supporting communities of practice, including targeted efforts with a beginning network of six Site Partners. Together with the AAI, Site Partners engage in strategic visioning, action planning, and/or other related programmatic goal setting to identify, then advance locally and culturally centered restoration goals. To accomplish these goals, AAI Site Partners receive technical capacity support as well as grant-sourced funding support, which are collectively identified through regular engagement with community leaders and groups. Foundational relationship building efforts with site partners, and eventually



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between and across site partners and their respective networks, is central to the long-term success of the AAI's efforts to accelerate pathways for ahupua'a-scale restoration.

Beyond the Site Partner meetings, the AAI has engaged in a number of new and ongoing 'āina and culture-based collaborations. Collaborations include advising and serving as a keynote at the Coastal Biocultural Restoration Workshop in May 2021 (<https://www.bcrworkshop.com/>). The virtual workshop which engaged more than 300 participants across six countries in a Hawai'i-centered and culturally-grounded exploration of coastal restoration. The AAI Coordinator is also working closely with the University of Hawai'i Office of Indigenous Innovation to deepen and expand opportunities for culturally-centered advancement of Native Hawaiians in the academic and professional fields of science, education, entrepreneurship, among others. Finally, the AAI Coordinator has participated in several social enterprise and business-related discussions to provide insight on locally and culturally-grounded approaches and to enhance alignment with ongoing ahupua'a restoration efforts. Through network introductions, the AAI Coordinator has interfaced with sustainable financing and community-centered business support groups who aim to meaningfully engage and support communities that may encounter opportunities for scaled revenue generation models in the distant future.

The Community Sub Committee receives regular updates and provides feedback and discussion space as needed to support the implementation of the AAI. Additionally, the work has informed discussions within the Effective Conservation Program.

## **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 2022 to develop specific actions the Alliance can take to support this implementation as well as complement its work. This subcommittee also produced a biosecurity specific conference journey document outlining biosecurity presentations at the virtual HCC.

### **4.3. Climate Crisis in Conservation Subcommittee**

Climate Crisis in Conservation Subcommittee started 2021 with three goals: Discuss and design an alliance type organization for engaging Hawai'i's climate change mitigation and adaptation needs, organize a leadership workshop on climate change, and organize a session on Climate Change for HCC.



# HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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

At HCC 2021 USGS PICASC led the development and coordination of a session at HCC which highlighted federal agency response to change in administration as well to demonstrated how federal agencies work together to tackle climate issues that was promoted in our plenary session opening and will be uploaded and available online on our vimeo page. The subcommittee has also been discussing the pros and cons of a climate mitigation and adaptation alliance to support the mitigation and adaptation needs of Hawaii's NGOs, Native Hawaiian Serving Organizations, and State and Federal agencies. An important partner in the development of such an alliance is the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. In these meetings the group has identified two significant needs. One that an umbrella organization is needed to help convene various organizations working on both climate adaptation and mitigation in Hawai'i with the goal being to enhance communication, coordination, where possible collaboration, and to improve capacity to strategize as a collective. The other identified need is a clearing house for both mitigation and adaptation resources, grants, and updates for Hawai'i. This would include a simple inventory of who is doing what where in Hawaii. This central entry point for the public can enhance the larger communities efforts, which now are fragmented and poorly coordinated

In the future the subcommittee plans to organize a Leadership Workshop to explore the scope of a Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Alliance. This Workshop would have as a function better understand who will be served by this alliance, what are the actions and functions of the alliance, and how do we prevent duplication while creating synergies.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: 2021 Meeting Calendar

Appendix 2: 2021 HCC Evaluation Summary

Appendix 3: 2022 Programmatic Work Plan