

**FRIENDS of
HANAUMA BAY**
CONSERVE • PROTECT • RESTORE[Visit Website](#)

March-August 2024



Aloha everyone,

We've met some great milestones since the last report to our membership!

After more than ten years, Friends of Hanauma Bay **reached a settlement** with the City and County of Honolulu that returned \$5,261,500.00 to the Hanauma Bay Fund in one lump sum in June 2024. The settlement also included biannual audits of the Hanauma Bay Fund, and inclusion of the Friends in the annual Hanauma Bay budgeting process.

Mahalo to Mayor Blangiardi for leading the first City Administration willing to work with the Friends to resolve this issue and make the Hanauma Bay Fund whole, and for welcoming us to the budgeting process to help preserve and maintain this precious natural resource that is an iconic symbol of Hawaii around the world.

We are also pleased to report that the endemic coral colonies in our landmark coral restoration project in Hanauma Bay are **doing well** a year after their outplanting.

Congratulations to Liikoi De Martini and Vera Wang whose projects were **awarded** the Friends of Hanauma Bay Special Awards for Marine Related Research at the 67th Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair, and Happy **120th Birthday** to the Waikiki Aquarium!

Congratulations as well to our partners Cindi Punihaole and the Kahalu'u Bay Education Center for once again temporarily closing Kahalu'u Bay Beach Park for eight days during **cauliflower coral spawning** in March this year.

Cauliflower corals are a vital part of Hanauma Bay's underwater ecosystem as well, enhancing the reef's structural integrity and contributing to its overall biodiversity. Understanding cauliflower coral spawning is key to the future of Hanauma Bay.

We are excited to share that Friends of Hanauma Bay has recently partnered with the NGO Dear Ocean on its visionary **Digital Coral Ark** project, a longitudinal crowdsourced photo and video library of at-risk coral reef systems that are popular with snorkelers and divers around the world.

As our reefs continue to decline, and even disappear, video footage of some areas may be our only reminder of what once was. Having a backed-up, referenced, decentralized repository of this footage provides a level of protection for this potentially invaluable information. By examining historical video footage, scientists might be able to identify and study micro-ecosystems that once thrived together. This type of information may also enable scientists to one day replant coral reefs as close as possible to their original state. It is urgent to gather this historical footage quickly because many of the older digital video files are becoming corrupted, degraded, or unreadable due to the non-permanence of the original storage media.

Launching a crowdsourcing campaign for footage of these reefs will raise public awareness of both our remarkably beautiful reefs and the very real risk of extinction that some may ultimately face.

Historical footage made available through the Digital Coral Ark can offset 'shifting baseline syndrome,' in which perceived norms gradually change over time, causing the previous state to become forgotten. Today, when younger people enter marine environments, they still see beautiful tropical fish and coral, but they don't have a reference point to understand how profoundly many reefs have changed from what they once were.

The Digital Coral Ark will contribute to a roadmap for repopulating reefs in the future, should the need ever arise. If a catastrophic or widespread decline occurs precipitously, there will be neither time nor sufficient funding for comprehensive documentation, or for trial-and error learning about which corals coexist successfully in close proximity in various locations and conditions.

Conservation efforts can be facilitated through shared knowledge spanning both emerging scientific discoveries and traditional knowledge in the form of indigenous conservation practices.

CALLING UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHERS!

We are seeking contributions to the **Hanauma Bay Digital Coral Ark project** that:

- have sufficient clarity and resolution to visually identify species of fish and/or coral.
- can be identified by date and location (either by personal knowledge or embedded camera data).
- are owned by adults 18 years+ willing to grant permission to use in the historical database.
- are from any previous time, but especially those taken prior to 2016.

You can either use Dear Ocean's **Contributor Page** to upload directly or reach out via the Contact form to receive a portable thumb drive to share larger collections.

Last, Give Aloha, Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program, kicks off Sunday, September 1, 2024. Foodland will match donations up to \$249.00 to registered organizations like Friends of Hanauma Bay. If you would like to donate to Friends of Hanauma Bay through Give Aloha, please use number 77177.

Mahalo for your ongoing support of Friends of Hanauma Bay!

A hui hou kākou,
Lisa Bishop
President
president@friendsofhanauab.org

Updates and News



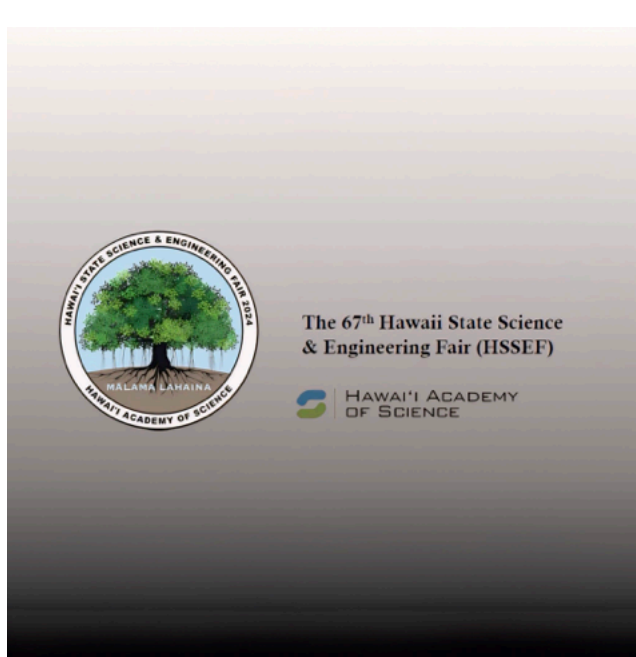
Friends of Hanauma Bay Finally Reach Settlement with City and County of Honolulu Over Use of the Hanauma Bay Fund

After more than ten years, Friends of Hanauma Bay reached a settlement with the City and County of Honolulu.

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Update on Landmark Hanauma Bay Coral Restoration Project

We are pleased to share that the *Porites evermanni* modules outplanted at Hanauma Bay are looking fantastic and growing well!

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67th Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair Friends of Hanauma Bay Special Awards

Tuesday, April 2, 2024, the 67th edition of the Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair returned to an all in-person event.

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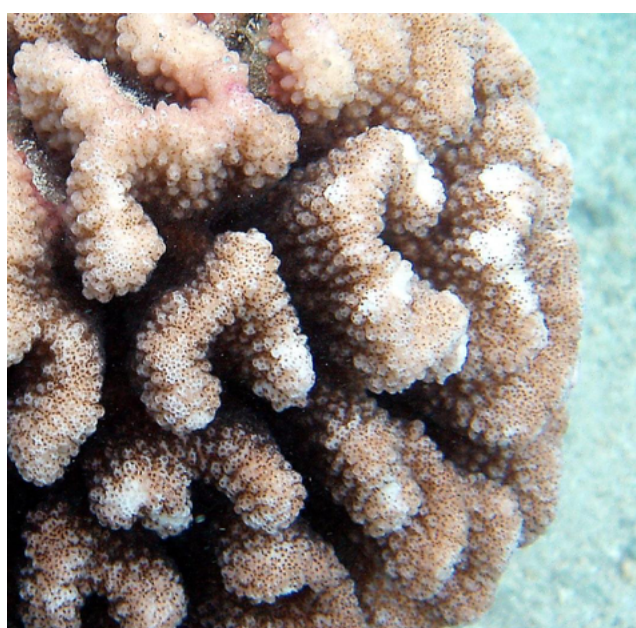
120th Waikiki Aquarium Happy Birthday Celebration

As the second-oldest aquarium in the United States, the Waikiki Aquarium celebrated its 120th birthday with a two-day celebration on Saturday, March 16th and Tuesday, March 19th, 2024.

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Congratulations to Cindi Punihaole and the Kahalu'u Bay Education Center for Their Dedication to Coastal Conservation

Congratulations Cindi Punihaole and the Kahalu'u Bay Education Center for closing Kahalu'u Beach to protect reefs.

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The Future of Hanauma Bay: Understanding Cauliflower Coral Spawning

The endemic coral colonies in our landmark coral restoration project in Hanauma Bay are doing well a year after their outplanting.

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Get In Touch

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