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SURFRIDER FOUNDATION  
HAWAI'I REGION

2022  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

[www.hawaii.surfrider.org](http://www.hawaii.surfrider.org)

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# 2022 HAWAII REGION

## OVERVIEW & HIGHLIGHTS

The Hawai'i Region includes three volunteer-based Chapters (Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui) and 5 active student clubs that are part of the worldwide Surfrider Foundation network based in San Clemente, California. Chapter programs and campaigns focus on five initiatives: Plastic Pollution, Ocean Protection, Clean Water, Beach Access, and Coastal Preservation. In 2022, efforts led to the completion of the community-driven North Shore Coastal Resilience Working Group, passage of statewide legislation to support cesspool upgrades, and continuation of the North Pacific Eel Trap project to address commercial fishing-based marine debris.

### 2022 Highlights

- Won 3 major campaign victories focused on clean water and beach access.
- Supported community requests to add water quality monitoring sites in remote, underserved, and/or predominantly Native Hawaiian communities, including West O'ahu and Hāna, Maui.
- Released the "Adaptive Coastal Management Recommendations, Actions and Strategies" report to develop community-based solutions for coastal erosion on the North Shore of O'ahu
- Represented Hawai'i plastic pollution initiatives and the North Pacific Eel Trap Project at the 7th International Marine Debris Conference in Busan, South Korea.



Lauren Blickley  
Hawai'i Regional Manager



Keili McEvilly  
O'ahu Chapter Coordinator

***Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit, grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves, and beaches, for all people, through a powerful activist network.***



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# PROGRAMS

Surfrider Foundation achieves its mission through five programs. These programs help focus our work, not only in Hawai'i but across the Nation. Individual chapters incorporate programs according to the immediate needs and opportunities present in their communities.



Blue Water Task Force (BWTF) labs are active on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui. Volunteers test local beaches for fecal indicator bacteria levels and compare them to water quality standards set to protect public health.



The Ocean Friendly Restaurants program promotes plastic reduction and sustainable practices throughout the restaurant industry.



Rise Above Plastics raises awareness about the dangers of plastic pollution. Surfrider Foundation Chapters have been instrumental in passing single-use plastic bans across Hawai'i.



Beach cleanups and Net Patrols are a staple of Hawai'i Chapters and remove over a hundred thousand pounds of rubbish off Hawai'i shorelines every year.



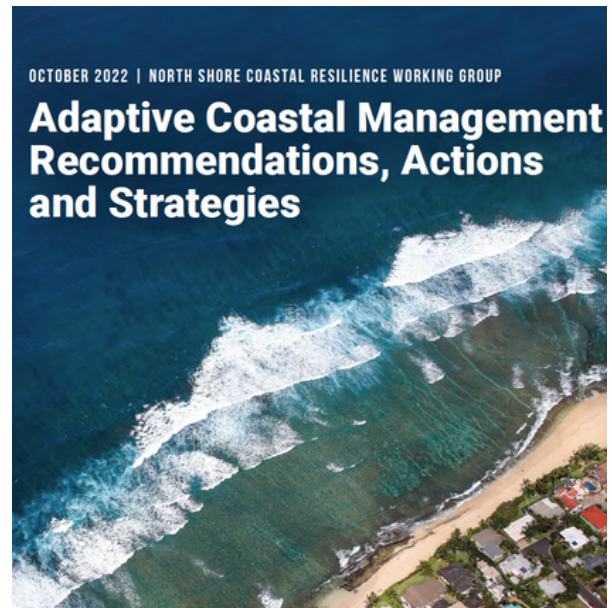
The Ocean Friendly Gardens program sees yards and landscapes as solutions to water pollution.



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# REGIONAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Chapters within the Hawai'i Region work together to support regional programs, events, and educational campaigns.



## RELEASED NORTH SHORE COASTAL RESILIENCE REPORT

The North Shore Coastal Resilience Working Group (NSCRWG) was launched by the Surfrider Foundation, Surfrider's O'ahu Chapter, the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College, and consulting firm SSFM International to proactively address accelerated beach loss and improve community resilience on the North Shore. In 2021 and 2022, the NSCRWG sought to facilitate meaningful, community-driven discussions related to the future of coastal management on the North Shore. In November 2022, the Working Group released its [final report](#) detailing critical concerns and recommendations for immediate action. This effort has served to expand community involvement in coastal erosion issues. Surfrider Foundation hopes it can also serve as a model for other communities.

## EXPANDED WATER QUALITY MONITORING SITES

Both the O'ahu and Maui Chapters expanded their community-based water quality monitoring sites to include remote and/or underserved communities. On Maui, the Chapter partnered with the rural and predominantly Native Hawaiian community of Hāna to sample monthly sites at key locations. The O'ahu Chapter also added three new sites and trained community members to sample coastal sites on the West Side at Pōkaī Bay.

## NORTH PACIFIC EEL TRAP PROJECT

Following on the heels of successful efforts in 2021, the North Pacific Eel Trap Project continued to collect valuable data and remove traps from across the islands. In the last two years, over 10,000 traps have been removed from Hawai'i shorelines by Surfrider Foundation and project partners. University of Hawai'i, Hilo students worked with the team to create a photo catalog of over 4,000 traps to make trap identification easier and, in turn, narrow down the source of the traps. The project was additionally presented at the 7th International Marine Debris Conference in Busan, South Korea, which was also attended by volunteers from the Kaua'i Chapter Executive Committee Members Dr. Carl Berg and Cynthia Welti.

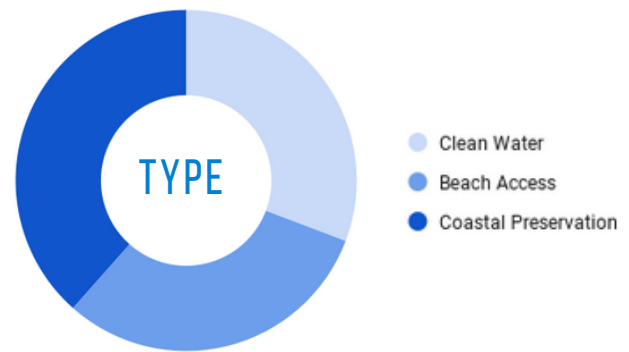


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# ACTIVE CAMPAIGNS

Campaigns are how Surfrider Foundation measures and tracks our efforts. We define campaigns as a yes/no decision by a governing body or agency. In 2022, Hawai'i Chapters maintained 12 active campaigns.

**12** ACTIVE  
CAMPAIGNS



## REGIONAL

- Improve water quality testing & notification at Hawai'i Beaches
- Reduce the Impact of Cesspools on Coastal Waters
- Improve coastal protection & support managed retreat policies

## KAUA'I

- Halt Coco Palms Resort Redevelopment
- Stop Kīkīaola Ditch Pollution
- Stop Shrimp Farm Water Pollution
- Protect 'Aliomanu Beach Access

## O'AHU

- Reduce Lead Contamination at Pu'uloa Beach
- Protect the North Shore from Coastal Erosion
- Protect 'Ewa Beach from Shoreline Hardening
- Restore Ka'apuni Drive Public Beach Access

## MAUI

- Protect Public Parking at Keawakapu Beach



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# CAMPAIGN VICTORIES

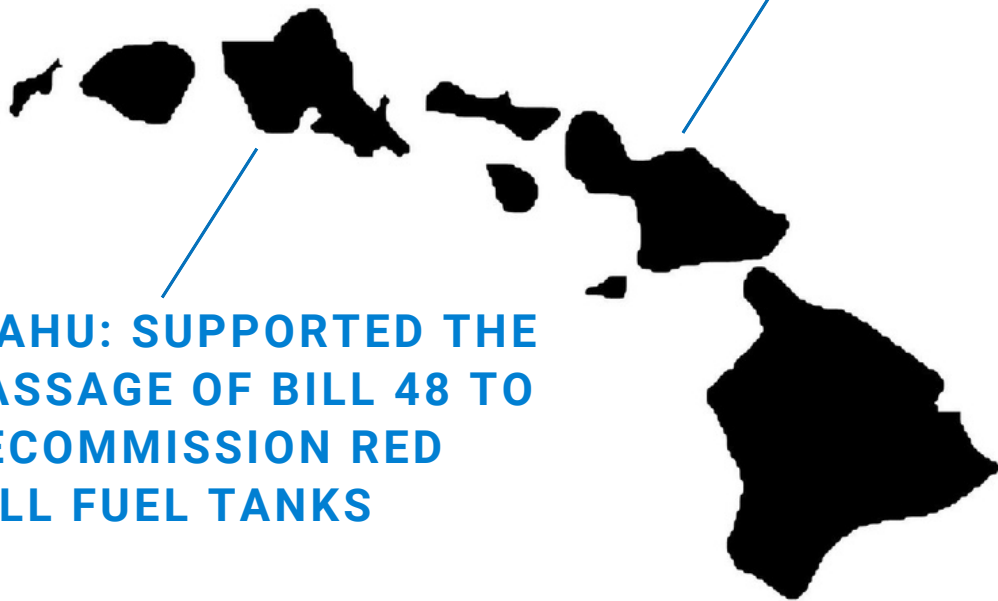
In 2022, Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Chapters won **three** major campaign victories related to clean water and beach access. Highlights include:



**MAUI: SECURED THE  
EARLY MORNING  
OPENING OF GATES  
AT HO'OKIPA BEACH  
PARK**



**O'AHU: SUPPORTED THE  
PASSAGE OF BILL 48 TO  
DECOMMISSION RED  
HILL FUEL TANKS**



## **REGIONAL: FACILITATED CESSPOOL UPGRADES**

In 2022, the Hawai'i state legislature passed HB2195, HB2088 and HB1806. These three bills will work in parallel to provide critical financial incentives to homeowners and business owners to upgrade cesspools. HB2195 is a particularly important bill as it represents the first state-based funding for cesspool conversions. Hawaii's 88,000 cesspools are one of the biggest threats to water quality across the state, discharging 53 million gallons of sewage per day into coastal waters. In recent years, Surfrider has played a key role in successfully urging the state government to move away from antiquated and ineffective systems for managing household wastewater.

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# KAUA'I

[kauai.surfrider.org](http://kauai.surfrider.org) | [@surfriderkauai](https://www.instagram.com/surfriderkauai)

The Kaua'i Chapter continued its powerful advocacy work across the island. The Chapter engaged in two new campaigns, one focused on addressing water pollution along the Mānā Plain and the other to halt the redevelopment of the Coco Palms Resort. Chapter volunteers Cynthia Welti and Dr. Carl Berg represented Surfrider Foundation on an international stage at the 7th International Marine Debris conference to share the results from the chapters ongoing Net Patrol program and eel trap project. The Chapter also continued partnering to host the monthly Kaua'i Climate Action Forum.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Chair - Gordon LaBedz
- Vice Chair - Rob Brower
- Treasurer - Scott McCubbins
- Secretary - Cynthia Welti
- Ocean Friendly Restaurants Coord. - Ruta Jordans
- Ocean Friendly Visitors Coord. - Barbara Levin
- Senior Scientist - Dr. Carl Berg
- Education Program Coord.- Barbara Wiedner
- Marine Debris Pgm Coords. - Barbara Wiedner & Scott McCubbins



## BY THE NUMBERS

### 52,116 POUNDS

of debris removed from Kaua'i shorelines, with >30,000 pounds representing derelict fishing gear

### 18 WATER QUALITY MONITORING SITES

sampled once a month across the island for fecal indicator bacteria.

### 2 NEW CAMPAIGNS

- Kīkīaola Ditch Pollution aimed at protecting coastal waters from harmful pollution
- Halting Coco Palms Resort Redevelopment

### 1,555 SCHOOL CHILDREN ENGAGED

through 56 outreach and educational events



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# O'AHU

[oahu.surfrider.org](http://oahu.surfrider.org) | [@surfrideroahu](https://www.instagram.com/surfrideroahu)

The O'ahu Chapter dove deep into campaigns and coastal issues in 2022. The Chapter co-hosted the Coastal Resilience Working Group on the North Shore and released a [final report](#) with specific recommendations to address coastal erosion issues. Pu'uloa campaign efforts additionally uncovered elevated lead contamination levels in beach sand fronting the Pu'uloa Rifle Range ('Ewa Beach). They capped off the year by hosting their flagship John Kelly Awards ceremony, the first time since 2019. The Chapter continues to maintain a robust Blue Water Task Force water quality monitoring program and an 11,000 square foot Ocean Friendly Garden in Kaka'ako.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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- Chapter Coordinator - Keili McEvilly\*
- Chair - Elizabeth Benyshek
- Vice Chair - Brittany Kamai
- Treasurer - Jay Whelan/Loren Mayr
- Secretary - Jen Ballou
- Volunteer Coord. - Sarah Kuppert
- Policy Coordinator - Camile Cleveland
- Beach Protection - Mike Foley
- Outreach - Natalie Wohner

## PROGRAM COORDINATORS

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- Blue Water Task Force - Dr. Dan Amato & Arleen Velasco
  - Ocean Friendly Restaurants - Ryan Dadds
  - Ocean Friendly Gardens - Lauren Kaiser
  - Beach Cleanups - Karissa Mauro
  - Social Media - Brittany Craig
  - Campaigns - Maria Lujan
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## BY THE NUMBERS

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### 24 WATER QUALITY MONITORING SITES

sampled twice a month across the island for fecal indicator bacteria.

### 3 NEW WEST O'AHU SITES

added at Pōkaī Bay for routine water quality monitoring sampling. Trained community members in sampling protocols .

### 8 COMMUNITY GARDEN WORK DAYS

and 5 garden tours to support and maintain the 11,000 sq ft. Ocean Friendly Garden in Kaka'ako

### 4 ACTIVE CAMPAIGNS

Ranging from beach access to coastal preservation

### 11 BEACH CLEANUPS

Removing 3,000 pounds of trash and engaging 540 volunteers

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# MAUI

[maui.surfrider.org](http://maui.surfrider.org) | [@surfridermaui](https://www.instagram.com/surfridermaui)

In coordination with community leaders, the Maui Chapter expanded its water quality monitoring program to the rural community of Hāna, sampling 3 new sites in the area. They opened a new water quality monitoring lab in partnership with Pā'ia Youth & Cultural Center and expanded their in-person events to include beach cleanups, pau hana events, public meetings, and a surfboard swap.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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- Vice Chair - Marina Scott
- Treasurer - Charlie Quesnel
- Secretary - Rebecca Pang
- BWTF Coord. - Greg Masessa
- OFR Coord. - Erica Chavez
- Beach Cleanups - Enzo Magliozi
- Marketing Coord. - Nicole Rosen
- Webmaster - Mario Magliozi



## BY THE NUMBERS

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### 1 CAMPAIGN VICTORY

to open the gates at Ho'okipa Beach Park at 5:30am, allowing safer parking and beach access for early morning beach users.

### 21 BEACHES

monitored monthly for for Enterococcus bacteria levels, a measure of water quality.

### 13 BEACH CLEANUPS

removing ~5,000 pounds of trash from Maui beaches

### 3 PAU HANA FUNDRAISERS

in partnership with Ocean Friendly Restaurants that raised \$3,000 for the Chapter

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# STUDENT CLUBS

The Surfrider Foundation launched the Student Club Network in 2008. Our Student Club Network creates a platform to meet the demand by young people for opportunities to influence environmental action through service, leadership development, civic engagement and direct action organizing. In Hawai'i, student clubs currently exist on O'ahu and Maui.

## YOUTH CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

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### PARTICIPATION IN CHAPTER CONFERENCE

Student leaders connected with Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i staff and leaders at the Chapter Conference.

### 5 ACTIVE YOUTH CLUBS

Including Maui's King Kekaulike High School and Carden Academy.

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## UH MĀNOA CLUB

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Led by co-chairs Tabbi Knudson and Ana Velasquez, the University of Hawai'i Mānoa student club is one of the most active student clubs in Hawai'i. In 2022, the club continued to host beach cleanups, presented at the Hawai'i Chapter Conference, hosted a screening of Waterman, and participated in Surfrider Foundation's annual federal Coastal Hill Day event. The club has welcomed new members and continues to expand its presence on campus, rebuild its core team, support local policy action, and integrate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion into Club efforts.



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# 2023 REGIONAL PRIORITIES

In addition to programs, legislation, and campaigns at the local level, Surfrider Foundation coordinates statewide on priority policy and programmatic efforts.



## **PRIORITY: COASTAL PRESERVATION & BEACH ACCESS**

- Protect shorelines and beaches across Hawai'i by supporting county and state policies that limit emergency shoreline hardening, support managed retreat, and promote coastal restoration
- Support the next steps and recommendations outlined in the North Shore Coastal Resilience Working Group's final report
- Increase statewide, public awareness about coastal erosion & sea level rise
- Protect and ensure public beach access is maintained throughout the islands

## **PRIORITY: CLEAN WATER**

- Pass statewide legislation to improve the Department of Health's water quality testing program & public notification at Hawai'i Beaches
- Expand Blue Water Task Force water quality monitoring labs to Hāna on Maui and other identified areas of critical need

## **PRIORITY: PLASTIC POLLUTION**

- Through the ongoing North Pacific Eel Trap Project, collaborate with fishery managers to identify and implement solutions to reduce trap pollution and monk seal entanglement.

## **HAWAI'I CHAPTER NETWORK**

- Integrate justice, equity, and diversity into our programs, campaigns, and network and provide meaningful JEDI training to our chapter network.
- Support and expand student club network
- Enhance chapter leadership development and recruitment



# MAHALO TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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*Surfrider Foundation is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves, and beaches, for all people, through a powerful activist network.*