

NAME: Habitat Restoration in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii

LOCATION: Kaneohe Bay, County of Honolulu, Hawaii

ACRES: 13 acres coral reef

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: State of Hawaii: Department of Land and Natural Resources

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project proposes a multi-tiered approach to restore 13 acres of coral reefs and address the expanding distribution of non-native algae in Kaneohe Bay. The approach includes the efficient mechanical removal of invasive algae via the “Super Sucker” coupled with an increase in native herbivory via outplanting of the sea urchin, *Tripnuestes gratilla*.

EXPECTED BENEFITS:

This project will help to save existing corals and create increased habitat for coral recruitment and fish habitat. By removing algae from the system, the area will be able to slowly shift back to a coral-dominated system. The enhancement of native herbivory will provide persistence of restoration outputs over a long-term timeframe with minimal future work and resources. Sea urchin populations should become self-sustaining. This project will assist in the management of these reefs in the face of climate change by restoring healthy reefs to the Bay.

STATUS: Construction