MISSION
To end the perpetuation of historical trauma to `Ewa’s land, water and people through reciprocal learning, working side by side with the `Ewa community and serving its kapuna (elders) and current residents. Mālama Pu`uloa is HOH808’s defining project, which focuses on the environmental restoration of Pu`uloa. The project uses community stewardship to revive and conserve its streams, wetlands, shores and loko i’a (traditional Hawaiian fishponds) that once sustainably fed thousands of people.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERNS
- Groundwater contamination
- Degradation of waterways and fisheries
- Pesticides
- Toxins (mercury, PCBs, lead, etc.)
- Chemical vapor
- Contamination of the island’s primary aquifer by a large military jet fuel storage facility

NATIVE HAWAI’IANS PLACE GREAT IMPORTANCE on mālama `aina (actively caring for the environment). The culture evolved as a product of Hawai’i’s unique resources, which Native Hawaiians utilized for agricultural, medicinal, religious, and other cultural purposes.

Over the past 200 years, Native Hawaiians have had little say over the management of natural resources they depend on, including nearshore fisheries. The health of these resources has declined, along with the health of the people. Largely, the harm began in 1893, when the U.S. provided military
aid to a group of American businessmen who sought to permanently secure their corporate agricultural and mercantile interests in Hawai`i. With support from the U.S. Navy, those businessmen succeeded in the forcible overthrow of the independent and sovereign Hawaiian Kingdom. Within decades of the overthrow, newly formed industrial agricultural corporations farmed over 200,000 acres of land in Hawai`i, which had significant environmental consequences. Plantation agriculture, military installations, development and other land use changes contributed to the decline of Hawai`i's resources. Sugar and pineapple plantations in Hawai`i used approximately 10–15 restricted-use chemical pesticides, causing contamination of groundwater and impacted fisheries. The state of Hawai`i has over 90 water bodies that are considered "impaired" under state and federal standards. In the Hawai`i community, many rivers, streams, wetlands and nearshore areas that support the resources on which communities depend are contaminated and depleted. Its aquatic ecosystems are contaminated with mercury, PCBs, dioxins, pesticides, microplastics, lead and other metals, sediments, fecal coliform and other bacterial and viral contaminants. Many community members are unaware of their risk exposure and are not provided meaningful education about ways to reduce potential health impacts. In Hawai`i, many members of Native Hawaiian and low-income communities as well as communities of color, including Filipinos and Micronesians, regularly harvest and consume fish, crabs and other marine resources to meet nutritional and economic needs. In general, communities of color, low-income communities, and Indigenous peoples in Hawai`i depend on healthy aquatic ecosystems and marine resources to a greater extent and in different ways than the general population. The depletion of aquatic environments and resources threatens these groups' subsistence, economic, cultural, traditional and religious practices, and also impacts future generations and the transfer of knowledge from one generation to the next. This includes ecological knowledge, customs and traditions surrounding harvest and the preparation and consumption of marine resources.

### GRANT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- Expanding public education campaign and decreasing exposure to toxicity from seafood harvested in Pu`uloa through the development of community outreach strategies
- Continuing efforts to empower communities around Pu`uloa to engage in restoration and remediation and build public-private partnerships to increase the capacity for positive change
- Developing sustainable funding streams and initiating fundraising campaigns for key organizational activities

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