

Aloha i ke Kai

HAWAI'I OCEAN STEWARDSHIP FEE PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER

The Aloha i ke Kai Hawai'i Ocean Stewardship Fee Program has now been in place for a year, and the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) would like to share our deepest gratitude to you for your patience and support as DAR implements the fee. To continue to support the commercial operators making this program successful, we would like to share some resources to support your business in implementing the Aloha i ke Kai Hawai'i Ocean Stewardship Fee.

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BRANDING MATERIALS

Branding materials such as logos, descriptions, and branding guides are now available on the Aloha i ke Kai webpage. These branding materials are available for download from the website and can be used on your platforms to show your alignment with the program, or to explain the fee to customers.



Please access the website with branding materials here:
[link to branding materials](#)

BUSINESS PROMOTION OPPORTUNITIES

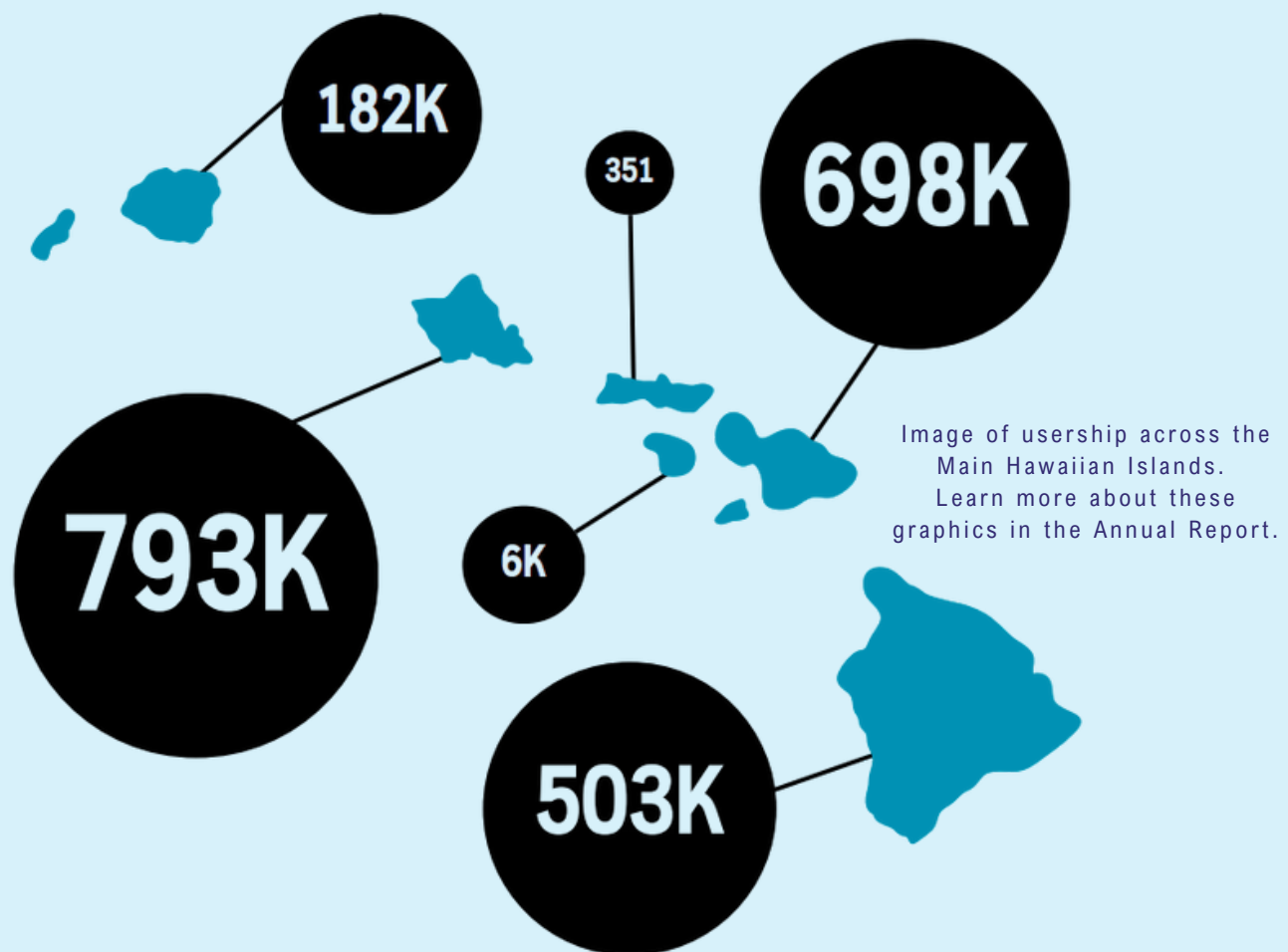
The Aloha i ke Kai Hawai'i Ocean Stewardship Fee Program would like to curate a list of all commercial operators who are collecting the Ocean Stewardship User Fee and share this list publicly through various channels to promote participating Aloha i ke Kai businesses.

If you are interested in sharing your business name, website, location, and activity, please fill out this form: [link to form](#)

ANNUAL REPORT

The Division recently published the Aloha i ke Kai 2024 annual report. This report details year one of program implementation, identifies priorities for the future of the program, and compiles island specific data on ocean usership. We cannot thank you all enough for your dedication to this program and initial success. As we evaluate the first year of the program, our biggest goal for 2025 is allocating funds toward marine stewardship projects that are mutually beneficial to commercial ocean operators, their clients, and the resources themselves.

Access the annual report here: [link to annual report](#)



\$2M 

\$2 million generated from collected fees in 2024

\$215K 

Allocated \$215,000 for marine stewardship in the State to date

342 

342 commercial operators transferring fees to date

LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATES

The Aloha i ke Kai program would like to update you on the results of the 2024 legislative session activities related to the Aloha i ke Kai Hawai'i Ocean Stewardship Fee Program. Act 46 signed into law in 2021 established the Ocean Stewardship Special Fund and authorized the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to collect fees for the use and enjoyment of the State's Ocean resources. In the 2024 legislative session, section §187A-52 Hawaii Revised Statutes was revised to clarify two requests from the DLNR.

CLARIFICATION FOR PERMIT HOLDERS

The definition of who is required to transfer user fees to the DLNR was amended from "All operators of commercial vessels, water craft, or water sports equipment that are required to have a commercial operator permit pursuant to section 13-256-3(a), Hawaii Administrative Rules" to "All persons required to obtain a permit from the department to engage in commercial activity pursuant to sections 200-4, 200-10, 200-37, or any rules adopted there under." This change reflects the Legislature's intent that all DLNR commercial permit holders are required to collect the user fee and transfer it to the Department.

EXTENSION OF SUNSET DATE

Funds collected from the Aloha i ke Kai Hawai'i Ocean Stewardship Fee Program will enter the Ocean Stewardship Special Fund until the sunset date, which will abolish the special fund and reroute remaining balances and future user fee revenues to the State general fund. This sunset date was changed from January 1st, 2029 to January 1st, 2031 to give the Department more time to allocate funding to marine stewardship projects. In the coming years the Department will demonstrate effective and responsible spending of user fee revenues and advocate for permanent funding of ocean stewardship priorities.

The revision to Section §187A-52 Hawaii Revised Statutes can be found here:
[Hawai'i legislature link](#)



PAYMENT PORTAL ACCOUNT UPDATES

In the next few months (April-June 2025) Aloha i ke Kai staff will be supporting commercial operators with the Aloha i ke Kai portal to ensure that all operator accounts are correctly reflecting our back-end compliance tracking mechanism. In preparation for this, please ensure the following guidance is reflected in your account:

1. Ensure that all DLNR account IDs (tenant codes) associated with your business operation are accurate in the payment portal
 - a. If you have multiple account IDs you would like to link under one login, please update your accounts with the account manager feature (learn more here: [Youtube video link](#))
 - b. If you have DLNR account IDs not in the payment portal for various reasons such as they represent a different type of DOBOR permit, please reach out to our team via email
 - c. If you have multiple account IDs with “xxxxx_1” we will be reaching out to correct this technical error
2. If you have unpaid months for various reasons please either reach out via email to discuss your situation or pay the months “overdue” in your account. At this time there is no penalty for late payments.

KEEPING YOUR INFORMATION SECURE

The Aloha i ke Kai team will be implementing a number of security updates in the coming months to ensure your personal information is safe and secure on the Aloha i ke Kai payment portal from cyber threats. Some of these security updates will be internal, and some of these updates will be noticeable to users of the portal. These are listed below:

- Instituting CAPTCHA requirements to block bots from attempting to access accounts
- Implementing “strong password requirements” to limit unauthorized access
- Blocking multiple login attempts past a certain threshold to ensure bots are not accessing the portal

If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at: alohaikekai@hawaii.gov



Aloha i ke Kai



Website: DLNRHawaii.gov/AlohaikeKai
Payment Portal: AlohaikeKai.Hawaii.gov

DAR Phone: (808) 587-0100
Email us: AlohaikeKai@hawaii.gov

Aloha i ke Kai connects our ocean communities in a united vision to grow health and abundance through securing sustainable funding to lift up ocean kuleana and stewardship

APRIL 2025