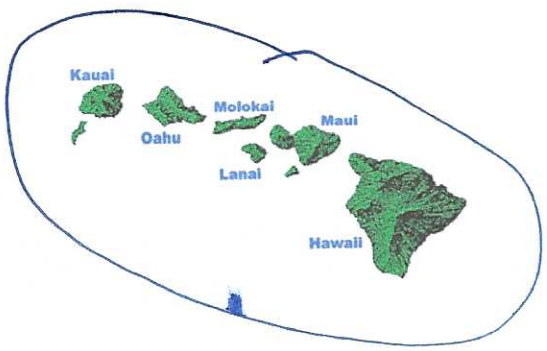
Nature Conservancy in Hawaii & Palmyra Summary

Mission:	To conserve land and water informed by science and local knowledge.
Category:	Environment Preservation & Education
Contact:	Jana Light, Sr. Associate Director of Development
Address:	923 Nu'uanu Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96817
Grant History:	N/A

2024 Request:	**$25,000 for general operating support**

Notes:

- Natural resource management and conservation throughout Hawaii.
- Protection of birds, forests, coral reefs, etc.
- Facilitates and partners with multiple organizations to protect and restore forests, waters, and watershed areas.
- Educational activities.
- Conducts environmental surveys to assess ecosystem status and provide data for future activities.



Nature Conservancy in Hawaii & Palmyra

Investing in Nature: Mauka to Makai

Our Mission

The Nature Conservancy's mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends and our collective work is informed by the best available science and grounded in the knowledge, practices, values, and history of sustainable resource management unique to Hawaii. We are a science-based organization that works with partners to address the greatest challenges of our generation: protecting lands and waters, providing food and water sustainably, mitigating climate change impacts, connecting people and nature, and building healthy communities.

Our Work

Natural resource management and conservation needs are growing in Hawaii. Invasive species and climate change negatively impact native ecosystems. We need many tools to ensure ecosystem resilience and connect people to nature.

The Hawaiian Islands are home to a wide variety of native forest birds, many of which are found nowhere else on Earth. TNC supports the preservation of Hawaii's forest birds through habitat restoration and forest protection within TNC preserves, and by playing a leadership role for the Birds, Not Mosquitoes (BNM) partnership. TNC maintains protective fences around Waikamoi preserve on Maui and within multiple units in the Alakai Wilderness preserve on Kauai, both of which contain intact native forest that are critical habitat for native Hawaiian forest birds.

Apapane – common native honeycreeper – on 'ōhi'a lehua © Madeline Luft / TNC

Hawaii's iconic coral reefs drive our local economy, providing food, livelihoods, coastal protection, recreational opportunities, and cultural connections for residents and visitors. But these natural treasures are threatened by overfishing, land-based pollutants, and climate change impacts, including rising sea levels and sea-surface temperatures. TNC's Hawaii Marine Program has been working with government agencies, community partners, researchers, businesses and landowners to protect and restore critical coastal and marine resources through strategic planning, science-based monitoring and research, direct management of local threats, outreach to build support for conservation action, and community engagement for improved local management, utilizing innovative tools and strategies to address the greatest conservation challenges of our time and ensure healthy reefs into the future.

Who We Serve

The Conservancy's work to protect watershed forests and coral reefs and all the ecological services they provide – clean water, erosion control, climate regulation, coastal protection, local food production, recreation and cultural rejuvenation – benefits everyone living in and visiting Hawaii of every age.

One of The Conservancy's strengths is our role as a partner, bringing our unique expertise and blend of Western and indigenous knowledge and science, to people and groups across Hawaii.

Students

During 2023, TNC offered biocultural conservation education activities to students at upland forest and coastal sites in the Ka'ū district including Kaiholena Forest Preserve, managed by The Nature Conservancy. Students visited Kaiholena to learn about native plants and their traditional uses, watershed function and the purpose of our invasive species control work, and mo'olelo (cultural stories) from this special place. Groups also visited the shoreline below Kaiholena Preserve to learn what it means to have a healthy and functioning watershed, as well as the important cultural uses of the area.

Kua O Ka Lā Public Charter School students at Kaiholena Preserve learned about the watershed function through an interpretive hike, identifying native plants in the Ka'ū forest © TNC

The State of Hawai'i and Community Groups

In April 2022, TNC coordinated a decision-maker site visit with the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to Kipahulu. Over 80 people attended, including representatives from DAR, the Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement (DOCARE), Hawaii State Legislature, Maui County Council, Maui Mayor Mike Victorino, community partner groups, and Kipahulu lineal descendants and community members. Participants were presented with outreach materials summarizing the Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) proposal and the extensive outreach conducted with stakeholders. At the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting in August 2022, TNC led a site visit to the Pelekane watershed to highlight the work of partners like the South Kohala Watershed Partnership to reduce sedimentation to nearshore coral reefs. Other partners in attendance were: the National Park Service (NPS), Queen Emma Land Company, Forest Solutions, Coral Reef Alliance, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, and the Puako Community Association. The meeting highlighted the central role TNC can provide in sharing successful conservation strategies and the work that can be done when local groups partner together.

Federal agencies

In September 2022, TNC hosted a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and congressional fieldtrip to Olowalu-Ukumehame coral reefs and watershed and in West Hawai'i priority areas. Attendees included Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Subcommittee staff from both the House and the Senate. Senator Schatz's office awarded TNC funds to increase coastal and climate resiliance work with communities, showing this bipartisan audience that federal investments in our work are worthy.

Goals & Objectives

TNC is looking for philanthropic partners to help us accomplish two main goals for FY24 (and beyond).

Goal 1: Protect and restore the places we manage.

The Conservancy aims to be the best steward and manager of the lands and waters where we work, using a blend of innovative and tried-and-true conservation measures. For the year ahead, this looks like:

- **Leading on science to inform management.** Conduct surveys to assess coastal marine ecosystems and water quality at priority coral reef sites statewide. Assess how reefs have changed over time and share results to inform watershed restoration and fisheries management efforts.

- **Restoring habitat and protecting forests within TNC preserves.** Maintain protected fences around and within key Hawaii preserves. Work towards controlling invasive weeds in these preserves to maintain forest intactness, health and resilience against climate change impacts.
- **Suppressing non-native mosquitos using the Incompatible Insect Technique (IIT).** Work towards reducing the threat of avian malaria transmission by rearing incompatible male mosquitos that do not bite and releasing them to breed with wild mosquitos, resulting in offspring that are not viable.

Fencing at Kona Hema Preserve © John De Mello/TNC

Goal 2: Act as an ambassador for nature and steadfast partner to other conservation groups.

We aim to provide our best science and knowledge to partners to strengthen our overall effectiveness of protecting the lands and waters on which we all depend. This year this work will take the form of:

- **Launching our innovative partnership with UH Hilo's LOHE lab to harness the power of technology and increase the impact of our monitoring work at Kona Hema Preserve.** The partnership will work to gather annual baseline data for seasonal bird movement across an elevation gradient at Kona Hema to create a long-term "bird net" that will inform our understanding of the impacts of climate change and management practices on native birds.
- **Working with local communities to ensure abundant local fisheries through traditional marine and coastal management.** Reduce land-based stressors like nutrients and sedimentation and restore healthy fish habitat to improve the health and resilience of coral reefs. Revive ahupuaa-based management across the State with community partners by restoring streams, wetlands, lowland forest, and fishponds to maintain water flow and habitat for fish and other native species.

Community rebuilding fishpond wall © TNC

- **Increasing capacity for coral reef restoration and post-storm response.** Build a statewide collaborative of coral restoration practitioners through public-private partnerships. Train and equip teams to repair coral reefs damaged by storm events, which are becoming larger and more frequent due to climate change. Pursue innovative funding mechanisms such as reef insurance to ensure that coral restoration is well-resourced in Hawaii.

Kaupulehu, West Hawaii © Bryce Groark / TNC

Mahalo nui loa.

TNC Hawai'i' respectfully requests a grant in the amount of $25,000 to support our continued conservation efforts to safeguard our forests and oceans – from mauka to makai – while exploring innovative solutions to address climate impacts and work towards the protection of Hawai'i's natural resources for both local and global impact.

Jana Light
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923 Nu'uanu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96817

The Nature Conservancy
Hawai'i

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Hawai'i Programs (Excluding Palmyra)
Operating Income Statement
For the Twelve Months Ended June 30, 2023 [A]

	Jun. 30, 2023 [A]
REVENUE	
Contributions	$ 4,435,361
Government Grants & Contracts	5,388,322
Endowment & Investment Income	2,530,736
Other Income including Private Contracts	787,822
TOTAL REVENUE	**$ 13,142,241**
EXPENSES	
Personnel	$ 6,629,879
Contractual	2,764,315
Printing & Communications	117,196
Travel	242,881
Supplies and Equipment	677,623
Occupancy & Real Estate	80,650
Lease Expense	118,190
Other Expenses	484,897
Conservation Support	1,478,231
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$ 12,593,861**
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FROM OPERATIONS [B]	**$ 548,379**

Notes:

[A] Results are actual through May 31, 2023 and estimated for June 2023, since final results are not expected until August 26, 2023.
[B] The resulting operating surplus for this fiscal year is either restricrted or available for spending in future periods

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