# Kaua'i Action Plan to Overhaul Negative Outputs KA PONO

By: Kacie Brandenburg, Madison Gutekunst, and Jessica Fedetz





# **Background and History**

- Monarchy until it became the 50th State in 1959.
- Under Queen Liliuokalani, political & economic systems based on watersheds, or ahupua'a, which functioned as an integrated land use and water system
  - Watersheds started at the peak of the mountain & extended to surrounding coral reefs
- The chiefs collectively "recognized that wise resource management and land use that avoided erosion and water pollution meant greater wealth for the political unit"





#### **Background and History Continued**

- Supreme Court deemed "ancient Hawaiian water and land customs" to be "ineffective," choosing "more definite terms of ownership, land rights, and resource management" over traditional management (Macfarlane, 2014).
- Traditional ancient Hawaiian lands were determined to be 'prescriptive,' or "adverse possession," which led to someone other than the original property owner gaining use rights to property.
  - This allowed native Hawaiian's land ownership to be disregarded in legal contexts, especially in cases involving land use and sugarcane production (Levy, 1975).



#### **Mission Statement**

KA PONO's mission is to attain EPA fishable and swimmable status for all waters on the Island of Kauai by 2027 by reducing turbidity, total nitrogen and total phosphorus and maintaining a safe and clean environment for recreation.



# **Problem 1: Nitrogen and Phosphorus**

Issue:

High levels of nutrients in the watershed due to high concentrations of agriculture on the island.

Solution:

- Create buffer strips between agricultural land and water bodies
- Control invasive plants on 15,000 acres of land on Kaua'i
- Plant native species in areas that are vulnerable to erosion, totalling 15,000 acres

# Problem 2: High Turbidity

Issue:

Steep elevation changes combined with erosion from agriculture contributes to fast moving waters and high turbidity.

#### Solution:



- Create buffer strips between agricultural land and water bodies
- Control invasive plants on 15,000 acres of land on Kaua'i
- Plant native species in areas that are vulnerable to erosion, totalling 15,000 acres

### **Problem 3: Bacteria and Fecal Contamination**

Issue:

High populations of feral ungulates near water bodies have contributed waste directly into the watershed.

Solution:

- Maintain existing fencing and continue to control Feral Ungulate populations on 8,600 acres of protected land.
- Implement fencing and Feral Ungulate population control on 8,200 acres of land by FY 2022.
- Protect a total of 25,000 acres through fencing and Feral Ungulate population control by FY 2027.





#### **KA PONO Goals**

- Create buffer strips between agricultural land and water bodies
- Control invasive plants on 15,000 acres of land on Kaua'i
- Plant native species in areas that are vulnerable to erosion, totalling 15,000 acres
- Maintain existing fencing and continue to control Feral Ungulate populations on 8,600 acres of protected land.
- Implement fencing and Feral Ungulate population control on 8,200 acres of land by FY 2022.
- Protect a total of 25,000 acres through fencing and Feral Ungulate population control by FY 2027.

