

## 2015 THUMBS-UP AWARD NOMINATIONS

Aha Moku 'O Maui (<http://www.ahamokuomaui.org/>)

Nominated by Phil Fernandez

Aha Moku 'O Maui was formed in 2011 because the moku of Maui wanted more say in what happens in Maui's land and ocean resource management. The group is headed by Keaumoku Kapu, and is the only organization within the aha moku system that has organized and incorporated as a 501(c)(3). The group works to assist each moku on Maui in accomplishing goals by helping them build moku councils with participants from within their moku. The overall goal of Aha Moku 'O Maui is to help build a system that works for all through implementation of moku resource management.

Conservation Council for Hawaii (<http://www.conservehi.org/>)

Nominated by Robin Kaye

Conservation Council for Hawaii is a non-profit environmental organization established in 1950. The purpose of CCH is to protect native Hawaiian plants, animals, and ecosystems for future generations through research, education, community outreach, organizing, service, and advocacy.

Connecting Land and Sea - CCH continues to advocate for the proper management of game mammals and feral ungulates by the State to reduce the damage they cause to native forests, watersheds, habitats, streams, and near-shore water quality.

Preserving Our Ocean Heritage - For the past 3 years, CCH has been focused on helping to save the critically endangered Hawaiian monk seal. CCH convened a working group of environmental and Native Hawaiian organizations to advocate on behalf of the monk seal. CCH is also currently monitoring efforts to protect nesting habitat of 'a'o (Newell's shearwaters) and endangered 'ua'u (Hawaiian petrels) on Kaua'i. CCH is calling on the State to require environmental reviews before granting permits that allow unlimited aquarium collection of marine wildlife in coastal waters.

Promoting Collaboration and Stewardship - CCH sponsored gatherings and information exchange by Native Hawaiian practitioners and others who actively manage ocean resources in their communities. With support from the Hawaii Tourism Authority, CCH is producing dozens of wildlife viewing signs to promote responsible wildlife viewing and protection. CCH has produced annual wildlife education posters for children since 1975. The posters celebrate native species and ecosystems, and combine beautiful images by Hawaii based artists with in-depth information to promote stewardship of our natural and cultural resources.

CCH has called for the legal protection of sea turtles and the Hawaiian monk seal, opposed sand removal from public beaches on the Wai'anae Coast of O'ahu, opposed commercial whaling in the Pacific, prevented housing developments in Kawainui Marsh on O'ahu, raised public support

for the designation of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, and supported designation of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. CCH has also supported successful legislation aimed at reducing the environmental impacts of climate change.

Eyes of the Reef Network (<http://eorhawaii.org/>)

Nominated by Donna Brown

The Hawai‘i Eyes of the Reef Network (EOR) is an effective statewide reporting system for coral disease, bleaching, Crown of Thorns Sea Star (COTS) and marine invasive species that enables all community members and ocean users to contribute to the long-term protection of our local reefs. The Eyes of the Reef network is comprised of regular reef users, including recreational users, tourism professionals, researchers, and fishers, who voluntarily monitor and report on conditions at reefs that they visit regularly.

Pollution, climate change, poor land practices and increasing recreational and extractive activities create environmental conditions that foster coral disease and coral bleaching, support the spread of invasive species, and threaten reef health. Without initial sightings by the local “eyes” on our reefs, such occurrences may go unnoticed until it is too late. Detecting the early signs of any of these events on our local reefs requires a wide network of observers providing regular reports of conditions throughout the region. The Eyes of the Reef network has been designed to provide reliable reports on bleaching, disease, and changing reef conditions throughout Hawai‘i.

Hawai‘i’s reefs are numerous and widespread and scientists and managers are only able to monitor a small fraction of them. More trained eyes are needed to catch these events early on. Without these initial sightings by the local “eyes” on our reefs, such occurrences may go unnoticed until it is too late.

EOR offers free trainings to give people with all levels of ocean knowledge the skills to identify and report threats to Hawai‘i’s reefs. We also offer local monitoring and educational support in your area. Contact your Island Coordinator to learn more about the programs available in your area.

The EOR statewide network is the first tier of a rapid response protocol developed by the Division of Aquatic Resources and the Climate Change and Marine Disease Local Action Strategy, implemented by Reef Check Hawai‘i.

Hui Malama O Moomomi Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area

Nominated by Kimbal Thompson and Craig Severance

Hui Malama O Mo’omomi is submitting a proposal to designate Molokai’s northwest coast from Ilio Point to Kaholaiki Bay, extending out one nautical mile from the high water shoreline, as a community-based subsistence fishing area (CBSFA). Subsistence is “the customary and traditional native Hawaiian uses of renewable ocean resources for direct personal or family

consumption or sharing.” On Molokai, 38% of the food consumed by residents of Hawaiian ancestry is produced by subsistence activities. Hui Malama O Mo’omomi maintains an open invitation to any Ho’olehua resident to be an active and participating member.

### Community-Based Resource Management

Hui Malama O Mo’omomi hopes to bring management from the State of Hawaii and the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the community. Community-based resource management in partnership with State government can promote the sustainable use of fisheries resources more effectively and efficiently than government enforcement alone.

### Benefits of Community-Based Resource Management

- Addresses the specific and dynamic needs of an area rather than relying on blanket state-wide rules and policies.
- Relies on peer and social pressure to enforce pono fishing practices in an area.
- Focuses on education – especially of youth who are the next generation of fishermen.
- Guided by kupuna fishermen and practitioners with in-depth knowledge of the area and its resources.

### Protecting Threatened Species

Hui Malama O Mo’omomi includes in its plan strategies that address the rapid depletion of the most threatened species. An approximate balance has been maintained between harvesting and replenishment of inshore marine resources. However, those species that have been specifically impacted to a greater degree necessitate enhanced regulatory measures. When the problem is alleviated, any kapu will be lifted.

### Monitoring and Research

- Incorporates data gathered over the 20-year existence of Hui Malama O Mo’omomi.
- Detailed observation and reporting of permitted fishing activities and catches.
- Repetitive surveys of spawning aggregations and ko’a.
- Small-scale experiments that allow study of species’ growth rates or allow comparison of population in fished and unfished areas.
- Scientific research shaped by fishermen’s observations.

### Education

An educational program aimed at perpetuation of subsistence fishing knowledge and values in Ho’olehua Homesteads and other Molokai communities has been developed. Past educational efforts of Hui Malama O Mo’omomi have included subsistence videos, a moon calendar based on the local fishery, dive classes to promote pono fishing to youth, lawai’a family fishing camp, community outreach and presentations at local, national, and international conferences.

Maui Nui Marine Resource Council's Coral Reef Recovery Team

(<http://www.mnmrc.com/>)

Nominated by Rich Brunner

The Maui Nui Marine Resource Council's Coral Reef Recovery Team wrote a plan to restore fish, coral reefs, and water quality involving science and culture in the process. The Plan is now being pitched to the Maui County Council to be adopted into the Maui Island Plan. Sarah, former Executive Director, spoke about the Plan at the 2013 MACZAC Meeting on Maui.

Plan Summary:

In 2010, the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council (MNMRC) established the Maui Coral Reef Recovery Team (MCRT) composed of community members, scientists and cultural representatives, to develop a results-driven plan for the recovery of Maui's coral reefs. Based on documented decreases in both coral cover and reef fish populations, the Plan addresses the major causes (i.e., land-based sources of pollution, overfishing, deteriorating water quality, invasive algae, and climate change) of this decline, and increases the adaptability of Maui's reefs to changing climates.

Plan Goals:

1. Provide evidence of coral recovery at selected sites around Maui.
2. Advance knowledge, improve understanding of the state of Maui's coral reef ecosystems, and document coral recovery.
3. Strengthen public awareness regarding the status of threats to and trends facing Maui's coral reefs.
4. Strengthen the capacity for effective coral reef management on Maui.

Mo'omomi Preserve

(<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/hawaii/placesweprotect/moomomi.xml>)

Nominated by Kimbal Thompson

Mo'omomi Preserve is a last stronghold of a major Hawaiian coastal ecosystem, a holdover from an ancient era. Strong and steady northeast trade winds shape the dunes of Mo'omomi, creating linear dunes a mile long and hundreds of feet wide. At first glance, these dunes appear nearly barren. Yet within these vast communities of native grasses and shrubs grow more rare coastal species than in any other single place in the main Hawaiian Islands.

The preserve harbors more than 22 native Hawaiian plant species, four of which are globally rare or endangered. These rare plants, like `akoko and `ena `ena, thrive in the dry, windy, salt-sprayed environment. A member of the sunflower family, *Tetramolopium rockii*, is known to be found only at Mo'omomi.

Mo'omomi Preserve is an important nesting site for the endangered green sea turtle. Deposits of bird bones reveal that the dunes were once home to at least 30 bird species, about one-third of which have since become extinct: a sea eagle, a *Grallistrix* or stilt owl, a flightless ibis, and a

giant flightless duck, among others. The Hawaiian owl (*pueo*) is one of the few native land birds that can still be observed regularly at Mo`omomi. Native shorebirds, like sanderlings and plovers, and seabirds, like the great frigatebird (*iwa*) and the wedge-tailed shearwater (*ua'u kani*), can also be seen along the shoreline.

Over time, most of Hawaii's native beaches have been lost to coastal development. Today, Mo`omomi Preserve, created in 1988, is the most intact beach and sand dune area in the main Hawaiian Islands.

Mo`omomi Preserve is managed in partnership with the State Department of Land & Natural Resources through the Natural Area Partnership Program. By protecting the dunes and beaches of Mo`omomi, the Conservancy is safeguarding native plants found nowhere else on earth. We're also protecting habitat for the rare Hawaiian monk seal and seabirds like the Laysan albatross, in the hope that these species will once again colonize Mo`omomi's pristine beaches.

Project S.E.A.-Link (<http://www.projectsealink.org/>)

Nominated by Jim Coon

Project S.E.A.-Link is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based on Maui, Hawai`i. Its mission is to promote marine Science, Education, and Awareness by fostering linkages between students, teachers, scientists, community members, other nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies, and the general public, and by encouraging and inspiring the next generation of marine scientists, educators, and conservationists.

Project S.E.A.-Link has developed and implemented numerous projects and programs focusing on marine science, conservation, and education, representing highly collaborative efforts characterized by extensive partnerships. These include launching the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) citizen science methodology in Hawai`i and developing an Adopt-a-REEF program, creating the Kānaka Mālama Kai volunteer marine naturalist program, assisting in the development and coordination of the (now statewide) Ocean Awareness Training program, managing a Honolulu Bay stewardship/Makai Watch program, co-founding the Kā`anapali Makai Watch program that focuses on promoting the effectiveness of the Kahekili Herbivore Fisheries Management Area, and spearheading the Changing Tides education and awareness campaign, which included the development of the “Take a Bite out of Fish Feeding” campaign. Project S.E.A.-Link also developed the publication Making a Difference – An Action Guide to Marine Conservation in Hawai`i. In addition, Project S.E.A.-Link worked with the Division of Aquatic Resources and other partners to develop interpretive signage (Respecting Coral Reefs and Kahekili Herbivore Fisheries Management Area), and currently coordinates an adopt-a-sign program to facilitate the sponsorship and installation of educational signage statewide. To date, over 50 Respecting Coral Reefs signs have been sponsored and installed across the state. Project S.E.A.-Link also serves as the fiscal sponsor for the West Maui Kumuwai social marketing campaign focused on watershed stewardship, supporting the community education objectives of the West Maui Ridge to Reef Initiative.

## West Maui Ridge to Reef Initiative (<http://www.westmauir2r.com/>)

Nominated by Donna Brown

The West Maui Ridge to Reef (R2R) Initiative is an all-encompassing approach across multiple agencies and organizations to address adverse impacts to coral reefs in West Maui. The State recognized that an integrated and comprehensive approach to reduce land-based sources of pollution is one of the most important steps to help restore coral reef ecosystems. The R2R Initiative builds on already established efforts underway and leverages resources across a number of agencies and community groups to implement actions to reduce one of the key sources of reef decline – land-based sources of pollution.

### Objective

To restore and enhance the health and resiliency of West Maui coral reefs and near-shore waters through the reduction of land-based pollution threats from the summit of Pu`u Kukui to the outer reef. These efforts will be guided by the values and traditions of West Maui.

### Priority Status

The Hawaii Coral Reef Strategy identified the coral reef ecosystem along the West Maui region as a priority management area. The US Coral Reef Task Force designated West Maui Watersheds as a priority partnership in the Pacific in 2011, beginning with Wahikuli and Honokōwai, and now including Kahana, Honokahua and Honolua. The full R2R project area includes 24,000 acres from Kā`anapali northward to Honolua and from the summit of Pu`u Kukui to the outer reef.

### Ongoing and Future Work

The R2R Initiative seeks to build on existing work in West Maui. The Watershed Management Plan for Wahikuli and Honokōwai funded by NOAA was completed in Dec 2012, and is now in the implementation phase. Planning for Kahana, Honokahua and Honolua Watersheds is underway and will be completed by early 2016.

### Working Group

The working group is comprised of ten members that represent key interests in West Maui. It is chaired by Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) and facilitated by the West Maui Watershed Coordinator. Members represent interests in agriculture, land development, resort operation, soil conservation, traditional Native Hawaiian knowledge, non-profit marine conservation, recreational ocean users, Maui County and fishing. The Working Group supports the R2R Initiative by serving as a local body providing community input to the Funding and Agency Support Team (see below).

### Funding and Agency Support Team

The Funding and Agency Support Team (FAST) is the leadership body for the R2R Initiative, is made up of representatives from DLNR/DAR, Hawaii DOH, NOAA Coral Reef, USEPA, NFWF, USDA/NRCS, DOI/FWS, USGS, and USACE. The FAST meets at regular intervals to provide oversight in managing funds, prioritize activities and develop strategies to achieve the R2R goals.

### **PAST THUMBS UP AWARD WINNERS**

- 2014 University of Hawaii Marine Option Program (MOP)
- 2013 E Mau Na Ala Hele (nominated by Phil Fernandez)  
AND  
Ka Honua Momona (nominated by Mike Sabas)
- 2012 Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawaii (B.E.A.C.H.)  
(nominated by Kimbal Thompson)
- 2011 Hawaii Community Stewardship Network (nominated by Makaala Kaaumoana)