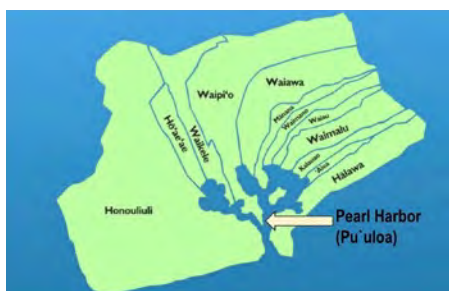


HUI O HO`OHONUA

ʻEwa, ʻOahu, Hawaiʻi



The "Moku" or region of ʻEwa encompass all the lands surrounding Puʻuloa (Pearl Harbor). These maps illustrate traditional "ridge to reef" land divisions called ahupuaʻa. Recognizing Hawaiian place names and traditional resource management practices is vital to environmental justice in Hawaiʻi.

The Advancing Environmental Justice through Technical Assistance Mini-Grants

Program is hosted by the National Environmental Health Partnership Council with support from CDC National Center for Environmental Health and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. In Year 3, five organizations, including [Hui o Hoʻohonua](#), are supported through \$10,000 mini-grants and technical assistance.

Credit: Photo by Olivia Hodges, courtesy of Unsplash.

MISSION

To end the perpetuation of historical trauma to ʻEwa's land, water and people through reciprocal learning, working side by side with the ʻEwa community and serving its kapuna (elders) and current residents. Mālama Puʻuloa is HOH808's defining project, which focuses on the environmental restoration of Puʻuloa. The project uses community stewardship to revive and conserve its streams, wetlands, shores and loko iʻa (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 HAWAIIANS PLACE GREAT IMPORTANCE on mālama ʻaina (actively caring for the environment). The culture evolved as a product of Hawaiʻi's unique resources, which Native Hawaiians utilized for agricultural, medicinal, religious, and other cultural purposes.

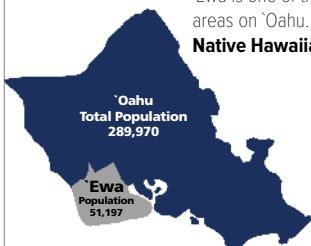
Over the past 200 years, Native Hawaiians have had little say over the management of natural resources they depend on, including nearshore fisheries. The health of these resources has declined, along with the health of the people. Largely, the harm began in 1893, when the U.S. provided military

Impacted Populations

ʻEwa Moku, ʻOahu

ʻEwa moku encompasses most of southwestern ʻOahu. It includes 12 ahupuaʻa (Hawaiian land subdivisions) and **seven ZIP codes: ʻEwa Beach (96706), Aiea (96701), Kapolei (96707 and 96709), Mililani (96789), Pearl City (96782), Waipahu (96797). Puʻuloa is at the heart of them all.**

ʻEwa is one of the fastest growing, most populated areas on ʻOahu. **Almost 19% of the state's Native Hawaiian population is in the region.**



66%
growth by 2040,
with an anticipated
population of **84,810**.

\$85,750

mean income of the Native Hawaiian families in ʻEwa which is \$7,779 less than the Hawaiʻi state average.

9% Native Hawaiians in the area live below the poverty level

4% are unemployed

61% Native Hawaiians in grades K-12 in ʻEwa receive free or reduced lunches, compared to the state average of 53%

These numbers fail to represent ʻEwa's large Filipino and Micronesian populations, many of which also live below the poverty line. Together, these three communities represent Puʻuloa's subsistence fishing presence, the economic hardships and decreased food security of which have only been amplified due to COVID-19.

aid to a group of American businessmen who sought to permanently secure their corporate agricultural and mercantile interests in Hawaiʻi. 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 Hawaiʻi, which had significant environmental consequences. Plantation agriculture, military installations, development and other land use changes contributed to the decline of ʻEwa's resources. Sugar and pineapple plantations in Hawaiʻi used approximately 10–15 restricted-use chemical pesticides, causing contamination of groundwater and impacted fisheries.

The state of Hawaiʻi has over 90 water bodies that are considered "impaired" under state and federal standards.¹ In the ʻEwa 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 ʻEwa, 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 Hawaiʻi 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 Puʻuloa through the development of community outreach strategies
- Continuing efforts to empower communities around Puʻuloa 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



1 Waiwai Ola Waterkeepers Hawaiian Islands (2021). <https://waterkeepershi.org>

The information and select images included in this profile were provided by the grantee.

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