



Coral Reef Restoration in Kāneʻohe Bay



The Super Sucker removing invasive algae from a patch reef in Kāneʻohe Bay.

PROJECT SUMMARY

DAR is working to restore and protect reefs in Kāneʻohe Bay by removing invasive algae that are overgrowing and killing corals. A two pronged approach is used where first divers hand remove invasive seaweed using an underwater vacuum system called the “Super Sucker” and then native collector sea urchins are added to graze the seaweed and keep it from growing back. This has been an extremely successful project where over 100 acres of reef have been treated and over 400,000 hatchery raised sea urchins have been outplanted.



Invasive seaweed overgrowing corals in Kāneʻohe Bay.



Boat groundings are also a major problem in Kāneʻohe Bay. Boat strikes gouge scars into the shallow patch reefs resulting in hundreds of damaged corals annually. DAR has been working to install visual warning markers to help boaters avoid these sensitive areas and has begun a pilot project to reattach the broken corals.



DAR diver preparing to outplant native collector sea urchins to control invasive seaweed.

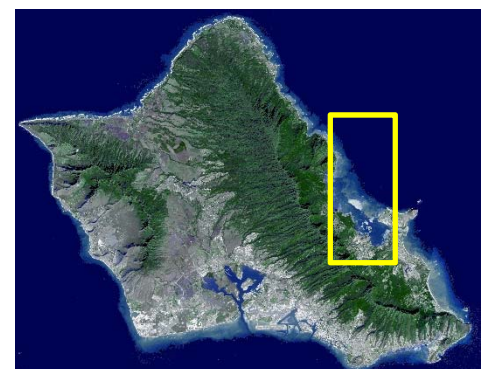


Outplanted native collector sea urchin working to clear invasive algae.

PROJECT SUPPORTERS

Many organizations support this effort:

- Hawaiʻi Coral Reef Initiative
- Hawaiʻi Institute of Marine Biology
- Hawaiʻi Invasive Species Council
- The Nature Conservancy
- NOAA
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



House District: 47 - 50
Senate District: 23 - 24