



A Community Dedicated to Saving Puakō Reef

Return the reef to its historic 70% coral coverage from its existing 7%.

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Story map of Puakō: [Wahi Pana -A Sacred Place](#)

Puakō for Reefs Q2 2025 Newsletter – updated for Action Committee Meeting

Keep Calm and Coral On

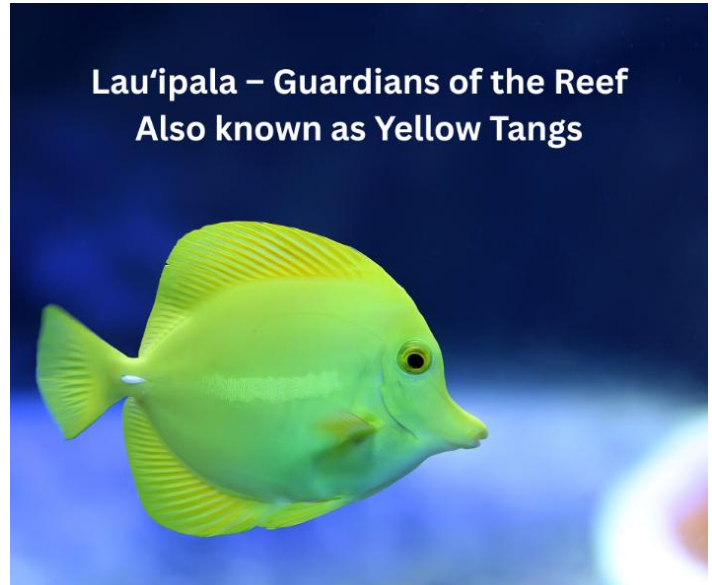
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Fund Raising Success

Thanks to the visionary leadership of Gary and Yucca Rieschel, who provided a generous \$50,000 matching grant, we met our \$150,000 fundraising goal through the support of many generous community members. These funds will directly support our 2025 initiatives to advance the removal of wastewater from the Puako Reef via a sustainable sewer system.

Lau'ipala – Guardians of the Reef
Also known as Yellow Tangs



Mahalo nui loa to the Rieschels and to everyone who contributed to this vital effort.

If you missed this opportunity to support the Puako for Reefs, do not worry. There will be more opportunities in the future.

Steps to a Sewer in Puakō

The list of decisions, agreements, and activities required to implement a sewer system in Puako is extensive. However, with the commitment of dedicated Puako for Reefs volunteers and the generous support of our donors, meaningful progress is being made.

As a reminder, the Puako community has independently funded ALL efforts to date to design and build a sewer system in Puako—an investment totaling nearly \$3 million.

We recognize that both the State and County face significant wastewater challenges and have limited funding resources. During our meeting with the mayor and his team, we made it clear that we are not requesting financial support at this time. Instead, **we are asking for collaboration, specifically, time and expertise from the County's talented staff to help address key questions and work toward an effective, community-supported solution.**

The table below outlines how contributions to PFR will be used and the collaboration we need from the County.

Collection System	Decided	Low Pressure System, Orenco or E1.
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Treatment facility	Decided	American Waters at Mauna Lani
County to run the collection system	Discussions	PFR is working with the new county administration to develop an agreement. This will be the first low pressure system for the county so there are many things to understand.
Total costs to homeowners understood	Discussions	A PFR hired Financial Consultant is working with Pederson Engineering, the firm PFR hired to develop preliminary engineering, to develop a cost analysis report.
Community Facilities District (CFD) process initiated with county	Discussions	The CFD is the County mechanism which will be used to pay for the construction of the system. It requires cooperation between the federal government, the county government, the state government and the community. PFR and a lawyer are in active discussions with all government parties and are preparing the application materials.
Agreement by majority of the community	Discussions	PFR is hiring a Hawaii based community outreach organization to engage with the community to ensure everyone understands the process, the solution and the costs. Work begins this summer.
Full engineering and environmental and cultural impact studies		This work will begin after the above items are decided.
Political Support	Discussions	PFR is meeting or has met with: • USDA as a potential funder for the construction costs from their rural development fund. • The Director of Finance has confirm the CFD process for Puako. • The County Directors of Finance, DEM, and Planning to organize county employees to support the project.

Mahalo nui to everyone for your continued interest and support. This truly is a community project.

Keep Calm and Coral On

Sincerely, the Puakō for Reefs Board members and volunteers

Andy, Barbara, Dave, Diane, George, Greg, Jerry, John, Jovan, Karen, Marie, Rich, Roy