

Kohala Groups Working to Preserve Open Space and Public Access

This is not a complete list, but identifies groups that have taken leadership roles at various times in preserving open space and public access in North Kohala.

1960s Fred Cachola, preserved King Kamehameha's birthstones and secured legislation protecting the same. The stones were surrounded by lands converted to sugar cane. Fred's motivation for protecting the stones came from a dream that the stones were no longer there and was moved to protect.

1960s – 2000s Marie and Sonny Salomon ohana

1970's Hui Malama Aloha formed to protect access for the community to traditional hunting and fishing areas after the new private landowner of former sugar cane lands gated access roads, blocking the communities access to its default icebox and food store.

1980s Citizens United to Protect the North Kohala Coast – this group collected nearly 6,000 signatures on a petition to protect the coastline. A pivotal document, used in future contested case hearings and testimony that protected the coast and secured funding for its preservation. This group formed to protect the coast and oppose two resort developments: one at Mahukona and one at Kaiholena.

1990s Kamakani O Kohala Ohana – a conservation group that arose from the community's efforts to protect its water from being exported to a resort area 20+ miles away as well as successfully oppose the installation of a diesel power plant.

1998 North Kohala Cultural Preservation Group – founded to protect North Kohala's cultural sites.

1999 North Kohala Community Land Trust – founded to create affordable housing opportunities in an agricultural village setting using sustainability principles.

2003 Malama Kohala Wahi Pana – founded to project Kohala's sacred places, including all the cultures of Kohala.

2004 Malama Kohala Kahakai – founded to protect the North Kohala coast in open space in-perpetuity to protect cultural sites and water quality and the near shore environment, which was increasingly threatened in other areas of the island with water quality impacts and impacts to beneficial uses, like swimming (beach closures due to pollution).

mid 2000s - Public Access Group – founded to protect the numerous access ways and trails in North Kohala increasingly threatened by the fractionization of land that was formerly never fenced or blocked even if owned by sugar companies.

mid 2000s - Maikai Kamakani O Kohala – founded to support Native Hawaiian betterment including protecting lands and cultural sites. This was the first group formed by Hawaiians with a mission in support of Native Hawaiians. The founders family has five generations of connection to Kohala, with a responsibility to protect these lands.

2011 Kohala Lihikai – founded by Malama Kohala Wahi Pana, Kamakani O Kohala Ohana, North Kohala Cultural Preservation Group, North Kohala Public Access Group, and Malama Kohala Kahakai. These groups came together to leverage their capacities and launch new initiatives such as stewarding protected lands to create economic development opportunities.

Additionally, many important community organizations have continually offered their support to preserve the North Kohala Coast and have signed and supported the above petitions and letters and resolutions. These organizations include:

- Kohala Kupuna Council
- Kohala Filipina Association
- Kohala Hawaiian Civic Club
- Kohala Puerto Rican Club
- Kohala Historic and Preservation Group
- Long time local merchants