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SURFRIDER FOUNDATION  
HAWAI'I REGION

2021  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

[www.hawaii.surfrider.org](http://www.hawaii.surfrider.org)

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# 2021 HAWAII REGION OVERVIEW & HIGHLIGHTS

The Hawai'i Region includes four volunteer-based Chapters (Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, and Kona) that are part of the worldwide Surfrider Foundation network based in San Clemente, California. Chapter programs and campaigns focus on five initiatives: Plastic Pollution, Ocean Protection, Clean Water, Beach Access, and Coastal Preservation. In 2021, regional efforts led to the successful passage of groundbreaking coastal protection legislation and prioritized innovative initiatives aimed at addressing ocean-based plastic pollution, clean water, and climate change. Chapters continued to engage our local communities with beach cleanups and virtual events.

## 2021 Highlights

- Won seven major campaign victories ranging from beach access to coastal protection
- Engaged Hawai'i Federal Representatives on coastal priorities
- Passed SB474, pivotal sea level rise legislation that supports the protection of Hawai'i coastlines
- Co-hosted the Coastal Resilience Working Group to develop community-based solutions for coastal erosion on the North Shore of O'ahu
- Launched the North Pacific Hagfish Trap Project to engage citizen scientists and address ocean-based plastic pollution



Lauren Blickley  
Hawai'i Regional Manager



Doorae Shin  
O'ahu Chapter Coord.

*Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit, grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves, and beaches, for all people, through a powerful activist network.*

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# PROGRAMS

Surfrider Foundation achieves its mission through five programs. These programs help focus our work, not only in Hawai'i but across the Nation. Individual chapters incorporate programs according to the immediate needs and opportunities present in their communities.



Blue Water Task Force (BWTF) labs are active on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui. Volunteers test local beaches for fecal indicator bacteria levels and compare them to water quality standards set to protect public health.



The Ocean Friendly Restaurants program promotes plastic reduction and sustainable practices throughout the restaurant industry.



Rise Above Plastics raises awareness about the dangers of plastic pollution. Surfrider Foundation Chapters have been instrumental in passing single-use plastic bans across Hawai'i.



Beach cleanups and Net Patrols are a staple of Hawai'i Chapters and remove over a hundred thousand pounds of rubbish off Hawai'i shorelines every year.



The Ocean Friendly Gardens program sees yards and landscapes as solutions to water pollution.

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# REGIONAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Chapters within the Hawai'i Region work together to support regional programs, events, and educational campaigns.



## NORTH PACIFIC HAGFISH PROJECT

With leadership from the Kaua'i Chapter, Surfrider Foundation launched the North Pacific Hagfish Project. The project is a collaborative effort to develop options aimed at reducing lost and discarded hagfish traps and thus their impact on Hawaiian Monk Seals. In 2021, citizen scientists and partner organizations helped report and remove 3,400 traps from Hawai'i shorelines. Next steps include cataloging and determining the source of traps, while continuing removal efforts.

## STOP SEWAGE POLLUTION

Sewage spills and failing wastewater infrastructure threaten coastal water quality by discharging raw and under-treated sewage into local waterways and the ocean. In Hawai'i, the STOP Sewage Pollution project focuses on policies to protect coastal waters and increase public awareness about the importance of upgrading cesspools and other outdated wastewater systems.

## NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT ON HAWAI'I SHORELINES

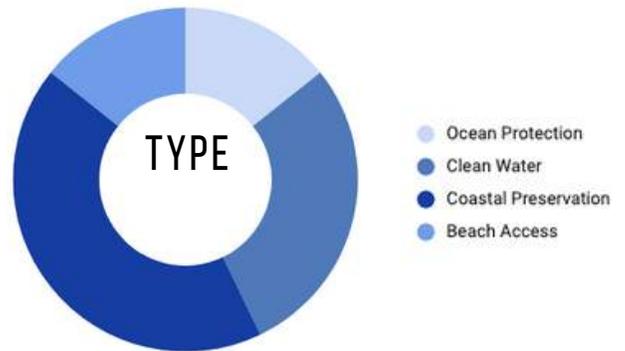
[ABC's Martha Raddatz](#) spotlighted the severe coastal erosion taking place across Hawai'i. Surfrider Foundation team members Lauren Blickley and Stefanie Sekich-Quinn toured the West Maui coastline with the ABC crew and provided insight into the solutions for our coasts in light of climate change.

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# ACTIVE CAMPAIGNS

Campaigns are how Surfrider Foundation measures and tracks our efforts. We define campaigns as a yes/no decision by a governing body or agency. In 2021, Hawai'i Chapters maintained 10 active campaigns.

**10** ACTIVE  
CAMPAIGNS



## REGIONAL

- Reduce the Impact of Cesspools on Coastal Waters
- Improve Water Quality Testing & Notification at Hawai'i Beaches
- Enforce Limits on Emergency Shoreline Structure Permits
- Hawai'i Visitor Fee to Support Natural Resources

## KAUA'I

- Stop Shrimp Farm Water Pollution
- Protect 'Aliomanu Beach Access

## O'AHU

- Protect the North Shore from Coastal Erosion
- Protect 'Ewa Beach from Shoreline Hardening
- Restore Ka'apuni Drive Public Beach Access

## MAUI

- Protect Public Parking at Keawakapu Beach

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# CAMPAIGN VICTORIES

In 2021, Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Chapters won **seven** major campaign victories spanning coastal preservation, clean water, beach access, & ocean protection. Highlights include:

✓ **MAUI INJECTION WELLS SETTLEMENT ENDS DECADE LONG CLEAN WATER FIGHT.**



✓ **O'AHU: RESTORED PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS AT KO'OLINA RESORT**

✓ **O'AHU: SHARK'S COVE LITIGATION SETTLEMENT**

On February 2, 2021, the final settlement agreement in the Save Shark's Cove Alliance v. Hanapohaku LLC and City and County of Honolulu was signed. The settlement secures clean water improvements, land use protections, and increased transparency, monitoring and reporting of site conditions for the commercial development site at issue, directly adjacent to the precious marine environment at Shark's Cove on the North Shore of Oahu, Hawaii.

✓ **REGIONAL: SEA LEVEL RISE DISCLOSURE BILL**

On June 6, 2021, Hawai'i became the first state in the U.S. to pass a mandatory sea level rise real estate disclosure bill. The passage of SB 474 requires sellers of residential real estate in Hawai'i to disclose whether their properties are in a sea level rise exposure area. The areas included are those that are susceptible to sea level rise impacts based on a 3.2-foot increase in sea level by 2050. The passage of this bill further strengthens the state's ability to limit harmful shoreline hardening projects like seawalls.

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# KAUA'I

[kauai.surfrider.org](http://kauai.surfrider.org) | [@surfriderkauai](https://twitter.com/surfriderkauai)

The Kaua'i Chapter continued its powerful advocacy work across the island. Over a thousand local *keiki* (kids) were educated through the Chapter's plastic pollution education program. With its Net Patrol cleanups, volunteers utilized helicopter lifts to remove thousands of pounds of plastic pollution from remote beaches. The Chapter also partnered to host virtual Climate Action Forums and launched its well received Ocean Friendly Visitor program to encourage sustainable actions for visitors to Kaua'i.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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- Chair - Cynthia Welti
- Vice Chair - Barbara Wiedner
- Treasurer - Scott McCubbins
- Secretary - Gordon LaBedz
- Ocean Friendly Restaurants Coord. - Ruta Jordans
- Ocean Friendly Visitors Coord. - Barbara Levin
- Senior Scientist - Carl Berg
- Legislative Coord. - Rob Brower



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## BY THE NUMBERS

### 55,667 POUNDS

Debris removed from Kaua'i shorelines, with >35,000 pounds representing derelict fishing gear

### 26 OCEAN FRIENDLY RESTAURANTS

That meet strict standards to reduce single-use plastics & waste.

### 2 NEW PROGRAMS

- Ocean Friendly Visitors program promotes sustainable actions for visitors.
- North Pacific Hagfish Project seeks solutions to dangerous fishing gear

### 1 NEW CAMPAIGN

Stop water pollution permit for coastal shrimp farm in Kekaha.

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# O'AHU

[oahu.surfrider.org](http://oahu.surfrider.org) | [@surfrideroahu](https://www.instagram.com/surfrideroahu)

The O'ahu Chapter won four coastal victories and led major efforts to address severe coastal erosion across the island, including co-hosting the groundbreaking Coastal Resilience Working Group on the North Shore. Volunteers continued to maintain the Chapter's robust Blue Water Task Force water quality monitoring program and supported the 11,000 sq ft. Ocean Friendly Garden in Kaka'ako that captures storm water and provides food to the community. The Ocean Friendly Restaurant (OFR) program launched OFR 2.0 and re-registered 16 restaurants under the new criteria.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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- Chapter Coordinator - Doorae Shin\*
- Chair - Ray Aivazian III
- Vice Chair - Elizabeth Benyshek
- Treasurer - Loren Mayr
- Secretary - Kari Goodbar
- Volunteer Coord. - Raquel Gilliland
- Policy Coordinator - Kaitlyn Jacobs

## PROGRAM COORDINATORS

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- Blue Water Task Force - Dan Amato
  - Ocean Friendly Restaurants - Natalie Wohner
  - Ocean Friendly Gardens - Lauren Kaiser
  - Beach Cleanups - Audrey Alessi
  - Beach Protection - Mike Foley
  - Social Media - Brittany Craig & Andy Craig
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## BY THE NUMBERS

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### 4 CAMPAIGN VICTORIES

- Restored public beach access at Ko'olina Resort
- Protected sand dunes at Wāwāmalu
- Passed Bill 40 hotel tax to support natural resources
- Reached settlement agreement to protect Shark's Cove

### 8 ACTIVE CAMPAIGNS

Ranging from beach access to coastal preservation

### 7 GARDEN WORK DAYS

Supporting the 11,000 sq ft. Ocean Friendly Garden in Kaka'ako

### 15 BEACH CLEANUPS

Removing 3,000 pounds of trash and engaging 540 volunteers

### 16 OCEAN FRIENDLY RESTAURANTS

Re-registered to meet criteria that reduces plastic pollution & waste

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# MAUI

[maui.surfrider.org](http://maui.surfrider.org) | [@surfridermaui](https://www.instagram.com/surfridermaui)

The Maui Chapter re-launched its community beach cleanup program and continued to collect valuable water quality data at 18 sites along the North Shore. New volunteers allowed the Chapter to engage with critical beach access issues in South Maui and weigh in on coastal erosion projects in Ka'anapali. To address single-use plastics, the Chapter launched its Rise Above Plastics on Vacation program.

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Chair - Christine Roberson
- Vice Chair - Marina Scott
- Treasurer - Charlie Quesnel
- Secretary - Rebecca Pang
- BWTF Coord. - Greg Masessa
- OFR Coord. - Erica Chavez
- Beach Cleanups - Enzo Magliozzi
- Marketing Coord. - Nicole Rosen



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## BY THE NUMBERS

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### 17 BEACHES

Monitored monthly for for Enterococcus bacteria levels, a measure of water quality.

### 1 CAMPAIGN VICTORY

County of Maui settles injection wells lawsuit and agrees to getting a water pollution permit, a much deserved victory after 10+ years of litigation.

### 1 NEW PROGRAM

Rise Above Plastics on Vacation works with vacation rentals to eliminate single-use plastic water bottles.

### 1 NEW CLUB

Started by students at King Kekaulike High School

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# HAWAI'I ISLAND

[kona.surfrider.org](http://kona.surfrider.org)

Renewed volunteer interest and the re-opening of Hawai'i Island has allowed the Kona Chapter to re-launch its beach cleanup program and engage local youth through keiki surf contests. The Chapter continues to seek new volunteers and expand its Executive Committee in 2022.

## 2021 EFFORTS

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### KEIKI SURF CONTESTS & CLEANUPS

Spearheaded by longtime activists Holly Kersten, Surfrider Foundation Kona Chapter was able help co-host the first keiki surf contest at Banyans since the beginning of the pandemic. The surf contests are combined with beach cleanups, encouraging youth to give back and protect Hawai'i island coastlines.

### VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

New volunteers and renewed community interest in Surfrider Foundation led to the re-launch of the Chapter's beach cleanup program.



## FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

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### SUPPORT STUDENT CLUBS

The future is in the hands of our youth. With a robust marine and environmental science program, UH Hilo represents an opportunity to tap our next generation of Surfrider Foundation leaders.

### EXPAND CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Over the next few years, focus will be given to identifying and strengthening Surfrider leadership teams on Hawai'i Island.

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# STUDENT CLUBS

The Surfrider Foundation launched the Student Club Network in 2008. Our Student Club Network creates a platform to meet the demand by young people for opportunities to influence environmental action through service, leadership development, civic engagement and direct action organizing. In Hawai'i, student clubs currently exist on O'ahu and Maui.

## YOUTH CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

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### PARTICIPATION IN CHAPTER CONFERENCE

Student leaders connected with Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i staff and leaders at the Chapter Conference.

#### 1 NEW CLUB

Started by students at King Kekaulike High School on Maui

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## UH MĀNOA

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Led by co-chairs Tabbi Knudson and Ana Velasquez, the University of Hawai'i Mānoa student club is one of the largest and most active student clubs in Hawai'i. The club used 2021 to re-organize and recruit new members. The club re-launched its beach cleanup program, developed curriculum for high school outreach, finalized a handbook for club members, and developed content about the Hawai'i Visitor Green Fee content for its TikTok channel. In 2022, the Club plans to focus on rebuilding its presence on campus, rebuilding its core team, supporting local policy action, and integrating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion into Club efforts.

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# 2022 REGIONAL PRIORITIES

In addition to programs, legislation, and campaigns at the local level, Surfrider Foundation coordinates statewide on priority policy and programmatic efforts.



## **PRIORITY: CLEAN WATER**

- Pass Senate Bill 350 to improve the Department of Health's water quality testing program & public notification at Hawaii Beaches
- Reduce the impact of cesspools on coastal waters through a combination of legislation and public education
- Expand public awareness of wastewater pollution through the STOP Sewage Pollution Campaign

## **PRIORITY: COASTAL PRESERVATION**

- Develop community-based recommendations to address chronic erosion and beach loss
- Complete North Shore Coastal Resilience Working Group meetings and publish white paper with recommendations for coastal adaptation solutions
- Increase statewide, public awareness about coastal erosion & sea level rise

## **PRIORITY: PLASTIC POLLUTION**

- Continue North Pacific Hagfish Trap Project by cataloging traps, identifying source of traps, and begin working with fishery managers to identify solutions to reduce trap pollution and monk seal entanglement.
- Support statewide legislation for Extended Producer Responsibility and composting

## **HAWAI'I CHAPTER NETWORK**

- Integrate justice, equity, and diversity into our programs, campaigns, and network and provide meaningful JEDI training to our chapter network.
- Support and expand student club network
- Enhance chapter leadership development and recruitment

# MAHALO TO OUR SUPPORTERS



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*Surfrider Foundation is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves, and beaches, for all people, through a powerful activist network.*