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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MAY 21, 2021

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### **KE AO HĀLI'I AWARDED OHA 'AHAHUI GRANT FOR PULE 'ĀINA O MAKA'ALAE ME MOKAE EVENT**

(Hana, Maui) – 'Ke Ao Hāli'i (Save the Hana Coast) has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to hold the *Pule 'Āina o Maka'alaē me Mokae* event.

The event will be held on Saturday, October 9, 2021 at Maka'alaē. The purpose of the event is to bless and celebrate the return of this newly protected land to the community and provide protocols and learning opportunities to the Native Hawaiian community, the Hāna community, and beyond to empower knowledgeable stewardship and relationship with these sacred lands into the future.

Ke Ao Hāli'i's mission is to protect and preserve the natural and cultural resources of the Hāna moku and the customary and traditional practices of Native Hawaiians of the region; to hold title to and own interests in real property or to hold easements; to preserve and manage the area's natural, cultural, scenic, historic and marine resources for the benefit, education and enjoyment of our community and future generations.

The acquisition of the Maka'alaē and Mokae lands for conservation has been made possible through funding from the state Legacy Land Conservation Program, and the County of Maui Open Space Fund. 27 acres of Mokae land near Hamoa beach was acquired in March of 2020, but due to the pandemic the community was not able to gather and celebrate. The acquisition of 30 acres of Maka'alaē lands is expected to be completed sometime this summer. The lands will be held in fee title by Ke Ao Hāli'i and placed under a conservation easement held by Hawai'i Land Trust (HILT).

"It is a true blessing for these precious lands to return to the stewardship of the Hāna community and the families of the area, to be protected and continue to nourish and sustain our 'ohanas spiritually and physically," said Uncle John "Irish" O'Hara, the organization's Vice Chair.

“We are deeply grateful to Mayor Victorino and the Maui County Council for supporting this project through the county’s Open Space Fund, and to commissioners and staff of the Hawaii state Legacy Land Conservation Program, and to the Hawai’i Land Trust for their partnership in stewarding the land,” said Lipoa Kahaleuahi, the organization’s Secretary. “We thank OHA for supporting the opportunity for the community to come together to bless the land and celebrate this accomplishment.”

For more information on the event or to participate, visit [savehanacoast.org](https://savehanacoast.org), on Facebook at [Facebook.com/savehanacoast](https://Facebook.com/savehanacoast), or contact [contact@savehanacoast.org](mailto:contact@savehanacoast.org) or (808) 650-2722.

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### **About OHA’s ‘Ahahui Grant**

OHA’s ‘Ahahui Grants program provides funding to support eligible organizations hosting community events that benefit the Native Hawaiian community and align with OHA’s Strategic Plan. For more information about the ‘Ahahui Grant and the Grants Program, please visit <https://www.oha.org/grants>.

### **About the Office of Hawaiian Affairs**

Established by the state Constitutional Convention in 1978, OHA is a semi-autonomous state agency mandated to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. Guided by a board of nine publicly elected trustees, OHA fulfills its mandate through advocacy, research, community engagement, land management and the funding of community programs. Learn more at [www.oha.org](http://www.oha.org).