



Kamōhio Watershed Restoration Project – Phase I (DOH 6)

BACKGROUND

The Hawai‘i State Department of Health (DOH) - Surface Water Protection Branch recently approved funding for the Kamōhio Watershed-Based Plan prepared by the KIRC Restoration Program in 2022. This new project is the first phase of a multi-phased program in the Kamōhio Watershed to reduce erosion, manage non-native species, and begin Native Hawaiian dryland reforestation. Just mauka of Pōhaku Pōkāneloa, the project site is located within both Tier I and Tier II UXO clearance levels and has a total area of 45 acres. This marks the sixth restoration project the KIRC has entered into with the DOH in three separate watersheds on Kaho‘olawe since 2003.

PROJECT GOALS AND DELIVERABLES

- Reduce sedimentation and erosion by 0.5 tons per acre for a total of 22.5 tons in the 45-acre project site.
- Outplant 22,500 Native Hawaiian grasses, shrubs, and trees through irrigation and soil amendments.
- Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion control, invasive species management, outplanting, and protection of archeological sites.
- Monitor efficacy through soil erosion pin transects, stream flow sensors, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) mapping, vegetation plots, and photo points.
- Hire a New Natural Resources Specialist (NRS II).
- Utilize local volunteer labor and community groups for restoration work while providing education.

AWARD AMOUNT

\$395,817 with a \$420,281 KIRC match for a total project budget amount of \$816,098 for three years.

FUNDER

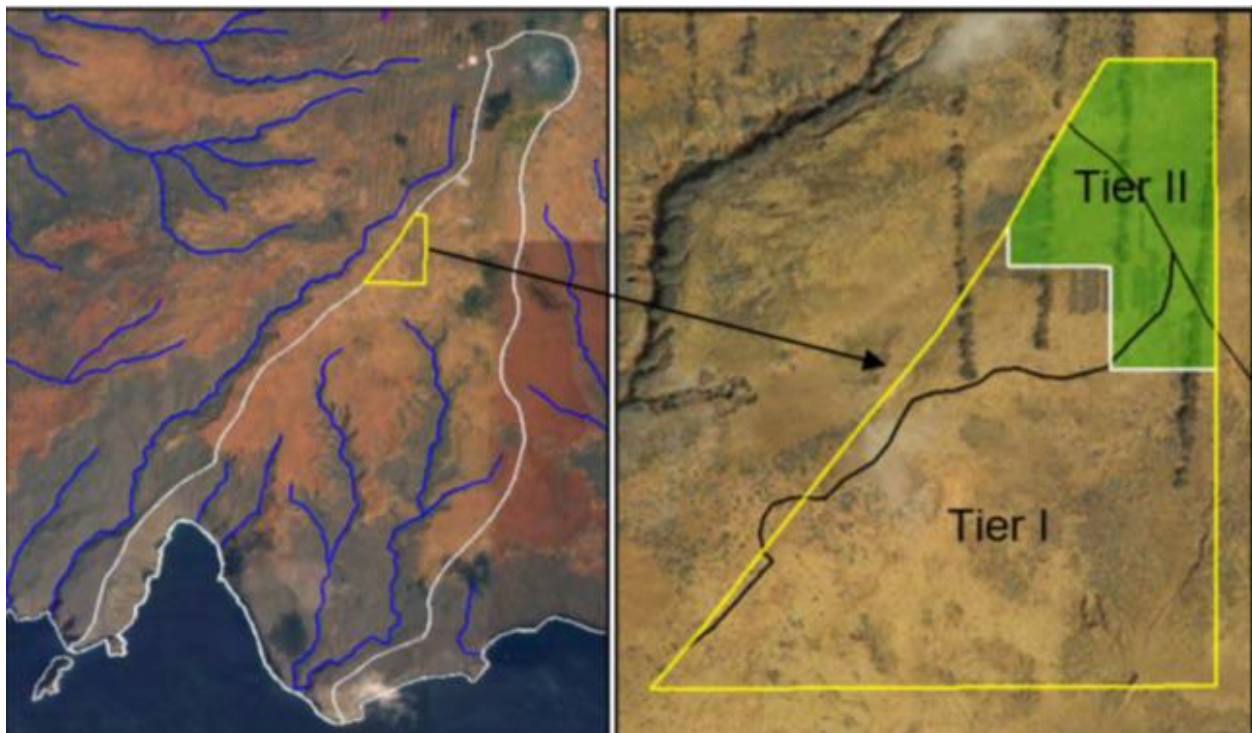
State of Hawai‘i Department of Health, Clean Water Branch - Polluted Runoff Control Program

FINANCIAL UPDATE

<u>SPENT</u>	<u>BILLED</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>
\$10,130.36	\$8,618.01	\$4,632.09

PROJECT UPDATE AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Project Effectiveness Monitoring Plan submitted March 5, 2026.
- Aloha 'Āina Drone Co. was contracted and provided aerial baseline images and mapping of the Project Area, including a Normalized Difference Vegetative Index (NDVI), which indicates estimated vegetation health. Initial imagery was collected on March 24, 2026.
- Five (5) vegetation plots, eight (8) photo points, and ten (10) soil erosion pin transects were established, and baseline data have been collected.
- 300 feet of 1 ½" irrigation line and 500 feet of 1" irrigation line laid out.
- Stream gauge installed in Kaneloa streambed on March 24, 2026.
- Selected hire for NRS II position on April 16, 2026.



Location of the project site in the Kāmohio Watershed with UXO clearance levels



