



Ka'ūpūlehu Foundation

IMPACT
REPORT
FY2024 - 2025



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Expanded outreach and communication for the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan.
- Held 12 in-person meetings and 14 virtual outreach meetings.
- Engaged fishers, community members, government agencies, and local leaders.
- Developed outreach materials including a website, flyers, presentations, and social media content.
- Supported the growth of Hui Kahuwai / KMLAC as a nonprofit organization.
- Continued collaboration with DAR on fisheries monitoring and management planning.

TRY WAIT

PROJECT FOCUS

Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee and The Nature Conservancy advanced strategic communications, stakeholder engagement, and fisheries management planning efforts to support sustainable, community-led marine resource management at Ka'ūpūlehu.

IMPACT & OUTCOMES

- Increased public awareness and support for sustainable fisheries.
- Improved collaboration between community members, fishers, and government agencies.
- Advanced long-term, community-based fisheries management efforts.
- Built systems for ongoing monitoring, feedback, and future planning.
- Helped position Ka'ūpūlehu as a model for community-led marine stewardship in Hawai'i.





Ho'ola Ka Makana'a

PROJECT FOCUS

Hawai'i Forest Institute continued long-term native forest monitoring, seed-scattering experiments, and threatened and endangered species tracking efforts within Ka'ūpūlehu dryland forest systems.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Monitored native halapepe and Hau Hele'ula trees and seedlings.
- Seed-scattering efforts increased native plant germination.
- Recorded new halapepe seedling growth despite drought conditions.
- Continued tracking over 400 threatened and endangered native plants.
- Maintained a 72% survival rate for monitored native plants.
- Hosted ongoing community stewardship and workdays.

IMPACT & OUTCOMES

- Improved restoration efforts for rare native plants.
- Increased native seedling growth and regeneration.
- Strengthened long-term forest monitoring and protection.
- Supported community involvement in caring for Ka'ūpūlehu forests.
- Built knowledge to guide future restoration work.



KE OLA IKI O HUALĀLAI

PROJECT FOCUS

Uluha'ō o Hualālai conducted a five-month study documenting insect and invertebrate diversity across the upper regions of Ka'ūpūlehu and Hualālai (4,700–6,100 ft elevation), integrating both ancestral 'ike and western ecological field methods.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Conducted insect and invertebrate surveys across upland Ka'ūpūlehu sites.
- Combined Hawaiian knowledge from the Kumulipo with field research methods.
- Used pitfall traps, butterfly sweep nets, and nighttime surveys to study species.
- Documented native and non-native insects, spiders, and other small life forms.
- Recorded over 1,500 specimens during surveys.
- Created a photo and species identification database.
- Observed insect behavior and seasonal changes over time

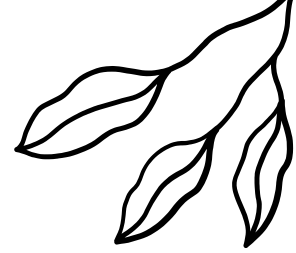
IMPACT & OUTCOMES

- Increased understanding of insect and invertebrate diversity in Ka'ūpūlehu.
- Highlighted the importance of small organisms in ecosystem health.
- Combined ancestral and Western science approaches in conservation research.
- Established baseline data to support future ecological monitoring.
- Strengthened cultural and community connections to 'ike and environmental stewardship.
- Engaged volunteers and community partners in field research and education.





Huliauapa'a



— FOCUS PROJECT —

Huliauapa'a focused on compiling, organizing, and safeguarding multi-source cultural, ecological, and place-based knowledge resources to support community stewardship, planning, and 'ike preservation.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Continued development of the Ka'upulehu 'Aina Story Map to preserve place-based knowledge.
- Compiled cultural and ecological information including place names, mo'olelo, winds, rains, wao, and trails.
- Created educational and stewardship resources such as Uluha'o and KMLAC cards.
- Supported biocultural and historical research through the Huaka'i Series Reports.
- Shared reports and knowledge with lineal descendants and community members.
- Hosted workshops to gather and preserve 'ike and community knowledge.
- Collaborated with Ka'upulehu organizations on mapping and cultural resource projects.

IMPACT & OUTCOMES

- Created tools to support future stewardship, education, and planning efforts.
- Improved access to community resources and 'ike.
- Supported sharing of 'ike between generations.
- Strengthened collaboration among Ka'upulehu organizations and community partners.
- Built a growing digital resource for long-term community use.



HULIAUAPA'A