Despite the ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic, 2021 has turned out to be a year of immense opportunity and growth. After working hard last year to adapt our programs to new realities, we entered this past school year with more resilient “COVID-proof” programs, as well as new ideas for program offerings. Some of the challenges brought by the pandemic have also brought new opportunities for program innovation. For example, our virtual field trips and curriculum that we created with partners last school year as part of our COVID pivot, inspired the creation of our first teacher professional development course this fall, focused on involving community partners in ʻāina-based education. And this course also opened our eyes to more ways that we can support teachers during this challenging time.

We recently launched an in-school version of our filmmaking program, which will serve hundreds of additional students. Our climate literacy program is back in classrooms with a goal of reaching 500 students this school year. And our alumni council has helped launch our Careers in Conservation series to introduce Maui youth to sustainability careers.

As the year comes to a close, it has also become clear that our hard work has not gone unnoticed, as we have recently gained new private foundation support to expand our staffing and programs in 2022 by nearly 25%!

While the last couple of years have required a lot of adaptation and resilience, as we enter 2022, our perseverance has left us feeling stronger and better prepared to grow in the face of adversity. Last year our annual report image was a seedling. This year we strive to be like the native ʻaʻaliʻi tree pictured above, persevering and growing in the wind. We thank you all for being part of this growth, as we strive to inspire the next generation of stewards and innovators.
During the Spring 2021 semester, we continued working with our partner organizations to complete a series of student-made virtual huaka‘i (field trip) films featuring various sites on Maui. By the end of the school year, we had created a total of 12 films, which can now be used by teachers, along with ‘āina-based curriculum focusing on each site. In Fall 2021, we returned to our pre-Covid format of allowing students to create films on topics of their choice. Three film teams created films focused on ocean protection, plastic pollution, and reef-safe sunscreen.

After more than a decade of teaching afterschool filmmaking programs, in spring 2022, we will be altering the format of our filmmaking program to support filmmaking projects with teachers during school hours. This change will allow us to reach more students and to respond to the growing number of requests for filming assistance that we have received from teachers and community groups. If successful, we plan to offer the program in both formats next school year.
Our leadership council meets twice per month to learn about local environmental issues and to plan student-led projects. They also host student workdays, such as beach cleanups, tree plantings, invasive species removal, and farm workdays. This school year, one of our first sessions was hosted by our alumni and focused on youth advocacy. During fall, students then worked on personal and collective action projects focusing on climate change and zero waste, including creating an Instagram campaign to encourage meaningful action at the COP26 climate conference in November.

In spring 2021, students completed four projects focusing on climate change. These included a TikTok video series sharing low carbon "foodprint" recipes, a community survey on renewable energy, infographics featuring climate-resilient native plants, and a short film on local sea level rise adaptation strategies, created in partnership with an expert from Sea Grant.
After a year of adding to our virtual classroom and assisting with online learning, our staff were happy to be back in the classroom this fall teaching hands-on climate literacy activities. This fall we worked with teachers to teach 2-3 week customized programs to students at King Kekaulike High School and Kīhei Charter School. Students learned about climate change impacts such as coral bleaching and sea level rise. They also presented concept maps sharing the benefits and drawbacks of various climate change solutions.

Our spring 2022 semester looks to be a busy one. with new custom programs already planned for ʻĪao Intermediate, Baldwin High School and Lahainaluna. Our goal is to reach 500 students this school year! We will be assisting with student-led projects focused on local climate change solutions. We also hope to offer new professional development and field trip opportunities by the end of 2022.
Our Huliau Alumni Council, founded in 2020, participated in both virtual and in-person sessions this year with our leadership students. They also hosted a new series of virtual events focused on connecting youth with professionals working in a diverse array of sustainability fields. Next year, our alumni council plans to help us further develop additional internship and career pathway opportunities, and will also be part of the selection committee for our first college scholarship program.

In May 2021, our alumni and staff launched our first “Careers in Conservation” virtual event featuring 25 Maui professionals from a range of environmental career fields. This school year, alumni are hosting a series of smaller virtual events by career field, open to Maui youth ages 12-22. Professionals share about their jobs and inspiration for working to protect the ʻāina and then participate in informal Q&A sessions with students.
After being cancelled last summer, our alumni-led EcoAdventure was back this year as a condensed two day program focusing on protecting our coral reefs. Our program director, Lily Solano, planned and led the program along with three Huliau alumni. On the first day, students visited Maui Ocean Center and Ma'alaea bay to learn about coral bleaching and identify coral species. On day two, students visited Kipuka Olowalu to learn about how proper planting and farming techniques can help protect one of Maui’s most pristine marine ecosystems.

While our Green Events program has been put on pause due to the lack of community events, we are still offering assistance with student-led efforts to reduce waste on campus. This school year we have a student intern from Baldwin High School who designed and implemented a waste audit on campus. In the spring semester, she will be creating zero waste educational videos.
This fall we hosted our first for-credit teacher professional development course sponsored by Office of Hawaiian Education, which drew on many of the resources from our virtual classrooms and huaka'i videos. The purpose of the Kūkulu Pilina course is to help Maui educators realize the potential for community partnership and ‘āina-based education to deepen their students’ sense of HĀ (Nā Hopena A’o framework) through ‘āina aloha practices contextualized to their particular place and community. We plan to host the course again this summer along with our partners.

We recently launched a teacher resource page on our website to share the growing number of resources we offer, including professional development, huaka’i videos, ‘āina-based curriculum, zero waste resources, filmmaking, customized climate change programs and student-led projects. We are also working on a new resource page to assist teachers in developing lesson plans which involve community partners.
FINANCIAL REPORTS & OUTLOOK FOR 2022

Our 2022 operating budget is our largest since our founding in 2010. While Covid’s impact on our fundraising events led to a decrease in our operating budget for the past two years, our budget and programs are now growing again, largely due to support from new private foundations. With their support, we are hiring new staff members and will be expanding our programs next year!

2021 INCOME SOURCES

- Private Foundations: 59%
- Government Grants: 16%
- Fundraising Events: 11%
- Donations: 10%
- Program Fees: 3%
- *Other Programs: summer programs, alumni council, teacher professional development, virtual classrooms, etc.

46% GROWTH IN PRIVATE FOUNDATION FUNDING SINCE 2020

2021 EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

- Admin: 23%
- Fundraising: 6%
- Zero Waste: 10%
- Climate Literacy: 17%
- Filmmaking: 16%
- Leadership: 10%
- *Other Programs: 18%

ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

Budget numbers shown represent actual expenses, not including in-kind. *2022 based on projected expenses

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