

# WEST MAUI

## A WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE SITE

A watershed priority initiative site since 2012, West Maui's objective is to restore and enhance the health and resiliency of coral reefs and nearshore waters. This is done through the reduction of land-based pollution threats, from the summit of Pu'u Kukui to the outer reefs, guided by the values and traditions of West Maui.

### Benefits of Watershed Partnership

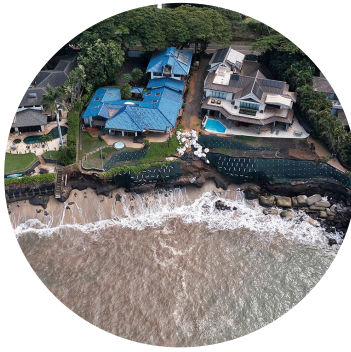
-  Cleaner waters and healthier reefs fuel Maui's ocean economy
-  Healthy reefs are cost-effective means to protect coastal infrastructure
-  Improved resilience on land and in the ocean to extreme weather events
-  Interagency research enhances stressor insights and boosts management efficiency

### Successes

1. Working with local government to establish sustained, local ownership of sediment reduction efforts
2. Increasing stakeholder engagement, community education, and sampling efforts through citizen science efforts
3. Serving as a vital resource and example for how to properly respond to watershed-based issues across the island



Divers survey West Maui reef



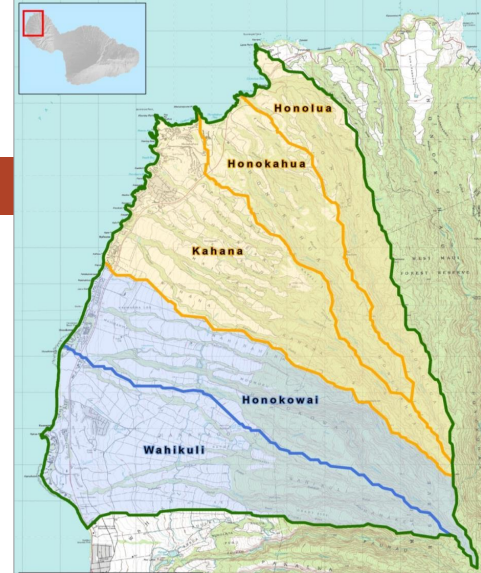
Failing coastal infrastructure



Community volunteers restore dune plantings



Citizen scientists enable robust water testing program



Five distinct watersheds make up the West Maui watershed area

### Economic Benefits

Annual protection value\* provided by the reefs on the island of Maui



**\$387M** in economic activity



**3,381** people



**\$165M** in protected infrastructure

\*Adjusted to 2025 USD, (Storlazzi et al., 2019)

### Threats/Opportunity

-  Failing coastal infrastructure/Managed coastal retreat
-  Fallow field conversion/Improved stormwater management
-  Coral bleaching and ocean acidification/Global action
-  Legacy agricultural nutrients and sediment runoff/Reduction projects

### Needs

-  Ongoing science support from agency researchers
-  Sustained coordination as land use and needs change
-  Continuation of learning exchange through USCRTF



Learn more about West Maui by scanning this QR code!