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SURFRIDER FOUNDATION  
HAWAI'I REGION

2020  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

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

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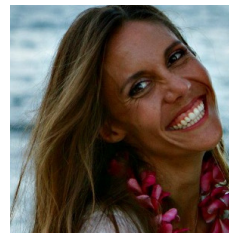
# 2020 HAWAII REGION

## OVERVIEW & HIGHLIGHTS

The Hawai'i Region includes four volunteer-based Chapters (Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, and Kona) 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 2020, Regional efforts centered supporting cross-chapter collaboration and strengthening statewide presence. Despite the many challenges of 2020, the Hawai'i Chapters actively to engage their local communities in protecting the ocean, waves, and beaches of Hawai'i.

### 2020 Highlights

- Won four major campaign victories, including local single-use plastic bans and a clean water win at the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Launched statewide outreach related to plastic pollution.
- Joined Global Ghost Gear Initiative to address derelict fishing gear.
- Increased focus on Environmental Justice, Diversity, and Equity.
- Welcomed Lauren Blickley as the new Hawai'i Regional Manager.



Lauren Blickley  
Hawai'i Regional Manager



Doorae Shin  
O'ahu Chapter Coord.

***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.



## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

As part of Surfrider Foundation's increased focus on Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the O'ahu Chapter helped organize a statewide Environmental Justice Panel Series. The Chapters also regionally screened the documentary "White Wash" followed by a panel discussion with producer Airrion Copeland and professional longboarder Nique Miller.

## COVID-19 PPE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The COVID-19 pandemic introduced a new source of plastic pollution - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that includes masks and gloves. Led by the Kaua'i Chapter, the Hawai'i Region launched a statewide "PPE Awareness Campaign" to educate the public about proper disposal and the importance of reusable PPE.

## "CHOOSE TO REUSE" OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

The O'ahu Chapter helped launch a statewide outreach campaign to educate on the safety and importance of reusables. The campaign promotes five steps that restaurants can take to reduce unnecessary waste and save money.

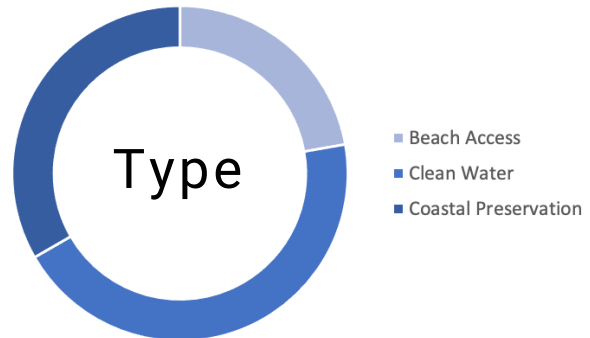


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# ACTIVE CAMPAIGNS

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 2020, Hawai'i Chapters maintained 11 active campaigns.

**11** ACTIVE  
CAMPAIGNS



## REGIONAL

- Reduce the Impact of Cesspools on Coastal Waters
- Improve Water Quality Testing & Public Notification at Hawai'i Beaches

## KAUA'I

- Protect 'Aliomanu Beach Access

## O'AHU

- Save the North Shore
- Save Shark's Cove from Development
- Restore Public Beach Access at Ko'olina
- Stop the Waimānalo Sea Wall
- Protect Wawamalu Sand Dunes
- Protect 'Ewa Beach from Shoreline Hardening
- Restore Ka'apuni Drive Public Beach Access

## MAUI

- Stop Maui's Use of Wastewater Injection Wells

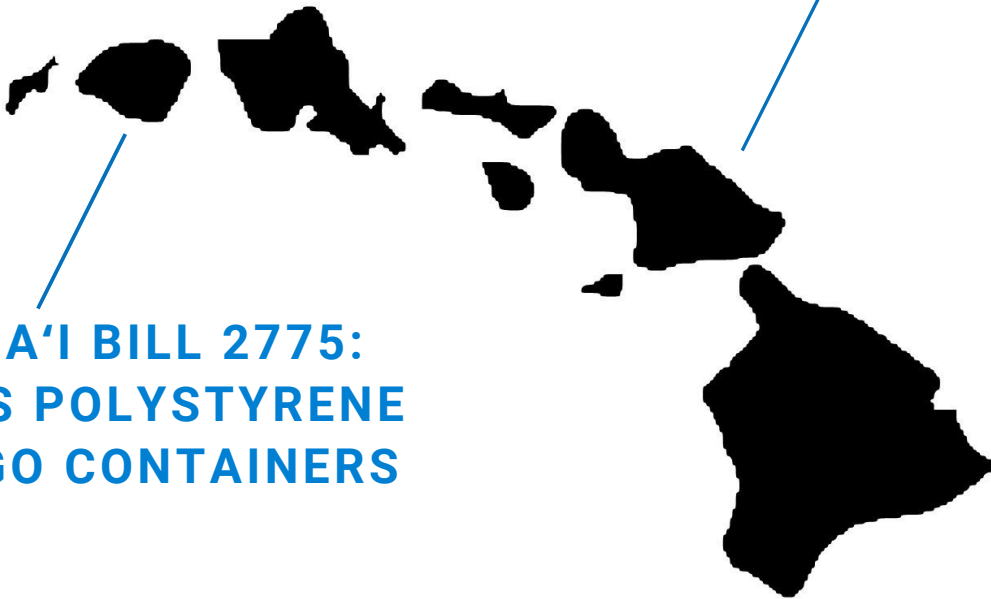
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# CAMPAIGN VICTORIES

In 2020, Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Chapters won **four** major campaign victories in the areas of plastic pollution and water quality.

✓ **MAUI BILL 52:  
BANS SINGLE-USE  
PLASTIC FOODWARE**

✓ **KAUA'I BILL 2775:  
BANS POLYSTYRENE  
TO-GO CONTAINERS**



✓ **REGIONAL: EPA ACCOUNTS FOR PLASTIC  
POLLUTION UNDER CLEAN WATER ACT**

Led by the Kaua'i Chapter, Surfrider Foundation sued the Hawai'i Department of Health (HDOH) for failing to take into account plastic pollution when evaluating impaired waters under the Clean Water Act. The U.S. EPA ruled in favor of Surfrider Foundation and required the HDOH to re-evaluate its list of impaired waters, taking into account plastic pollution.

✓ **FEDERAL: SUPREME COURT DEFENDS THE  
CLEAN WATER ACT**

In a critical decision, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Clean Water Act and determined that Maui's wastewater injection wells violated the federal law by pumping millions of gallons of treated sewage into the ocean each day.

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# KAUA'I

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

The Kaua'i Chapter is a powerhouse when it comes to fighting for clean water and addressing plastic pollution. In addition to maintaining small group beach cleanups and continuous water quality monitoring, the Chapter also hosted ocean-based educational programs for students, passed an island-wide styrofoam ban, and launched the Ocean Friendly Visitor awareness program.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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- Chair - Cynthia Welti
- Vice Chair - Barbara Wiedner
- Treasurer - Scott McCubbins
- Secretary - Gordon LaBedz
- OFR Coordinator - Ruta Jordans
- BWTF Coordinator - John Alderete
- Education Coord. - Kat Brickner
- Senior Scientist - Carl Berg
- Legislative Coord. - Rob Brower



## BY THE NUMBERS

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### 120,000 POUNDS

Debris removed from Kaua'i shorelines, with 65,000 pounds representing derelict fishing gear

### 18 BEACHES

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

### 1 CAMPAIGN VICTORY

Island-wide ban on polystyrene ("Styrofoam") foam food containers

### 138 MEMBERS

Supporting the Chapter's programs and campaigns

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# O'AHU

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

One of the largest Chapters in the U.S., the O'ahu team showed an incredible ability to adjust to 2020's "virtual" world, hosting virtual webinars, concerts, and public meetings, and even launching the first Chapter podcast. The Chapter held a virtual Environmental Justice Panel with local experts in addition to actively pursuing eight campaigns ranging from beach access in Kailua to coastal preservation at 'Ewa Beach.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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- Chapter Coordinator - Doorae Shin\*
- Chair - Ray Aivazian III
- Vice Chair - Elizabeth Benyshek
- Treasurer - Loren Mayr
- Secretary - Kari Goodbar
- Volunteer Coord. - Raquel Gilliland
- Policy Coordinator - Kaitlyn Jacobs
- Marketing Coord. - Lily Williams



\*Non-voting position

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## BY THE NUMBERS

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### 18 BEACHES

Monitored twice monthly for Enterococcus bacteria levels, a measure of water quality

### 8 ACTIVE CAMPAIGNS

Ranging from beach access to coastal preservation

### 1 NEW PROGRAM

Led the state in the "Choose to Reuse" restaurant campaign that promotes reusable cutlery and to-go containers.

### 282 MEMBERS

Supporting the Chapter's programs and campaigns

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# MAUI

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

The Maui Chapter used 2020 to pursue new projects, including a virtual Upcycle Contest, Beach Access online reporting portal, and hosting virtual, public meetings. New volunteers stepped into to fill critical roles in social media and helped re-launch the Chapter's Blue Water Task Force program along Maui's North Shore.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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- Chair - Tim Lara
- Vice Chair - Christine Roberson
- Treasurer - Charlie Quesnel
- Secretary - Christopher Robinson
- Volunteer Coordinator - Natalie Gonder
- At Large - Lorin Ifkovic



## BY THE NUMBERS

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### 18 BEACHES

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

### 2 CAMPAIGN VICTORIES

County-wide ban on single-use plastic foodware & U.S.

Supreme Court victory for clean water

### +668

New Facebook followers and +500 new Instagram followers increasing social media reach

### 92 MEMBERS

Supporting the Chapter's programs and campaigns

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# HAWAI'I ISLAND

[kona.surfrider.org](http://kona.surfrider.org)

Surfrider Foundation's Hawai'i Island Chapters were especially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As we transition out of the challenges posed by 2020, we look forward to re-igniting the efforts of our Hawai'i Island chapters and Surfrider Foundation community.

## 2020 EFFORTS

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### PAPAIKOU MILL ACCESS

Surfrider Foundation Board Member, scientist, and surfer Cliff Kapono testified to maintain public beach access at Papaikou Mill.

### 41 MEMBERS

Supporting Hawai'i Island Surfrider programs, campaigns, and projects



## FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

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### SUPPORT STUDENT CLUBS

The future is in the hands of our youth. With a robust marine and environmental science program, UH Hilo represents an opportunity to tap our next generation of Surfrider Foundation leaders.

### EXPAND CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Over the next few years, focus will be given to identifying and strengthening Surfrider leadership teams on Hawai'i Island.

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# 2021 REGIONAL PRIORITIES

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



## PRIORITY: CLEAN WATER

- Improve Department of Health's water quality testing program & public notification at Hawaii Beaches
- Reduce the impact of cesspools on coastal waters through a combination of legislation and public education
- Maintain volunteer-based Blue Water Task Force water quality monitoring programs on 3 islands

## PRIORITY: COASTAL PRESERVATION

- Develop community-based recommendations to address chronic erosion and beach loss
- Increase statewide, public awareness about coastal erosion & sea level rise

## HAWAI'I CHAPTER NETWORK

- More fully integrate environmental justice and diversity into Surfrider Foundation programs, campaigns, and leadership
- Strengthen statewide Chapter network and leadership teams



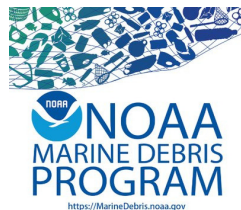
# MAHALO TO OUR SUPPORTERS



Kamehameha  
Schools®



**RAINBOW  
PINEAPPLE  
FOUNDATION**



**ACE COOL  
MEMORIAL  
FUND**

*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.*