

The Kamehameha Schools and Office of Hawaiian Affairs nominates the E Alu Pū network for the HCA Conservation Innovation Award for its efforts - spearheaded by network members Hui Mālama Mo‘omomi (Moloka‘i) and the Hui Maka‘āinana o Makana (Kaua‘i) - over the past few years in a movement toward increasing co-management initiatives with our State to steward the marine resources of their places through among other things the development of Community Based Subsistence Fishing Areas (CBSFA) and Rules.

CBSFA laws allow communities and the state to work together to designate areas and develop rules to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian subsistence traditions, which include both the wise taking of fish AND caretaking of fish and fishing areas. An unprecedented and necessary shift in policy, this law has gone un-implemented for the past 21 years. Today, the Hā‘ena CBSFA Rules, the first such rules to pass Chapter 91 muster and a unanimous BLNR board vote in support in 21 years sits on the desk of our current Governor for his approval.

In over two decades of time, through great patience, advocacy and practice, communities in places like Mo‘omomi, Moloka‘i (the first pilot community), Hā‘ena, Kaua‘i, Miloli‘i and Ho‘okena, Hawai‘i and Kīpahulu, Maui have pursued a vision of co-management, done on the ground education and outreach, documented traditional ethics and practice, held numerous meetings and briefings, advocated for and drafted their own rules and engaged in and encouraged pono self-regulation. This includes knowledge specific to their sites, attained through lifetimes of observation and practice.

In 2002, Uncle Mac Poepoe of Mo‘omomi shared an idea that communities across the archipelago could benefit from learning directly from one another how to better mālama ‘āina. As a result, 45 people representing 13 communities gathered on Moloka‘i in 2003. They confirmed the wisdom of Uncle Mac’s idea, and E Alu Pū was born: a network and movement for community-based natural resource management to foster dialogue and share lessons learned, build upon shared skills, perpetuate traditional practice and develop trust and common vision. Communities that become part of E Alu Pū agree to participate, show respect, practice, share knowledge and skills with other communities, and learn from their work so that all may be strong. E Alu Pū has a vision of ‘āina momona— an abundant, productive ecological system that supports community well-being. The kuleana, the right to mālama, is a cultural practice, value and imperative for them.

In 2014 the following 31 grassroots projects, groups, and organizations signed an ‘Aelike—an agreement affirming their commitments to each other and their shared vision of ‘āina momona: Pa‘a Pono Miloli‘i, Kama‘āina United to Protect the ‘Āina (KUPA), Ka ‘Ohana o Hōnaunau, Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee, Hui Aloha Kīholo, Hōlani Hāna, Save Honolulu Coalition, Waihe‘e Limu Restoration Project, Wailuku CMMA, Hui Malama o Mo‘omomi, Kūpa‘a No Lāna‘i, Lāna‘i Limu Restoration Project, Ka Honua Momona, Hakipu‘u ‘Ohana, Paepae o He‘eia, Kāko‘o ‘Ōiwi, Gods Country Waimānalo, Mālama Maunaloa, Hō‘ola Hou Iā Kalauao, ‘Ewa Limu Project, Ka‘ala Farm, Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea, Mālama Loko Ea, Hau‘ula Community Association, Kahana Kilo Kai, Ho‘āla ‘Āina Kūpono, Mālama Kōloa, Hanalei Watershed Hui, Limahuli Garden and Preserve, Hui Maka‘āinana o Makana, Waipā Foundation.

Hui Maka'āinana o Makana is a consortium of lineal descendants from the ahupua'a of Hā'ena who have a mission to restore and care for the natural and cultural resources of the ahupua'a of Hā'ena.

Hui Mālama O Mo'omomi focuses on natural resources management, primarily on marine conservation of Mo'omomi bay and the north side of Moloka'i which the community depends on to supplement food needs.