2014 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 Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument. CCH has also supported successful legislation aimed at reducing the environmental impacts of climate change.

Hui Malama O Moomomi Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area

Nominated by Kimbal Thompson

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.

University of Hawaii Marine Option Program (http://www.hawaii.edu/mop/)
Nominated by Donna Brown and Craig Severance

The Marine Option Program (MOP) is a University of Hawaii system-wide certificate program, offered on all UH campuses, providing educational opportunities for University of Hawai‘i students from any field of study who are interested in the ocean.
Students in the MOP certificate program have the opportunity to take marine-related coursework, and to conduct an independent research project or participate in an internship in a marine-related field. The MOP certificate program provides students with experiential education, research opportunities, networking, job opportunities, field trips, and the opportunity to pursue their passion for marine studies.

The Marine Option Program Certificate is awarded to students who have completed a specialized marine-focused course of study, including required coursework and an independent Skill Project. The MOP certificate is similar to a minor, and is awarded to students who successfully complete 12-16 credit hours of marine-related courses, IS 100 (MOP Seminar) as well as a MOP Skill Project. The MOP certificate is an official University of Hawaii Certificate that is registered on the student’s transcript.

As part of the requirements for the MOP Certificate, students are required to complete a Skill Project of their choice and design. The MOP Seminar (IS/BIOL 104) is designed to help students choose a topic and develop a written plan or proposal for their independent project.

Before students begin their Skill Project, they are required to write a Project Proposal, which involves background research, synthesis of a research question, and an outline of the plans they have for their project. Students are also required to submit periodic Progress Reports to their MOP Coordinator.

PAST THUMBS UP AWARD WINNERS

2011 Hawaii Community Stewardship Network (nominated by Makaala Kaaumoana)

2012 Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawaii (B.E.A.C.H.)
(nominated by Kimbal Thompson)

2013 E Mau Na Ala Hele (nominated by Phil Fernandez)
AND
Ka Honua Momona (nominated by Mike Sabas)