

WEST MAUI

# Ridge<sup>2</sup> Reef INITIATIVE



The goal of the West Maui Ridge to Reef (R2R) Initiative is to reduce stressors and enhance the health and resiliency of West Maui coral reefs and nearshore waters through the reduction of land-based pollution threats from the summit of Pu'u Kukui to the outer reef. These efforts will be guided by the values and traditions of West Maui.



Coral reefs are declining in many parts of Hawai'i. In West Maui, nearly one-fourth of all living corals have been lost in the last thirteen years alone. Coral reef decline is a critical concern because we depend on them for livelihoods; culturally, economically, and for physical protection.

The State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are sponsoring the development of the plan for the West Maui Watershed Ridge to Reef Initiative. This initiative is an all-encompassing approach across multiple agencies, organizations, and jurisdictions to address adverse impacts to coral reefs in West Maui.

The proposed 24,000-acre study area extends from Ka'anapali northward to Honolulu and from the summit of Pu'u Kukui to the outer reef. It includes the watersheds of Wahikuli, Honokowai, Kahana, Honokahua, and Honolulu.

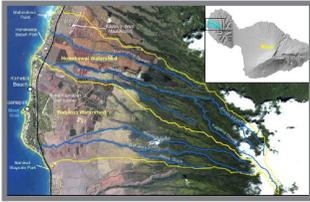
The R2R Initiative will result in a comprehensive plan by 2016 and the implementation of activities along the way.

The West Maui Ridge to Reef (R2R) Initiative is a collaborative effort. A number of partners have come together to address and reduce impacts to West Maui's coral reefs:



# Highlights of West Maui R2R Projects

## Wahikuli-Honokowai Watershed Management Plan



The Wahikuli- Honokowai Watershed Management Plan (WMP) funded by NOAA CRCP was the initial evaluation conducted in coordination with the

West Maui R2R Initiative. A WMP has been developed for this US Coral Reef Task Force priority area to address the impacts of land based pollution on coral reefs. The plan, completed in Dec. 2012, identifies strategies to address land based pollution. Implementation projects began in the spring of 2013, and will continue over the next three-five years.

## Wahikuli-Honokowai Coastal Conservation Action Plan (CAP)



NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program and The Nature Conservancy on Maui have been working on individual Conservation Action Plans (CAP) for Kahekili, Molokini, and Kahoolawe.

The goal of these CAPs are to develop priority strategies for implementation to address existing and future threats facing coral reef ecosystems in these regions. The CAP teams for each location identified targets to protect, current resource status, priority threats and strategies to address those threats. The West Maui plan will be finalized in the fall of 2013.

## Kanaha, Honokahua and Honolua Watershed Plan

The Kanaha, Honokahua and Honolua Watershed Plan funded by the USACE and DAR, with support from partners, is just getting underway. When finished it will be very similar to the plan just finished for Wahikuli- Honokowai, and will identify strategies to address land based pollution on coral reefs over the next three-five years.

## Ka`anapali Makai Watch



The Ka`anapali Makai Watch program is co-coordinated by representatives from the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) and Project S.E.A.-Link.

Efforts focus on: 1) outreach and education, 2) biological monitoring and data gathering through their web portal,

and 3) observation and incident reporting through "talk story" sessions with the state's Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement.

## Kahekili Fisheries Management Area



In 2009, the state of Hawaii created the Kahekili Herbivore Fishery Management Area (KHFMA) along an approximately 2-mile stretch of coastline in Ka'anapali, West Maui. The goal of the KHFMA is to restore natural grazing processes by protecting reef herbivores and ultimately,

to increase the local reef's ability to resist and recover from excessive algal growth that is detrimental to corals. Four years after establishment, it is still too early to determine the effectiveness, which may take a decade or more. However interim data shows a consistent upward trend of increasing biomass of parrot fish. Monitoring by DAR will continue.

## West Maui Kumuwai Campaign



West Maui Kumuwai is a movement to protect our ocean through personal action and community collaboration. The premise of the campaign is that if we

each do a little, we can all do a lot. With strategic support from the non-profit SeaWeb, this collaborative effort focuses on everyday actions that we can all take to reduce polluted runoff, which ultimately affects the health of our ocean. Resources to support these actions can be found at [www.westmauikumuwai.org](http://www.westmauikumuwai.org)

## A Rain Garden Movement



A rain garden is an intentionally created flat bottom depression planted with natives positioned to receive, treat and infiltrate runoff from impervious

surfaces, and is a low impact design (LID) feature recommended in the WMP. In the spring of 2013, NOAA funded a workshop and demonstration rain garden installation in a County of Maui park in Wahikuli which will be followed this fall by a Rain Garden Hui (team) project that will work to build a half dozen more gardens in the next year.

For a complete list of R2R projects and reports go to: [www.westmauir2r.com](http://www.westmauir2r.com)