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Mālama Hulē'ia Kōkua Day

Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i lends a hand to community partner Mālama Hulē'ia for their Community Kōkua Day at Alakoko Fishpond on Kaua'i.

(Kaua'i, HI) – Mālama Hulē'ia was joined by over 100 volunteers during this Community Kōkua Day, and [Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i](#) (SCH) had a chance to kōkua. Mālama Hulē'ia hosted several events at Alakoko Fishpond on Kaua'i throughout the day.

With an estimated 100 volunteers, many hands made for light work at Alakoko Fishpond, Saturday June 17th. The space was opened up with an oli and volunteers had the opportunity to share who they are, where they are from, and who they wanted to bring into the space with them. As each person shared, it reminded us of the inherent value the community has in the work we do. After introductions, volunteers were split up into three groups by activity: mana'o sharing session, pili grass seed gathering, and pōhaku gathering and sorting.

Through the mana'o sharing session, Sara Bowen, Executive Director of Mālama Hulē'ia and others shared about Alakoko fishpond, its history, and what it continues to be today for the community. She also shared about different ways to get involved in the work that they do. Another activity that volunteers did was pili grass seed gathering and planting. Jason shared his mana'o on the necessity of pili grass and it's purpose around Alakoko fishpond, how to gather the seeds, and how to plant the grass. All while having one of the most beautiful landscapes in the background while volunteers did this work. And the last activity was sorting pōkahu. Led by Punohu and Jimmy, volunteer groups made two staggered lines to pick, sort, and move pōkahu from one side of a road to the other.

The day ended with closing remarks from Sara Bowen, Joy Stedman, and Rafael Bergstrom, as well as 'ono loa mea 'ai from Timbers Resort at Hōkūala, Kaua'i.

Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i: Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i (SCH) is a nonprofit based on O'ahu with a mission to inspire local communities to care for their coastlines. The organization does this through fun, hands-on beach cleanups, waste diversion services, and education. Over the course of a decade, SCH has removed over half a million pounds of debris from Hawai'i coastlines with the help of nearly 30,000 volunteers, and has educated over 40,000 students. To learn more about SCH and to follow along with ghost net removal projects, head to their [website](#), or follow them on social media ([@sustainablecoastlineshawaii](#) [@coasthuggers](#)).