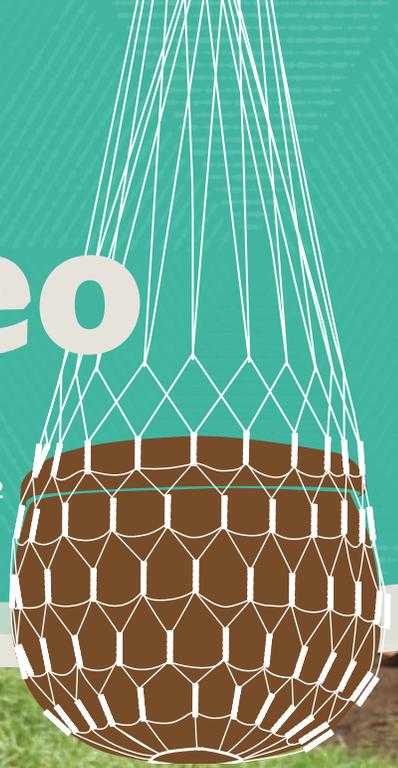


‘Umeke Kā‘eo

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

HAWAI‘I LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 12, NUMBER 1 | SUMMER 2022



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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 or email info@hilt.org for more information.

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Cover Photo: Dante Jaime, a 3rd grader at Kanuikapono Public Charter School, proudly shows off the invasive species he and his class cleared from Kāhili Beach Preserve's sand dunes.

FROM THE CEO

Aloha HILT 'Ohana,

As I'm writing to you, our HILT staff team is creating a historic timeline for Mahukona on the Kohala Coast of Hawai'i Island; one of many places we are currently working to protect. This center of traditional navigation for the entire Pacific was likely in use before 400 AD/CE and is still in use today. 1,600 years have passed since Mahukona's initial use for Pacific navigation. That is 64 generations, in which Hawai'i and the world have drastically changed. During that time, traditional navigation was largely lost in Hawai'i, but then relearned from our Pacific cousins whose ancestors traveled to Mahukona themselves so many years ago. Today at Mahukona, the traditional sailing canoe Makali'i rests in dry dock poised to return to the ocean, and the next generation of voyagers is being trained in star and elemental study at the navigational heiau Ko'a Heiau Holomoana which, thankfully, still stands.

It has me thinking...we are each only here for a snippet in time - one weave in a long braid of hau cordage, one small pōhaku in a dry stacked wall of thousands. But, the land and ocean remain. How we care for the land and ocean, and how we care for one another today, is either our gift to future generations, or our theft from them. I've noticed something about all of you in the Hawai'i Land Trust 'Ohana. Every day in some way, each of you thinks about how your actions today will impact future generations, and you alter your actions for their betterment. When one person does so, it creates real impact. When the HILT 'Ohana moves together, we can do the impossible such as permanently protecting for all future generations Waihe'e Refuge on Maui, Maunawila Heiau Complex on O'ahu, Kāhili Beach Preserve on Kaua'i, Pohakupili on Moloka'i, and hopefully the historic navigational and cultural complex of Mahukona.

With gratitude and aloha,

Laura H. E. Kaakua
PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



KUAHAUA

Moving Toward Sustainability, One Farm at a Time

Earlier this year, Hawai'i Land Trust celebrated the protection and expansion of prime Wai'anae farmland through an agricultural conservation easement, ensuring 24 acres of land will be permanently farmed to grow healthy food for local consumption.

Hawai'i Land Trust secured funds to purchase an agricultural conservation easement over 24 acres of land co-owned by Kahumana Farms and a private individual. Kahumana Farms then used the agricultural conservation easement funds to purchase the interest of the private individual, allowing Kahumana Farms to own and expand its farming operations over the entire 24 acres.

The Kuwale property at Kahumana Farms is cultivated in a variety of produce including salad greens, carrots, watermelon, citrus trees, and much, much more.



An agricultural conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to prevent conversion of productive working lands to non-agricultural uses. Funds for the \$1.27 million easement came from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and The Freeman Foundation. The James & Abigail Campbell Family Foundation, the Serendipity II Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation, and many individual Hawai'i Land Trust donors generously provided additional support.

Kahumana Farms is a Wai'anae-based nonprofit that provides housing, food, life skills, and job training to houseless families, people with disabilities, and youth. Founded in 1974, Kahumana Farms produces 100,000 pounds of organic produce each year in Lualualei Valley, while also providing 110 houseless families in Leeward O'ahu with housing, employment, and resources since 1989. In addition, Kahumana Farms operates a day program for adults with developmental disabilities, a farm hub for local growers, a farm-to-table café, and more.

Kahumana Farms uses regenerative agricultural practices that improve soil health, sequester carbon, and increase the health of the surrounding ecosystem. Under the easement, a small portion of the newly acquired land is dedicated for farmworker housing, a vital need to ensure the sustainability of farming as a profession in Hawai'i.

Christian Zuckerman, Kahumana's Farm Manager and Director of Social Ventures, said that with the conservation easement in place and the additional 8 acres they now own, they expect to increase



Kahumana Farms uses regenerative agricultural practices that improve soil health, sequester carbon, and improves nearby ecosystems.

production to 150,000 pounds of food annually for the local market, including Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) boxes, value-added products, healthy school lunches, and farm hub, which primarily serves new and socially disadvantaged farmers.

The Kahumana Farms agricultural conservation easement is the first completed under HILT's major partnership with the USDA-NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) that began in November 2020. HILT and USDA-NRCS' partnership opens opportunities for HILT to bring home millions of dollars in federal matching funds for the protection of agricultural lands throughout Hawai'i.

This partnership, the first of its kind in Hawai'i, provides opportunities for farmers, ranchers, and the possibility of expansion for fishpond stewards to preserve their lands in perpetuity for the production of local foods, with wide-ranging impacts including food sustainability, community resilience, and ecological health.

HILT is working on four exciting agricultural conservation easement projects in partnership with Island Harvest, Hawai'i Institute of Pacific Agriculture, and Kai Hoku Farms in Kohala, Hawai'i and HILT's oldest agricultural conservation easement project, Ke'anae Lo'i Kalo in Ko'olau, Maui. If you are a farmer or rancher who is interested in protecting your land with a perpetual conservation easement, please contact Shae Kamaka'ala, HILT's Director of 'Āina Protection at shae@hilt.org.



The Kuwale property represents 24-acres of farmland, now permanently protected.



HILT Happenings



Protect



Protecting lands that sustain Hawai'i is the foundation of our work. Hawai'i Land Trust was created by communities around Hawai'i out of a passionate love of natural spaces. Today, HILT prioritizes protecting coastlines, wahi kupuna (Hawaiian cultural landscapes), and lands that produce food for Hawai'i's people.

Mahukona's Coastal Strand with biological indicators of endangered yellow-faced bee habitat

Hawai'i Island

In March 2022, the Hawai'i State Legacy Land Conservation Program (LLCP) Commissioners ranked HILT's **Mahukona Ecological and Cultural Complex**, a 642-acre coastal parcel in Kohala, number one for protection. The proposal received a perfect score, approving \$3M towards this effort to purchase and safeguard Mahukona. HILT is excited to build off of the County's strong support of \$8M towards the purchase, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's support of \$4M from the Recovery Land Acquisition Program, and the more than \$4.5M raised by private foundations and individuals since the campaign launched in 2021. Stay tuned for our collaborative efforts to fill the remaining project need to permanently protect and steward Mahukona. Visit mahukona.org for more info and to donate.

Some of our readers may have noticed that we are not spelling Mahukona with a kahakō or macron over the first "a". We are currently learning from kūpuna in the area the correct pronunciation and meanings for the place names at Mahukona and have removed Hawaiian diacritical markings until we are confident in spelling.

Kaua‘i

HILT has been vetting a few inquiries for possible land protection projects on the island of Kaua‘i. When HILT evaluates whether to take on a land protection effort, the first question we always ask is “what is best for the ‘āina?” ‘Āina means that which feeds. Therefore, from a Hawaiian worldview, the next logical question we ask is “who does this land feed physically, emotionally, and spiritually?”

We look forward to our next meaningful project protecting Kau‘i’s coastlines, wahi kupuna, or lands that grow healthy food for the local community.

Maui

HILT joins the Hāna community and all of you in celebrating the protection of 33 coastal acres at Mokae including Waiokapi‘a Stream! The land is now owned by Ke Ao Hali‘i and protected with a conservation easement co-held by HILT and Maui County. HILT and our partners are now working on purchasing and protecting with a conservation easement the last couple of threatened parcels in the 2-mile coastal stretch from Hāmoa beach to Waioka pond. More info at: hilt.org/hana.

Recently protected 33 acres at Mokae, Hāna coast, Maui

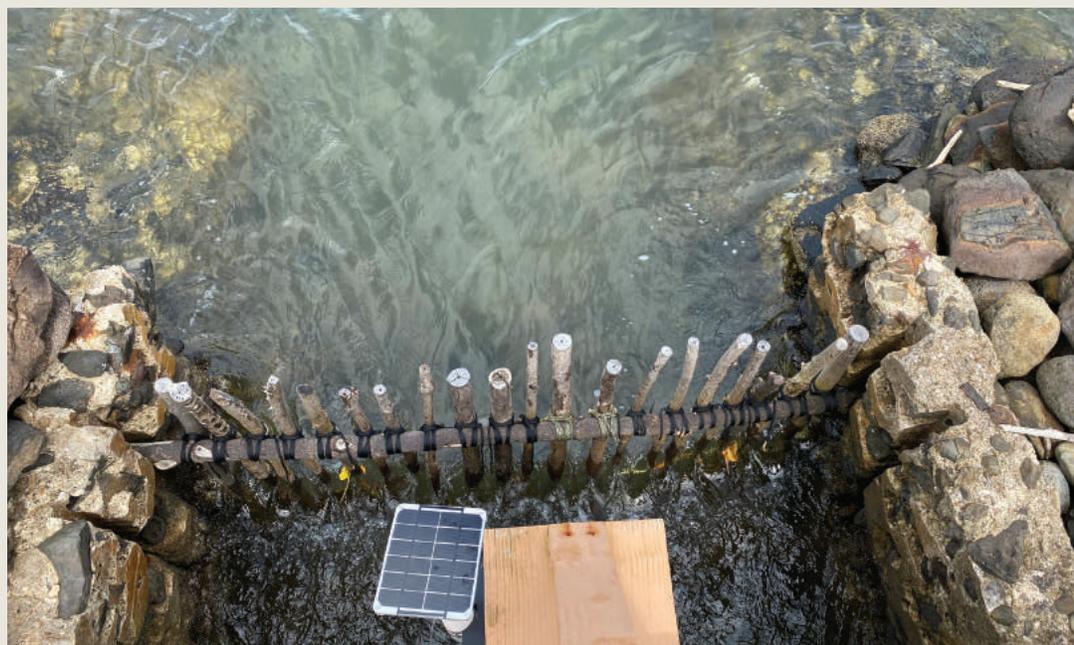


O'ahu

HILT's **Waikalua Fishponds Complex** located in Kāne'ōhe, O'ahu in partnership with landowner and stewards, Pacific American Foundation received solid support from the City & County of Honolulu's Clean Water and Natural Lands Program and residents from Kailua to Hau'ula for its efforts to permanently protect 17 acres including two fishponds between Kāne'ōhe Stream and Kawa Stream. We are working closely with the City to complete due diligence and close HILT's first conservation easement project permanently protecting a traditional Hawaiian fishpond later this year.

*“As a land trust,
protection is our
foundational
purpose.”*

Below: Kuapā (wall); Mākāhā (sluice gate)





▶▶▶ Steward



Stewardship is a very important part of the work at Hawai'i Land Trust. Stewardship is often thought of as removing invasive species and replacing them with indigenous or endemic species. This is a huge part of our work, but at a broader level, stewardship means gaining a better understanding of the threats our special places face and implementing strategies to overcome them.

Moss and ferns play vital ecological roles in forest ecosystems.

Hawai'i Island

In 2019, a family generously gifted HILT 1,600 acres of koa and 'ōhi'a forest in Kūkūau, above Hilo town. This land sits between residences and the State Forest Reserve, and invasive strawberry guava and other species are quickly invading the native forest. HILT envisions Kūkūau as a healthy native forest cared for by the Hilo community. Ulumauahi Keali'ikanaka'oleohaililani just started as HILT's Kūkūau Steward & Educator. There is a lot of work that Ulu will need to do before **Kūkūau Forest** can be safely accessed as HILT's 7th public preserve. Please welcome Ulu as he begins building community relationships to Kūkūau and starts hands-on restoration.

Kaua'i

At Kāhili Beach Preserve in Kīlauea, HILT staff developed a resilience plan that will both guide the restoration work there, and help to minimize the impacts of a warming climate. We have been experimenting with planting directly on the beach near the sand dunes. We dug kitchen sink sized basins and lined them with banana leaves, then lined the bottom with a layer of shredded coconut husk mixed with sand, and then planted Nanea (vigna marina), a quick growing native vine that helps mitigate sediment erosion and is one of few nitrogen-fixing native plants. We then covered the Nanea cuttings with sand. All the planting areas received a solid

watering with water from the Kīlauea River. The banana leaves help to retain water, keeping it from percolating through the sand and away from the seedlings, and the coconut husks provide organic material to nurture the seedlings. To our delight, all of these planting areas are doing well, considering no further watering has happened since they were planted. We plan to expand the planting areas on the beach using another native vine Pohuehue (*Ipomea pes-caprae*) soon. We hope that these efforts will help to mitigate the effects of high tide, or flooding events.

Community volunteers assist with preparing holes on the shore at Kāhili Beach Preserve before they plant Nanea vine cuttings.





Scott observing a small stream where he will begin his turbidity testing.



A turbidity meter is used to measure the prevalence of particles suspended in water. This helps us to understand the impacts and benefits of our work on the land downstream and in the ocean.

Maui

One of our stewardship projects at **Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge** has involved taking measurements of the sediment load at Kalepa Gulch, one of the two streams at the Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge. The data gathering is simple: gather water samples weekly and measure their turbidity above and below the wetland taro patches. Turbidity is the quality of being cloudy or thick with suspended matter and is a key measurement in water quality testing. The results have been remarkable: we have been able to consistently show that taro patches decrease stream sedimentation between $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ by allowing the water to settle, and not be distributed onto our nearshore coral reefs. Coral reefs dissipate wave energy, and protect our shores from wave erosion, among other impacts. One of the greatest threats to the coral reefs comes from excess sedimentation. Our studies are showing that more lo'i kalo (wetland taro patches) will result in healthier reefs across Hawai'i.

Also at Waihe'e Refuge, a grant from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's Aloha 'Āina Program is supporting HILT's Waihe'e Steward and Educator, Kia'i Collier as

he hosts large numbers of volunteers to learn the process of uahu humu pōhaku, or traditional rock wall building. All are welcome, especially the communities of Waihe'e and Waiehu, to restore the walls of Kapoho fishpond so that it may be a community food source and wetland bird habitat once again. Volunteers will also have the chance to learn from experienced uahu humu pōhaku practitioner Peleke Flores. This work is done with the intention of both healing the land, and making our pae 'āina more sustainable.

At **Nu'u Refuge**, we were fortunate to receive a grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Small Grants program for the development of a native forest we are referring to as a 'forested bio-shield.' Forested bio-shields are designed specifically to reduce the impacts of high energy marine inundation events (tsunamis and big storms), in order to protect the fishpond at Nu'u, Mākilō. This will likely be a multi-year project, but as seas rise and storms become more intense, the presence of the native bio-shield will serve as a protective barrier.

O'ahu

At **Maunawila Heiau Complex** in Hau'ula, two regular volunteers are making a huge difference. We've been fortunate enough to have Mackenzie and Winston participating in stewardship activities each week. These two dedicated stewards each found their own ways to Maunawila Heiau and have been helping us mālama this special place.

Mackenzie Plunkett was born and raised on Hau'ula Homestead Road, very close to Maunawila Heiau Complex. She came to us through the KUPU internship program as a Field Technician in 2020. Following the completion of that program, she chose to continue her kuleana as a Hau'ula community member by volunteering at Maunawila. In May, she graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management and International Business from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with hopes to work for an organization that benefits the Native Hawaiian community. She shares her experience at Maunawila as "this overwhelming feeling of my kūpuna watching over me" while tending to the 9-acre property. "Every single moment at Maunawila invigorates my connection to 'āina and reminds me to always give back to what has raised me."



Winston Poh is from Papua New Guinea with family ties here in Hawai'i. Winston is currently going to school at BYU-Hawai'i and is studying Biology and Anthropology.



He chose to volunteer at Maunawila after participating in a Volunteer Day with his BYU-H Anthropology class, taught by Rebekah Walker. Rebekah was HILT's first Maunawila Steward & Educator, and still regularly returns to Maunawila with her anthropology classes. It was during this Volunteer Day that he felt a strong connection with the 'āina. "It was a deep and peaceful yet powerful connection. It reminded me of an old proverb that can be found in many of the islands of the Pacific that talks about how 'the land has eyes and teeth and remembers the truth'. It was this strong connection that I felt that made me want to spend more time helping out at Maunawila." Winston is an avid bird watcher and while engaging in the practice of kilo (quiet observation) at Maunawila, he has observed native forest birds flying overhead. This gives us hope and critical information as we update our stewardship plans.

Maunawila has been blessed to share space with these two individuals. We are grateful that this young generation has created a pilina to the 'āina that their 'ohana and kūpuna call home.

From left to right: Community volunteer Winston Poh, Maunawila 'Āina Educator Māhealani Keo, Maunawila Steward & Educator Mamo Leota, and community volunteer MacKenzie Plunkett





▶▶▶ 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.

Mahukona 'Āina Steward Patti Ann Solomon and Maulili Dickson of Nā Kalai Wa'a share about the area's significance with a group of visitors.

**'A'ohe hana
nui ke alu 'ia!**

**(No task is too big when
done together by all!)**

Hawai‘i Island

In 2019, HILT began to work on an incredibly ambitious protection project – the purchase and protection of 642 acres of land at **Mahukona**. This area, a well-known fishing, diving, and swimming area, also hosts several cultural sites and habitats for rare and endangered native species. We will launch our very first set of *Talk Story on the Land* hikes here in September. Registration will become available in July, visit www.hilt.org/talk-story-on-the-land to reserve your spot.

Kaua‘i

In this ever changing environment brought upon us by Covid-19, a large part of our activities at **Kāhili Beach Preserve** in Kīlauea has simply been to reconnect Kaua‘i’s youth with ‘āina. ‘Āina being the land and places that we live, but ‘āina also being our own bodies and all of the things and people that nurture and feed us, mentally, spiritually, and emotionally. With so many restrictions within our communities and education system, field trip opportunities for students to engage in outdoor activities beyond their school campuses

have been non-existent for many classes. However, some schools have been able to visit Kāhili – most notably Kanuikapono Public Charter School, Kawaikini New Century Public Charter School, Island School, and Kīlauea Elementary School. During excursions to Kāhili, haumāna see, listen, and feel the ‘āina as they also give back through weeding, planting, cleaning, singing, chanting, and most importantly: playing!

‘A’ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia! With help from our visiting schools, we have removed hundreds of pounds of invasives, which has allowed the native plants a chance to reestablish themselves. Our native grassline has expanded where invasives were rampant, we have keiki ‘ilima papa plants popping up near the parking area, and two planting sites has been established, one of ‘ākulikuli near the entrance by the parking area, and one of ‘ae’ae near the river bed where wedelia was removed. Haumāna have created barriers around our native plants, not only to draw attention to these plants so that they are not trampled, but also to help capture water as we welcome the change of seasons with the rain.

A group of Kaua‘i elementary school students participate in habitat restoration efforts on one their field trips.





Students from Dartmouth College learn about coastal habitats with Waihe'e 'Āina Steward and Educator, Kia'i Collier.

Maui

On the island of Maui there have been multiple educational programs working closely with Maui Educator Denby Freeland to build ongoing site visits and learning opportunities at **Waihe'e Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge and Nu'u Wetlands Preserve**. In the first quarter of 2022 Denby took the lead in coordinating a group of Dartmouth College Anthropology students while they were on Maui for six weeks. Students visited Waihe'e and Nu'u multiple times, and worked with Denby, Scott, and Kia'i for their final projects which were related to Hawaiian practices in land management and restoration, the mindset of integrating Hawaiian culture into the current ecological restoration, and the involvement of local schools in the work that we do as an organization. Denby also connected the group with other Maui 'āina stewardship sites so that they could experience a balance of 'āina based work on Maui.

In early April Hawai'i Land Trust partnered with Maui County non-profits Maui United Way and Hui No Ke Ola Pono to host a **"Healing the Healers"** event at Waihe'e Refuge to mahalo and uplift Maui-based nonprofit and health center staff exhausted by the ongoing pandemic. The event included working on the 'āina with HILT, cultural and health activities, and me'a'ai from Hui No Ke Ola Pono. "Our job as nonprofits is to help and heal our community in many different ways. We can't help

others if we are worn down." shared Laura Kaakua, CEO of Hawai'i Land Trust. "From a Hawaiian perspective, when we need to heal, we go to the land, we go to the ocean. When we collectively return to the land and ocean, it brings collective healing and helping others." One participant shared, "I needed to get out of the office and enjoy the sunshine. I really enjoyed meeting other people from the community and networking."



Healthcare workers learn how to make healthy drinks and salves using common garden and kitchen ingredients.

O'ahu

Maunawila Heiau Complex in Hau'ula has been part of a beautiful community effort over the last several months. Our stewards have built relationships with students and families of Hau'ula Elementary School – a highlight of this year so far. Several classes from Hau'ula Elementary come out to Maunawila each week. Students and families have been connecting with the land learning about specific lā'au lapa'au (medicinal plants). Each class had the responsibility to plant and mālama various mala (gardens) for the community to learn about and use once the plants are mature enough to harvest. In late 2021, we received grant funding from the Honolulu City & County Grant in Aid program, as well as from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority to support our 'āina-

based education programs and the construction of a traditional hale at Maunawila. In preparation for the hale-build this summer, we have been hosting regular workshops to teach and practice the skills needed to build traditional hale Hawai'i. Along with those skills the community has learned and is practicing the protocols that we put in place to visit and mālama our Heiau 'o Maunawila as well as protocols to clear space before hale building and protocols for safe hale building practices. We are excitedly looking forward to putting all these skills and knowledge to use during this summer's hale-build and know we will be well supported by our community.

Top left: Maunawila Menehune help to clear debris and weeds from the area the hale will be built. Top right: Menehune pose with signage they painted for the entrance to Maunawila Heiau Complex. Bottom left: Students and teachers from Hau'ula Elementary School learn about Maunawila's significance. Bottom right: A community member learns to tie knots in a hale-building workshop.



HAWAI‘I LAND TRUST 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Celebrating 10 Years of TRUST

HILT celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2021. Looking back at all that has been accomplished in the last 10 years, we are grateful for the people and organizations who have supported us along the way.

HILT is the product of a merger of four separate island land trusts: Hawai‘i Island Land Trust founded in 2001, Kaua‘i Public Land Trust founded in 1989, Maui Coastal Land Trust founded in 2000, and O‘ahu Land Trust founded in 2008. O‘ahu Land Trust previously merged with Kāne‘ohe Bay Land Trust. Prior to HILT’s merger, over a period of several years, representatives of local land trusts, as well as The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, and Hawai‘i Community Foundation came together to discuss the future of land conservation in Hawai‘i. Back then, the question was asked: “Ten years from now (and beyond), which decision will have been the best one: placing our energy and efforts into making our (individual) local land trusts as effective as they can be, or organizing those local efforts around a statewide conservancy that attempts to reach higher and farther than local efforts could?” Today, we carry on the legacies of each organization’s triumphs. As Hawai‘i’s local statewide land trust, we have built the capacity and expertise to not only protect, but also to steward and connect all current and future generations to Hawai‘i’s most cherished places.

Here’s a look back at some of the more notable achievements in our 10 year history as Hawai‘i’s only statewide, local land trust – Hawai‘i Land Trust.

Protected Nu‘u Refuge (2011)

HILT’s first completed protection project was the purchase of 81 acres of wetlands and dry forest habitat in Kaupō, Maui from Kaupō Ranch. The site includes ancient house sites, ki‘i pohaku, part of Ke Ala Nui o Pi‘ilani, and a vital wetland habitat.

Protected Maunawila Heiau Complex (2014)

Located in the small community of Hau‘ula on O‘ahu’s windward side, Maunawila Heiau Complex has become a center for cultural connection and ‘āina-based education.

Launched Talk Story on the Land hiking series (2014)

This popular free guided hiking series is offered to the public at our public preserves and partner sites on Hawai‘i Island, Kaua‘i, Maui and O‘ahu. The program reaches approximately 400 people annually teaching people about each site’s unique history, mythology, ecology, and HILT’s conservation efforts.



Protected first farm that grows food for Hawai'i's people - Wai'oli Lo'i Kalo, Halele'a, Kaua'i (2015)

HILT prioritizes protecting farms that grow healthy food for Hawai'i's people, increasing food sustainability and security for our islands. This conservation easement, donated by Gaylord and Carol Wilcox, protected 40 acres of productive kalo lo'i (wetland taro fields). Kalo has been farmed in Wai'oli above Hanalei bay since ancient times. The conservation easement ensures the land will always be kept in active kalo cultivation.

Launched 'Āina-Based Education Program (2018)

Education has long been part of HILT's work on the land, hosting field trips for local schools and providing educational tours. However, in 2018 we formalized this program – developing partnerships with local schools and developing curricula to support teachers on Kaua'i, Maui, and O'ahu. We are working to expand to Hawai'i Island soon.

Completed first conservation easement protecting public access to a hiking trail in Hawai'i - Wai koa Loop Trail, Kilauea, Kaua'i (2019)

This loop trail in Kilauea provides 4½ miles of family-friendly walking through orchards, mahogany forest, with catch and release ponds, and views of an historic stone dam. Landowner Joan Porter gifted this public access conservation easement to HILT. The trail can be accessed through the Kaua'i North Shore Dog Park.

Conserved more than 20,000 acres statewide (2019)

HILT's 2019 Annual Report shared that HILT had protected 20,168.47 acres across Hawai'i nei. That number represented the recent protection of places such as MA'O Organic Farms' Palikea property in Wai'anae on O'ahu, Lipoa Point on Maui, Niupea Native Forest Restoration in Hāmākua on Hawai'i Island, and

a property along Kilauea River on Kaua'i. While racking up protected acreage isn't the driving force behind what we do (we're more interested in meaningful and impactful conservation at any scale) we are proud to have accomplished so much with a small staff.

Formalized partnership with Hanona to steward Kealaka'ihonua Heiau at Waihe'e Refuge, Maui (2021)

We have a vision that all HILT preserves are places where Hawaiian culture thrives and everyone is welcomed. To progress our goal at Waihe'e Refuge on Maui, HILT signed a Co-Stewardship Agreement with Hanona, a Maui nonprofit and hālau hula. Hanona is perpetuating Hawaiian traditions and helping HILT care for a small but significant area of Waihe'e Refuge called Kapokea, which includes Kealaka'ihonua heiau. HILT expects to formalize similar cultural partnerships at other preserves.

Formed partnerships with local schools to use HILT sites as satellite campuses, and formed Maui Ahupua'a Stewards Program with UH Maui College (2021)

To broaden the reach and impact of our 'Āina-Based Education Program, we signed our first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with an elementary school. Under the MOU, HILT's Maunawila Heiau Complex is now a satellite campus for Hau'ula Elementary School. This means teachers can easily take their students to Maunawila at anytime to enhance their in-the-classroom lessons. Other MOUs with schools next to our other preserves are in the works. HILT also launched the Maui Ahupua'a Stewards Leadership Program in partnership with UH Maui College. The Program exposes Maui high school students to conservation career paths, and has inspired many.

From Scott and James' Perspectives:

Scott Fisher and James Crowe have worked with Hawai'i Land Trust for 19 and 16 years respectively, starting when it was still Maui Coastal Land Trust. For all that time, they have been the thread of continuity throughout HILT's work.

For those of you who haven't had the pleasure of meeting Scott or James, Scott is our Director of 'Āina Stewardship, developing research-based management strategies for all of our 7 public preserves. Scott possesses a wealth of knowledge and leads fascinating Talk Story on the Land hikes at Waihe'e and Nu'u.

James is our Director of Conservation Easement Stewardship, Compliance, and Technology. A man of few words, (as you will see) James ensures the organization follows the high standards for lands trusts as set forth by the Land Trust Alliance and develops innovative technology solutions for our staff. He's also our drone pilot, responsible for many of those aerial views of the land you may have seen.

Here's a review of HILT's most notable accomplishments over the last 10 years in their view.

SCOTT FISHER:

- AWESOME ED/CEO leadership that evolved over time to meet our growing needs.
- We only had two fee-owned refuges when we merged, there are 7 today.
- Nearly doubled our conservation easement acreage and more than doubled the number of conservation easements.
- Gained a really good understanding of the ecological history of our refuges where we are doing restoration work.
- Species not seen in Waihe'e for 80 years are making more regular appearances.
- Gained a lot of understanding of the threats to our properties from climate change and other natural threats (e.g. tsunamis, hurricanes, etc.) and have developed resilience plans based on these threats.



- Compiled a very dedicated and committed board.
- Permanent protection of some of the most important cultural sites in Hawai'i, especially Maunawila Heiau.
- Worked collaboratively with communities to effect meaningful change toward sustainability and resilience in Kīlauea, Waihe'e, Kaupo, Hau'ula, Kohala, Volcano, etc.

JAMES CROWE:

- I think the most significant thing is the rebirthing and growth of our staffing structure since its first post-merger composition.
- There's also increased stewardship and engagement with schools for using our preserves for site-based education.
- Our presence and familiarity in the communities of Hawai'i has grown significantly.



HILT EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OVER THE YEARS

Dale Bonar:	2011 - 2012
Anders Lyons:	2012 - 2013 (interim)
Ted Clement:	2013 - 2015
Scott Fisher:	2015 - 2016 (interim)
Kawika Burgess:	2016 - 2019
Laura Kaakua:	2019 - present

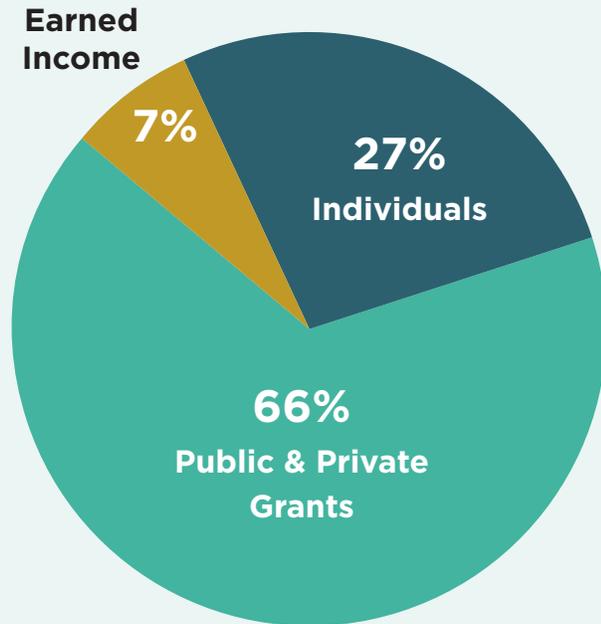


Financial Summary

Combined statement of activities for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021

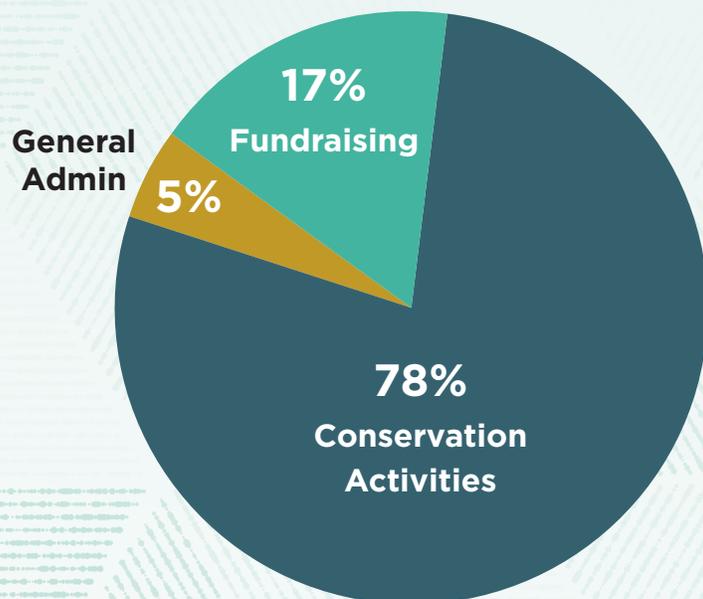
In 2021 our income exceeded expenses and we raised \$2,320,192 for operations and stewardship, enabling HILT to protect and steward over 21,705 acres of land across the state. HILT's efficiency is further demonstrated by the fact that 78 cents for every dollar raised is used directly to advance our conservation mission. The financial results depicted here are from HILT's audited December 31, 2021 consolidated financial statements.

Revenue by Source Total Revenue \$2,320,192



Total Programmatic Efficiency

Total Expenses: \$1,426,379
Summary Program Expenses: \$1,116,624



2021 Highlights & Accomplishments

In 2021, HILT continued to endure the challenges and embrace the opportunities brought on by the Global Coronavirus Pandemic. The strong foundation built over the previous two years, our dedicated volunteer board, and support from generous and passionate donors allowed us to successfully weather these challenges. HILT grew its staff by two, protected 30 acres of coastal pasture land along the iconic Hāna Coast, advanced 8 land conservation projects toward permanent protection in the next three

years, and connected thousands of students, residents, and visitors with the land by welcoming everyone and providing ʻāina-based education. We are thrilled by the building momentum that will ensure the protection and community stewardship of even more of Hawaiʻi's coastlines, Hawaiian cultural landscapes, and lands that grow food for Hawaiʻi's people.

HILT measures its success in advancing its mission work through a variety of metrics.

Here are some highlights achieved in 2021:

46 
Conservation
EASEMENTS

21,705 Acres
PROTECTED 

26,300 
VISITORS
at HILT Preserves

6,918 
COMMUNITY
Service Hours

7 Hawaiʻi Land Trust
PUBLIC PRESERVES 

PROTECT

(Conservation Purchases and Easements):

- Total places protected following HILT's Strategic Land Protection Priorities: **1**
- Total acreage protected in 2021: **30**
- Partnered with the Hāna community group Ke Ao Hali'i to protect **30** acres of coastal ranchland of great cultural significance at Maka'ālae, Hāna Coast, Maui
- Significantly advanced **8** land protection efforts to close in 2021 - 2023, including Kahumana Organic Farms in Wai'ānae, O'ahu, Waikalua Fishponds Complex in Kāne'ōhe, O'ahu, Mokae II on the Hāna Coast, Maui, and Kaumau in Keaukaha, Hawai'i Island.
- Signed agreement to purchase and permanently protect Mahukona Navigational Complex, comprising **642** acres of land, and spanning **6** ahupua'a along the Kohala Coast of Hawai'i Island
- Increased capacity to own and steward land in **8** communities

STEWARD

(Caring for HILT's Preserves, and Conservation Easement Annual Monitoring):

- Began implementing the **Climate Change Resiliency Plan** for Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge, Maui
- Completed a **Climate Change Resiliency Plan** for Kāhili Beach Preserve, Kaua'i
- Planted **489** native and rare plants at HILT's preserves
- **1,370** volunteers gave **6,918** hours of stewardship to HILT preserves
- Hosted **61** volunteer days at Waihe'e Refuge, Nu'u Refuge, Kāhili Beach Preserve, and Maunawila Heiau Complex
- Continued cultivation of over **50** different rare Kalo species through partnership with E Kupaku Ka 'Āina's Maka'āka Lo'i at Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge
- Provided annual monitoring for **46** Conservation Easements per national standards
- Hired **1** additional part-time stewardship and education staff at Kāhili Beach Preserve on Kaua'i in June 2021
- Hosted **3** Community Kilo (observation) Programs at Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge, Kāhili Beach Preserve and Maunawila Heiau Complex

- Removed invasive plants from **2** acres at Waihe'e Refuge, Nu'u Refuge, Maunawila Heiau Complex, and Kāhili Beach Preserve
- Provided 12 hours of educational outreach to the Kāhili Ocean-user Community at Kāhili Beach Preserve

CONNECT

(Āina Engagement and Education):

- Led **46 Talk Story on the Land Hikes** across the islands, sharing the importance of mālama 'āina with over 400 participants
- Taught **2,228** students in 'āina-based education on HILT preserves
- Created **10** educational resource videos
- Provided **27** high school and college internships in natural and cultural resource management and land protection
- Welcomed **26,300** visitors to our preserves across Hawai'i
- Hosted **1,483** campers at HILT preserves
- **15** 'āina and kai-based cultural practices perpetuated on HILT's preserves
- Ran **3** after school and summer youth education programs at Maunawila Heiau Complex and Kāhili Beach Preserve
- Finalized **1** MOU with Hau'ula Elementary School to use Maunawila Heiau Complex as a satellite campus to enhance student learning and pride
- Partnered with UH Maui College to establish the **Ahupua'a Stewards Leadership Program**
- Provided **2** 'Āina Resource Trainings to the community increasing knowledge of archaeology and Iwi Kupuna laws
- Strengthened **14** community partnerships to share HILT's expertise and welcome collaboration in mālama 'āina strategies and work

2021 Featured Supporters

NĀ KOA ‘ĀINA

HILT's Nā Koa 'Āina are a group of supporters whose generosity, long-term vision, and leadership has enabled HILT to fulfill its mission to protect and steward the lands that sustain us. These steadfast supporters have made generous multi-year commitments to ensure HILT's success as we strive to protect even more of Hawai'i's most special places.

Matt & Elif Beall
Hawai'i Life Charitable Fund
Hawai'i Life Real Estate
Brokers
Hōkūala Community
Association
Susan & Jac Kean
Jonathan Kindred
Michael D. Moore

NŌPILI MONTHLY GIVING CLUB

The nōpili is a freshwater goby known to climb waterfalls by clinging to the wet stones. The unwavering determination of the nōpili has become synonymous for showing steadfast love through small, persistent acts. We equate that with the dedication of donors who make recurring gifts to HILT. These Nōpili empower HILT to take a more proactive role in protecting critical lands across the state.

Jennifer Avina
Martin Ballo*
Kate Blystone*
Nakita Bubar*
Terilyn Carvalho Luke*
Paul Coleman
W. David Connell*
Ruth Craig
James K. & Amy Crowe
James K. & Eleanor M.
Crowe
Gwendolyn Damasco
Victoria Fatula
Olan Fisher
Marissa Harman

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Monte Tudor-Long
Larry Uyeda
William D. Van Loan
Jessica & Warren
Vanlandingham
John Michael Wojahn*

**New in 2021*

PLANNED GIVING

The 'Āina Ho'oilina Society is a committed group of loyal supporters who have included HILT in their estate planning. Ho'oilina can mean legacy, therefore the people who make plans to ensure HILT's work carries on after their passing are leaving a legacy that will benefit the 'āina, and Hawai'i's people, for generations to come.

Janet Bal
Dr. Richard H. Bennett
Susan L. Bradford
Jackie Brainard
Neola Caveny
Mary Charles
Sonya H. Davis &
Joseph R. DeFazio
Mindy Frankel
Lisa Grove & Stephen
Becker

Hilary Harts
Donna Howard
Frances O. Jackson
Stephen Kieffer
Maribeth & John
Klobuchar
Marguerite Lambert*
Judy McCorkle & Tom
Reed
Joan C. Pratt

Robert & Carolyn
Richardson
Gerrianne & Clyde
Sakamoto
Bryce & Shannon Skaff
Patricia A. & Jefferson
G. Stillwell
Susan H. Thompson
Anonymous

**New in 2021*



HO‘OMĀKAKAU MAHUKONA

Recognizing those individuals, foundations, and companies who supported HILT’s efforts to begin the process of acquiring and permanently protecting Mahukona Navigational and Cultural Complex, Kohala, Hawai‘i in 2021. This 642-acre coastal parcel is a historic training ground for traditional Hawaiian navigators. The lands include hundreds of ancient cultural sites including Ko‘a Heiau Holomoana, an ancient site of

worship revered by navigators from all over the Pacific. Mahukona’s clear night skies, free from light pollution, allow for star study, and the combination of its calm bay and rough deep ocean waters create the ideal environment to train young navigators. Additionally, a variety of native plants, birds, and sea life can be found on its pristine shoreline. For current info on Mahukona, visit mahukona.org.

Ala Kahakai National
Historic Trail
Hermine Baker & Daniel
Thomas
Jane & Gerry Bockus
Janet & Tim Britt
Alan & Suzanne Brown
Katherine Buckovetz
Fredrico Cachola, Jr.
Deborah Chang
Joan Channon
Zarine Dorabji
Thomas Kao Duarte
Melissa Eyre & Rajkumar
Sundram

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Biggerstaff
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Norman Knudson & Toni
Withington
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Ellen Yamada-Regidor &
Jeremy Keala Tanaka
Robert Young

2021 ‘Ohana

Mahalo for your support of Hawai‘i Land Trust. On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers, we wish to thank those who contributed to HILT between January 1 and December 31, 2021.

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Daniel Aaron
Martha Abrams
Alyson Abrego
Georgia Acevedo
A. Stephen Aglinskis
& Elen Bradunas
Aglinskis
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Get on the Land With Us!

HILT offers a variety of opportunities to get on the land and connect with 'āina. Join us for one of our regularly scheduled **Volunteer Days** on Kaua'i, Maui, O'ahu. Visit our website at www.hilt.org/volunteer to learn more and to register. On these Volunteer Days, you will help with our habitat restoration efforts by removing invasive species, and planting natives.

If you're interested in getting to know HILT's public preserves in a different way, join us for a **Talk Story on the Land** hike with one of our 'Āina Stewards. Talk Story on the Land is a free, guided hiking series open to the public in which participants learn about a preserve's history, ecology, and our restoration work. This fall we launch our first-ever Talk Story on the Land hikes at Mahukona Navigational and Cultural Complex on Hawai'i Island. We hope to see you there! Learn more and reserve your spot at www.hilt.org/talk-story-on-the-land.

