



MAUI HULIAU FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY AND
LEADERSHIP AMONG MAUI'S YOUTH

WWW.MAUIHULIAUFOUNDATION.ORG

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN OUR SECOND DECADE

BY MALIA CAHILL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FOUNDER

Maui Huliau Foundation was founded on the idea of fostering youth-led movements for environmental and social change. In fact, the word *huliau* literally means "turning point", "time of change", or "to recall the past". As history teaches us, change is not always easy or predictable, and 2020 has definitely been a year full of harsh and unpredictable changes.

Our 10th anniversary coincided with the arrival of COVID-19, which brought substantial changes to our programs and the cancellation of our celebratory events. However, this also led to new virtual connections between our alumni who founded our Huliau Alumni Council, and to the development of new virtual classrooms in which our students and partners work together to create virtual field trips. And while 2020 brought us a global pandemic, it also brought us a growing number of youth-led movements for social and environmental change. And most of all, these changes helped us build resilience, and reinforced the importance of fulfilling our mission as we enter our second decade.

While there is clearly a lot to be anxious about during these challenging times, working with our students and partners this year has been a constant reminder that the opportunity for positive change is perhaps more present than ever. And so it is with much optimism and endless gratitude for the support we have received from all of you, that we enter 2021 and our next ten years of programs serving Maui's youth.





HULIAU ENVIRONMENTAL FILMMAKING CLUB

PARTNERSHIP AND VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

As a mobile organization, partnership is one of our core values. For this reason, one of our first reactions to the COVID crisis was to reach out to our partners to see how we could help continue to connect them with Maui youth. We were overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response we received from more than 17 partner organizations.

These collaborations have helped us pivot our filmmaking program in a meaningful way, by allowing our students to create virtual *huaka'i* (field trips) for our newly launched Maui Aloha 'Āina Virtual Classroom. This format allows students to visit these special places while filming outdoors and maintaining social distance. By participating, our filmmaking students are also creating distance learning resources for other students to learn about the ecological and cultural significance of these places.

While our fall program focused only on *huaka'i* films, we have also been working on creating COVID-safety plans to help our spring 2020 students finish their films, which were interrupted back in March, such as the Bob Ross parody film pictured below. We are currently looking into a drive-in movie format to share our 2020 films at the end of the school year.



"I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT THE HISTORY AND ENVIRONMENT OF WAIHE'E, AND WAS EVEN ABLE TO TAKE MY FAMILY THERE RECENTLY TO SHARE WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WAIHE'E RESERVE IN BOTH MODERN AND ANCIENT TIMES"

Kailani Ibanez, 9th grade filmmaking student



"WITH SO MANY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS CANCELLED OR RESTRICTED DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, THIS PROGRAM MAY BE THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY MANY STUDENTS HAVE THIS SCHOOL YEAR TO LEARN ABOUT NATIVE ECOSYSTEMS AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN MAUI COUNTY."

Kim Thayer, Mauna Kahālāwai Watershed Partnership



HULIAU LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



"THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC, HULIAU HAS ALLOWED ME TO CONNECT WITH MY PEERS VIRTUALLY, PROVIDING ENRICHING EXPERIENCES AND A CONSISTENT COMMUNITY OF LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE."

-Julia Paulman, 10th grade,
Huliau Leadership Council



In February, four of our Leadership Council students attended the Algalita Youth Summit for the 6th year in a row to present the council's work fighting plastic pollution, including Maui's plastic ban, zero waste schools, and educational films. Two weeks later, COVID arrived in Hawai'i, council meetings went virtual, and the Council ended the school year with an "Earth Month" social media takeover in April.

Our 2020-21 Huliau Leadership Council began again in September with a record 18 students participating from eight different schools. Four students from last year's program serve as leaders for the program. In addition to monthly virtual meetings, they host quarterly outdoor workdays. On International Coastal Cleanup Day, they organized small cleanups where 47 participants removed over 200 pounds of debris, and in October they planted 46 native trees as part of a statewide initiative.

The Leadership Council is also working on group leadership projects. In the fall, they conducted zoom interviews with experts on sustainable agriculture and they are currently working on zero waste presentations and projects for our virtual classroom. They will end the school year with climate change solution projects and by creating a film featuring youth perspectives on post-COVID sustainability and resilience.

**ENROLLMENT
INCREASED
OVER**

50%

**IN OUR
2020
HYBRID
PROGRAM**





HULIAU GREEN EVENTS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

While we are proud of the many creative ways that we were able to adapt our programs in 2020, the cancellation of all community events forced large changes to our Huliau Green Events program, which for the past three years, had been experiencing exponential growth.

In the first two months of the year, we were able to serve four community events attended by over 10,000 people. Through working with event planners and staffing zero waste stations, we diverted over 500lbs of waste from the landfill at these events, bringing our total waste diversion to over 18 tons since the program began in 2017.

With community events cancelled for the foreseeable future, we have been using this time to restructure our services and to create new zero waste educational resources for youth, event coordinators and the general public.



ZERO WASTE EDUCATION

When events were first cancelled this spring, our staff began working on an online interactive "Green Team Training" which will be used to train staff and volunteers at future Green Events. The training covers the basics of the Zero Waste Hierarchy and how reuse, composting and recycling can effectively be used to reduce waste.

In August, two of our alumni worked with our staff to create a "Going Zero Waste" unit for our virtual classroom. The unit also includes a video hosted by two alumnae using some of the content from our Green Team Training. The unit includes distance learning activities such as a "Sort Your Waste" matching game, composting tutorials, a carbon footprint quiz, and a home waste audit. At the end of 2020, our leadership students began creating another unit on sustainable lifestyles for teens. In early 2021, we plan to create similar online resources and media campaigns aimed at the general public.

While we are currently unable to visit schools or attend events, we feel that exposing youth and residents of all ages to zero waste principles this year, will help us make more progress in moving our community towards zero waste in the future, once the pandemic is behind us.

18 TONS
DIVERTED FROM
THE LANDFILL





VIRTUAL CLASSROOMS

As the school year started and teachers searched for relevant distance learning resources, we launched two free virtual classrooms for teachers and students in grades 8-12, focusing on climate literacy and 'āina-based learning.



MAUI ALOHA ĀINA VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

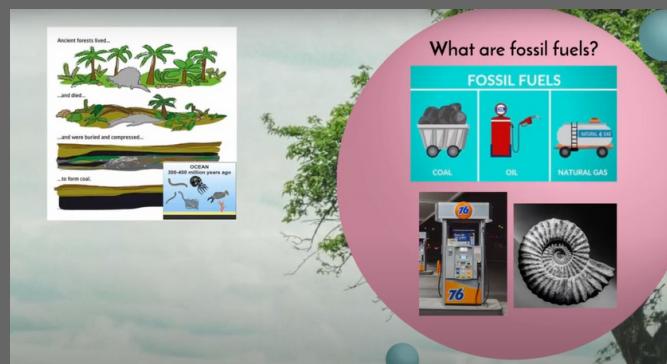
Every two weeks since August, we have worked with our students and partner organizations to create virtual field trips and online activities featuring many of Maui's special places.

While a lot of distance learning involves being in front of a screen, some of our activities involve students actually visiting a site in person, such as the Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge or Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, or simply going outside to *kilo* or observe the weather or moon phases. At a time when many students may feel isolated, it is more important than ever to build their *pilina* or connection with the places around them and their community. Therefore our Maui Aloha Āina Virtual Classroom in particular has a strong focus on cultural learning, connection to place and community engagement.

**11 PARTNERS &
7 VIRTUAL HUAKAI
in fall 2020!**

CLIMATE LITERACY VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

Since fall of 2017, we have worked with grade 8-12 teachers to integrate hands-on climate literacy activities into their curriculum. When in-class sessions were interrupted in March, we decided to continue our efforts to support climate literacy through our new Huliau Climate Literacy Virtual Classroom. Every two weeks, we release new interactive videos and distance learning activities focusing on climate change causes, impacts and solutions. Many of these activities explore local data on climate, wildfires, and coral bleaching.



During spring semester, our virtual classroom will focus on supporting teachers and students in developing youth-led projects focused on local adaptation and mitigation efforts. Our final unit will also explore connections to social and racial justice issues, and what the COVID crisis has taught us that could be useful in building resilience to future climate-related threats.



Huliau Alumni Council

A new generation of Huliau leadership for our second decade.



On our tenth anniversary this summer, three Huliau alumni organized a virtual alumni reunion and launched the Huliau Alumni Council. The council meets quarterly and is composed of ten former Huliau students ranging in age from 19 to 25. The Alumni Council will provide guidance to our organization, volunteer, help fundraise, network with other alumni, and serve as a resource for current students.

In June, the Alumni Council organized a virtual celebration of our 10th anniversary in which 11 alumni shared past films and stories about their experiences in Huliau programs. They then ended the month with a work day where alumni and students painted our new storage container and helped with a farm composting project.

One of the founding members, 2014 alumna Hannah Shipman, also represents the Alumni Council as the newest member of our Board of Directors. The Alumni Council demonstrates our aspiration for our alumni to play a crucial role in guiding our organization as we enter our second decade of programs.

"CONTINUING MY ENGAGEMENT THROUGH THE ALUMNI COUNCIL HAS ALLOWED ME TO STAY CONNECTED TO MY COMMUNITY AND PEERS, AND TO BE PART OF A GROUP THAT HAS THE DIVERSE SKILLS AND INSIGHTS NEEDED TO CREATE MEANINGFUL CHANGE"

-Hi'ilei Casco, 2014 Alumni & Council Co-Founder



Meet the Council Members

Our Huliau Alumni Council launched this past summer with ten members. Here we introduce the council and share more about its three founders.



Hannah Shipman

2014 Alumni & Founder

Hannah was a part of our first Huliau Youth Leaders program in 2012 and co-founded our Huliau EcoAdventure program in 2015. She has a degree in Environmental Social Sciences from the University of Kent in England and works for Blue Planet Foundation. Hannah also serves on our Board of Directors.



Hi'ilei Casco

2014 Alumni & Founder

Hi'ilei was in our first filmmaking program in 2010 and co-founded our Huliau EcoAdventure program in 2015. After completing her Master's of Environmental Management at UH Mānoa, she is now studying Native Hawaiian & Environmental Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law.



Kiana Liu

2019 Alumni & Founder

Kiana was involved in the Huliau Leadership Council and has been an active leader in our EcoAdventure summer program and our Green Events program. Kiana is currently pursuing a degree in Film Production with a minor in Environmental Studies at Loyola Marymount University.



Sophia Domingo

2016 Alumni



Troy Lau

2018 Alumni



Taylor Redman

2019 Alumni



Bryce Clearing-Sky

2018 Alumni



Natalia Polinskey

2019 Alumni



Kamahi Carter

2018 Alumni



Tierra Bartolotti

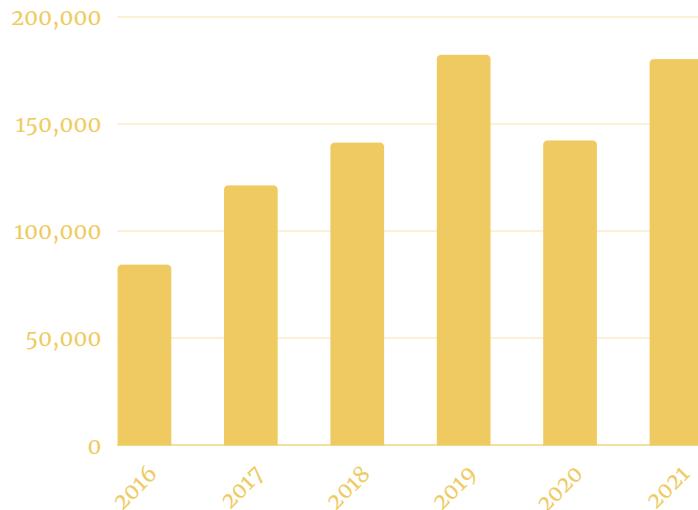
2015 Alumni

Financial Report & Outlook

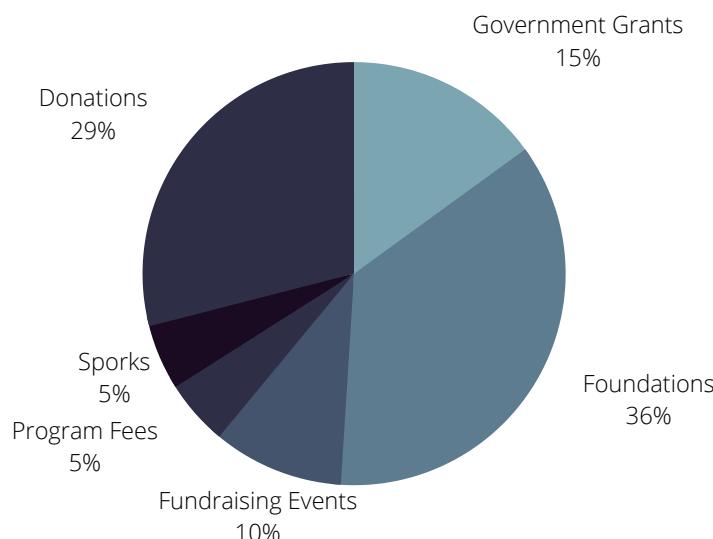
THE OUTLOOK FOR 2021

After a decade of steady growth, COVID resulted in unanticipated cuts to our 2020 budget. While our fundraising event and sporks sales income fell over 50%, we were able to make up much of that loss with generous individual donations, a successful holiday online auction and generous funding from private foundations. We are happy to report that our 2021 budget looks to be returning to pre-COVID levels. We are immensely grateful for the support that we received from our community in 2020!

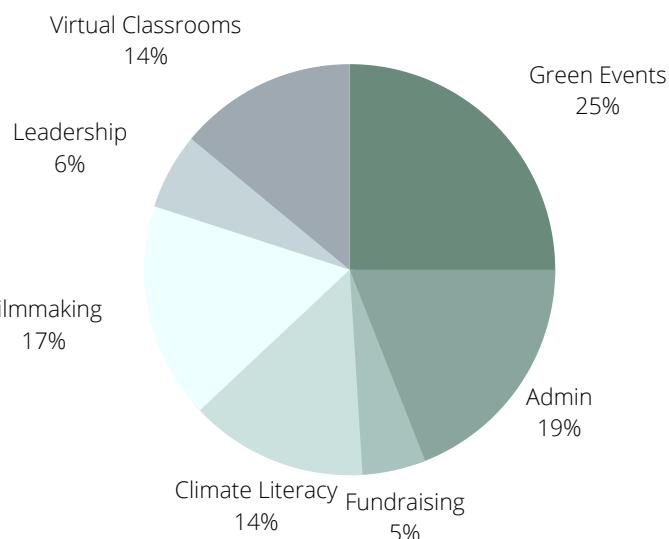
ANNUAL BUDGET BY YEAR



2020 INCOME SOURCES



2020 EXPENSES BY PROGRAM



Mahalo to our sponsors!

When COVID led to the cancellation of our 10th anniversary film festival and our annual benefit dinner this summer, these four generous sponsors agreed to sponsor the virtual versions of these events:

**Skyline Hawai'i
CDF Engineering
Blue Ginger Hawai'i
& Hawaiian Electric Company**



2020 MEMORIES

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