



# HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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

## 2022 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-seven 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 June 1<sup>st</sup>, the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation hired Kate Brittain as the Administration and Program Support Specialist. This new position replaced the previous Operations Manager position and was created to provide additional support for Foundation and Alliance programs.

We welcomed two new members to the Alliance Steering Committee. The Army Natural Resources Program on Oahu (ANRPO) and the KUPU Program.

In 2022, Alliance subcommittees and members developed and hosted successful individual presentations, forums, symposiums, and workshops for the 29th 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 600 conservation professionals met to discuss and promote natural resource management and conservation.

Our Effective Conservation Program (ECP) Subcommittee led the creation of an executive summary of the Conservation of Our Native Biocultural Legacy in Hawai'i: 2022 Status Report which was presented during the opening plenary session at the Hawaii Conservation Conference. This report identified key indicators of effective conservation in the Hawaiian Islands as well as metrics to evaluate the status of these indicators. The Status of Conservation Report assesses our current conditions using the best available spatial data for the 8 inhabited Hawaiian Islands.

Our Alliance members met during three full day virtual Steering Committee meetings as well as 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 three half day meetings. The 2022 meeting calendar is attached, and complete meeting minutes can be provided upon request.



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## **Introduction**

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

In 2022, as a continued result of the COVID pandemic Alliance and Foundation staff continued to work from home and host meetings virtually since on March 16th, 2020.

The Alliance held three full day Steering Committee meetings and three half day Executive Committee Meeting and five strategic planning meetings. The 2022 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 on a quarterly or monthly schedule.

The University of Hawaii and Hawaii Conservation Alliance working group met seven times this year to discuss a growing the relationship between the Alliance and the University and discuss a transition of the administrative home from the Center of Conservation Research and Training to the Office of the Vice President of Research and Innovation. On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, members of the working group met with University leadership to work together to create a stronger partnership to grow leadership and capacity for Hawaii based culture of conservation.

This year the Alliance worked on creating a new 2023-2028 Strategic Plan to guide the work of the Alliance over the next five years. The process was consensus based and primarily conducted online through virtual meetings. We anticipate completing the strategic planning process and adopting the completed report at our March 2023 retreat.



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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 2022, Lorena “Tap” Wada of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) continued to serve as the Chair of the Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Subcommittee. Paahana Kincaid of Kupu volunteered to be the co-Chair for 2022 with the intention of serving as the upcoming Chair for 2023. A co-Chair for 2023 will be secured by February 2023 so they can be on-boarded throughout the year to become the Chair in 2024. Paahana will be introduced as the 2023 Chair of the Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Subcommittee at the Alliance Retreat on Dec. 1st, 2022.

During the year, the Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Subcommittee conducted a Membership Drive throughout the month of February and March to recruit new members. This included multiple newsletters distributed amongst the Alliance & Foundation, Kupu alumni, and PIPES alumni networks. These newsletters featured “Why Join” videos produced by current members which can also be viewed at Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Subcommittee – Meet Our Members. We successfully recruited four (4) new members: Clay Trauernicht & Joby Rohrer (Army Natural Resources Program – O‘ahu), Chelsey Jay (Mālama Learning Center), and Corie Yanger (Hawai'i Cooperative Studies Unit/USGS Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center). The subcommittee also participated in the Alliance’s strategic planning meetings to address and revise goals, objectives, and activities regarding the Alliance’s ‘Capacity’ goal.

The subcommittee has continued and active participation from Alliance members and partners including University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, USFWS, Kupu and The Nature Conservancy – Hawai‘i. Subcommittee members ensured that our Pūlama Kuamo‘o Mentorship Program and Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Networking Session were successfully executed for the third virtual Hawai‘i Conservation Conference this year. Looking to 2023, the subcommittee looks forward to its programming returning to an in-person format, creating career pathway content for Conservation Career Compass, and building relationships with similar efforts such as the Natural Resources Sector Partnership.

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



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The 29th Annual Hawai'i Conservation Conference was held on July 18-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 virtually using Oxford abstracts, Zoom and REMO as the conference platform. The theme was Pilina Maui Ola – Connections that Offer Resilience and Hope. Content included daily plenary sessions, and 4 concurrent sessions consisting of general sessions (oral and speed talks), symposia, forums, workshops, and electronic posters. A total of 695 people registered and attended for the five-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 2022 conference: Outstanding Leadership Award to the KUPU program; Conservation Innovation Award to Pu'u Wa'awa'a Community-Based Subsistence Forest Area (P-CBSFA); Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Jim Jacobi; and Legacy Award to Dr. Fern Duvall II.

Three Keynote Session Conservation Conversations took place at the conference which included the following “Why Would a University President Care about Conservation?” with David Lassner and “Ho'i Hou Ka Maui Ola: Pathways to Our Essential Nature” with Dr. Kealoha Fox.

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, 250 students and emerging professionals were awarded a heavily discounted registration rate to attend the 2022 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 156 students and 94 emerging professionals. Additionally, there 16 individuals with no connection to Hawai'i who registered under the Student Rate. These individuals represented the Continental U.S. (NY, TN, NJ, CA, WA) and Palau. Lastly, the Student Awards program saw 39 student presenters this year. There were 33 graduate student presentations and 6 undergraduate student presentations.



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

Total Number of:	2012	2013	2014	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Student Scholarship Recipients	78	180	218	193	198	195	203	366	214	250
Regular Student Rate Attendees	129	99	98	99	105	113	101	27	11	16
Total Number of Student Attendees	207	279	316	292	303	308	304	393	225	266
Total Number Conference Attendees	1100 (more than 1500 at community event)	1116	1200	1327	1213	1154	1145	1128	839	695

### 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.

The 2022 Hawai‘i Conservation Conference was the eighth year of the Pūlama Kuamo‘o Mentorship Program. The subcommittee matched 19 mentor/mentee pairs, but only 12 pairs were successfully engaged. This was due to several mentees not being available to participate in the program expectations. There were two virtual luncheons scheduled for the mentors/mentees to participate in to have dedicated time to connect with one another, as well as to reflect on the Conference. Nāhululeihiwakuipapa utilized the platform Remo again to host the virtual luncheons to ensure that mentor/mentee pairs could feel like they were in the same room connecting with one



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another. The first luncheon, which was mandatory, took place on the first day of Conference. The subcommittee assigned 2-3 mentor/mentee pairs to each table to alleviate an initial awkwardness or anxiety. The second luncheon took place on the third day of Conference and was optional for mentors/mentees to participate in. There were 17 mentors/mentees that took advantage of this second luncheon.

Looking to future years, the Nāhululeihwakuipapa Subcommittee will continue to accept as many mentor/mentee pairs as possible. Looking towards the future, the Nāhululeihwakuipapa Subcommittee will explore ways to make sure mentors/mentees are fulfilling the program requirements, as well as communicating whether they can still participate in the program. In addition, the subcommittee would like to implement an outdoor gathering for the mentors/mentees regardless of whether the 2023 Hawai'i Conservation Conference is in-person. Depending on where the mentees/mentors are located, there could be outdoor gatherings on the different islands.

### **1.3.2. Nāhululeihwakuipapa Emerging Professionals Networking Session: “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 original intent was to do a workshop to explore different storytelling techniques. However, the subcommittee was not able to find enough guest speakers for the workshop, so the workshop was pivoted to a networking session. The pandemic has severely limited the opportunities for networking and it is something that the conservation community has been craving, especially students and emerging professionals.

The subcommittee hosted another virtual networking session entitled “Conservation Connections: Explore Your Possible Pathways – Nāhululeihwakuipapa Networking Session” utilizing a platform called Remo. The networking session had 11 different topic tables that participants could gather at to meet other conservation professionals and exchange knowledge and perspectives. There were 162 Conference attendees that participated in the networking session ranging from students (graduate and undergraduate), emerging professionals, and established professionals. The different conservation discussion topics for the tables were pre-selected by the Nāhululeihwakuipapa Subcommittee and included:

- Biocultural Stewardship
- Climate Crisis
- Conservation Communications & Marketing



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- Conservation Research
- Environmental Education
- Managing state lands & resources
- Partnerships for effective conservation
- Partnerships to link research to communities
- Managing federal lands and resources
- Ask Me Anything Career Related!
- Finding your pathway: finding and applying for your first position

At each topic table there was a topic facilitator to help guide the conservation with participants. The majority of the topic facilitators were representatives from several Hawai'i Conservation Alliance member organizations. In addition, all participants had access to a “Nāhulu Networking Etiquette Guidelines & Talking Points” document to help guide participants through the process of networking.

Based on the success and popularity of the networking sessions at the 2021 and 2022 Hawai'i Conservation Conferences, the Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Subcommittee will commit to hosting a networking session as a standing event at the Conference. In addition, there as a suggestion to include a topic table focused on USAJobs and Navigator Spotlight themed tables to highlight career pathways of current and established professionals. The subcommittee is excited to pivot the networking session to an in-person format for the 2023 Hawai'i Conservation Conference. In the past few years, the subcommittee has struggled to have enough capacity to coordinate workshops, however it was discussed that some workshop topics could actually be topic tables at the networking session. The subcommittee will explore different options to maximize the opportunity for students and professionals to network as well as develop new skills critical for career success.

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

To provide capacity building opportunities the next generation of conservation leaders, the Nāhululeihiwakuipapa Subcommittee hosted a second year of the Abstract Mentoring Program. The program intended to give students and emerging professionals (Mentees), who would be submitting abstracts to the 2022 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 12 Mentees who participated in the second year of the Abstract Mentoring Program, 9 of which had their abstracts accepted into the Conference. In addition, two of the Mentees won a Student Award. There is hope that through recruitment,



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

The Student Awards program was also hosted this year at the 2022 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 39 student presenters this year. There were 33 graduate student presentations and 6 undergraduate student presentations. The winners of the 2021 and 2022 Hawai'i Conservation Conference Student Awards were announced at the end of this year's Conference. Student Award winners received a cash prize as well as the opportunity to have an Alliance hosted brown bag session to further present their work and network with a wider audience.

<b>HCC 2021 Graduate Student Awards</b>	<b>2021 Award Amt</b>	<b>Winner Name</b>	<b>Abstract #</b>	<b>Presentation Title</b>
Outstanding Graduate Student Oral Presentation	\$450.00	Julia Douglas	198	Optimizing Reintroduction Success for Rare Endemic Plants; A Case Study of Polyscias bisattenuata on Kaua'i
Honorable Mention Graduate Student Oral Presentation	\$300.00	Amanda Navine	57	Investigating the Role of the Gut Microbiome in Susceptibility to Avian Malaria in Hawaiian Honeycreepers
Outstanding Graduate Student Speed Talk Presentation	\$450.00	Dimuthu Jayakody	72	An Approach to Assessing Place Attachment Towards Improving Place-Based Biological Conservation and Environmental Planning Efforts.
Honorable Mention Graduate Student Speed Talk Presentation	\$300.00	Amy Olsen	87	Fish Assemblage Structure Before and After a Marine Heatwave in West Hawai'i
Outstanding Graduate Student Poster Presentation	\$450.00	Becca Lensing	33	Exploring Microbial Indicators of Coastal Ecosystem Health Across a Gradient of Human Development in Tutuila, American Samoa
Honorable Mention Graduate Student Poster Presentation	\$300.00	L. Kalai Ellis	24	Quantifying Impacts of Terrigenous Sediment on Coral Reef Health and Morphology Using Remote Sensing and Machine Learning
<b>HCC 2021 Undergraduate Student Awards</b>	<b>2021 Award Amt</b>	<b>Winner Name</b>	<b>Abstract #</b>	<b>Presentation Title</b>



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Outstanding Undergraduate Student Oral Presentation	\$300.00	Kayla Mukai (high school student)	152	Developing an Informative Hawaiian Land Snail Identification Mobile App
Outstanding Undergraduate Student Speed Talk Presentation	\$300.00	Sophia Egger	154	Elevational Distributions of Tardigrades on Mt. Ka'ala
Outstanding Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation	\$300.00	Joseph Williams-Solomon	123	Shifting the Balance in Lowland Mesic Forests

HCC 2022 Graduate Student Awards	2022 Award Amt	Winner Name	Abstract #	Presentation Title
Outstanding Graduate Student Oral Presentation	\$400.00	Wieteke Holthuijzen	2	Uncovering the Diet of Invasive House Mice on Pihemanu - Kuaihelani (Midway Atoll NWR) and Implications for Ecosystem Recovery Post-Eradication
Honorable Mention Graduate Student Oral Presentation	\$225.00	Erica Gallerani	46	Use of High Resolution Lidar Data to Inform Inter-Island Translocation of Endangered Avian Species in Hawai'i
Honorable Mention Graduate Student Oral Presentation	\$225.00	Jocelyn Grandinetti	12	Restoring People and Place: Building Biocultural Citizenship Through Grassroots Restoration
Outstanding Graduate Student Speed Talk Presentation	\$300.00	Cody Ching	1	Uncovering Migratory Patterns of the Native Hawaiian Goby, 'O'opu Nākea ( <i>Awaous stamineus</i> )
Honorable Mention Graduate Student Speed Talk Presentation	\$150.00	Stephanie Mladinich	78	Detecting a trace: Development and application of environmental DNA techniques for invasive mosquito monitoring
Outstanding Graduate Student Poster Presentation	\$300.00	Maria Steadmon	132	Modeling physico-chemical parameters to predict <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , Methicillin-Resistant <i>S. aureus</i> , and fecal bacteria concentrations in Hawaiian coastal waters and sands
Honorable Mention Graduate Student Poster Presentation	\$200.00	Brianna Ornelas	151	I ka wā ma mua, ka wā ma hope: Limu identification and socio-cultural knowledge enshrouded in the Hawaiian Language Newspapers



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HCC 2022 Undergraduate Student Awards	2022 Award Amt	Winner Name	Abstract #	Presentation Title
Outstanding Undergraduate Student Oral Presentation	\$250.00	A'ja-Faith Greene	144	Assessment of Host Preference and Habitat Type of a Highly Endangered Native Hawaiian Land Snail Family (Amastridae)
Honorable Mention Undergraduate Student Oral Presentation	\$100.00	Sophia Smith	82	The Distribution and Abundance of 'Ōhi'a-Associated Ambrosia Beetles in Two Sites With Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death Outbreaks
Outstanding Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation	\$250.00	Riley Nakasone & Mariah Garrison	67	Assessing Mucus Seal Strength of Hawaiian Tree Snails (Kāhuli) to Understand Local Adaptation and to Inform Reintroduction
Honorable Mention Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation	\$100.00	Maile Wong	177	Investigating Salinity Tolerance in Native Coastal Dune Plants

## 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 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.

Throughout the year, the Alliance and Kupu have been having monthly check-ins to stay up to date on their respective programs that share common goals in order to seek opportunities for collaboration. One of those opportunities was identifying resources that Kupu has created that can be added to Conservation Career Compass to help inspire and excite students about conservation careers. The resources have been shared with Next Gen Program Coordinator and will be added to Conservation Career Compass in 2023. In addition, the Nāhululehiwakuipapa Subcommittee is working on developing ka'ao videos to be added to the Navigator Spotlight section of Conservation Career Compass to highlight the career journeys of current professionals by focusing on the four nodes of the ka'ao framework: hua (catalyst), ha'alele (transition), huaka'i (the journey



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itself), and ho'ina (return/reflection). The first ka'ao video will be finalized and released across the Alliance and Foundation's social media. We hope to develop at least three more ka'ao videos in 2023.

In 2022, there was a strong focus on participating in outreach events at college campuses and high schools across the state of Hawai'i. Since the pandemic has ended, more in-person events have returned increasing networking opportunities with students. These outreach events provide the opportunity to share about Conservation Connections, Conservation Career Compass, and the different possible pathways to pursue a career in conservation. By the end of the calendar year, the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation Next Gen Program Coordinator and staff will have presented at 12 in-person/virtual events:

- March 22<sup>nd</sup> – UH West O'ahu Spring Career & Internship Fair [virtual]
- June 27<sup>th</sup> – Kupu Kāko'o Connections (Summer Cohort) [in-person]
- September 15<sup>th</sup> – UH Mānoa Volunteer & Engagement Fair [in-person]
- September 16<sup>th</sup> – Waipahu High School Academy of Natural Resources Internship, Work-Based Learning, and College Showcase [in-person]
- October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Kupu Kāko'o Connections (Fall Cohort) [in-person]
- October 13<sup>th</sup> – Brigham Young University Career & Graduate Fair [in-person]
- October 19<sup>th</sup> – Kapiolani Community College STEM Expo [virtual]
- October 20<sup>th</sup> – UH West O'ahu Career Fair [virtual]
- October 22<sup>nd</sup> – Waimea Valley Make a Difference Day [in-person]
- October 28<sup>th</sup> – Waipahu High School Academy of Natural Resources Career Exploration Fair [in-person]
- November 17<sup>th</sup> – Hilo High School Hawai'i Island Career Expo [in-person]
- November 18<sup>th</sup> – Hilo High School Hawai'i Island Career Expo [virtual]

## **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.



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Last year, 2021, a scope of work was developed for the rebuild of Conservation Connections and Conservation Career Compass - Request for Interest – Website & Database Rebuild. In 2022 using that scope of work, the Next Gen Program Coordinator and Executive applied to several grant opportunities to seek funding for the rebuild project. Unfortunately, these applications were unsuccessful. Effort was also made to reach out to several recommended local contractors to carry out the work, but was unsuccessful in finding an interested and committed contractor. Time is of the essence now because the web developer for Conservation connections and Conservation Career Compass had pivoted his company focus and is no longer providing technical support for the websites. New glitches have begun to pop up limiting the functionality of Conservation Connections. For example, in October the homepage (specifically) for Conservation Connections was no longer loading. In a scramble to get the homepage fixed, the Next Gen Program Coordinator came across a tech support service called BobCares. They were successfully able to fix the homepage for Conservation connections. One of the other services they provide is software/database development. In 2023, there is hope to work with BobCares to rebuild Conservation Connections and Conservation Career Compass.

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, social media posts have only been focused on the different aspects of the Hawai'i Conservation Conference including Call for Abstracts, keynote speakers, registration, scholarships, Conference presentations, and 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	2022
<b>Conservation Connections (website users)</b>	19,446 (19,166 new, 82.4%)	22,662 (22,296 new, 82.6%)	29,243 (28,674 new, 82.2%)	30,512 (30,243 new, 86.2%)	25,586 (25,309 new, 85.6%)	30,579* (27,374 new, 89.5%)
<b>Conservation Career Compass (website users)</b>	-	3,048 (2,646 new, 86.8%)	4,401 (3,338 new, 87.2%)	4,432 (3,917 new, 88.4%)	4,519 (4,065 new, 90%)	3,481* (3,144 new, 90.3%)
<b>Instagram (posts / followers)</b>	29 / -	87 / 1,138	272 / 1,556	71 / 2,088	44 / 3,182	53 / 4,048
<b>Facebook (followers)</b>	2,097	2,317	2,882	2,924	3,774	4,301

\* This number represents data from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 through November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022



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

The Hawai'i Conservation Alliance continued to engage in global conservation efforts through the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Several Alliance partners are also members of the IUCN and Alliance Steering Committee representatives and staff participate in member voting, the US National Committee, as well as the various commissions of the IUCN.

## **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 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 each steering committee meeting, we always begin with the Alliance oli and elaborate on a specific line. 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 since 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**



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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 the cultural 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**

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

#### **3.2. ECP Subcommittee**

Our Effective Conservation Program (ECP) Subcommittee led the creation of an executive summary of the Conservation of Our Native Biocultural Legacy in Hawai'i: 2022 Status Report which was presented during the opening plenary session at the Hawaii Conservation Conference. This report identified key indicators of effective conservation in the Hawaiian islands as well as metrics to evaluate the status of these indicators. The Status of Conservation Report assesses our current conditions using the best available spatial data for the 8 inhabited Hawaiian islands.

#### **3.3. Community Subcommittee**

In 2022 the Community Subcommittee held four meetings and in collaboration with the ECP Subcommittee, a community section of the report was included in the larger report. 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.

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



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The Ahupua'a Accelerator Initiative (AAI) continued work 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 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.

In 2022, the AAI program supported a peer-to-peer learning cohort that engaged a small group of stewardship practitioners from AAI Partner Sites across the Pae'āina in in-depth discussion and shared learning around key thematic areas of ahupua'a-scale restoration. The cohort members gathered monthly for deep discussions covering topics identified in the first year of the AAI program through site consultations. Outputs will include priority action items for AAI partners including the Alliance and will be released in 2023.

## **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 met nine times in 2022 and worked on a variety of projects. The committee members provided feedback and edits on a Hawai'i Climate Crisis exchange document. This subcommittee led a forum at HCC 2022 titled "Synergizing climate mitigation and adaptation in Hawai'i".

This subcommittee is working on brainstorming items for a one-hour session at the upcoming Alliance retreat in March 2023 to facilitate discussion on the subcommittee's vision and goal in collaboration with the rest of the membership.



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## **5. Looking Forward to 2023**

Next year the Alliance is looking forward to a return to in person meetings with our first annual retreat in person being planned for March of 2023. At the meeting we anticipate completing our next five-year strategic plan. Another major milestone planned for next year is the celebration of our 30<sup>th</sup> annual Hawaii Conservation Conference. We will continue to work with our UH and HCA working group members to transition the administrative home of the Alliance from the Center for Conservation Research and Training to the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation and will continue to pursue new opportunities to strengthen the Alliances relationship with the University of Hawaii and our membership.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: 2022 Meeting Calendar

Appendix 2: 2022 HCC Evaluation Summary