



HAWAI'I GREEN GROWTH UN LOCAL2030 HUB 2025 Annual Report

**HAWAI'I GREEN GROWTH
UN LOCAL2030 HUB**

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Foreword

The year 2025 marked a significant milestone in Hawai'i's sustainability journey. With five years remaining until 2030, the Aloha+ Challenge is no longer a distant commitment. It is a near-term responsibility and one that continues to guide our collective work. The timeline invites focus and thoughtful alignment between vision, policy, and on-the-ground implementation.

In July, I stepped into the role of CEO, receiving the steering blade from Celeste Connors with genuine appreciation. Celeste strengthened Hawai'i Green Growth as a trusted convener and a recognized UN Local2030 Hub. She built a strong foundation in partnership and global engagement. I am grateful for that work and the care she brought to this organization over the past decade.

At the same time, this moment requires more than continuity. It requires discipline. Over the past year, we began developing a new organizational charter and strategic plan – not as a procedural exercise, but as a recalibration. Our goal is simple: align our structure, priorities, and partnerships more directly with measurable outcomes. Hawai'i does not need more good intentions. It needs coordinated execution.

Two milestones stand out. In July, Hawai'i launched its third Voluntary Local Review at the United Nations. The report combined our signature Dashboard data, Action Spotlights, and a youth-authored section that speaks clearly about what the next five years must deliver. That inclusion of youth voice is not symbolic. It is a reminder that accountability spans generations.

This spring, the Hawai'i State Legislature reaffirmed its commitment to the Aloha+ Challenge through passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 183 (SLH 2025). That reaffirmation at the ten-year mark matters. Legislative decisions in the years ahead will directly shape our progress, and alignment between policy and implementation will be essential.

None of this work happens in isolation. It is carried by our Board, our staff, our AmeriCorps VISTA members, our funders, our Sustainability Business Forum members, and partners across sectors who show up consistently and do the work.

As we move toward 2030, my commitment is straightforward: strengthen accountability, focus our efforts closer to home, and translate collaboration into visible progress on the Aloha+ goals. This next chapter will be rooted firmly in Hawai'i – guided by our island and indigenous values, and measured not by conversation alone, but by the outcomes we deliver together.

The steering blade has changed hands. The kuleana remains collective.

With deep gratitude and aloha,

Kalani L. Ka'anā'anā
Chief Executive Officer

Introduction

Amidst accelerating local and global change, Hawai'i Green Growth's (HGG) work in 2025 reflected similar transformations and recalibrations as we remain committed and focused on our shared goals. With just five years remaining until 2030 – the deadline our statewide community collectively gave the Aloha+ Challenge when it was adopted in 2014 – this past year sharpened our focus to align strategy, leadership, and action for HGG and these important goals.

HGG's work in 2025 also included the development of a new organizational charter and the process for a new strategic plan. 2025 also marked the launch of Hawai'i's third Voluntary Local Review (VLR) to the United Nations (UN), which documents statewide progress towards the inception of the Aloha+ Challenge and since the publication of the last report in 2023, and captures Hawai'i's collective sustainability journey at the midpoint toward the Aloha+ Challenge. These strategic undertakings underpin HGG's core work as the steward of the Aloha+ Challenge and mark its 6th year as a designated UN Local2030 Hub.

Throughout the year, HGG continued to convene partners across sectors and islands, support locally driven implementation projects, and advance education and leadership pathways, including youth engagement and data stewardship through the Aloha+ Dashboard.

2025 was a year of transition within our organization. We extend our deep gratitude to Celeste Connors for her visionary leadership and lasting contributions as CEO, and were pleased to welcome Kalani L. Ka'anā'anā as our new CEO, guiding HGG into its next chapter. Alongside this leadership transition, we extend our warmest mahalos and a hui hou to several valued staff and AmeriCorps VISTA members, while welcoming new team members who strengthen our work across programs, partnerships, and operations.

HGG's work in 2025 was shaped by continuity and change, sustaining collective action toward the Aloha+ goals while recalibrating our approach to meet the challenges and opportunities of the years ahead.

Our Vision

A thriving, resilient, and regenerative future for Hawai'i that inspires and leads Island Earth towards aloha.

Our Mission

Hawai'i Green Growth is a trust-based network organization that drives collective impact through measurable concrete action, inspiring local and global communities to advance regenerative economic, social, and environmental goals.

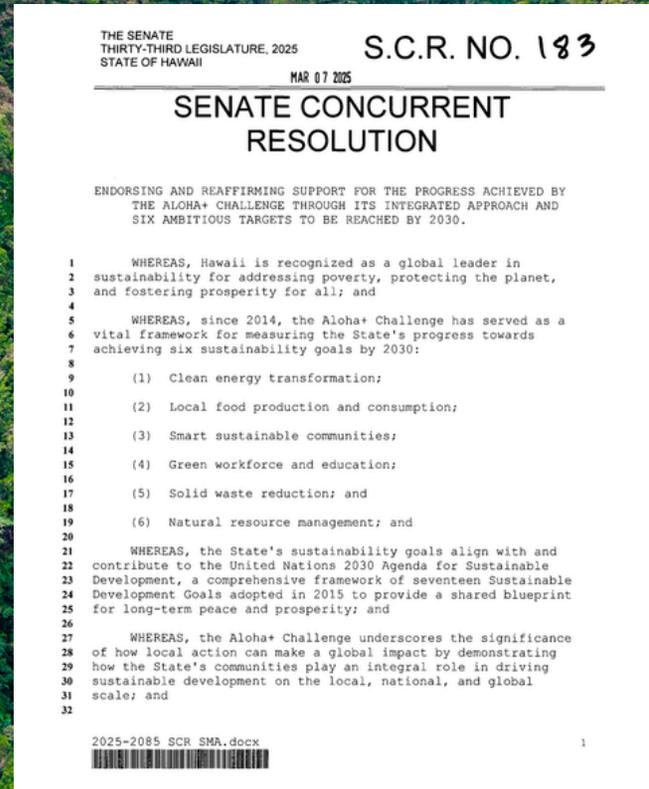
The Aloha + Challenge



Since 2011, Hawai'i Green Growth Local2030 Hub (HGG) has established, fostered, and grown a public-private partnership focused on advancing economic, social, and environmental priorities.

The [Aloha+ Challenge](#) is a statewide commitment to achieve Hawai'i's sustainability goals and a locally-driven framework to implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since 2014, HGG has steered progress toward the six Aloha+ Goals – Clean Energy Transformation, Local Food Production & Consumption, Natural Resources Management, Solid Waste Reduction, Smart Sustainable Communities, and Green Workforce & Education. HGG continues to track progress on this commitment through the [Aloha+ Dashboard](#).

Senate Concurrent Resolution 183:



On April 15, 2025, the Hawai'i State legislature passed [Senate Concurrent Resolution 183](#) (SCR183), which endorsed and reaffirmed the State's commitment to the six Aloha+ goals. The resolution passed following testimony from Hawai'i's SDG Youth Council. It reflects a celebration of the progress achieved through the goal framework, as well as a statewide commitment to continued action. Mahalo nui to the SDG Youth Council and board member Athline Clark for their leadership and support in getting this resolution passed.

COLLECTIVE ACTION TO ADVANCE THE GOALS

The Maui Resilience Partnership

HGG works to support Maui-based partners who are increasing watershed resilience and reducing the risk of wildfire across landscapes. This solution puts Native Hawaiian and community values at the forefront through the publicly-available Mālama Implementation Tool. The [Maui Resilience Partnership](#) (MRP) consists of a group of seven Hawai'i-based organizations (below) working to restore 66,000 acres of forest and watershed, reduce wildfire risk in fire prone areas, and support Maui's recovery and long-term resilience.



The Partnership brings together local knowledge, science, and shared values to care for the land and protect the people who live here. We work together because no single group can do this alone – but together, we can create real change.

Mahalo nui loa to the Bezos Maui Fund for the generous support.



COLLECTIVE ACTION TO ADVANCE THE GOALS

The Maui Resilience Partnership

HGG and MRP partners convened a two-day, field-based learning experience on September 29-30, 2025 to provide decision-makers with firsthand perspectives from community leaders, cultural practitioners, farmers, ranchers, and land managers working across wildfire readiness, watershed protection, and community-based stewardship.

[Visit our YouTube Channel](#) to hear more about this project through our new video "Working Together".

- Participants consistently noted that the most impactful learning came from being on the ground and engaging directly with land stewards. Seeing landscape-scale drought, water stress, and wildfire risk alongside community-based solutions already in place clarified both the urgency of current conditions and the limited capacity supporting these efforts.
- Youth perspectives reinforced the long-term stakes of today's decisions, while field exposure deepened leaders' understanding of the scale, interdependence, and systems nature of resilience.
- Across site visits and discussions, a shared systems perspective emerged. Participants recognized that no single organization or sector can address wildfire risk in isolation, and that effective action depends on alignment across people, land, water, and policy.

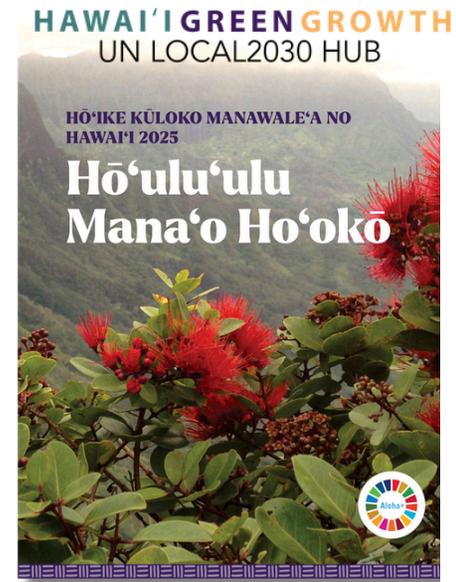
This understanding has shaped three clear priorities for engaging decision-makers on Maui: sustained investment in local capacity, coordinated land and water management across sectors, and stronger pathways that translate policy and funding into on-the-ground action.



THE 2025 HAWAII STATEWIDE Voluntary Local Review

Hawaii Green Growth aims to bring the Aloha+ Goals to the global stage through our work as a UN2030 Hub. A keystone of this work is to lead the state's Voluntary Local Review (VLR) process in collaboration with network partners from across government, business, and civil society sectors, and supported by the VLR Task Force and SDG Youth Council.

The 2025 report examines the state's progress at the 10-year mark since the commitment to the Aloha+ goals, with 5 years remaining to our 2030 goalpost. The report acts as a snapshot report of the living data "dashboard," and showcases "Action Spotlights", highlighting organizations and initiatives that are making progress towards one or more of Hawaii's goals. The report also demonstrates business initiatives in Hawaii and a youth-led section.



Hawaii's 2025 Voluntary Local Review was launched to the UN at this year's United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York (July 2025), with a delegation led by Maui Mayor Richard Bissen and supported by members of the SDG Youth Council, Hawaii-based community members (Mahina Paishon) and partners, and leadership of HGG.



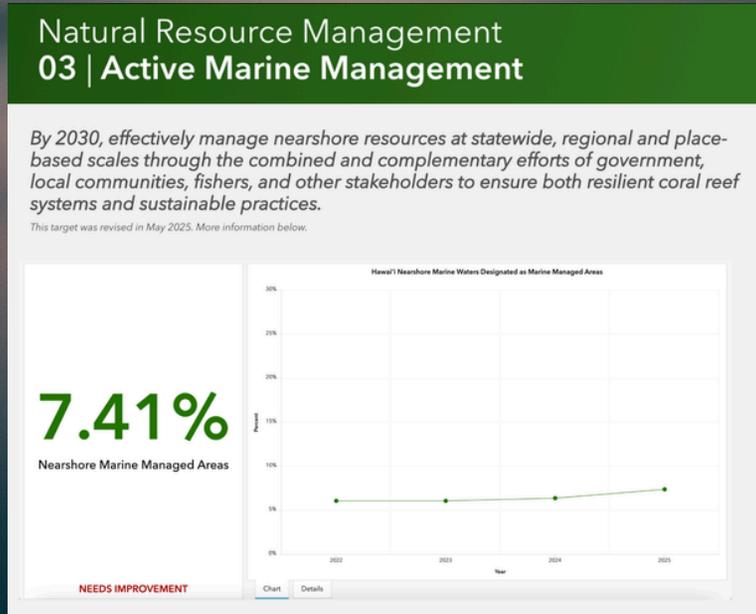
To support HGG's preparation of the 2025 VLR, the SDG Youth Council designed and led peer-to-peer forums on Maui and O'ahu to engage youth across the state on taking action for sustainability and the Aloha+ Goals. These convenings built upon the Youth Summit on Hawaii Island last May and served as an opportunity for middle and high school students from across the state to learn about the SDGs and the Aloha+ Challenge. These youth-led meetings provided an opportunity for students and young people of Hawaii to further articulate and expand on their vision for the future they want for Hawaii and how these young generations will contribute to He Nohona 'Ae'ioia – a culture of sustainability.

MEASURES WORKING GROUP

The Aloha+ Dashboard

Much of HGG’s data stewardship is made possible through our collaboration with members of the Measures Working Group, which convenes cross-sectoral partners to maintain the [Aloha+ Challenge Dashboard](#), update statewide metrics and indicators to track progress, provide accountability, and ensure transparency. In 2025, the group prioritized updating and vetting the Aloha+ Dashboard data for the publication of the 2025 Hawai’i Voluntary Local Review.

HGG has been working closely with the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) and other key stakeholders to revise the target language and means for tracking marine management following The Department of Land and Natural Resources’ (DLNR) transition from a “30x30” marine management framework to implementation of the Holomua Marine Initiative – DAR’s new community-based planning approach for management of nearshore marine resources in Hawai’i – which catalyzes community driven marine co-management efforts. The Measures Working Group was engaged to ensure ongoing alignment with the proposed revisions and the broader 2030 sustainability goals, discussing the Aloha+ Challenge as everyone’s kuleana and the need to ensure we continue measuring what matters. The group gave input on updated data sources, trend analyses, revised Clean Energy Transformation Goal and Target 01 language, and updated Natural Resource Management 03 Target language. Potential indicators informed recent corrections to ensure alignment with statutory language and appropriate technical approaches for tracking progress.



NRM 03 page on the Aloha+ Dashboard

Energy Equity Hui

The Energy Equity Hui is an informal statewide public-private collaborative network that coordinates energy industry professionals and serves as a resource hub for community members to advance energy equity, foster learning, and support community-based decision making. Originally formed in 2020, the group recently transitioned to a scaled-back capacity following the loss of federal funding in early January 2025. HGG and Hā Sustainability stepped in to provide in-kind support and facilitation of monthly meetings, recognizing the importance of safeguarding the hui as a trust-based space for discussions, information sharing, and pilina building around energy equity in Hawai'i.

Since September 2025:

3

**Monthly
Meetings**

35

**Participants
per Meeting**

1

**Pau Hana
Event**

The October meeting, which featured speakers from the Hawai'i State Energy Office and Sierra Club of Hawai'i on the topic of Hawai'i's alternative fuel study, was the highest attended meeting with the most hui engagement. Other meeting agendas focused on the future of the co-convening transition, member priority-sharing ahead of the next legislative session, and agenda topics for 2026.

Policy & Legislation Working Group

Hawai'i Green Growth's Policy and Legislation Working Group, co-chaired by Ulalia Woodside-Lee of The Nature Conservancy and Hawai'i Green Growth CEO, Kalani L. Ka'anā'anā, convenes stakeholders working across and between the six Aloha+ goals to advance Hawai'i's sustainability priorities and outcomes. The Group intends to serve as a forum for mutual advancement and shared priority setting, as well as foster cross-sectoral collaboration to advance intersectional progress via policy and legislative mechanisms in both county and state processes, as well as larger systemic reforms.



Policy and Legislation Working Group meeting



Hawai'i State Budget Advocacy Training (see next page)

The Working Group has historically met quarterly, though in 2025, met with increased frequency during the Legislative Session to account for the Legislative cross-over (March) and a special end of session meeting related to the near passage of the Hawai'i Green Fee (May). Throughout the Session, the working group saw active participation and attendance from various state agencies, non-profits, and the private sector, including from members of the Sustainability Business Forum (SBF), as well as the Governor's Climate Advisory Team. Key topics that emerged across discussions included invasive species, the intersection of land use for agriculture and energy, regenerative tourism, climate change and health, and food systems-related bills.

The importance of ongoing vigilance and community engagement in policy implementation was emphasized as outcomes of these Working Group Meetings. The emphasis on measuring what matters – through processes that include cross-sector discussion, sharing raw data, and actively involving government in post-legislative session analyses – was also highlighted as a value of this group.

Policy & Legislation: 2025 Legislative Session

During the 2025 Legislative Session, Hawai'i Green Growth advocated for two HGG-specific bills and resolutions throughout the 2025 Session; one of which passed with strong support as SCR183, which reaffirmed unified support for the Aloha+ Challenge and the statewide conducting of Voluntary Local Reviews. HGG, as a member of the Care for 'Āina Now Coalition (CAN), also played a key supporting role to passing the Green Fee, activating our network, and providing targeted testimony throughout the process.

142
Bills tracked
using HGG's Policy
& Legislation
Aloha+ Bill Tracker
for 2025 Session

Hawai'i Green Growth supported the tracking of sustainability-related bills and resolutions for the 2025 Session via the 2025 Bill Tracker, which served as a hub for bills related to the six Aloha+ goals and their intersections, as well as calls to action for how to support them throughout the process. The Tracker was shared via the website and regular HGG communications and developed through a community-led process which called for specific action (i.e., testimony, meetings with legislators), but managed and maintained by HGG staff.



Presentation by the Green Fee Advisory Council at the workshop

Capacity Building & Green Fee Advocacy
After the successful passage of the Hawai'i Green Fee, HGG partnered with CAN, the Resources Legacy Fund, and Hawai'i Public Policy Advocates to offer a Workshop on Hawai'i State Budget Training (November 2025), a capacity-building exercise specifically designed for community organizations as they write proposals to partner with state agencies to receive state funding. This is an ongoing partnership and the workshop series will continue into 2026.

The 2025 legislative session affirmed that public-private partnerships continue to be important for local action and global progress, and HGG's Policy & Legislation Working Group was recognized as a valuable convening space for these partners (and existing coalitions) to come together to work across siloes and collaborate towards mutual goals outside of the legislature towards innovative policy solutions.

Hawai'i SDG Youth Council

The Hawai'i SDG Youth Council is an entity supported by Hawai'i Green Growth and composed of high school students across the state. The Council serves as a leadership pathway for young people to catalyze and inspire positive change related to the Aloha+ goals and the UN SDGs in their local communities, as well as connect with youth and global communities on sustainable development around the world. Hawai'i Green Growth provides sustainability-related educational opportunities, global access to and speaking opportunities at events and gatherings, leadership development, peer-to-peer activation, engagement with sustainability professionals and elected officials statewide, nationally, and globally, and fosters partnership building between Hawai'i's youth and youth from around the world. This cohort of young people are considered to be ambassadors, authors, activists, and change agents – many of whom have already shared their voice and mana o on the global stage.

7

New Schools Reached

2

Island-Wide Workshops

In 2025, the Hawai'i SDG Youth Council's work and engagements scaled from local to global, as the model supports.

- Locally, veteran Youth Council members actively engaged in the 2025 Hawai'i State Legislative Session by testifying at the State Capitol in a variety of bills related to the Aloha+ Goals, including [testifying in support of SCR 183](#) on Reaffirming Support for the Aloha+ Challenge (both in person and virtually).
- Youth members participated in legislative advocacy via the Youth Climate Future Forum and through direct engagement with HGG's Policy & Legislation Working Group to familiarize themselves on a host of legislation related to the Aloha+ Goals.
- The Council also formed relationships with the Governor and County Mayors, as well as spoke on a variety of local panels and events alongside them – such as the Honolulu Local Observance of the United Nations' Urban October Day with Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke and Board Member Athline Clark.



Hawai'i SDG Youth Council

The 2025 Voluntary Local Review (VLR) expanded youth engagement from the 2023 VLR to include an entire Youth Section, written entirely by representatives from the youth council with inputs from students across the state – including those previously unfamiliar with the Aloha+ Goals and the UN SDGs. New schools to HGG participated in island-wide VLR workshops via a peer engagement and activation process led by the SDG Youth Council. To produce the final section of the report, the Youth Council synthesized the collected inputs and conversations to produce a list of recommendations for action. A small group of Council representatives traveled with HGG to New York for the launch of the 2025 VLR to present the report, speaking as panelists at a variety of launch events.

As a result of the VLR engagement process, the Hawai'i SDG Youth Council expanded its statewide youth participation on the Council to include representatives and students from across the state, which includes public, private, and charter school representatives. Notably, The VLR process yielded new, active membership from Lahainaluna High School in Lahaina, Maui, which has created both its own schoolwide SDG Youth Council – serving as a school club – in addition to participating in the statewide council. Lahainaluna's school SDG Youth Council has also directly engaged with HGG and partners on the Maui Resilience Partnership work and continues to be the leading youth representatives and liaisons for this work.



Students from O'ahu and Maui collaborating at their joint workshop

Hawai'i SDG Youth Council



Youth representatives at the Conference on Island Sustainability

PEER ENGAGEMENT AND CONNECTION ACROSS THE PACIFIC

Regionally, Youth Council representatives traveled to Guam to participate in the first Green Growth Summit at the Conference on Island Sustainability, as well as the Island Youth Summit, alongside Youth Councils and Congresses from Saipan, Palau, and Guam. The Hawai'i SDG Youth Council offered panel remarks during the Green Growth Summit that connected the Aloha+ Goals to concrete youth action, as well as what it means to be acting as a "future ancestor." At the Island Youth Summit, they designed island solutions based on indigenous knowledge and ancestral wisdom for a panel that included Guam Governor Lourdes Leon Guerrero and Republic of the Marshall Islands President Hilda C. Heine.



Youth representatives at MONDIACULT

HAWAI'I YOUTH LEADERSHIP ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

The SDG Youth Council represented Hawai'i globally at various international events, including the UN Ocean Conference in Nice, France – advocating for island-led solutions and approaches to protecting the ocean and life below water (SDG 14) – and MONDIACULT, the cultural policy conference hosted by UNESCO in Barcelona, Spain. At both events, the Youth Council representatives hosted panels and discussions, liaised with policymakers and global leaders, and spoke to and advocated for change they wish to see in the world and how Hawai'i was leading the way.

Sustainability Business Forum

The Sustainability Business Forum (SBF) is a voluntary CEO-led peer-to-peer initiative that supports a candid dialogue and concrete action to achieve Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge and the global SDGs grounded in island values. The SBF is committed to aligning company values with a triple-bottom-line approach to achieve economic prosperity, environmental stewardship, and community resilience. The SBF provides opportunities for leaders to engage in peer-to-peer networking, develop sustainable business solutions, and pursue collective action.

The Regenerative Tourism Working Group (RTWG) launched with its inaugural meeting in Q3 of 2025. RTWG aims to create a collaborative platform for tourism leaders, stakeholders, and policymakers to build a sustainable and regenerative tourism economy to achieve Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge Goals by 2030. Focused on strengthening accountability, promoting vibrant cultural practices, and enhancing tourism's positive impact on Hawai'i's people, economy and environment, the RTWG aligns with Hawai'i's broader sustainability goals, placing Hawai'i at the center of the global regenerative tourism movement.



SDG Youth Council members speaking with the SBF

New Member Spotlight:



HAWAI'I LEADERSHIP FORUM



HAWAI'I
VISITORS & CONVENTION BUREAU™

Sustainability Business Forum

HGG's Sustainability Business Forum, with matching funds from Hawai'i Farmers Union Foundation (HFUF) and in partnership with 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures (AAEF), launched the 'Āina Resilience Grant Program to support grassroots projects vital for Hawai'i's resilience. This trust-based initiative provides unrestricted funding for regenerative food systems, cultural stewardship, and community-led recovery in wildfire-impacted West Maui. The first funding round awarded four projects in the Mauna Kahālāwai region, a critical recovery area post-August 2023 wildfires. Projects were evaluated using the Mālama Implementation Tool, a community-based impact assessment tool developed by HGG, AAEF, and Stantec.

This pilot round marks the start of a broader statewide effort to accelerate 'āina-based recovery and resilience. Building on its success, the HGG-led partnership with HFUF and AAEF is exploring additional funding rounds and invites interest from other funders, community organizations, and partners committed to advancing local food systems and regenerative land stewardship through direct, trust-based philanthropy.

Ala Wai Watershed Collaboration

The Ala Wai Watershed Collaboration (AWWC) is a network of community, government, and business partners committed to a more resilient and prosperous Ala Wai Watershed.



Map of the Ala Wai Watershed

Quarterly meetings addressed policy, planning, and implementation pathways related to green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), watershed education, community-based stewardship, and long-term governance through a potential Ala Wai Watershed Special Improvement District. Quarterly agendas integrated data-driven tools (e.g., GIS mapping), on-the-ground project updates, and partner-led presentations spanning schools, urban forestry, biocultural restoration, and flood mitigation. Collectively, the 2025 convenings reinforced AWWC's role as a trusted forum for aligning data, practice, and policy in support of watershed resilience.

4

Quarterly Meetings

30

Participants per Meeting

20

Organizations Represented

15

Projects Presented

Ala Wai Watershed Collaboration

RELATED PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS AND PARTNER INITIATIVES

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT VEHICLE – CIVic

The AWWC discussed their goal to establish the Ala Wai Watershed Community Investment Vehicle (AWWCIVic) as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization by mid-2026, with a mission to coordinate multi-sector investments in nature-based infrastructure, stormwater management, and community resilience throughout the watershed. Achieving this goal will unlock new philanthropic, private, and federal resources, build community trust through transparent governance, and lay the groundwork for long-term, locally driven watershed restoration and risk reduction.

SB1146: ALA WAI DEBRIS MANAGEMENT & WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

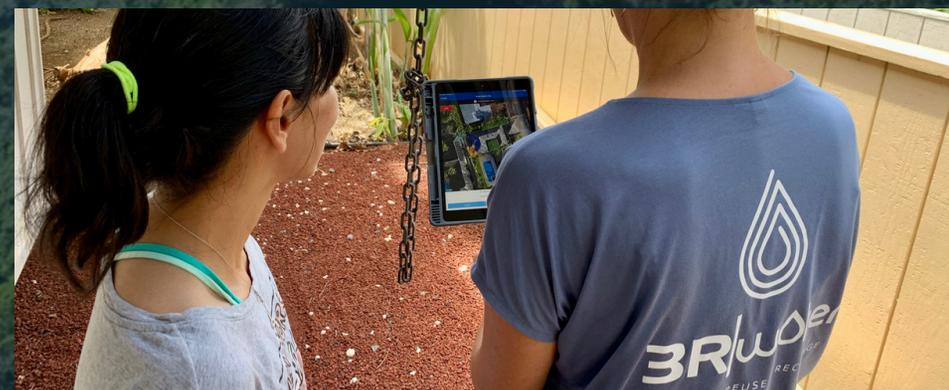
State legislators and partners shared updates on SB1146, which appropriates funding for the University of Hawai'i to develop an action plan and pre-engineering concepts for debris management and water quality improvements in the Ala Wai Watershed. The discussion highlighted the role of policy in supporting long-term watershed resilience and coordinated implementation. The bill passed to become SCR 183.

3RWATER GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TOWNS (GIFT) MAPPING & FLOOD RISK ANALYSIS

3Rwater presented updated Ala Wai GiFT maps integrating flood risk, impervious surface, soil, and social vulnerability data. The analysis supports prioritization of green stormwater infrastructure investments across the watershed.



Ala Wai Canal after heavy rain, January 27, 2025

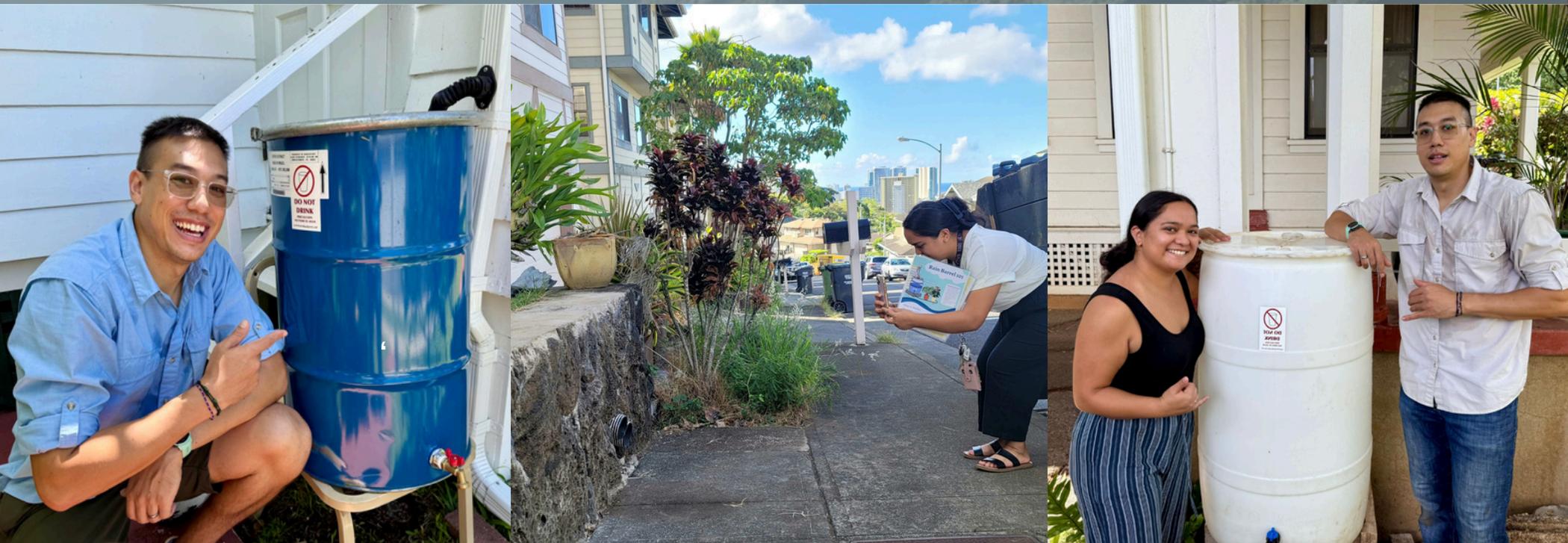


3Rwater conducting a residential rainwater assessment

Ala Wai Watershed Collaboration

FOLLOW THE DROP

The [Follow the Drop](#) (FtD) Program installed over 20 rain barrels for residents of the watershed. In December, Hawai'i Community Foundation awarded FtD grants enabling the team to resume rainwater assessments through the end of 2027, and to install a pair of bioretention rain gardens at Lincoln Elementary School. Program partners 3Rwater and Roth Ecological Design International will complete four commercial GSI designs and two residential designs this year funded by a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant.



(Left to right) HGG's Cyrus Howe posing with newly installed rain barrel in Mānoa; Saige Rainon completing a rainwater assessment in Makiki; Cyrus and Saige with another rain barrel in Mānoa.

Local Partnership Collaboration

Hawai'i Green Growth has made a consistent commitment to providing opportunities for hands-on involvement with our work and building meaningful collaborations and partnerships in our communities.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH WORKING GROUP

Hawai'i Green Growth recognizes the important intersection of climate change and health and supports the CCHWG's efforts in collaborating across disciplines and communities to strengthen Hawai'i's public health resiliency in response to the changing climate and using a data-driven approach to research and communicate the human health impacts of climate change and to advocate for policy solutions that prioritize Hawai'i's most at-risk community members.

HAWAI'I YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT

Young leaders from across the state convened for the 2025 Hawai'i Youth Climate Summit at the Hawai'i State Capitol, connecting intersectional climate issues to the Statewide Aloha+ Goals. The event, hosted by the Climate Future Forum, gathered youth ages 14-26 to engage with legislators, forge relationships with each other and with community organizations, and help shape Hawai'i's climate priorities for the 2026 legislative session.



Youth advocates at Climate Future Forum

KAHALA SYMPOSIUM FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Hawai'i Green Growth supported the 2025 Kahala Symposium for Climate Resilience, held in September, was hosted by the Kahala Institute for Sustainability and Climate Action and hosted policymakers, community leaders, young people, and sector experts to advance community-driven solutions aligned with Hawai'i's statewide Aloha+ Challenge commitments and regional development plans for East O'ahu.



Brainstorming solutions at the Kahala Symposium

The symposium featured ten roundtable discussions organized under five key climate impact themes and brought together a cross-section of stakeholders to explore actionable strategies for resilience rooted in cultural values and nature-based solutions. HGG engaged in the Symposium as a proud event partner through keynote speaking engagements and supporting facilitation, and advised in the creation of the outcome document, the Community Climate Mandate for East O'ahu and ensured its alignment to the Aloha+ Goals. The Symposium demonstrates a sub-state, sub-island, hyper-local study of the Aloha+ Goals, funding mechanisms for their implementation, and community-specific strategies and approaches for their implementation.

Local Partnership Collaboration

As an AmeriCorps VISTA Hub, HGG facilitates cross-network capacity building, including institutional strengthening within partner subsites. In 2025, HGG facilitated placement of a communications VISTA member with The Outdoor Circle to support their work as a statewide environmental nonprofit organization whose mission is to keep Hawai'i clean, green, and beautiful by preserving, protecting, and enhancing our environment. Throughout 2025, HGG also hosted five AmeriCorps VISTAs in-house, providing mentorship and supporting early career development. HGG's dedicated VISTA members play a key role in developing initiatives and improving systems and processes related to the Dashboard Lab, the Sustainability Business Forum, and HGG's communications portfolio.



VISTAs talking to community members at the Be Ready Mānoa Fair



Former Dashboard Lab participants

Since 2023, HGG has collaborated with the University of Hawai'i's Institute for Sustainability and Resilience (ISR) to host Capstone students each semester through our Dashboard Lab Program. In 2025, capstone Dashboard Lab participants worked to support the Climate Change and Health Working Group, the Aloha+ Dashboard, and capacity-building for future projects.

Global Connections

As part of the global portfolio through its role as co-Secretariat of the Local2030 Islands Network,¹ Hawai'i Green Growth continues to support fellow island nations and sub-national island territories as they implement similar Green Growth models, practices, and Dashboards, as well as share knowledge and build global community around shared island priorities – including climate resilience, regenerative tourism, youth engagement, and energy and water security.

GREEN GROWTH AS A COMMITMENT TO OUR OCEAN

Recognized for its impact and ambition, the Local2030 Islands Network was invited to present its latest commitment, "Green Growth for Resilient Islands," on the floor of the Ocean-Climate Plenary at the 10th Our Ocean Conference in Busan, Korea in April 2025. Through this commitment, the Local2030 Islands Network announced the continued expansion of Green Growth partnerships in islands globally and connecting island stakeholders via these partnerships to promote sustainable development, economic resilience, and environmental conservation as a means of also advancing shared ocean (blue!) goals.

CELEBRATING MICRONESIAN LEADERSHIP: INAUGURAL GREEN GROWTH SUMMIT

The Local2030 Islands Network convened the inaugural Green Growth Summit at the 16th Annual Conference on Island Sustainability in Guam, which brought together Network members and partners to share best practices for Green Growth implementation in the Micronesian region. Following the Green Growth Summit, keynote speaker H.E. President Hilda C. Heine of the Republic of the Marshall Islands announced RMI's commitment to advancing Green Growth outcomes, noting the Marshall Islands intent to launch a Green Growth Partnership, joining Hawai'i, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Palau. President Heine and Governor Lou Leon Guerrero of Guam signed a joint statement committing to the pillars of the



HGG team and partners at the Green Growth Summit

Local2030 Islands Network, acknowledging that "islands are the original circular economies and Green Growth is the means to get there." The Local2030 Islands Network delegation included island youth from the Hawai'i SDG Youth Council, who were represented on panels, through performances, and in offering key solutions and discussions.

¹Hawai'i Green Growth has served as the co-secretariat of the Local2030 Islands Network alongside GLISPA since 2019. The majority of this global work has been paused in 2025 as a result of federal funding losses.

Global Connections

LAUNCH OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS GREEN GROWTH INITIATIVE

At the Micronesian Islands Forum in July 2025, President Hilda C. Heine of the Republic of the Marshall Islands formally launched the Republic of the Marshall Islands Green Growth Initiative to advance national priorities while directly supporting the UN 2030 Agenda, aligning with key Sustainable Development Goals on climate action, responsible resource use, and inclusive economic growth.

The RMI Green Growth Initiative, supported by the Local2030 Islands Network and built off of similar models in Hawai'i, Guam, Palau, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), positions the Marshall Islands within a growing regional movement in Micronesia, alongside in advancing locally grounded frameworks that balance environmental stewardship, economic resilience, and social equity. It builds on and supports national platforms, such as the Reimaanlok and the RMI Protected Areas Network, expanding their scope to include measuring economic and infrastructure development, good governance, and the environment and climate change.

SCALING AND ADAPTING THE ALOHA+ DASHBOARD

The Green Growth Dashboard model, similar to the Aloha+ Dashboard, serves as a dynamic tool to visualize progress, track key indicators, and empower evidence-based decision-making aligned with our sustainability goals. With this launch, the Marshall Islands signals its commitment to regional leadership in sustainability and resilience – and a growing commitment to the Green Growth movement across the Pacific, inspired first by Hawai'i Green Growth.



SDG Youth Council members at UNOC3

SHARING HAWAII'S EFFORTS FOR GLOBAL OCEAN ACTION

The third United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC3), held in Nice, France, from June 9–13, built upon the momentum of the previous UN Ocean Conferences held in New York (2017) and Lisbon (2022), aimed to advance global progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14), which focuses on conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine resources. The 2025 conference was hosted by the governments of France and Costa Rica, with a theme of "accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean."

Hawai'i Green Growth and the Local2030 Islands Network teams attended the UN Ocean Conference alongside members of the Hawai'i SDG Youth Council to advance Hawai'i and island-network priorities related to SDG 14 and the role of culture, youth voices, and "ridge to reef" solutions.

Acknowledgments

Hawai'i Green Growth UN Local2030 Hub extends its gratitude to our dedicated Board, including Board Chair Randy Moore, Board Vice Chair Pauline Sheldon, AJ Halagao, Athline Clark, Jason Jeremiah, Juliette (Lia) Sheehan, Kazumi Ogawa, Todd Nacapuy, and Ulalia Woodside-Lee, for their continued support.

We also extend our deep gratitude to the contributions received by individual community members throughout the year, and our funders, whose generosity and steadfast commitment make this work possible:

- Bezos Maui Fund
- Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research (CIMAR)
- Donald & Astrid Monson Education Fund
- Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
- Hau bli Mau Loa Foundation
- Hawai'i County
- Hawai'i Leadership Forum
- Hawaiian Electric
- Kamehameha Schools
- Marisla Foundation
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Sustainability Business Forum Members
- The Outdoor Circle
- U.S. Department of State
- UH SeaGrant
- Waikiki Beach Special Improvement District Association

Mahalo to our whole Network, including the many members and partners that are contributing to this important work.

Acknowledgments

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- Hawaiian Airlines
- Hawai'i Gas
- Hawai'i Leadership Forum
- Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau
- Hawaiian Electric Company
- Hawaiian Electric Industries
- Hawaiian Telcom
- Kamehameha Schools
- Kualoa Ranch
- Kyo-ya Hotels and Resorts
- OUTRIGGER Resorts & Hotels
- Par Pacific
- Pineapple Tweed
- The Kahala Hotel and Resort
- Ulupono Initiative

Hawai'i Local2030 Hub's 2024 Audit Report is available on the Federal Audit Clearinghouse website.
The 2025 Audit Report will be available by September 2026.

STAFF TRANSITIONS

Acknowledgments

Hawai'i Green Growth UN Local2030 Hub extends its sincere thanks to our dedicated team for their contributions throughout 2025.

In 2025, HGG experienced several staff transitions. We farewelled Celeste Connors as CEO and welcomed Kalani L. Ka'anā'anā as our new CEO. We also express our gratitude to Sheila-Anne Ebert, Senior Director for the Sustainability Business Forum; Russ Masuda, Software Developer; and Saige Rainon, Follow the Drop Intern, while welcoming Julie Tam as Sustainability Program Associate.

During the year, we saw a transition of our AmeriCorps VISTA team. We extend our mahalo to Priyal Patel, Liam Schwartz, and Casey Engle for their year of service, and were pleased to have Lily McGovern and Audrey Pentimonti join our team.

Within the Local2030 Islands Network, Erin Derrington concluded her role as Global Energy and Water Communities of Practice Coordinator, and Zoë Callahan completed her service as Communications and Global Projects Coordinator.

The HGG team would also like to extend our gratitude to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Institute for Sustainability and Resilience student interns, Mehana Kapoi, Elijah Warren, Emily Werner, Remy Portaro, and Madison Lee, for their invaluable support throughout the year.

Our Team

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