

# OCEAN Friendly GUIDE

Maui, Hawai'i



*Polanui Hiu*  
Community Managed Makai Area

Photo: Alana Yurkanin

The Hawaiian creation chant, the [Kumulipo](#), identifies *ko'a* (coral) as the first organism created, making it the building block for all other life. Today, coral reefs power our economy, nourish our bodies and souls, and protect us from the power of the sea.

**Due to the fragile nature of corals and the important role they play in Hawai'i, please help us keep them healthy and vibrant.**

Take a moment to refresh yourself with some helpful ocean friendly tips and resources to ensure a safe, mindful experience for all:

## CULTURAL VALUES

Hawaiian traditions are built on the knowledge that life in the sea and on land are deeply connected, and what we do to one will impact the other. When interacting with Hawai'i's natural resources, please embody the following cultural values:


[ALOHA](#) – Love and Compassion

[MĀLAMA](#) – Take care of properly

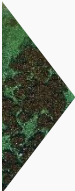
[KŌKUA](#) – Help without any expectations

[HO'IHI](#) – Respect for nature and each other


## CORAL REEF CARE




**Enter and exit the water using sand channels** so the reef is not damaged by gear.




**Do not feed marine life.** It alters their feeding ability and behaviors.




**Pack out more trash than you pack in.** Throw away your trash and please pick up rubbish on the beach that would otherwise harm sea life.



**Never stand on, touch or strike the coral.** Coral reefs are fragile, can easily break, and grow very slowly (some less than an inch a year). Coral cuts can also cause serious injury and infection. Be gentle.



**Use mineral-based "reef safe" sunscreens** made with non-nanotized zinc oxide or titanium dioxide. Two common sunscreen ingredients, oxybenzone and octinoxate, are banned in Maui County (as of 2021) due to their harmful toxicity to marine life.



**Swim slowly, relax, and always keep a safe distance away from marine life,** especially federally protected sea turtles and monk seals.



Photo: Tiare Agdeppa



Photo: Alana Yurkanin

Visiting East Maui? Check out their Code of Conduct at: [HANAHIGHWAYREGULATION.COM](http://HANAHIGHWAYREGULATION.COM)

## OCEAN SAFETY

Hawai'i's ocean and beach conditions are unique and variable, so before you play in the ocean, take time to learn about the area, talk with residents, water-sport retailers, and lifeguards, and follow these safety tips:

- ◆ *Never turn your back to the ocean*
- ◆ *Be safe, snorkel with a buddy*
- ◆ *Use a lifeguard beach*
- ◆ *When in doubt, don't go out*
- ◆ *Read and follow posted signs*
- ◆ *Know your limits*

For more safety resources and guidance, please visit:

- ◆ [HIOCEANSAFETY.COM](http://HIOCEANSAFETY.COM) for comprehensive safety information to consider before heading to the beach
- ◆ [HAWAIIBEACHSAFETY.COM](http://HAWAIIBEACHSAFETY.COM) for official surf, wind, and public safety reports that directly affect the conditions for beach safety
- ◆ [YOUTUBE.COM/USER/GOHAWAII/VIDEOS](http://YOUTUBE.COM/USER/GOHAWAII/VIDEOS) for ocean safety videos and more
- ◆ [GOHAWAII.COM/OCEAN-SAFETY-IN-HAWAII](http://GOHAWAII.COM/OCEAN-SAFETY-IN-HAWAII) for ocean safety guidelines and videos
- ◆ [PRIDEOFMAUI.COM/CORAL-REEF](http://PRIDEOFMAUI.COM/CORAL-REEF) for information on coral reefs and ways to help protect them

## MAUI PONO PLEDGE

Pledge to conduct yourself in a pono (righteous) way to convey your respect for Maui's people, culture, and environment.



**I will not trespass, venture beyond safety, or expose sensitive areas.**

**I will leave lava rocks, sand, and natural features as originally found.**

**I will reduce the waste I generate, especially from plastic. Learn more at [SHARKASTICS.ORG](http://SHARKASTICS.ORG)**



**I will decontaminate my gear before exploring the ocean or hiking in sensitive areas** by removing seeds, washing, and sanitizing gear.

**When mountains are dark and raining,** I will not go hiking or enter rivers and streams.

**I will find a way to give back to the places and communities that inspire me.** Volunteer! [CONSERVATIONCONNECTIONS.ORG](http://CONSERVATIONCONNECTIONS.ORG)

For more information, contact Polanui Hiu at [polanuihiu@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:polanuihiu@hawaii.rr.com) or visit [polanuihiu.com](http://polanuihiu.com)

E Ola Ke Kai, E Ola Kākou  
*As the ocean thrives, so do we*  
‘Ōlelo No‘eau, Hawaiian Proverb

