

**NAME:** Molokai Fish Pond & Fringing Reef Restoration

**LOCATION:** Kaunakakai, Island of Molokai (Maui County), Hawai'i

**ACRES:** 60 acres

**NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR:** Ka Honua Momona Int'l

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Ka Honua Momona (KHM) proposes to remove invasive mangroves and invasive marine algae from inside two 15<sup>th</sup> century fish ponds on the fringing reef of the Hawaiian island of Molokai. Mangroves were planted in 1902 to control upland soil erosion from reaching Molokai's fringing coral reef. Unfortunately, they have spread along the shoreline and are drastically changing shoreline habitat by providing habitat for invasive predatory species like Samoan crab (*Scylla serrata*); exacerbating retention of fine sediments on the reef flats; and destroying aquaculture ponds. Recently, invasive algae have taken advantage of the changed conditions and threaten to take over the reef flats and fish ponds.

**EXPECTED BENEFITS:**

- Fine sediment flushed out of the pond and away from the shoreline/inner reef area
- Improved habitat for estuarine species that prefer a more concentrated freshwater environment
- Improved tidal exchange between the ponds and the nearshore reef
- Increased food resources for migratory shore birds
- Improved habitat for visually-dependant waterbirds (e.g. black-crowned night herons)
- Decreased mangrove habitat preferred by invasive species (e.g. Samoan crab)
- Protected populations of native algae (limu)
- Improved ocean access
- Improved food security for the island residents
- Improved knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of pre-contact Hawaiian culture
- Improved cross-generation contact and transfer of fishing and food production skills.
- Protection of culturally significant archeological site that can also still function as modern-day aquaculture facility

**STATUS:** Construction