



Restoring The Nāulu Cloud Bridge (Maui County)

BACKGROUND

Native Dryland forests and shrublands once dominated the slopes of Maui and Kaho‘olawe. The Nāulu cloud bridge brought rain to Kaho‘olawe. Human activity and modification of these ecosystems have severely reduced the frequency of the Nāulu rains.

Restoration work will focus on barren, hardpan sections of land on the north and northeastern slopes of Kaho‘olawe. Ten thousand native and cultural plants will be planted in surface-cleared areas (with no intrusive ground work). Restoration work will also be carried out by other groups on the southern slopes of Haleakalā at the same time.

These efforts will improve soil stability, groundwater retention, erosion control, biodiversity, and habitat for native species.

PROJECT GOALS AND DELIVERABLES

- Plant 10,000 native and cultural plants in hardpan areas on the northeastern and northern slopes of Kaho‘olawe.
- Enhance biodiversity with the reestablishment of native and cultural plants.
- Reduce erosion through plantings and establishment of erosion control measures.
- Improve the overall hydrological function of the land.
- Empower community engagement, education, and stewardship by utilizing local volunteers and community groups for restoration work.
- Build ecological and cultural resilience by establishing a self-sustaining plant community using restoration efforts aligned with traditional Hawaiian values.
- Incorporate ‘ike kūpuna (ancestral knowledge) and kilo (observational practices) to guide restoration methods and seasonal planting cycles.

AWARD AMOUNT

\$500,000.00 total project budget amount for one year.

FUNDER

County of Maui, Department of Environmental Management

FINANCIAL UPDATE

<i><u>SPENT</u></i>	<i><u>BILLED</u></i>	<i><u>RECEIVED</u></i>
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

PROJECT UPDATE AND HIGHLIGHTS

This project was awarded to the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission in June 2026.

The Notice to Proceed is pending.