



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Media Contacts: Jacob Aki  
(808)-230-9071/jacob@pangcomm.com  
Kevin Whitton  
(808) 347-5282/kevin@pangcomm.com  
*Pang Communications*

**Mālama Maunalua and City & County of Honolulu  
Award Green Stormwater Infrastructure Support to upwards of 300  
Households Through Pilot Rainwater Capture Incentive Program**

*Pilot program to provide supplies and installations of rain gardens, rain barrels, and trees to reduce runoff to protect coastal waters around O’ahu*

**[\\*\\* Click here to view photo assets \\*\\*](#)**

**HONOLULU** – Mālama Maunalua, in partnership with the City and County of Honolulu Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM), is awarding free green stormwater infrastructure solutions to upwards of 300 households across O’ahu as part of the Rainwater Capture Incentive Program—a pilot effort to mitigate stormwater runoff, which helps to restore coastal ecosystems and safeguard public health, reduce flooding, and increase fresh groundwater recharge.

Supported by the Wai Maoli: Hawai’i Fresh Water Initiative and Ulupono Initiative, the program provides sustainable rainwater capture systems - rain barrels, rain gardens, and native trees, along with the installation. These solutions help intercept stormwater at the source, before it runs off residential properties and down streets into storm drains, preventing pollutants from flowing into the ocean. Through previous years working with the community, we learned that the two main hindrances to GSI implementation are cost and knowledge. The idea behind this program is to offer both to make it easy for residents to do the right thing.

“We were thrilled to receive over 2,300 applications by the March 31 deadline—we hadn’t anticipated such a high level of interest. Even more encouraging, applicants came from all across the island and represented a wide range of household incomes and family

compositions,” said Pam Weiant, Director of Science and Planning at Mālama Maunalua. “Unfortunately, because this is a pilot program, we aren’t able to accommodate everyone who applied. We sorted applications into tiers based on factors such as income, age, and household size—giving priority to kūpuna, low-income families, and larger households. We’re now coordinating the launch of Phase 1 installations.”

Mālama Maunalua is currently notifying selected applicants via email and requesting confirmation of their interest through a short survey to assess site readiness. Phase I of the rollout will begin in August. Additional applicants will be contacted for Phase II based on supply availability.

Installations will begin in August, with Mālama Maunalua coordinating logistics with service providers. This includes distributing materials and completing the necessary documentation. The selected service providers supporting the installations are Pono Home, Protect and Preserve Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i Green Growth, DK Construction Group, Smart Trees Pacific, and Personal Touch Landscape.

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) will support the effort by providing Mālama Maunalua with a check of more than \$12,000 through its Water Sensible Rebate Program. This rebate will be reinvested directly into the initiative, enabling more installations across O‘ahu. BWS also promoted the program in its Water Matters Newsletter, helping boost application numbers.

“Every installation is a small but powerful defense against polluted runoff. These aren’t just home upgrades—they’re frontline protections for our bay, our neighborhoods, and future generations,” noted Mālama Maunalua Executive Director Doug Harper. “This program shows how a few simple changes can make a big difference when it comes to caring for our island.”

Applicants are encouraged to use **Follow the Drop**, a mobile app developed by 3Rwater with DFM support, to assess their rainwater capture potential and select appropriate systems.

“This is about building long-term resilience,” said Gene Albano, Director and Chief Engineer of the Department of Facility Maintenance. “By capturing rain where it falls, we reduce flood risk, protect our marine ecosystems, and invest in the future of our island communities.”

With nearly **2,300 applications received**—and over **80% requesting rain barrels**—Mālama Maunalua and its partners are exploring ways to expand the program to more homes island-wide.

For more information, visit <https://www.rainwaterhawaii.com>.

**About Mālama Maunalua**

Established in 2005, Mālama Maunalua is a Hawaii-based, community-driven nonprofit dedicated to restoring and conserving a healthy, productive Maunalua Bay through community stewardship, science-based solutions and cultural practices. Its diverse ‘ohana (family) includes local area residents, professionals and retirees, students, staff, and volunteers—all united in a collective commitment to environmental restoration and stewardship. In collaboration with volunteers and partners, the team is implementing a science-based, long-term conservation plan that integrates the invaluable knowledge of longtime Hawai‘i residents and sharing its methods and findings with coastal communities around the world. Mālama Maunalua celebrates its 20th anniversary throughout 2025, marking two decades of impactful community-driven habitat restoration in and around Maunalua Bay. [www.malamamaunalua.org](http://www.malamamaunalua.org)

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