



A Community Dedicated to Saving Puakō Reef

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

www.Puako4reefs.org

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

Puakō for Reefs 2024 Annual Report / Q1 2025 Newsletter

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Photo credit: Marie Addario

New County Administration

The development of a new sewer line in Puakō requires a strong public-private partnership involving the county, the local community, the collection system provider, and the wastewater treatment provider. Over the past two years, Puakō for Reefs (PFR) has been dedicated to fostering these relationships and establishing collaborative strategies to advance this critical infrastructure project.

With the election of a new Mayor, it has become necessary to re-establish our relationship with and educate the incoming administration, including key department leaders essential to the project's success: the Department of Environmental Management, Corporation Counsel, and Finance.

On Thursday, February 13, three members of the PFR Board met with Mayor Alameda, his Managing and Deputy Managing Directors, the Director of Environmental Management, Wes Segawa, some of their staff and our council member James Hustace. **During this meeting, the mayor formally committed to supporting the project and directed the Department Directors and staff to provide full support. As a next step, the Deputy Managing Director will convene a working session with these key stakeholders in the coming weeks to ensure continued progress and alignment. Onwards!**

Steps to a Sewer in Puakō – 2024 Progress Report

As presented at the January, 2024 PCA meeting, the focus of 2024 was to solidify decisions about the design, operations and maintenance of a Puakō sewer so that we can move to the next steps of developing cost and financing options for community members, creating a Community Facilities District (CFD) to run and pay for the system, and the myriad of other steps required to create a shovel ready project. Key decisions that were reached include:

1. Collection system. [Low pressure system](#)
2. Treatment plant. [American Waters at Mauna Lani](#)
3. Agreements to run the sewer system. [The County to own and run collection system which will connect to a private plant, American Waters. This is a new model in the county.](#)



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4. Total costs and usage requirements to homeowners understood.
 - Hired Pederson Engineering to develop initial cost estimates for building and operating the system. Results expected this Spring. These results will be used by the Financial Analysts we are working with to develop different financial models to amortize the costs between homeowners over time.
5. The CFD. Hired experienced Lawyer to write initial application.
6. Agreement by 55% of the community for the sewer. PFR hosted community meetings last year on science, technology, and politics.
7. Environmental and cultural studies. Met with consultant who does these. We understand the costs and process and will be prepared.
8. Political support. We attended many meetings with Mayor, DEM, Finance, State and Fed. Reps, Agencies, and provided testimonies.
9. Money - Your generosity was amazing! Mahalo nui! We raised \$143,000 in donations and an additional \$120,000 in pledges.

2025 Work Ahead

- **New Administration:** Bring up to speed and build strong working relationships.
- **Communicate:** Talk to more groups on the importance of saving the reef. Ask for their support with the government to support our efforts.
- **Key steps:**
 - Develop financial models that clearly outline costs to homeowners.
 - Educate the community on how a Community Facilities District (CFD) works.
 - Bring our CFD application to the Council for approval.
 - Work with the county to ensure each department completes their required work for this project.

Get Involved

- GREAT NEWS! A retired County employee is volunteering to be our Project Manager. He is experienced with projects such as ours and is already making our work with the county more efficient. We also have a new leader for our Engineering and Technology Committee, Jerry Wroblewski, who lives at Mauna Lani. We are very grateful to both for sharing their time and expertise.
- Our merry little band of volunteers needs your help. We are looking for people to work on sub-committees for a commitment time of 1-2 hours per week. If you have the time, please contact the committee lead listed below. If you are already working with us, MAHALO!



PUAKŌ FOR REEFS

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- Outreach and communication: Karen Anderson, karen.anderson@puako4reefs.org and Marie Addario, addariomarie@gmail.com
- Engineering: George Fry, bapuiii@me.com and Jerry Wroblewski, moonbay22@gmail.com
- Political Support: Barbara Bell, bbellster@gmail.com
- Financing and CFD: John Huggins, jjhuggins@puako4reefs.org
- Fund Raising: [Karen.anderson@puako4reefs.org](mailto:karen.anderson@puako4reefs.org)

Fund Raising

MAHALO for your support in 2024. Your generosity was amazing! You donated \$143,000 and pledged an additional \$120,000. WOW! The table below lists how your donations were used and committed in 2024.

We project that the PFR budget for 2025 will be \$150,000 and again we will need your support.

To make achieving this amount more doable, we have a wonderful surprise gift to share with you.

One community member has offered \$50,000 in matching funds for every dollar donated to PFR.

Look for an email early next week for details and prepare to be generous!

2024 Actuals

Category	Amount
Revenue	
Donations	\$143,000
Pledges	\$120,000
Costs	
Engineering	\$84,000
Legal	\$10,000
Finance Consult.	\$26,000
Grant Prep.	\$5,000
Web, communication	\$6,000
Misc.	\$3,000
Total	\$133,000

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

A hui ho!

Sincerely, Puakō for Reefs Board members and volunteers

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