



Ahupua'a Action Agenda

A Compilation of Priority Actions to Appropriately
Accelerate Ahupua'a Stewardship and Restoration

Kauwela 2023

Ahupua'a Accelerator Initiative (AAI)
Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation

Acknowledgements: The AAI extends our appreciation to the many minds and hands who made this report possible. We would especially like to thank our AAI Site Partner ahupua‘a and participants of the 2022 AAI Peer-to-peer Learning Cohort for your invaluable contributions and steadfast commitment to aloha ‘āina. Mahalo.

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Released by the
Ahupua'a Accelerator Initiative (AAI)
Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation
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Report at a Glance:

- The Ahupuaʻa Action Agenda presents a present-day snapshot of systems-focused priority actions in ahupuaʻa stewardship and restoration, as informed by the lived experiences of ahupuaʻa stewardship and restoration practitioners across the pae ʻāina.
- The goal of this report is to catalyze momentum and mobilize additional support for ahupuaʻa stewardship and restoration through strengthened communication, coordination, and collaborations focused around a series of priority actions.
- The report is intended for audiences who may be interested in directing additional effort or resources toward addressing existing needs. This includes individuals and organizations who are actively engaged in ahupuaʻa stewardship and restoration, and those who work with or for communities to advance on-the-ground restoration actions.

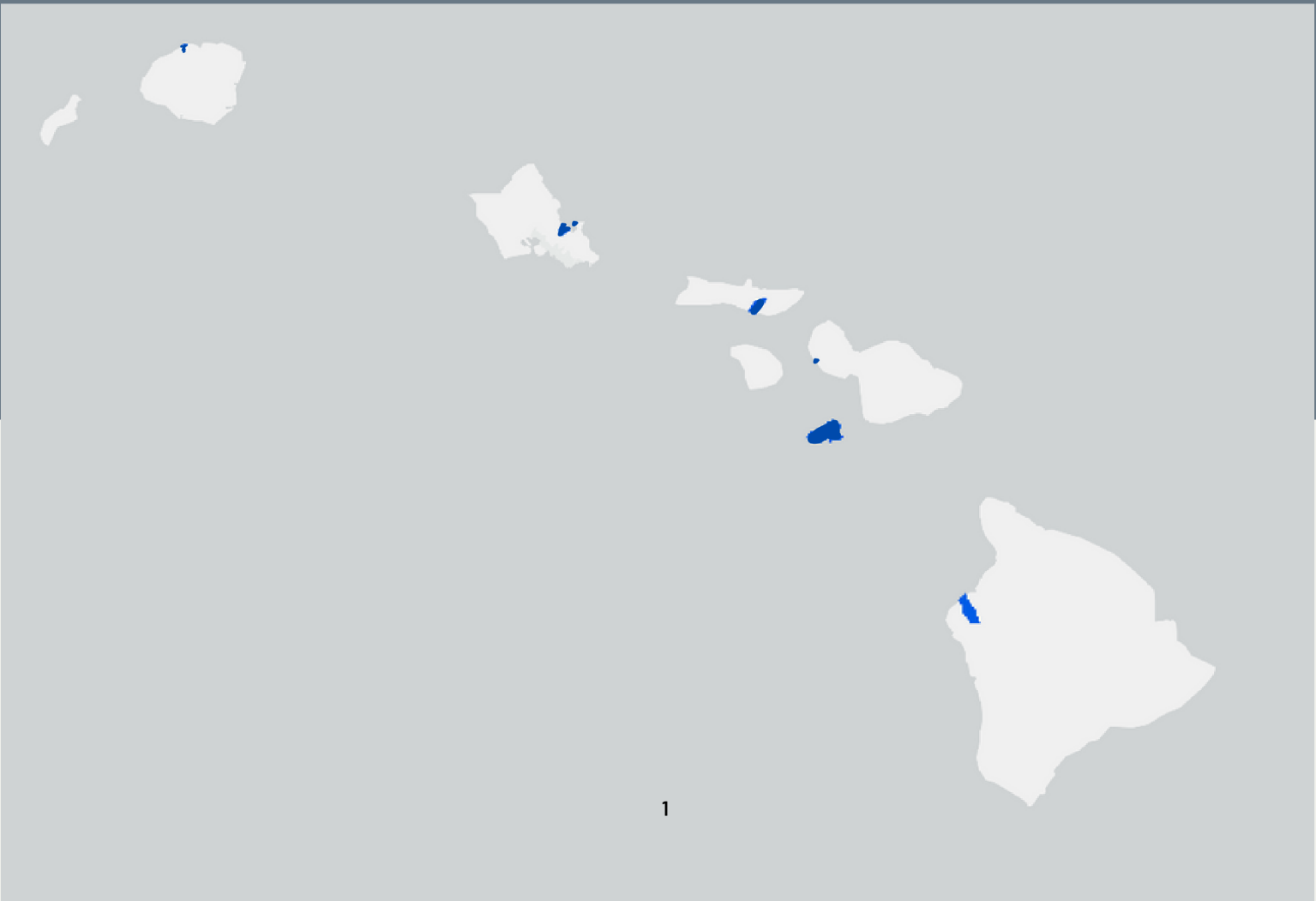
Photo credit: K. Nakachi



About the Ahupua'a Accelerator Initiative

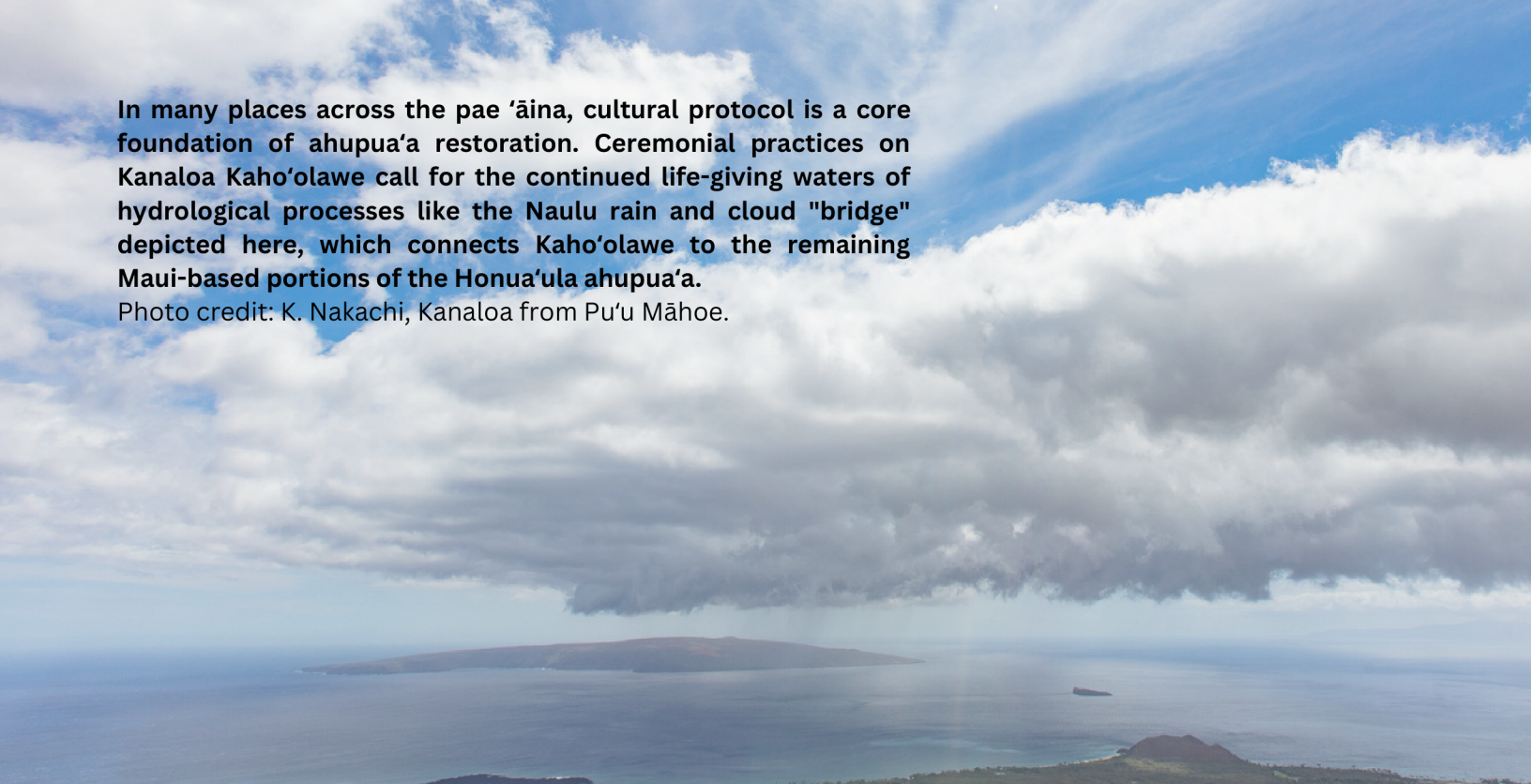
Established in 2021 after years of conversations with community stewardship practitioners across the state and through a unique partnership between the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance, Kamehameha Schools, and the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation, the Ahupua'a Accelerator Initiative (AAI) was created to address express needs in ahupua'a restoration focusing, in particular, on community and culturally centered efforts that bridge terrestrial and marine stewardship, conservation, and restoration. The AAI aims to advance conservation efforts across Hawai'i by appropriately accelerating the enabling conditions for ahupua'a restoration and by illuminating potential pathways to advance community and culturally-centered restoration efforts in present-day contexts. The AAI's core activities enable and support systems-oriented and holistic approaches to resource management, improved environmental outcomes, shared models of practice, and strengthened partnerships between all involved.

The AAI program works in close coordination with an initial network of six Site Partner ahupua'a across the state: Ka'upulehu (Hawai'i Island), Polanui (Maui), Kawela (Moloka'i), Kaho'olawe, He'eia (O'ahu), and Hā'ena (Kaua'i). We also work closely with a cross-sector, collaborative community of practice broadly encompassing stewardship, conservation, resource management, and community-based practitioners.



In many places across the pae 'āina, cultural protocol is a core foundation of ahupua'a restoration. Ceremonial practices on Kanaloa Kaho'olawe call for the continued life-giving waters of hydrological processes like the Naulu rain and cloud "bridge" depicted here, which connects Kaho'olawe to the remaining Maui-based portions of the Honua'ula ahupua'a.

Photo credit: K. Nakachi, Kanaloa from Pu'u Māhoe.



What does it mean to accelerate ahupua'a restoration in practice, in the present day?

Since 2021, the AAI has aimed to address this question together with our Site Partner ahupua'a and surrounding community of thought partners and collaborators. Just as the ahupua'a across our pae 'āina are beautifully diverse and complex, so too is the answer to this question.

Importantly, first we examined the acceleration component of this work: is faster always better? In short, no. Physics reminds us that acceleration is not only measured by a change in speed, but also through a change in direction. In our conversations to date, we've found that there is indeed a subset of restoration efforts that may benefit from an increased speed. Examples may include instances where permitting or policy-related delays impact on the ground efforts. We've also found that a change in direction is equally important - for example when community stewardship organizations actively explore

value-aligned revenue generation arrangements that can enhance the financial sustainability of their restoration work.

The ability to change directions or to increase speed first requires understanding the enabling factors and other conditions critical to long-term success of restoration efforts. To do so, the AAI combines both site- and systems-focused approaches to both identify barriers in ahupua'a restoration and to illuminate pathways to appropriately accelerate solutions. Through our ongoing discussions with partners and collaborators, we are beginning to see that, at its core, accelerating ahupua'a restoration centers on at least five critical enabling factors:

Remembering, Re-envisioning, Recruiting, Retaining, and Revisiting.

Accelerating restoration means remembering and deepening our connections to place. It means learning or re-learning about the places we care for, reviving practices that enhance reciprocal exchange between and across kanaka and 'āina, experiencing our places throughout the seasons, and determining how those seasonal occurrences can and should shape our interactions. It means identifying and celebrating things that make these places uniquely 'ono and growing the 'ono of future generations to engage with and care for those resources. Example efforts may include expanding intergenerational participation in place-based seasonal planting and harvesting practices.

Accelerating restoration means recruiting and supporting new generations of stewardship practitioners and professionals. It also means retaining stewardship practitioners and professionals through clear pathways for growth and advancement. Through the advancement of on-the-ground restoration efforts, often over decades and sometimes across generations, comes the recognition that ahupua'a are as much about kānaka as they are about 'āina. While we know the health of our lands and peoples are inexorably connected, in attempting to maximize the health of our environment we can sometimes overlook the multidimensional factors that support stewardship and restoration practitioners and professionals in the present day. As one example, targeted efforts focused on recruitment and retention may include the exploration and implementation of living and competitive wages for 'āina restoration positions.

Accelerating restoration means re-envisioning the holistic functions of an ahupua'a in the present day. Ahupua'a land divisions were originally informed by social, political, and environmental factors. While those factors may look very different today, they do still exist. This underscores the need to better understand ahupua'a functions in present day contexts. Present-day functions of an ahupua'a may be impacted by current land ownership and land-use designations, impacts of the built environment on hydrologic cycles, the social networks involved in terrestrial and marine management, among other factors. In this light, perhaps in some places of our pae 'āina, the ahupua'a land unit remains the appropriate scale for targeted restoration action. Conversely, in other places, perhaps the 'ili kupono, mo'o 'āina, paukū 'āina, kīhāpai, moku, kalana, or other spatial scale is more impactful. The holistic functions of an ahupua'a in present day is what will inform the most appropriate scale for meaningful restoration action.

Accelerating restoration means revisiting 'ōiwi-centered models of stewarding for abundance. In Hawai'i, across the Pacific, and around the world, Indigenous and local communities have developed and refined best practices in stewardship through generations of living, learning, and adapting. Given the dynamic nature of Indigenous and local knowledge, revisiting these 'ōiwi-centered models of stewardship can reveal the enabling and supporting conditions that allow us to steward for abundance. Examples of targeted efforts to revisit 'ōiwi-centered models of abundance may include the exploration of value-added agricultural products that come from, are tended by, and are intended for the community of a particular ahupua'a.

2022 AAI Peer-to-Peer Learning Cohort

With this information in mind, in 2022, the Ahupua'a Accelerator Initiative (AAI) convened a Peer-to-peer Learning Cohort, bringing together 15 community stewardship practitioners from the six AAI Site Partner ahupua'a across the pae 'āina. With support of their home sites, representatives met monthly from April through November for a series of deep-dive thematic explorations covering topics including:



- Connecting ma uka (terrestrial) and ma kai (marine) restoration efforts
- Government partnerships and collaborations
- Information and data management, storage, and sharing
- Connecting with diverse sectors and user groups to advance restoration
- Legacy planning
- Sustainable finance, revenue generation, and value(s) add

Cohort representatives participated in over 100 hours of discussion, exchange, and capacity development activities including project planning, prioritization, implementation, and professional networking. The 2022 Peer Cohort yielded a number of site- and systems-focused outputs and outcomes, including the development and release of this Action Agenda.

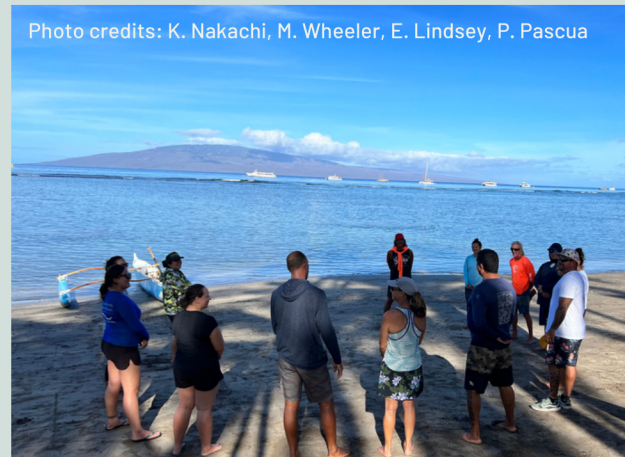


Photo credits: K. Nakachi, M. Wheeler, E. Lindsey, P. Pascua



About the Action Agenda

What it is: The 2023 Ahupua'a Action Agenda (Action Agenda) is a **systems-focused compilation of priority actions in ahupua'a stewardship and restoration** that is intended to address express needs by catalyzing momentum and mobilizing additional support. Collectively, the priority actions contained within the Action Agenda aim to strengthen foundational enabling conditions, address key challenges, and solidify continued opportunities to advance stewardship and restoration efforts across both land- and seascapes in Hawai'i.

The priorities contained in the Action Agenda were informed by discussions with AAI Site Partners in 2021 and subsequent deep dive thematic explorations with Site Partner representatives in the 2022 AAI Peer-to-peer Learning Cohort. The Action Agenda is **informed by present-day, lived experiences of stewardship practitioners across the state**. Each priority is also presented together with preliminary information on timeframes to accomplish the work (with adequate resourcing) and potential support needs.

What it is not: While thorough, this list of priorities **should not be considered exhaustive** and is **likely to continue to grow and evolve over time**. The priorities contained in this report are **not ranked in any way** and are instead categorized by the thematic exploration areas that informed their identification. The thematic areas are **not mutually exclusive** and many priorities may relate to other priorities.

For whom: The Action Agenda is intended for **audiences who may be interested in directing additional efforts and resources toward addressing existing needs**. This includes individuals and organizations who are actively engaged in ahupua'a stewardship and restoration, and those who work with, or for communities to advance on-the-ground restoration actions.

How: The AAI is the lead on compiling and distilling the priorities in the Action Agenda and is committed to supporting the networking necessary to mobilize progress and resourcing. However, the true value of the Action Agenda can only be realized through **collective action whereby many hands simultaneously uplift these priorities to catalyze meaningful advancement**. As previously noted, the Action Agenda priorities are not ranked in any way, largely because there are a number of factors that drive prioritization within and across groups. Examples include synergies with existing goals, timeliness, available resources, among other variables. In Appendix A, we provide a worksheet intended to help you identify which priorities most resonate with your work and ways you may be able to engage.

The AAI maintains an internal list of partners and collaborators who are working on the priorities included in the Action Agenda. If you are willing and able to contribute to the collective action, please reach out to the AAI at:

ahupuaa.action.agenda@gmail.com



Connecting ma Uka (Terrestrial) and ma Kai (Marine) Restoration Efforts

Connecting ma Uka (Terrestrial) and ma Kai (Marine) Restoration Efforts

ID #	Priority	Potential Timeframe	Running List of Support Needs
MM1	Enhance opportunities for communication between ma uka and ma kai stewardship practitioners at the project, organization, and community scale.	1-2yrs	Conveners, facilitators, gathering-related support, continued coordination support
MM2	Create and support opportunities to carefully and intentionally guide and direct the flow of resources (financial, social, etc) to all parts of an ahupua'a. This priority aims to mirror the function of the mahi'ai in an ahupua'a, who would carefully and intentionally regulate the flow of water from the wao nahele, to kahawai, po'owai, ho'i wai, muliwai, and out to the ko'a.	2-3yrs	Resource mapping, social network analysis, network coordination skills/resources
MM3	Within a particular ahupua'a and/or moku, create and support continued opportunities for meaningful dialogue and exchange (e.g., safe, brave, and/or talk story spaces) between ma uka ma kai stewardship practitioners and organizations.	1-2yrs	Conveners, facilitators, gathering-related support, continued coordination support
MM4	Within and across ahupua'a, create and support opportunities for meaningful dialogue and exchange focused on shared resources and practices (e.g., food cultivation, freshwater resources, marine monitoring, education initiatives).	1-2yrs	Existing local networks to assist with bridging vertically within ahupua'a and horizontally across ahupua'a
MM5	Map ma uka and ma kai restoration funding sources.	1-2yrs	Funding/philanthropy knowledge, social network mapping skills
MM6	Develop and implement community steward training in facilitation, conflict-resolution, mediation, communication, kapu aloha.	1-2yrs	Subject matter expert trainers



Photo credits:
P. Pascua, K. Nakachi

Government Partnerships and Collaborations

Government Partnerships and Collaborations

ID #	Priority	Potential Timeframe	Running List of Support Needs
GP1	Enhance opportunities for co-learning with stewardship funders and co-design of stewardship grant making.	2-3yrs	Government funding expertise/liaison, coordination
GP2	Create and support opportunities for community stewardship organizations to get to know legislators and legislative committees by convening a hui to facilitate communication, advocacy, and education.	2-3yrs	Hui coordinator / policy liaison, strong legislative networks; non-profit with lobbying expertise
GP3	Develop and share a compilation of stewardship case studies that highlight successful government partnerships. Cumulatively, the case studies may inform a map of potential stewardship pathways and/or partnership options.	2-3yrs	Case study compiler, graphic design and layout, strategic outreach communications
GP4	Develop and share organizational charts for all government agencies who intersect with ahupua'a restoration. This organizational "Road map" is intended to support communities (and other agencies as appropriate) who need to navigate across departments, offices, and positions. The compilation of this information could also be useful to increase communication within and between these entities.	2-3yrs	Agency org chart contributions, compilation and synthesis of roadmap
GP5	Develop a compilation of stewardship agreement mechanisms across state, federal, and private lands.	1-2yrs	Legal expertise, knowledge of conservation and agreement "mechanisms"
GP6	Develop and support an "entity" that can provide legal advice/counsel for conservation action.	3-5yrs	Legal expertise, knowledge of conservation challenges (potentially seeded from "Creative Solutions Working Group"
GP7	Convene a series of coordinated conversations with stewardship practitioners focused on creative solutions to overcome on-the-ground restoration obstacles.	2-3yrs	Stewardship practitioners (professional and community), convener, legal expertise
GP8	Develop and share a series of regulatory recommendations for Aloha 'āina exemptions to permits and regulations.	2-3yrs	Coordinator, policy expertise, communications support

Government Partnerships and Collaborations

ID #	Priority	Potential Timeframe	Running List of Support Needs
GP9	Develop site-specific criteria and a coordinated request and response process for communities to use when approached to collaborate, in particular on research projects.	2-3yrs	Infrastructure, support staff
GP10	Develop an annual ahupua'a health assessment report or "makahiki metrics".	1-2yrs	Liason with Partner Sites, Communications Support, Policy/legislative engagement expertise
GP11	Provide coordinated guidance and support to community restoration groups for annual "reporting" of top three needs and priorities that will feed into a summary document for policy makers.	1-2yrs	Facilitation support, communications support, policy/advocacy support around sharing the report
GP12	Create opportunities to showcase positive experiences, instead of a relationship based on infractions: proactive opportunities to showcase pride rather than solely responding to threats.	1-2yrs	Coordinated collection and compilation of examples
GP13	Develop and support the convening of a creative solutions sandbox that will identify opportunities to streamline regulatory and policy processes for stewardship activities.	2-3yrs	Multi-agency participants, coordinator, policy expertise

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Photo credits:
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Information and Data Management, Storage, and Sharing

Information and Data Management, Storage, and Sharing

ID #	Priority	Potential Timeframe	Running List of Support Needs
DM1	Increase the strategic capacity of local communities on the topics of research design, data collection and management.	2-3yrs	Technical training on research design, collection, and management, tools/technology and training to use them, gatherings for focused discussions to refine needs and opportunities, sharing out with regulatory organizations who focus on research
DM2	Increase and enhance meaningful opportunities for communities to design data collection, curate data, and control data sharing, specifically including its surrounding narrative.	2-3yrs	Expertise with data curation, storage, and data sharing/storage protocols
DM3	Convene moku or pae 'āina focused gatherings for data and methods comparisons, data visualization, and narrative refinement.	1-2yrs	Gathering/travel support, coordination, follow through plan
DM4	Develop a question bank of community-identified research needs and questions, especially those of relevance across multiple sites. This consolidated list aims to reduce research redundancy and community fatigue, and to amplify opportunities for cross-site comparisons.	2-3yrs	Coordination, compilation, communication
DM5	Increase coordinated data collection across ahupua'a.	2-3yrs	Intra-ahupua'a coordination
DM6	Develop a standard operating procedure on data collection, including details and definitions for various data collection methods.	2-3yrs	Coordination, compilation, communication
DM7	Develop a process to proactively inform multi-partner data collaborations and collection efforts before they happen. This process may include, but is not limited to, the creation of best practices, and pre/post assessment and evaluation criteria centered on why and how we collect data.	2-3yrs	Coordinator, gathering/travel support

Information and Data Management, Storage, and Sharing

ID #	Priority	Potential Timeframe	Running List of Support Needs
DM8	Develop and maintain digital infrastructure for data management (data clearing house, repository) that meaningfully addresses the needs, concerns, and sensitivities surrounding Indigenous and local knowledge.	2-3yrs	Data infrastructure expertise, pilot group, maintenance plan
DM9	Develop a compilation of baseline studies (and associated costs/methods) and/or standard operating procedure to conduct prior to restoration action.	1-2yrs	Land-use restrictions expertise, regulatory expertise
DM10	Consolidate existing data management templates for collaborations that engage community partners and/or relate to Indigenous and local knowledge.	1-2yrs	Access to existing data management templates, coordinated communication of final product
DM11	Create and share Hawai'i forms of 'ikepili documentation and sharing. Examples may include, but are not limited to, kilo documentation to inform practice and composing oli, hula, mele, 'ōlelo no'eau, and ka'ao.	2-3yrs	Expertise on Hawai'i forms of 'ikepili
DM12	Develop and administer training for multiple fluencies in data (numbers, words, visuals, etc.).	2-3yrs	Trainer, data expertise

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Photo credits: K. Nakachi

Connecting with Diverse Sectors and User Groups to Advance Restoration

Connecting with Diverse Sectors and User Groups to Advance Restoration

ID #	Priority	Potential Timeframe	Running List of Support Needs
UG1	Develop and implement compensation schedule for community members asked to engage in working groups to share traditional and/or place-based knowledge.	2-3yrs	Coordinator, access to existing compensation schedules for cultural practitioners, Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (permission) to share rates
UG2	Enhance opportunities for participatory stewardship and management scenario planning.	2-3yrs	Scenario planning expertise, community engagement expertise, policy support
UG3	Explore opportunities for a local carbon off-set program (e.g. Lo'i/wetland carbon sequestration and credits) and compile research needs.	2-3yrs	Carbon expertise, coordination
UG4	Develop a corporate social responsibility directory of stewardship organizations, so that large companies who want to "give back" will have a list to go to.	2-3yrs	Coordination with business/visitor sector, expertise with corporate social responsibility
UG5	Continue to support opportunities for local hosting (ho'okipa) to facilitate relationships.	1-2yrs	Financial support/coordination
UG6	Expand the ways we articulate value of ahupua'a (e.g., ecosystem services, triple bottom line benefits, among others).	1-2yrs	Working group inclusive of multisector expertise (economic, health, social, cultural, environmental), working group coordinator, communications/outreach of final product
UG 7	Create and support opportunities for stewardship organizations to more regularly partner, engage, and interact with educators.	1-2yrs	Educational expertise, gap analysis and/or systems map of current needs

Photo credits: K. Nakachi



Legacy Planning

Legacy Planning

ID #	Priority	Potential Timeframe	Running List of Support Needs
LP1	Develop and share a succession planning diagram for community-centered stewardship in Hawai'i.	1yr	Input from stewardship practitioners, coordinated sharing
LP2	Develop a series of community network maps that identify the resources, talents, and gaps within an ahupua'a (for instance, unique services, talents, skills, needs).	2-3yrs	Pilot site, community mapping expertise
LP3	Create and support opportunities for healing from generational trauma.	1-2yrs	Community and culturally-minded healer and health professionals
LP4	Develop and distribute a list of steps to take for legacy planning before transitions (e.g., when someone vacates a position).	1-2yrs	Nonprofit transitions, and/or estate planning expertise
LP5	Continue to support youth engagement and outreach (internships, curriculum) and the development of place-specific educational resources.	1-2yrs	Educational expertise
LP6	Consolidate and share examples to inform the adoption of 'ōpio board positions in stewardship organizations.	1-2yrs	Detailed information about existing governance structures
LP7	Explore financial arrangements that support livable wages for stewardship workers (wages, benefits, etc).	2-3yrs	Financial expertise, non-profit expertise
LP8	Support opportunities for mo'okū'auhau (genealogy) research to reconnect hoā'āina (native tenant) families to their ancestral lands.	2-3yrs	Archivist skills, Hawaiian language newspaper research



Photo credits: K. Nakachi

Sustainable Finance, Revenue Generation, and Value(s) Add

Sustainable Finance, Revenue Generation, and Value(s) Add

ID #	Priority	Potential Timeframe	Running List of Support Needs
SF1	Develop and implement expert-led financial training workshops, including the dos and don'ts of non-profits, and determining what products/services can be sold by non-profits.	1-2yrs	Nonprofit expertise, financial/economic expertise, legal expertise
SF2	Synthesize case studies of Native Hawaiian trusts/endowments to learn from their governance and financial structures (the non-sensitive portions).	2-3yrs	Permissions, internal organization knowledge/expertise
SF3	Consolidate case studies of for profit and nonprofit "arms" (pairings) of stewardship and restoration organizations.	1-2yrs	Permissions, coordination
SF4	Convene a business/investment cohort specifically for stewardship organizations.	2-3yrs	Business/investment expertise, coordinator
SF5	Explore culturally-centered stewardship business models.	2-3yrs	Business/investment expertise
SF7	Synthesize existing stewardship sector positions and compensations.	1-2yrs	Multi-sector representation (public, private), economics expertise, policy expertise
SF8	Support the creation of a collective that will develop and release compensation schedules for community stewardship organizations (sliding scales as needed).	3-5yrs	Multi-sector representation (public, private), economics expertise, policy expertise

Additional Notes:

