



Photo Credit: T Wolf

## WETLANDS ON MOLOKAI

Wetlands on Moloka'i have fallen into disrepair. Sedimentation, invasive species & diverted waterflow have resulted in buried taro fields, fishponds, and marshes.

Through restoration, these sites have the potential to buffer the community and nearshore ocean from effects of climate change and protect key infrastructure, such as the single road that connects the island to medical facilities and other key services.

## WHY RESTORE WETLANDS?

- Revalitalize Indigenous agriculture (lo'i pūnawai & loko i'a)
- Provide habitat for native species
- Protect the community from climate impacts, such as flooding

## MOLOKAI WETLAND PARTNERSHIP



The Moloka'i Wetland Partnership (MWP) was formed in 2019 to explore opportunities for wetland restoration on Moloka'i, integrating both cultural uses and habitat needs. MWP brings together organizations and individuals with an interest in protecting and enhancing the island's wetlands and water for the benefit of community and wildlife.

## MWP PARTNERS



KA IPU MAKANI  
Cultural Heritage Center



## RESTORATION PLANNING FOR PUNALAU

**Punalau Pond** is a 45-acre wetland on the south shore of Moloka'i that is threatened by erosion, sedimentation, and invasive mangrove. The Punalau Pond was once a loko i'a (fishpond) in historical times.

The **Moloka'i Land Trust (MLT)** is currently in the process of acquiring this wetland and has obtained funding from the National Fish & Wildlife Federation (NFWF) National Coastal Resilience Fund to restore the functionality of the wetland, with the overall goal of buffering communities and infrastructure from climate-change impacts, while increasing abundance of native species.

The **NFWF National Coastal Resilience Grant** is funding community engagement and technical assessments at the site. The community vision will inform project design for future wetland restoration.



Photo Credit: Butch Haase



# MOLOKAI WETLAND PARTNERSHIP (MWP)

## MWP Priority Wetlands 2024/2025



Photo Credit: Butch Haase

### PUNALAU POND

**Site Lead:** Molokai Land Trust, Sust'ainable Molokai assist for Community Engagement

**Scope of Project:**

1 year Hydrology Data Collection, Community Conceptual Design Scoping & MLT Land Acquisition

**Punalau Pond is 44-acre wetland that is located in the Pala'au ahupua'a. This area was a former fishpond, but the walls are mostly buried beneath the sediment.**



Photo Credit: Heather Place

### ŌHI'APILO WETLAND

**Site Lead:** DHHL: Nancy McPherson, Planner, Sust'ainable Molokai assist for Beneficiary Engagement

**Scope of Project:**

DHHL Beneficiary Engagement (Starting) for future Conceptual Plan & Past Hydrology Data Review

**Ōhi'apilo Wetland is a 60-acre wetland that is located in the ahupua'a of Kalama'ula. It is on Hawaiian Homelands and any work will be led by DHHL and beneficiaries.**



Photo Credit: SEI

### KĀKĀHAI'A WETLAND

**Site Lead:** US Fish & Wildlife Service collab with Ka Ipu Makani

**Scope of Project:**

1 yr Hydrology Data Collection & Community Conceptual Design (Pau)

**Kakahai'a Wetland is a 44-acre wetland that is located in the ahupua'a of Kawela. Kakahai'a National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1977 to permanently protect wetland habitat for endangered endemic waterbirds, etc.**