



Collective Pathways to 'Āina Justice

Strategic Framework 2023 - 2026



SIERRA CLUB
OF HAWAI'I

Table of Contents

<u>Who We Are</u>	<u>03</u>
<u>The Return on Investment for Climate Action</u>	<u>04</u>
<u>Water Security</u>	<u>05</u>
<u>E Ho'i I Ka Wai: East Maui Streams</u>	<u>06</u>
<u>E Ola I Ka Wai: Shut Down Red Hill</u>	<u>07</u>
<u>A Preferred Future</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>'Āina Justice Strategic Framework</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>A Call To Action</u>	<u>13</u>





Who We Are

Rooted in 50 years of service to preserving and caring for Hawai'i's environment, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i is advancing climate solutions to protect Hawai'i's 'āina ecosystem of land, water, air, and all living things that make Hawaii special.

The depth and breadth of our reach encompasses the needs of each island and across the pae'āina of Hawai'i. Our base of 21,000 members and supporters are actively involved in issues they are passionate about and are plugged into the lifelines of island specific groups on Hawai'i Island, Maui Nui (Maui Island, Moloka'i and Lāna'i), 'O'ahu and Kaua'i.

21,000+
Members & Supporters

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i is a member driven chapter of the national Sierra Club. Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is the most influential grassroots conservation organization in the United States.

The Sierra Club's mission is to:

Explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth;

Practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources;

Educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

The Return on Investment for Climate Action

The work of the Sierra Club merges at the intersection of three core service areas: **harnessing the power of the people, defending the rights of nature, and connecting people to the outdoors.** The following information provides a data point for each core service area to demonstrate the impact the organization has made over time.

Defending the rights of nature:

In a U.S. Supreme Court case, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i Maui Group established that the Lahaina Wastewater Treatment Plant cannot evade Clean Water Act requirements by injecting its waste into the ground, where it almost immediately enters the ocean.

This legal decision set precedent for any other entity disposing of pollutants in this manner.

Harnessing the power of the people

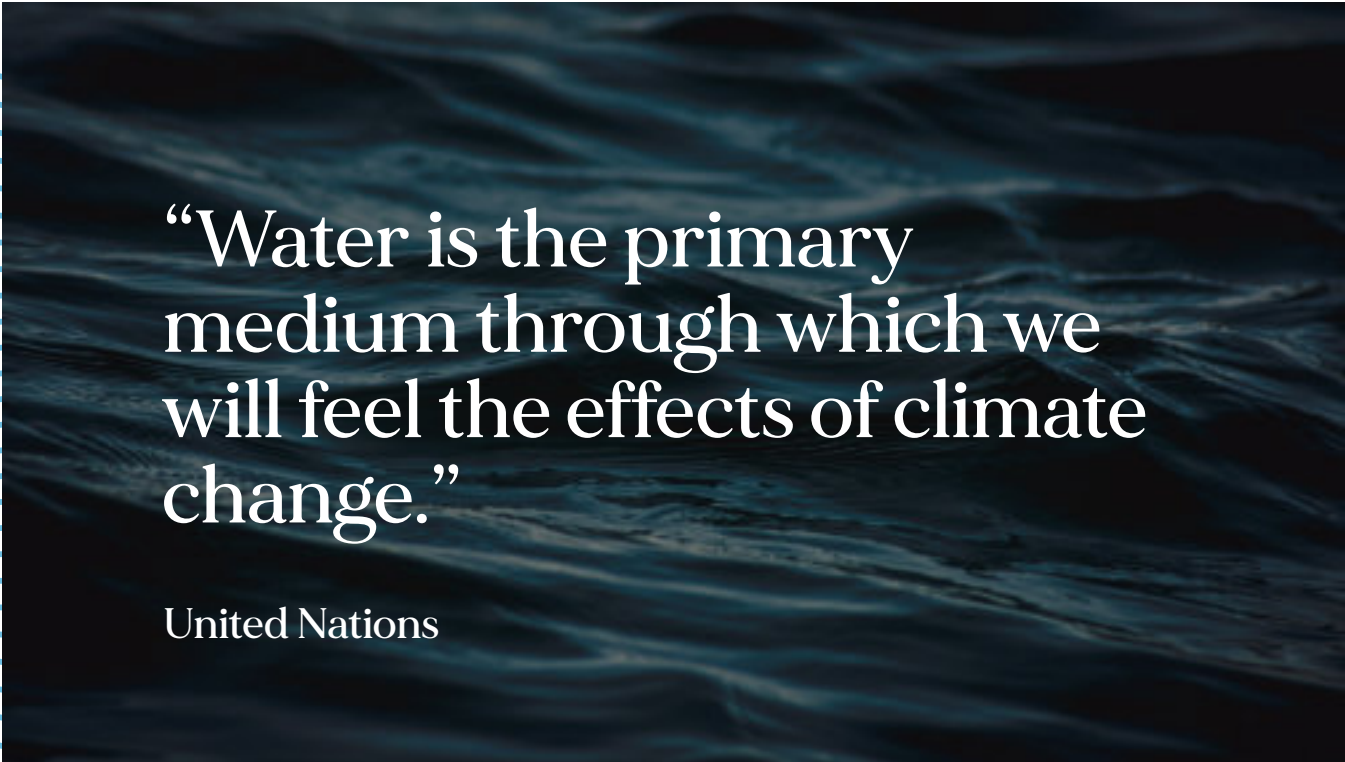
75,000

Online environmental justice actions have been taken by our supporters in the past 4 years.

Connecting people to the outdoors:

100+

Hikes & service projects hosted annually.



“Water is the primary medium through which we will feel the effects of climate change.”

United Nations

Water Security

From the capitol to the courtroom and into the community, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i is successfully leading grassroots movements to address water security issues that **violate our human right to access clean water for subsistence and existence.**

The following section highlights the organization's concerted fight to restore water to the East Maui Streams and to unequivocally utilize all legal and community engagement means necessary to permanently shut down Red Hill.

13,500,000

Gallons of Water to Be Returned Every Day

E Ho'i I Ka Wai

Returning the water to its source

The Sierra Club has worked tirelessly with the communities of East Maui to restore water that has been diverted from their streams by Alexander and Baldwin for more than a century. After two decades of work, the Sierra Club's advocacy in concert with community partners has established stronger protections for streams on public lands in East Maui.

This historic and ground breaking work represents the Sierra Club's impact to fight against corporate water monopolies and seek justice with Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to exercise their legal rights to adequate stream flow and thus, be able to live and carry out their customary traditions and way of life.

Returning the Wai Back to Its Path

A petition filed by the Sierra Club in 2021 resulted in a November 2022 Water Commission order for the restoration of 13.5 million gallons of water per day in



the Huelo region of East Maui. “The Huelo Restoration will be significant for streams which 'ohana and farmers can soon depend on for daily use as rainfall persists. We're closely monitoring the restoration and await the return of waters to our Huelo kahawai. **It is a recognition of the right thing to do by the Water Commission, appropriating our wai back to the source of its path,**” states Mary Ann Pahukoa. Pahukoa is an East Maui resident and lineal descendant of this area.

“This overdue reward will give our watershed an opportunity to replenish itself and help restore the natural cycle of our wai, that which feeds from mauka to makai,” she said.



E Ola I Ka Wai

Water is Life

In November 2021, a catastrophic release of fuel from the U.S. Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility contaminated the drinking water system for 93,000 O'ahu residents, as well as schools, parks, child development centers, and businesses served by the Navy's system. This contamination poisoned thousands of people, many of whom continue to suffer from serious and long-term health complications. Since its storage facility construction in 1943, the Navy has spilled at least 200,000 gallons of fuel at Red Hill.

The Red Hill Water Crisis is the most urgent issue facing Hawai'i. Every day holds the potential for a disaster that will impact every aspect of life as we know it – from our islands' healthcare infrastructure,

to our housing supply, to our construction and tourism industries and overall economy – not just for ourselves, but for future generations, well beyond our lifetimes.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i is uniquely positioned to hold the U.S. military accountable to rectifying the harm they have caused and to prioritize the protection of water and affected communities both here in Hawai'i, and across the Pacific.

200,000
Gallons of Fuel Spilled
Since 1943

It is the only entity that has consistently advocated, litigated, and organized over the last 8 years, to prevent the destruction of O’ahu’s sole source aquifer from the U.S. Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

The Sierra Club is a key player and fills a critical gap in this movement to communicate clear and non-negotiable demands of action for the Navy to defuel the Red Hill tanks by Summer 2023. This state of emergency also presents a one-time window of opportunity to advance desperately-needed national policies that prioritize the protection of water and the livelihoods of people over power, profit and destruction.

Red Hill Pledge

Widespread support to permanently shut down Red Hill by over 100 local organizations, businesses and city, state and congressional leadership.



“There is no future without wai.”

O’ahu Water Protectors

Pivotal Red Hill Accomplishments

2021 – 2022 in Review



Community Engagement and Education

Creation of the O‘ahu Water Protectors and Shut Down Red Hill Coalition

1,500

Attendees for “Walk for Wai” Event

23,500

Engaged Social Media Followers



Advocacy and Litigation

Hawai‘i Legislature

Act 157

Signed into Law;

To prohibit the operation of underground storage tanks above drinking water sources.

City & County

Bill 048

Passed;

To prohibit underground storage tanks that cannot be safely operated.

Board of Education

Resolution

Passed;

Calling for the shut down of the Red Hill Facility.



Global Media Coverage

Spotlighting of the Red Hill issue in media outlets include, but are not limited to the **Guardian**, **Associated Press**, **Washington Post**, **Al Jazeera Plus** and **VICE TV**.



If the Sierra Club of Hawai'i was everything it wanted it to be, what would it look like in 10 years?

Here's what we think →

A Preferred Future

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i envisions a preferred future of 'āina justice:

Where Hawai'i's holistic landscape is grounded in Kānaka 'Ōiwi values, traditions and science.

Where humanity is reflected in a multi-generational community from keiki (children) to kupuna (elders) from diverse backgrounds and life experiences who possess shared environmental values.

Where climate action movement building is aligned across all sectors so that collective impact may be achieved and maintained for a multitude of generations.



Built on National Sierra Club Values

Balance

Our effectiveness comes from committing to caring for ourselves and others.

Transformation

We commit to changing our relationships to power, privilege, and oppression—for ourselves and for the organization.

Collaboration

We believe in just relationships that support collective work.

Justice

We are accountable for our actions, our work, and how we show up with trust and respect.

Anti-Racism

We commit to shifting power away from white supremacy, repairing harm, and ending structural racism.



‘Āina Justice Strategic Framework

2023 - 2026

Over the course of the next 3 years, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i will accomplish a bold and robust goal that will shift and rebrand their identity as an organization. This goal cascades into clear focus areas with measurable objectives that dig deep into internal infrastructure, activate purposeful partnerships and raise the next generation of justice warriors to protect the long-term health and wellbeing of Hawai‘i Nei

Goal: Transform organizational capacity to mitigate climate change

Solidifying ‘Āina Justice Solutions

- **Amplify kānaka ‘ōiwi efforts** to advance proven, culturally grounded solutions for water, food, and community security
- **Pursue policymaking and programming** that implement the intersections between justice, ‘āina, and our collective resilience
- **Develop community leaders** who will heal our social fabric and unlock our islands’ potential to build, and model, a just and resilient future

Strengthen Internal Systems of Support

- **Build skill sets of all board of directors, staff, and volunteers** to make at least one financial ask to a respective donor
- Increase annual operating budget **300% to \$1.5 million**
- Increase staffing **100% to 10 full-time professional positions** to manage statewide and island-specific programming

All Sector Alliances

- Increase climate action agents by **22,000 supporters**
- Co-create a common agenda with at least **10 non-environmental organizations** that commit to taking a climate action
- Secure relationships with **4 new philanthropic organizations**



A Call To Action

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i acknowledges that it will take all of us to bring this plan to fruition. We humbly invite you to share your strengths, talents and resources to move our 'Āina Justice movement forward. In closing, we encourage you to think about these questions in preparation for our future engagement with you.

- What questions do you have?
- What insights and solutions might you be able to contribute?
- How will you engage and what might that look like?

Until our next gathering,
E Mālama Pono, A Hui Hou.

