

Abstract for the **IV International Symposium for Anchialine Ecosystems:**

TOPIC (Other - Poster)

HUI LOKO – How a network of anchialine pool and fishpond managers have collaborated to restore ecosystems in Hawai‘i

Megan R. Lamson¹, Dena M. Sedar², Barbara Seidel³, and Brenda Asuncion⁴

affiliation: Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund¹, Hawai‘i State Parks², The Nature Conservancy of Hawai‘i³, Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo⁴, USA, Hawai‘i, megan@wildhawaii.org

Hui Loko, or “pond group” in the Hawaiian language, is an informal network of 23 organizations (government and non-government), private landowners and Hawaiian cultural practitioners who collaborate to protect and restore traditional fishponds and anchialine ecosystems. This group is based on the West side of Hawai‘i Island and is a subset of the statewide fishpond network called *Hui Mālama Loko I‘a* (group to care for fishponds). The mission of Hui Loko is to “continue to preserve and restore *loko* (pond) culture and native Hawaiian ecosystems by providing a space for connection and exchange of ideas, resources, and encouragement among pond managers to perpetuate the traditional Hawaiian practice of *mālama i kou wahi* (care for your place).”

To achieve these objectives, Hui Loko members meet quarterly at a rotating local fishpond or anchialine pool location to discuss updates, share successes and challenges they face at their particular site. Working together, these caretakers and managers share resources, identify common goals as well as challenges, brainstorm solutions, and effectively communicate the importance of these *wahi pana* (sacred places) to other residents and island visitors.

In the past year alone, Hui Loko members collectively managed over 80 hectares of coastal brackish habitats, and successfully restored anchialine pools by removing invasive fish, resulting in the return of a native invertebrate species. We hope this poster helps to demonstrate the work of Hui Loko to the broader anchialine community worldwide, in the hopes to inspire further participation and collaboration in future International Anchialine Ecosystems Symposia.