

THUMBS UP AWARD (2013)

From Mike Sabas: (Nomination = Ka Honua Momona)

Ka Honua Momona (KHM) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, based on the island of Molokai. KHM's mission is to be a model of sustainability – mauka a makai (from the mountains to the sea). We seek to foster connections between all aspects of the island ecosystem, including the people and culture, and we firmly believe that Molokai can again return to abundance and become a self-sufficient model for all nations. Our primary long-term goals are to: 1) Develop indigenous education systems by revitalizing natural and cultural resources; 2) Perpetuate traditional knowledge and stewardship while evolving with modern technology.

From Jim Coon: (Nomination = Coral Reef Alliance)

Working with the West Hawaii community, the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) facilitated the development of the State of Hawaii's first comprehensive set of consensus-based voluntary standards for marine tourism, the West Hawaii Voluntary Standards (<http://www.westhawaamarinetourism.org>). These standards were developed through an inclusive multi-stakeholder process and are now being implemented, field-tested and evaluated with the assistance of CORAL. In addition, the standards are now expanding beyond Hawaii Island, with Trilogy Excursions as the first Maui company to adopt them.

In addition, CORAL has been instrumental in the development of key outreach tools and resources which support reef conservation and community efforts, such as the Making a Difference Action Guide, Respecting Coral Reefs Interpretive sign (with nearly 50 now installed statewide), and the Coral Reef Monitoring Data Portal ([//monitoring.coral.org](http://monitoring.coral.org)) in support of citizen science efforts.

CORAL is also a co-coordinator of the new Kaanapali Makai Watch program, which integrates outreach and education, community-based monitoring, the promotion of voluntary compliance with marine resource rules and regulations, and empowering the community to participate in observation and incident reporting.

From Craig Severance (and previously by Mike Gleason): (Nomination = Ka 'Ohana O Honua'po)

KA 'OHANA O HONU'APO has been formed as a non-profit organization to co-manage the new Hono'apo Park with the County of Hawaii. John Replogle is president of the organization. Replogle, who grew up in the area, lobbied county, state and federal decision-makers to preserve Hono'apo Bay and Fish Ponds.

From Sue Sakai: (Nomination = Malama Maunalua)

I'd like to nominate Malama Maunalua. Awesome non-profit organization in the Hawaii Kai area that partners with multiple agencies, schools, etc. (including NOAA) to enhance the marine environment of Maunalua Bay. For example, they work very closely with Hui Nalu, the canoe club based at the bay. Malama Maunalua's most visible project to date was "The Great Huki," the recent eradication of invasive limu. See the before & after photos on their website (have including the link here). Here's an excerpt from the organization's website that highlights just one of their many community-based initiatives:

Malama Maunalua in partnership with the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program has undertaken an effort to better understand the Maunalua region's watersheds and sources of sediment and pollution through a volunteer monitoring effort called Mauka Watch. This effort has involved volunteers in three related efforts:

- 1) Watershed Reconnaissance survey which documented potential sources of non-point source pollution (NPS) in stream channels and neighborhoods following a modified version of the Center for Watershed Protection's Urban Subwatershed Restoration Manual.
- 2) Water Quality Monitoring at select stream mouths (ongoing).
- 3) Rainfall monitoring. Volunteers are currently installing rain gauges across the region to gather information about rainfall to assist managers with watershed planning efforts.

<http://malamamaunalua.org>

From Phil Fernandez: (Nomination = E Mau Na Ala Hele)

E Maui Na Ala Hele is a community-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, established in 1979, devoted to preserving and perpetuating the historic trails of Hawaii and the protection of historic and natural areas adjacent to the trails. During the 1980's, the founding members were instrumental in the creation of the State's Na Ala Hele Trail and Access System that is now part of the State of Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife. During the 1990's, E Mau Na Ala Hele successfully worked toward federal designation of the Ala Kahakai as a National Historic Trail. As from the beginning, the organization continues to see its role as an advocate for the perpetuation of historic Hawaiian trails. E Maui Na Ala Hele partners with both State and Federal agencies in trail advocacy, preservation, and stewardship, providing volunteers and seeking funding for trail projects.

<http://emaunaalahahele.org/index.html>

http://emaunaalahahele.org/about_us.html

From Robin Kaye: (Nomination = Conservation Council for Hawai'i)

Conservation Council for Hawai'i is a 501(c)(3), 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. CCH is supported by approximately 5,800 members and donors, as well as grants for special projects. Since the 1970s, CCH has served as the Hawai'i state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.

Over the decades, CCH has consistently taken actions and launched campaigns to further the goals of the Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC) Ke Kahu O Na Kumu Wai, advance the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program, and advance the Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP). CCH 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 development in Kawainui Marsh on O'ahu, raised public support for the designation of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, called for responsible game management by the State, and supported designation of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. CCH has also supported successful state legislation aimed at reducing the environmental impacts of climate change and implemented a campaign urging the U.S. Senate to pass comprehensive climate change and energy legislation.

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. CCH prepared informative educational brochures on the invasive strawberry guava, rodents, and mongooses, and their impacts to native resources and 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 co-sponsored a video public service announcement that aired on KFVE during the Merrie Monarch in 2012, offered reward money in response to the intentional killing of seals in 2011 and 2012, and testified in support of proposed critical habitat for the seal in the main Hawaiian islands and other recovery actions.

CCH is currently monitoring efforts to protect nesting habitat by fencing and by removing predators that harm threatened 'a'o (Newell's shearwaters) and endangered 'ua'u (Hawaiian petrels) after taking legal action to reduce the harmful impacts of bright lights, utility poles, and multi-strung utility lines in essential flyways 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. CCH is also monitoring citizen petitions to remove the threatened honu (green sea turtle) and endangered kohola (Hawaiian humpback whale) from the federal threatened and endangered species list.

Promoting Collaboration and Stewardship

With support from Patagonia and others, CCH is currently implementing a 3-5 year campaign, the Kuleana and Kokua: Saving the Monk Seal Project, to increase public awareness and support for the seal, increase citizen involvement in recovery actions and policies affecting the seal, and support direct advocacy by CCH on behalf of the seal. The campaign includes interactive displays and games for children, outreach and participation in community events on O‘ahu and the neighbor islands, and distribution of educational materials for the public and decision-makers.

With support from The Pew Charitable Trusts, CCH sponsored gatherings and information exchange by Native Hawaiian practitioners and others who actively manage ocean resources in their communities. CCH also facilitated public participation in public meetings on President Obama’s National Ocean Policy, monitored actions by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WESPAC) that interfere with community-based ocean-resource management, called for a congressional investigation of WESPAC, and took legal action against WESPAC under the Freedom of Information Act.

Since 1975, CCH has produced annual wildlife education posters for children. The posters are now distributed – free of charge – to approximately 450 public, private, charter, and Hawaiian language immersion schools in Hawai‘i, and to community organizations, government agencies, elected officials, and the general public on request. The posters celebrate native species and ecosystems, and combine beautiful images by Hawai‘i based artists with in-depth information to promote stewardship of our natural and cultural resources. The most recent poster features loko ‘opae ‘ula – a rare coastal ecosystem that provides habitat for tiny red shrimp and other native species. CCH is currently fundraising to produce the next poster, which features Ho‘ailona, an amazing Hawaiian monk seal, and the artwork of award-winning author and artist, Caren Loebel-Fried. Past posters featured the ahupua‘a and sustainable living in traditional culture, threatened ‘a‘o (Newell’s shearwater), Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, coral reef ecosystems, Kawainui Marsh, endangered humpback whales, and other native plants and animals.

With support from the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority, CCH is producing dozens of wildlife viewing signs to promote responsible wildlife viewing and protection. These attractive and informative signs are being installed on O‘ahu and the neighbor islands in areas heavily used by the public. The signs provide viewing guidelines to enhance the wildlife experience in appropriate areas, while protecting whales, dolphins, monk seals, sea turtles, coral reef fishes, seabirds, wetland birds, and forest birds.

<http://www.conservehi.org/>