

## The Myth of Paradise

While promoted to tourists and investors as a “tropical paradise,” the reality is that Native Hawaiians, cultural rights, and Hawai‘i’s environment are under increasing assault. Kānaka Maoli suffer from the predictable consequences of being the poorest people in their own homeland. With the worst health and the greatest unemployment, there are more Hawaiian youth in jail today than in college.

Because Hawai‘i is targeted as a “vacation land,” efforts to weaken and evade local laws and ordinances are constant. Forests, farms, fragile coastlines and culturally significant sites are threatened by gated resorts, golf courses and sprawl. Locally-based economies are at risk from the diversion of precious public trust water for private gain.

There are more endangered species in Hawai‘i than anywhere under U.S. jurisdiction. Our rich, diverse and fragile ecosystems are seriously jeopardized by poorly planned development, invasive non-native species, corporate monocropping, field testing of genetically engineered crops, and extensive and expanding military activities.

## A Better Way: Aloha ‘Āina

There is a movement growing, as individuals from around the islands are calling for a different kind of future for natural and cultural resources of Hawai‘i. They are saying “no” to the unjust exploitation and privatization of Hawaiian land and waters and demanding sustainable, just and compassionate policies that benefit all people in Hawai‘i.

This movement to aloha ‘āina comes from cultural practitioners, conservation advocates, fishers, farmers, teachers, social workers, lawyers, local business owners, scientists, resource experts and thousands of diverse individuals from around Hawai‘i and the world. Together, we are calling for a new paradigm of stewardship and justice throughout Ka Pae ‘Āina.

**KAHEA is proud to be a part of this movement. Through education, citizen involvement, and collective action, we are moving together towards a vision of a truly just and sustainable Hawai‘i, and a world where people, culture and native ecosystems survive and thrive.**

learn more + join in action at  
[www.KAHEA.org](http://www.KAHEA.org)



# KAHEA

**THE HAWAIIAN-ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE**  
PROTECTING CULTURE, RESOURCES,  
AND RIGHTS: MAUKA TO MAKAI.



## KAHEA

The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance

(808) 524-8220 O‘ahu  
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[www.KAHEA.org](http://www.KAHEA.org)

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Working Together to Protect Native Hawaiian  
Cultural Rights and Hawai‘i’s Fragile Environment

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## Who We Are

Ten years ago, a small group of cultural practitioners and conservation advocates got together. They saw the systematic loss of species, sensitive shorelines, and unique cultural sites, and increasing threats to public health, rights, access--and they called for change. KAHEA, the organization they founded, continues in this call to action. Kāhea translates from Hawaiian as "the call."

Today, we are an inter-generational, multi-cultural, grassroots alliance of over 10,000 individuals, with members on every island and in countries around the world. We are cultural practitioners, environmental advocates, scientists, social workers, teachers, doctors, farmers, fishers and concerned citizens reaching across class, income, age, race, and gender.

KAHEA is supported by a small staff working out of offices in the heart of Honolulu, and a number of community-led working groups. We are led by an eight-member Board of Directors.

At the heart of our mission is a deep belief in the power of community and collective action. Together, we are successfully pushing towards real, meaningful and system-wide change.

### Join

Ready to get active? KAHEA sends out monthly updates, periodic action alerts and mail newsletters to our growing hui of Action Alert Network members. Members receive background information, easy-to-understand analysis of issues, event notices, and opportunities to take action.

Your voice and participation make the difference. You can sign up, stay informed, and get involved at KAHEA.org.

### Give

To date, KAHEA efforts have secured permanent protections for thousands of square miles of Hawaiian lands and waters--all without a single dollar from any corporation or federal agency.

It takes about \$200,000 annually to keep our work going, and every dollar counts! You can give easily and securely online at KAHEA.org, or donate by sending your gift in the mail. Mahalo nui!

### Volunteer

We rely on generous gifts of time and talent from our amazing 'ohana of volunteers and interns.

Volunteers staff outreach tables, assist at events, and help in the office. Interns commit at least 10 hours a week in return for mentoring and on-the-ground experience, sometimes for academic credit and small stipend. If you are interested in volunteering or interning, you can email [alaina@KAHEA.org](mailto:alaina@KAHEA.org) or call us at 877-585-2432.

## ISSUES



Our issues are at the nexus of **environmental protection** and **cultural rights**. We work mauka (mountain-side) to makai (ocean-side) towards community-driven, culturally appropriate solutions to critical threats facing the natural and cultural resources of Hawai'i nei.

Hawai'i's ocean is an incredible resource, an irreplaceable part of the public trust. At its shores, we surf, fish, gather and play. Today, Hawai'i's oceans are facing numerous threats, including land-based pollution, overfishing, and climate change. Inappropriate new schemes to expand commercial fisheries, patent living resources, multiply corporate off-shore aquaculture development, and develop massive new resorts are also on the table.

Better governance and a better future for our oceans is possible! To date, we have successfully won protections for over 140,000 square miles of ocean and nearshore areas throughout the archipelago.



The islands of Hawai'i are the most geographically isolated on the planet. By some estimates, these islands supported nearly 1 million people in pre-contact Hawai'i, in complete self-sufficiency. Today, 80 - 90% of our food and energy is imported by cargo ships and planes.

From sandalwood to whaling, to plantation agriculture and military testing, we have seen a cycle of exploitation and extinction which continues today. We have better alternatives, and with enough political will, we can make better choices. In the last ten years, our efforts have helped secure protections for well over 200,000 acres of forests, mountains, farmland, beaches and cultural sites.



From fighting new landfill proposals to demanding improvements in air quality, we are working with impacted communities to fight systematic environmental injustices.

Our human quality of life is intimately tied to the health of the land, air and ocean--as well as access to healthy food, safe jobs, transportation and housing.

In Hawai'i, we have a constitutional right to a healthy environment. At KAHEA, we are working towards just environmental solutions for Hawai'i--to support ecosystem functions, promote human health, preserve public access, and perpetuate cherished cultural practice and tradition.

### OUR VISION

**A truly just and sustainable Hawai'i, in a world where people, culture and native ecosystems survive and thrive.**

**We are working to...**

**Establish the presence of an informed, diverse and empowered public, prepared to participate, mobilize and take action in the decisions that affect us all.**

**Successfully push for establishment and enforcement of legal protections that safeguard and ensure the future of Hawai'i's unique natural and cultural public trust.**

**Break away from broken systems that are failing to protect Hawai'i's public trust lands and waters. We seek to move from outdated top-down, zero-sum institutions and policies, to a new paradigm of true public stewardship and social justice.**

### Contact KAHEA

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**Our Mission:** We are a community-based organization working to improve the quality of life for Hawai'i's people and future generations through the revitalization and protection of Hawai'i's unique natural and cultural resources. We advocate for the proper stewardship of our resources and for social responsibility by promoting multi-cultural understanding and environmental justice.