

FRIENDS OF HALEAKALĀ
NATIONAL PARK, INC.
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FHNP.ORG

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FRIENDS OF
HALEAKALĀ NATIONAL PARK

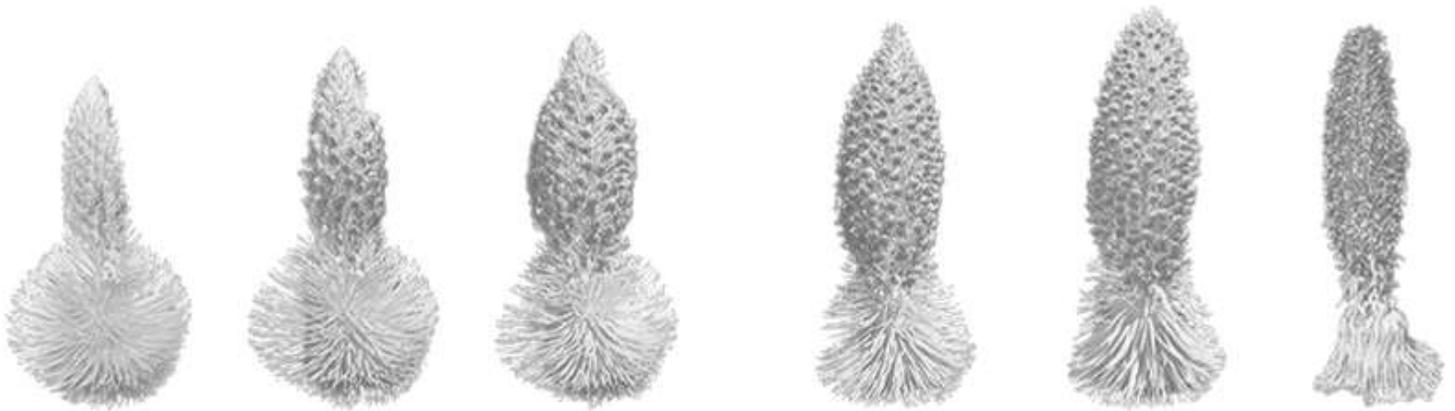


HE POUHANA NO HALEAKALĀ
A SUPPORT PILLAR FOR HALEAKALĀ

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A MESSAGE TO OUR FHNP 'OHANA

Aloha pumehana kākou (Warm aloha to all),

2025 was a year that tested our flexibility and ultimately strengthened our foundation. Despite a three-month "safety stand-down" and the federal government shutdown in October, we finished the year with more hours of service and more financial support given to Haleakalā than in 2024. We pivoted from field work to professional development, ensuring our volunteer leaders returned to volunteer service with advanced safety certifications and training. We ended this year financially stronger and operationally more professional than ever before. All of this is due to the dedication of our FHNP 'ohana. All of you.

As we look ahead to 2026, our 30th year as an organization, we are poised to expand our impact, deepening our pilina (relationship) with this wahi pana (sacred landscape) and the community that sustains it. Imua! (Onward!)

Me ke mahalo nui (With much gratitude),

ELIZABETH SPEITH

PRESIDENT

FHNP MISSION STATEMENT

FHNP fosters strong relationships between Maui's diverse communities and Haleakalā National Park through service, volunteerism, and education. We do this in order to preserve, protect, and promote the ecological and cultural heritage of this special place.

FHNP'S VISION

We envision a diverse community connected to Haleakalā through service.



He Pouhana No Haleakalā, A Support Pillar for Haleakalā.



Elizabeth Speith



Peter Conmy



Matt Wordeman



Mele Stokesberry



Andy Fox



Ivy Campbell



Samantha Gehrman



Mary Santa Maria



Douglas Rompasky



Ben Rachunas

FHNP 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In 2025, our volunteer Board of Directors continued to provide dedicated oversight during a year of expanded operations. We bid a fond ‘a hui ho’ to directors Kīope Raymond and Mike Jacob, and were pleased to officially welcome **Douglas Rompasky, Ben Rachunas, and Samantha Gehrman**, each bringing vital expertise to our mission.

Our **2025 board of directors** brings together diverse expertise and deep commitment to Haleakalā:

- Elizabeth Speith, President
- Pete Conmy, Vice President
- Matt Wordeman, Treasurer and Webmaster
- Mele Stokesberry, Secretary and Publicity
- Andy Fox, Service Trip Coordinator
- Mary Santa Maria, Nursery Program Coordinator
- Ivy Campbell, Samantha Gehrman, Ben Rachunas, and Douglas Rompasky, Directors: Providing essential kōkua (help and support) and specialized expertise to guide our long-term goals.

Mahalo nui loa to our board members for their dedicated service. As a 100% volunteer-driven organization, our impact is a direct reflection of your commitment to Haleakalā.

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

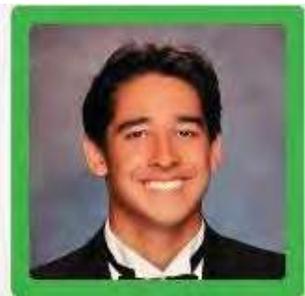
A cornerstone of 2025 was the investment in young conservation leaders through both hands-on experience and academic support.



KĪPAHULU YCC

FHNP fully sponsored the \$31,000 cost of the **2025 Kīpahulu Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)** program. This allowed five local youth from Hāna and East Maui to complete a two-month internship with the National Park focused on trail maintenance, cultural site stewardship, and native species protection alongside NPS mentors.

2025 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES



We proudly awarded **\$2,000 scholarships** to three outstanding scholars. Each award honors the legacy of a visionary leader who shaped the protection of Hawai'i's natural world: **Don Reeser**, the former Haleakalā Superintendent who championed nēnē recovery; **Mary Evanson**, the tireless advocate and founding president of FHNP; and **Dr. Fern Duvall**, the beloved wildlife biologist who dedicated his life to Hawai'i's endangered species.

- **Erin Neuman Bell:** Purdue Ph.D. candidate and FHNP volunteer researching forest restoration and avian ecology on Hawai'i Island.
- **Kaylee Miyamoto:** Baldwin HS graduate pursuing Biology at BYU Hawai'i.
- **Kamakanōweo Kekauoha-Schulz:** King Kekaulike HS graduate studying Environmental Science & Hawaiian Studies at UH Hilo.

IMPACT THROUGH SERVICE

This year, our volunteers “pulled weeds and collected seeds” on **10 multi-day service trips** and assisted with nursery operations on **10 nursery days**, totalling **1,747 hours** to preserve and protect Haleakalā. Despite a mid-year pause for safety training and a federal government shutdown, 2025 saw record-breaking participation.



Restoration begins with a single seed. Our backcountry teams focused heavily on collecting and processing seeds from a wide variety of native species, including koa, māmane, ‘ōlapa, pilo, and pukiawe. A significant effort was made to collect ‘ōhi‘a lehua seeds to contribute to critical seed banking for this keystone species and providing support for the park’s long-term landscape resilience.



Cultural and Historical Restoration. In Kīpahulu, volunteers performed labor-intensive work to uncover a historic rock wall and heiau complex, removing dense cane grass to restore this culturally significant area.



Nursery Days. During our monthly nursery days volunteers cleaned pots, helped sort repatriated rocks, and assisted with school out plantings of ‘ahinahina (silversword).

Protecting Fragile Habitats. Volunteers acted as a frontline defense by removing invasive species across the backcountry. Their presence ensures early detection and protection for Haleakalā’s most fragile ecosystems.

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

- **1,747** Volunteer hours contributed in 2025.
- **\$59,900** In volunteer labor value provided to Haleakalā National Park.
- **10** Multi-day service trips to Hōlua, Kīpahulu, and Palikū.
- **10** Dedicated Nursery Service Days.
- **58** Individuals who contributed 5+ hours of service.
- **101** Individuals participated in a FHNP volunteer event.
- **1,974** Invasive bull thistles removed in a single sweep near Hōlua.

I uka pū, i kai pū.

Together to the uplands, together to the sea. Mary Kawena Pukui ‘Ōlelo No‘eau #1257

Mahalo nui loa to all of our volunteers’ commitment, from the high-altitude cinder deserts to the coastal forests of Kīpahulu. Whether ma uka (in the uplands) or ma kai (by the sea), we move forward together. **Imua!** (*Onward!*)

TOP FHNP VOLUNTEERS OF 2025

1. **Andy Fox** (102 hrs)
2. **Ivy Campbell** (93 hrs)
3. **Elizabeth Speith** (81 hrs)
4. **Michael Fleenor** (87 hrs)
5. **Steve Frayer** (58 hrs)
6. **Steve Soba** (58 hrs)
7. **Matt Wordeman** (55 hrs)
8. **Mary Santa Maria** (55 hrs)
9. **Douglas Rompasky** (55 hrs)
10. **Eleanor Himes** (55 hrs)



Ivy Campbell, FHNP board director and regular service trip leader, was recognized as a 2025 Volunteer Hero by the County of Maui Volunteer Center. Congratulations and mahalo for being one of the FHNP volunteer heroes!

THE 25-HOUR MILESTONE

The following volunteers each contributed 25 or more hours of service in 2025, demonstrating sustained commitment to mālama Haleakalā.

**Jennifer Day • Michael Feeney • Ryan McNally • Brandon Long • Laura Miller
 • Ben Calhoun • Quinn Hottendorf • Riley Herron • Afton Brooks • Anne Dorland •
 Etta Lynch • Jackson Lambert • Samantha Gehrman • Jess Wilson • Sylvie Amstutz**

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

In 2025, FHNP experienced a landmark year of growth, with total revenue reaching **\$97,480**. This "out of the ordinary" increase in support allowed the organization to maintain a robust bank balance of **\$82,180** at year-end, providing a strong foundation.

2025 Highlights

- **National Park Foundation Capacity-Building Grant:** FHNP was honored to receive a \$50,000 grant from the NPF. These funds are being strategically utilized to professionalize our operations, including developing new volunteer recognition programs, designing branded gear for trip leaders, and providing advanced safety training.
- **Fancher Family Charitable Fund:** A generous \$30,000 donation in January provided a major boost to our ability to support the national park and empower the next generation through programs like Youth Conservation Corps

Mahalo to the Fancher Family Foudnation
Your visionary \$30,000 gift provided the bedrock for the 2025 Youth Conservation Corps program, investing directly in empowering the next generation of Haleakalā stewards.

Reinvesting in Haleakalā

We immediately put this increased revenue to work through investments with the park:

- **Youth Conservation Corps (YCC):** FHNP fully sponsored the **\$31,000** cost of the 2025 Hāna Youth Conservation Corps program, supporting five local East Maui youth who spent two months assisting park staff with essential trail and resource management projects, empowering the next generation of Haleakalā stewards.
- **New Office & Seed Storage:** We contributed **\$8,500** toward installing a new "Conex" office and seed storage facility. This critical upgrade replaces an aging yurt and provides the park with a secure, climate-controlled space for native seed preservation.
- **'Ua'u Night Equipment:** FHNP provided over **\$1,200** worth of equipment, including red walkway lights, a microphone, and a step ladder, to support the park's 'Ua'u Night program. FHNP volunteers have participated in this annual event since its inception, and this equipment investment helps enhance visitor safety and program delivery.

OUTREACH, EVENTS & PARTNERSHIPS



2025 ANNUAL FHNP PUBLIC MEETING

We held our Annual Public Meeting on Wednesday, June 4, at the Makawao Public Library. It was a full house and a productive evening of community connection and learning. We were honored to host guest speakers Dr. Scott Fisher from the Hawai'i Islands Land Trust, and Woody Mallinson, Haleakalā National Park lead botanist, who provided expert insights into restoration and conservation efforts from shore to summit in the Nu'u ahupua'a (land division).

SPECIAL EVENTS

Our community presence across Maui remained strong throughout 2025 as board members shared our mission while tabling at popular community events such as **Lā 'Ulu (Breadfruit Day)** and **Arbor Day** at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens and **Mālama Wao Akua**, the native species art exhibit hosted at the Hui No'eau Gallery in Makawao. We provided support for the park's **'Ua'u Night event**, a night celebrating the critically endangered Hawaiian dark rumped petrel whose largest colony is on Haleakalā. A highlight of the summer was joining national park staff to march in the historic **Makawao 4th of July Rodeo Parade**, celebrating our upcountry heritage and the enduring partnership between the "Friends" and the National Park Service.

These outreach efforts were bolstered by community support, including a May fundraiser event with **Maui Ku'ia Estate Chocolate** in Lāhaina. We concluded the year with a celebratory gathering in early December with a "Pint for the Park" to honor the dedicated Department of the Interior and National Park Service personnel who work tirelessly to protect Haleakalā. A sincere mahalo to our co-sponsors, **Lahaina Brew Co Upcountry Taproom** and **Flatbread Pizza**, for providing the space and support to celebrate our shared commitment to the 'āina.





LOOKING FORWARD

As we look toward 2026, the importance of our vision to connect a diverse community to Haleakalā through service has never been more important. This past year tested our collective resolve with both a safety stand-down and a 43-day government shutdown, the longest in U.S. history. While these events temporarily paused our physical labor in the field, we remained a constant pillar of support through volunteerism and encouragement, culminating in an appreciation dinner to honor the Department of the Interior and National Park Service personnel who navigate these challenges daily.

Despite these significant pauses, the dedication of our community ensured that we still surpassed our volunteer hour totals from the previous year, proving that the spirit of kuleana (responsibility) and stewardship prevails.

Celebrating 30 Years of Stewardship

2026 marks the 30th Anniversary of the Friends of Haleakalā National Park. What began as a small group of dedicated hikers has grown into a vital force for conservation and mālama 'āina (care for the land). To celebrate this milestone, we are launching a commemorative 30th-anniversary t-shirt for our volunteers and setting a goal to engage more first-time stewards than ever before.

We aren't just looking back at three decades of service. We are building the foundation for the next thirty years of protection for the Haleakalā.

How You Can Join Us

There are many ways to join our mission and make a lasting impact on this sacred landscape:

- **Sustain the Mission:** Sustain the Mission: Set up a recurring gift to support FHNP's service-based mission. As a 100% volunteer-driven organization, every dollar directly enables volunteer service trips, restoration tools and supplies, endangered species protection, and efforts that foster the next generation of conservation leaders.
- **Join a Service Project:** Get your hands in the dirt by signing up for a monthly nursery day or applying for a transformative multi-day backcountry service trip.
- **Offer Your Expertise:** We are always looking for passionate individuals to support our volunteer board. Your time is a valuable contribution to our shared kuleana.

Connect With Us

Stay connected and follow our 30th-anniversary journey! Visit fhn.org to register for an event and to sign up for our monthly newsletter, where you'll receive trip updates, conservation stories, and event invites. You can also find us on Instagram (@friendsofhale).



FRIENDS OF HALEAKALĀ NP

2025 Year at a Glance

Volunteer Service

1,747 Volunteer hours

Estimated Volunteer Labor Value

\$59K

Community Participation

101

Individual volunteers

reflecting a diverse community connected to Haleakalā through service

Direct Park Support

\$40.7K+

Direct support provided to Haleakalā NP

Service in Action



10

Haleakalā nursery service days



10

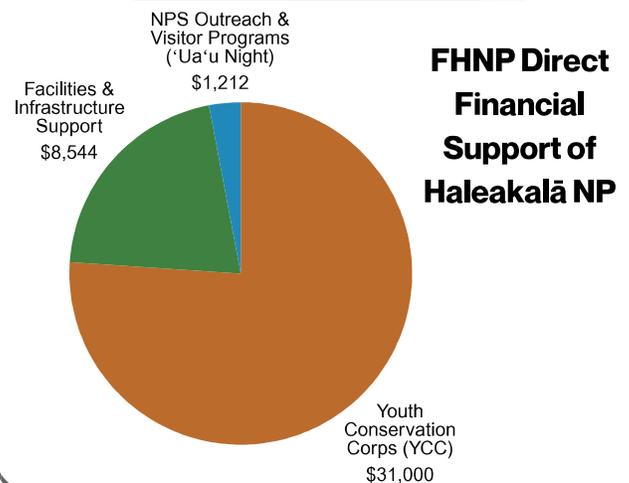
multi-day backcountry & Kīpahulu servicetrips



1,974

Invasive bull thistle removed in a single day

Where Direct Support Went



Haleakalā NP Programs Supported

- Youth Conservation Corps & scholarships
- Backcountry resource management
- Native plant nursery support
- Facilities & infrastructure support

Join Us

Visit fhnp.org to get involved in our 30th year of service.



Learn how to:

- volunteer on service trips & nursery days
- sign up for the Friends email updates
- support the FHNP mission through a recurring gift to celebrate our 30th year