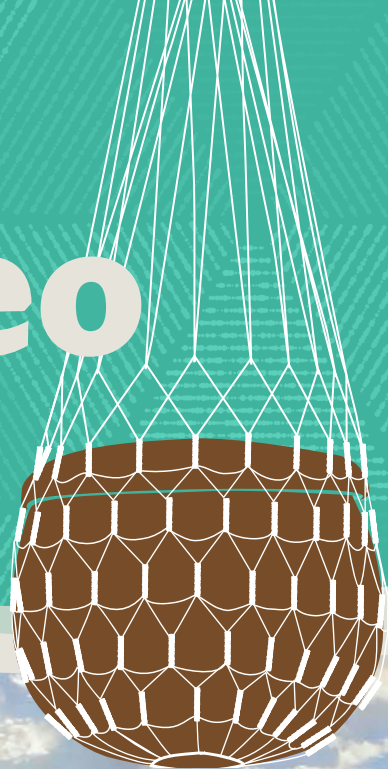


# ‘Umeke Kā‘eo

*A well-filled calabash, a well-filled mind.*

HAWAI‘I LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 13, NUMBER 2 | FALL 2023



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**HAWAI‘I LAND TRUST**





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'Umeke Kā'eo is the newsletter of Hawai'i Land Trust, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to land conservation in Hawai'i.

As a Hawai'i organization, we encourage our entire community to learn more about the Hawaiian language. Should you come across a Hawaiian word or term you don't understand in our newsletter, please visit [wehewehe.org](http://wehewehe.org) or email [info@hilt.org](mailto:info@hilt.org) for more information.

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Cover Photo: Native hinahina (*Heliotropium anomalum* var. *argentea*) grows on a rocky shoreline at Mahukona.

### FROM THE CEO

## Aloha e ka 'ohana HILT,

The recent fires that occurred across Hawai'i have been devastating for so many, especially on Maui. We send our aloha to all impacted, particularly those in our extended HILT 'ohana. We are grateful that our HILT team is safe and our 'āina was not directly affected. We know the road to recovery will be long and we will continue to do our part to assist. As part of our efforts, we are excited to announce we will be starting a temporary employment program for those who have lost their jobs due to the fires, thanks to support from Hawai'i Community Foundation and in collaboration with KUPU. Applications for the program will be available on our website at [hilt.org/careers](http://hilt.org/careers). HILT also continues to assess other ways we may be able to support the long-term recovery process and will share updates on those activities when available.

I humbly encourage you to support the fire relief, recovery, and resilience efforts by donating directly to impacted families or volunteering with or donating to local organizations like HILT that are working to support the community.

For the remainder of 2023, we have an exciting list of acquisition projects expected to close. I am especially delighted for the anticipated completion of our acquisition of 642 acres at Mahukona, creating HILT's eighth community preserve by the middle of December. In collaboration with Kohala community members and Nā Kālai Wa'a, this effort will enable the perpetual preservation and stewardship of these culturally and ecologically important lands. We need your help to complete the campaign! We are about \$1.5M away from reaching our \$20M capital campaign goal. If you are interested in supporting the completion of this project, please read more on page 3 and visit [mahukona.org](http://mahukona.org) for more information.

I am also happy to share about the continued growth of our HILT team. Since our last newsletter, we have welcomed new stewards at Waihe'e and Kāhili and a new member to our acquisitions team. The growth of our team empowers us to have a greater impact and would not be possible without our amazing public and private supporters. I truly appreciate each of you for your belief in our vision and mission, and trust in our organization to fulfill this immense kuleana.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

'Olu Campbell

President & Chief Executive Officer







# Ola Mahukona!

**In December of 2019, Hawai'i Land Trust embarked on a collaborative venture with the Kohala community, aimed at the permanent preservation and careful stewardship of a sprawling 642-acre parcel of land situated along the Kohala coast of Hawai'i Island, known as Mahukona.**

After three years of dedicated effort, with more than \$18.5 million raised toward our \$20 million goal, we now stand on the brink of realizing this transformative project, which represents a significant milestone in the creation of Hawai'i Land Trust's 8th community preserve and holds the promise of permanently safeguarding 175 culturally significant sites, providing sanctuary for dozens of threatened, endangered, and rare native plant and animal species, all while preserving a cherished landscape for the Kohala community.

For decades, this land had been earmarked for development, a prospect that faced strong opposition from the Kohala community. However, in 2019, a turning point was reached when efforts by former HILT board member, Bill Swank, and Auntie Patti Ann Solomon, lineal descendant of Mahukona, resulted in the current landowners signing a purchase agreement with HILT. This marked a long-awaited glimmer of hope, validating the years of relentless community efforts.

Mahukona holds a profound historical legacy as the traditional training ground for navigators, a legacy that endures through the efforts of Nā Kālai Wa'a, a Native Hawaiian nonprofit organization. Nā Kālai Wa'a is dedicated to preserving cultural values and customs by teaching and practicing non-instrument navigation and open ocean voyaging. Alongside these teachings, they serve as caretakers for an array of traditional vessels, including Makali'i, a 54-foot double-hulled voyaging canoe. They are also stewards of Ko'a Heiau Holomoana, a navigational heiau (a place of worship) dating back more than a millennium at Mahukona.

The expansive 642-acre Mahukona property spans six historic ahupua'a (land divisions), from north to south – Kapa'a Nui, Kou, Kamano, Mahukona, Hihui, and Kaoma. Bordered by Lapakahi State Historical Park and Kapa'a Beach Park, the protection of Mahukona will contribute to a collective four miles of contiguously conserved coastline. This extensive cultural landscape will continue to serve as a space for Hawaiian cultural practices and provide habitat for native plants and animals, including the precious 'iliahi alo'e (*Santalum ellipticum*), the endangered, yellow-faced bee (*Hylaeus assimulans*), and a diverse range of marine life and corals offshore. The public harbor, clear coastal waters, and scenic coastal trail are cherished recreational resources for the Kohala community, enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

Once acquired, Hawai'i Land Trust will hold the land for community benefit, subject to a conservation easement administered by the County of Hawai'i. Our partners, Nā Kālai Wa'a, will continue to steward Ko'a Heiau Holomoana and other cultural sites, use the on-site warehouse to care for the sailing canoe, Makali'i, and conduct educational programs. As we approach the final stages of this project, partnerships for education, water access, fire mitigation, native coastal dryland reforestation, archaeological study, and more are taking shape, as we work collaboratively with the community to define the vision for Mahukona's future.

Yet, to complete this transformative project, we still require an additional \$1.5 million in funding. We invite you to explore the various avenues through which you can pledge your support by visiting [www.mahukona.org](http://www.mahukona.org). Your involvement can help secure the preservation of this unique and culturally significant landscape for future generations.





## LESSONS FROM A TRAGEDY

# A Restoration Ecologist's Perspective on the Maui Wildfires by Scott Fisher

Like many people in Upcountry Maui, the morning of August 8th broke for my family with a shrill electronic scream and an urgent text declaring that Kula 200 was being evacuated due to a wildfire that had started sometime in the early morning hours around Olinda Road. Details were few, but thanks to friends, we were able to quickly piece together a rough idea of what was happening in the community less than two miles away. Fortunately, the Maui Fire Department was on the scene, minus the department helicopter, which was grounded due to the high winds caused by Hurricane Dora tracking to the south of the Islands. Through the smoke that laid thick across the district, life seemed to fall back into a normal routine.

That routine was broken around mid-day when an announcement was made that a second Upcountry fire had ignited, this one in a residential area above my home. By early Tuesday evening, the winds whipped the fire uncomfortably close.

My wife, Colleen, had spent much of the day putting together items we would need in case things took a turn for the worse. Around 6 pm it seemed inevitable that, out of concern for our own safety, we would have to evacuate. We packed up two very unhappy cats and one oblivious dog, and headed for the coast, where we spent the night, anxiously looking up the slopes of Haleakalā, wondering if our home would still be standing in the morning.

By morning, we learned that the fire had spared our neighborhood, and with the winds dying, we were likely safe. Slowly, however, it began to dawn on us that Lāhainā, home to so many of our friends and family, and a place full of hali'a aloha (beloved memories) was gone forever. As I write this, the full extent of both the damage and fatalities has yet to come to light. A palpable grief hangs over Maui, like none other I have ever before felt here.

As a lifelong resident of Maui (I grew up in the neighborhood I live in today), I reflected on what brought us to the point where we now hold the dubious distinction of having the most deadly fire in the United States in over a century. Much needs to be understood about the immediate and proximate causes of the 5 fires that caused so much destruction on Maui. From the perspective of a restoration ecologist, I can see that it took us centuries for this problem to accumulate, although, I am always hopeful that through community efforts, we can learn from, and address this issue effectively and coherently.

Fire ecology was a required course for me in graduate school. Unsurprisingly, my research in this class focused on the fire ecology of the Hawaiian Islands. Although there is some variability in the fire regime (a combination of the frequency and intensity of fires) of different islands and different ecosystems on each island, studies of the



pre-human role of fire in Hawai'i consistently point to the fact that fire was very, very infrequent, especially when compared to continental ecosystems. Hawaiian plants, with a few questionable exceptions, are not fire tolerant. Unlike native species in Africa, Australia, and the Americas, where fire is a frequent occurrence, Hawaiian plants have not co-evolved with fire. Plants that have co-evolved with fire grow back faster than Hawaiian plants and have evolved to spread their seed during fire, allowing them to re-colonize the landscape. After the introduction of plants from these areas, combined with a dramatic spike in the fire regime, Hawaiian flora are at a distinct disadvantage. When fire moves through places that are dominated by indigenous and endemic species, the floral succession follows one direction: dominance by invasive, often fire tolerant, species.

Not only do these fire-tolerant (pyrophytic) plant species dominate the newly burned ecosystem, they increase the likelihood of another fire in the near future. Since the arrival of the African grasses that now dominate Maui's open spaces (particularly those in the genus *Cenchrus*, *Megathyrus*, and *Pennisetum*), Maui has experienced a dramatic spike in the fire frequency (some studies in Hawai'i have suggested a 700-fold increase). Combine this with inattentive or careless humans and you have both the fuel and the ignition source for a destructive or deadly fire.

One of the most dramatic changes on Maui over the past 30-years has been the transition away from sugar cane production. As many may recall, vast sugar cane fields,



Opposite page: In 2006, a fire ignited near Round Tables at Waihe'e Refuge during a wind storm. Above: Scott Fisher and Dale Bonar speak with Battalion Chief, Jeff Shaffer, as a Maui Fire Department helicopter douses the fire with ocean water.



Fire trucks driving through Waihe'e Refuge to put out the fire near Round Tables.

including around Lāhainā, seemed to be a permanent fixture of the landscape. When the plantations closed, within only a few years these former cane fields were replaced by the African grasses mentioned above. Sugar cane is a water intensive crop, requiring year-round irrigation. That, combined with the practice of harvesting sugar cane by burning the field, and wide fire breaks (cane roads), provided a buffer against these fires jumping fields and getting out of hand.

A changing climate, including a prolonged drought on Maui, the transition to what is, in essence, an African savanna without the large ungulate grazers, and heavy winds, finally converged around a populated area in the afternoon and evening of Tuesday, August 8th with tragic results. The problem did not arise over night, but there are ways local communities can take action.





Top: Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge. Right: Signing Waihe'e's Fire Management Plan, Left to right: Unknown, Dale Bonar, Denise Latinan, Diannah Goo, George Paresa, and Carl Kaupalolo (Maui County Fire Chief)

Two years after Maui Coastal Land Trust (the predecessor of Hawai'i Land Trust) purchased the Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge, we were the fortunate recipients of a Wildland Urban Interface grant through the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources. Through this grant we were able to develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. While there are many facets to this plan, it called for several things. Among the most important steps we took included reducing the fuel load in the field immediately adjacent to the town of Waihe'e. Ironically, a wind storm in October 2006 ignited a fire on the Refuge near Round Tables as we were preparing our plan. This incident brought home both the urgency and the importance of this plan. Vigilance is critically important, and I hope that everyone who visits the Waihe'e Refuge takes on the kuleana of the fire watch. Wildfires can happen anywhere and at any time, and our plan does not mean we are immune to such tragedies. I can only hope that a silver lining in this tragedy might include the restoration of our native ecosystems, and a mindset of *maka'ala mau* (perpetual vigilance).

## Ways to prevent or be prepared for the next wildfire:

- Reduce fuel load in areas where grasses and trees dominate, especially in areas closest to the homes. Fuel load refers to flammable debris like dead and brown grass and other plants as well as that can feed a fire.
- Keep combustible materials, including paints, paint thinners, gasoline cans, etc. away from areas where they might spontaneously and inadvertently ignite.
- Be *maka'ala*. An alert, aware, and vigilant community is one of the most important elements in fire safety requiring ongoing dialogue with our neighbors.
- Have a plan. If you live in a fire-prone area make sure you have a "go bag" or emergency supply kit ready to go and know your community's emergency response plan.

Find more resources at [www.readyforwildfire.org](http://www.readyforwildfire.org) or [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).






# HILT Happenings



## Protect



*As a land trust, Protection is our main purpose. Hawai'i Land Trust was created by communities around Hawai'i out of a passionate love of natural spaces. Today, HILT prioritizes protecting wahi pana, or cultural landscapes, coastlines, and lands that produce food for Hawai'i's people.*

These stones at Mahukona are part of the ancient Kohala Field System, which covered nearly 15,000 acres with a dense network of field walls and paved trails. The Kohala Field System is one of the largest archaeological sites in Polynesia.

## Hawai'i Island

### Ola Mahukona and Island Harvest Projects Moving to Close

One of HILT's most ambitious endeavors to date is the acquisition of a 642-acre property at Mahukona in North Kohala, Hawai'i Island. With the goal to finalize the purchase and establish a conservation easement by year-end, this initiative represents a significant step forward in safeguarding this pristine coastal area permanently. Details about the project and campaign progress can be found in the *Ola Mahukona* article on page 3.





View of Hana coastline.

HILT is also collaborating with the USDA, NRCS, and Island Harvest to secure a conservation easement on a 28-acre organic agricultural and macadamia nut farm. This project aims to support local farmers by providing secure and affordable access to land. Progress has been made over the past year, with the project now moving into the appraisal stage.

## Kaua‘i & Moloka‘i

### Exploring Unique Opportunities

HILT’s Protect team is actively exploring opportunities for future land protection projects on Kaua‘i and Moloka‘i. The focus is on preserving coastlines, wahi kūpuna, and lands that contribute to local food production.

## Maui

### Honokohau and Hāna Initiatives

In Maui, HILT is collaborating with the Nā Mamo Aloha ‘Āina o Honokōhau, the County of Maui, and other partners to protect Honokōhau coastal lands. This effort not only preserves the land but also provides essential community spaces for cultural and educational purposes.

On the eastern side of Maui, HILT is working closely with Ke Ao Hāli‘i, to bring even more protection efforts to fruition. This includes safeguarding more of the Hāmoa Complex lands, with the aim of establishing a space for community stewardship, education, and cultural preservation.





Above: Waikalua Fishpond, view towards Ko'olau Mountains. Bottom: 'Ākulikuli growing on the kuapā at Waikalua Fishpond.



## O'ahu

### Pursuing REPI Challenge for Waikalua Fishponds Complex

HILT has recently submitted a proposal to the U.S. Department of Defense REPI Challenge. This proposal seeks additional funding support for the permanent protection of the Waikalua Fishponds Complex on O'ahu. The initiative is a collaboration with the City & County of Honolulu's Clean Water & Natural Lands Program and Pacific American Foundation, the landowner and steward. HILT anticipates news of a potential REPI Challenge award for Waikalua in the coming year.

Learn more about many of our active protection efforts at: <https://www.hilt.org/active-aina-protection-projects>.





# Steward

*Stewardship is a very important part of our work at Hawai'i Land Trust. While most often this involves removing invasive species and replacing them with indigenous or endemic plants, our work also involves gaining a better understanding of the threats our special places face and implementing strategies to overcome them.*

HILT Kūkūau Steward & Educator, Ulu Keali'ikanaka'oleohaililani, and Nate Foster of Island Treescape collecting koa seeds for propagation.

## Hawai'i Island

### Progress in Kūkūau Community Forest and Mahukona

We're thrilled to report significant progress in our efforts to create access to Kūkūau Community Forest. Grant funding from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority Aloha 'Āina Program and Change Happens Foundation is set to pave the way for building essential infrastructure, welcoming the community to this remarkable forest. Our Kūkūau Steward & Educator, Ulumauahi "Ulu" Keali'ikanaka'oleohaililani, has been diligently working on the Kūkūau Forest Management Plan, which is now awaiting approval by the Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) Committee. This plan serves as the foundation for our stewardship of the forest over the next decade.



We are grateful to Tanya Rubenstein of the Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Forestry (DoFAW) Forest Stewardship Program for her guidance and support in drafting the plan.

During the summer, Ulu collected koa seeds for propagation from Kūkūau. These seeds come from two koa trees with an impressive 80% and 60% resistance to koa wilt, a fungus affecting young koa trees below 2500' elevation. Finding such resistant trees is a significant breakthrough for koa silviculture in Hawai'i. The seeds will be processed, stored, and used for future plantings.

Keone Emeliano, our Mahukona Navigation & Ecological Complex Steward & Educator, dedicated his summer months to battling invasive plants, preparing a native garden, and collaborating with the community to transform Mahukona into a sanctuary for native plants and culture. His efforts focused on removing invasive kiawe and sisal plants, with kiawe offered to the community as firewood. As for sisal, we're exploring various uses, including cordage and fencing.

Our native plant nursery and garden are thriving with pōhinahina, a'ali'i, wiliwili, kō, plumeria, and red and green tī. While we currently have one or two of each plant, we're eagerly anticipating their growth and success.

Mahukona Hana Lima working with Kohala High School students to remove the Mauritius hemp (*Furcraea foetida*) from an area where 'Iliahi alo'e is known to grow.



Nicholas Koch of Siglo Tonewoods helps gather koa seeds in Kūkūau Community Forest.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Kohala High School students and our partner Nā Kālai Wa'a for their invaluable contributions to clearing space and preparing for new beginnings. Monthly volunteer days focused on invasive plant cleanup to prepare for native plant reintroduction are planned for 2024. Stay updated through our social media channels and subscribe to our e-newsletter at [www.hilt.org](http://www.hilt.org).







Kāhili Beach Preserve volunteers working to clear invasive plants from the pu'uone and replace them with native plants.

## Kaua'i

### Stewarding Pu'uone

At Kāhili Beach Preserve, our Stewards & Educators, Ann Eu and Kapule Torio, continue their stewardship of Kāhili's pu'uone (sand dunes). They are actively planning the removal of invasive ironwood trees dominating the central area of the pu'uone. Volunteers are planting native pōhinahina and naupaka while clearing other invasive plants. Monthly community workdays have been remarkably successful in removing invasive grasses and creating space for native plants. Over the last few months, we've planted 10 loulou, a noni tree, pōhinahina, and lots of 'ilima papa. Our native plants are thriving, and we're excited about future plantings as we continue to clear the way from ironwood needles.

## Maui

### Growing Stewardship at Waihe'e

Our team at Waihe'e Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge is in expansion mode. Our loko i'a kalo Hui, Ka Pōholima Kā'eo, welcomes two new alakai to the group – Kuakea Yasak and Enzo Magliozzi. With their addition, we're increasing our workdays to 10 per month as we work towards restoring the kaupā to the first maka wai.

We've hired two Field Technicians, Kaleo Ornellas and Anastasia Hill, to assist in the ecological restoration of Waihe'e and Nu'u Refuge. Our first goal is to introduce Hawaiian methods into their stewardship duties. This marks the largest full-time stewardship team we've ever had on Maui, and we're eager to witness the continued growth of Waihe'e.

In August, over 50 volunteers joined us for an incredible quarterly workday at Nu'u Refuge. Volunteers engaged in tasks like watering the 320 trees planted earlier in the year, clearing invasive species (kiawe and koa haole), and installing coconut coir rolls to prevent erosion into Pūpuka pond. Our volunteers are indispensable, and the results achieved in one day are truly inspiring. Smaller volunteer groups have been actively assisting with tasks like weeding, watering trees, and removing invasive species. Together, we embody the Hawaiian proverb, "A'ohe hana nui ke alu pū," meaning no task is too big when done together.

## O'ahu

### Building Traditions at Maunawila Heiau Complex

The Maunawila Heiau Complex team and dedicated volunteers are gearing up to construct a 40' x 20' hale. They've cleared invasive trees like guava, with assistance from our Summer 2023 'Ōpio Program Interns, to prepare for the build. Volunteers from EcoRotary Kaka'ako lent a hand in moving wood from holding spaces to the worksite. Volunteers with hale-building experience have also joined to help us construct the hale.

Maunawila volunteers clearing and prepping wood for the hale.







# Connect

*Connection is at the core of all of our work at Hawai'i Land Trust. Our connection work includes our 'āina-based educational programs, Talk Story on the Land hiking series, volunteer days, and many more activities that connect people to the 'āina.*

The lowland wet forest working group planting nanea and native grasses at Ka'ahepa Forest in lower Puna.

## Hawai'i Island

### Fostering Relationships with New 'Ohana

In Hilo, at Kūkūau Community Forest, Steward & Educator Ulumauahi "Ulu" Keali'ikanaka'oleohailiani is connecting Kūkūau with a unique perspective. Ulu has joined a lowland wet forest working group, where stewards and land managers collaborate, sharing strategies for managing these unique ecosystems. They're focused on creating a list of native, indigenous, and non-invasive fruiting trees and canoe plants that can adapt to current climate shifts, such as 'ulu, wauke, niu, mamaki, mango, and hala. These efforts are geared towards creating a forest at Kūkūau that both serves the community and is climate resilient.



Ulu is also partnering with the Pacific Internship Programs for Exploring Science (PIPES) from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. Together, they're creating opportunities for the 2024 PIPES cohort to undertake projects benefiting HILT's work at Kūkūau Community Forest while gaining valuable fieldwork experience.

On the Kohala coast, Mahukona Steward & Educator Keone Emeliano is actively engaging with visitors, swimmers, hikers, and the local community. He has also had the privilege of speaking with kūpuna (elders) who have lived in Mahukona since the sugar plantation era. Furthermore, two hula halau (hula groups) have utilized hale papa'i (a structure built by the current landowners) at Mahukona for cultural practices, preparing for their upcoming events.

Keone will be at the Hāwī Farmers Market and Kohala Night Market on select days to answer questions about HILT and our work at Mahukona. Additionally, visitors can meet Keone on-site every Wednesday from 9-11 am starting September 13th until December 13th. To sign up for a visit, visit [mahukona.org](http://mahukona.org).

## Kaua'i

### Collaborating to Enhance 'Āina Connection

At the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year, two 6th grade classes from Kīlauea Elementary School and Island School's 2nd grade class had an enriching educational field trip to Kāhili Beach Preserve, with Surfrider Foundation, Waipā Foundation, and Uncle Gary Smith, a beloved figure in Kīlauea, collaborated to make the day memorable for the students.



Surfrider Foundation educated the students about marine plastic pollution, while Waipā Foundation provided insights into water testing and muliwai (estuary) water quality. Uncle Gary shared captivating stories of Kāhili with the children as they enjoyed their lunch.

Inspired by Surfrider and Waipā Foundations, Kīlauea Elementary School devised a plan for 6th graders to have monthly field trips to Kāhili Beach Preserve, focusing on collecting water quality data. Surfrider Foundation has also extended an offer to collaborate on future field trips and provide transportation funding, allowing students to visit Kāhili Beach Preserve for educational and stewardship activities. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Kīlauea Elementary, Surfrider Foundation, Waipā Foundation, and Uncle Gary for their commitment to education and conservation.

Above: Kāhili Beach Steward & Educator, Kapule Torio, giving a presentation to Kīlauea Elementary School students. Below: The lowland wet forest working group at Ka'akepa Forest in lower Puna.







Students from Pono Outdoor Program collecting naupaka seeds during one of their restoration visits to Waihe'e Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge.

## Maui

### Nurturing the Kia'i 'Āina of the Future

This spring marked a significant milestone at Waihe'e Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge, concluding the school year with the highest number of student field trips ever recorded. A substantial waitlist of several hundred students underscores the demand for the various educational opportunities offered at Waihe'e. On-site activities are tailored to grade levels and complement classroom curriculum, making learning engaging and memorable.

The summer witnessed the third year of the Ahupua'a Stewards program, featuring a diverse group of high school students from Maui. Stewards had the opportunity to explore the conservation field by visiting HILT sites and other projects on Maui. The program concluded with a makeup day, showcasing the enthusiasm and dedication of the Stewards, with 12 students attending, even though only six were required.

The growth of these programs is a testament to the community's commitment to spending time outdoors, especially as the importance of outdoor activities for mental and physical well-being became evident during the pandemic. The 2023-2024 school year on Maui has begun with challenges due to fires in Kula and Lāhainā, affecting school schedules and access to outdoor programs. HILT staff remains dedicated to supporting teachers and students in these difficult circumstances.

## O'ahu

### Kūkulu Hale to Kūkulu Community

Hau'ula Elementary School returns to Maunawila Heiau Complex for another year, utilizing it as an outdoor classroom. This semester, students will focus on learning and practicing hale building skills, and the Maunawila team aims to build partnerships with more schools in the O'ahu Ko'olauloa area.

Maunawila 'ōpio working to secure scaffolding.







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### Maui Workforce Relief:

HILT has received a \$1.1 million grant from the Hawai'i Community Foundation Maui Strong Fund to create temporary workforce opportunities in partnership with KUPU for 48 Maui residents who have been affected by the recent wildfires. Most positions do not require previous experience. Learn more and apply at [www.hilt.org/careers](http://www.hilt.org/careers).



### Buy Back the Beach Save the Date: Jan 27, 2024

Join us for Buy Back the Beach on Saturday, January 27, 2024 at Molokini Lookout. The event, which raises vital operating support for HILT, will treat guests to live entertainment and ono cuisine provided by Gather Restaurants. Table sponsorships and tickets can be purchased online at [hilt.org/events](http://hilt.org/events) or by calling (808) 791-0731. For more information contact Angela Britten at [angie@hilt.org](mailto:angie@hilt.org).

