

Alison Claire Roberts Cohan

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Highly motivated natural resource manager and leader with almost 15 years experience in Hawai'i conservation. Collaborative decision-maker and skilled communicator with substantial experience developing and implementing landscape-scale management and threat abatement in Hawai'i's forests.

CORE COMPETENCIES

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| ✓ Project management | ✓ Leveraging and building relationships | ✓ Staff training and development |
| ✓ Strategic planning | ✓ Communication | ✓ Organizational leadership |
| ✓ Fundraising | ✓ Driving for results | ✓ Grant and fiscal management |

SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Elected Chair of the Executive Committee, West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership, 2017.
- Elected Vice-Chair of the Maui Conservation Alliance, 2015.
- Published peer reviewed article "Subalpine vegetation recovery 14 years after feral animal removal on windward East Maui, Hawai'i." *Pacific Science* 68(1):19-34. Hughes, G., Cohan, A., Brown, E., & White, M.
- Selected as a fellow for Ka Ipu Kukui Maui County leaders fellowship, 2014.
- Built capacity in partners and contractors, improving management of 12,000 acre core native landscape in E. Maui.
- Revitalized contractor relationships, accelerating effectiveness of management activities in Kanepu'u Preserve, Lanai.
- Co-authored book chapter "Application of smart materials and smart structures to the study of aquatic animals." In *The Encyclopedia of Smart Materials*, ed. M. Schwartz, 27-1 – 27-20. London: CRC Press. 2009. Purdy, J. and A. Cohan.
- Completed Master's thesis in 2009, "An adaptation scheme for climate change effects on the biodiversity within the East Maui watershed." University of Denver.
- Presented papers and posters at the annual Hawai'i Conservation Conference in 2017, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2009, 2008, 2006, and 2004 on topics: contracting for conservation, innovative tools in natural resource management, game cameras, climate change adaptation, ungulate contract hunting in Hawai'i, pilot whale distribution, sustainable ecotourism best practices in the marine tourism industry.

RECENT EXPERIENCE

DIRECTOR, MAUI NUI FOREST PROGRAM
The Nature Conservancy, Makawao, HI

OCTOBER 2015-PRESENT

Establish and articulate the vision, and set the Maui Nui program conservation direction to promote exemplary landscape-scale management and threat abatement. Leverage the Conservancy's land-based and personnel assets to promote effective conservation management of TNC's network of preserves and landholdings on Maui Nui.

- Lead and manage a diverse team to build strategic, scientific and technical capacity in the field.
- Develop and enhance key partnerships and networks with public & private organizations in order to identify and resolve technical issues, negotiate complex and innovative solutions and to widely communicate solutions and best practices.
- Cultivate broad local community support for conservation efforts via landowners, government and other agencies, general public, educational institutions, Trustees, volunteers and donors.
- Prepare long range conservation plans, operating plans and budgets and oversee all aspects of project administration including contractual obligations and public funding programs.
- Working closely with state-wide philanthropy team, serve as key fundraiser for Maui Nui program. Seeks out new funding sources for Maui Nui conservation projects.
- Develop and present proposals to raise public and private funds in support of habitat conservation.
- Identify and support legislative or other administrative actions and policies to enhance conservation of native ecosystems.
- Assess and address community concerns and strategic implications of island and statewide program actions and respond accordingly.

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE, MAUI NUI PROGRAM
The Nature Conservancy, Makawao, HI

MARCH 2007-OCTOBER 2015

Developed, managed, and advanced conservation programs, plans, and methods for landscape scale conservation.

- Accelerated effective management by contractor for the 12,000 core native watershed area in E. Maui
- Built strategic, technical and scientific capacity in Maui Nui staff
- Helped acquire over \$500,000 in public and private funding, identifying and attaining new funding
- Enhanced quality of and metrics in plans, reports, proposals, and contracts
- Ensured program activities are compliant with county, state and federal regulations and guidelines
- Empowered direct reports and improved their work quality through coaching and feedback
- Cultivated community support through strategic communication and interagency collaboration
- Increased cohesion of Maui Nui team through rewards, recognition, and staff bonding
- Developed tracking system for grant proposals, reports, and contract deadlines
- Created monthly schedule to analyze fiscal activities to ensure program expenditures on track
- Devised strategy for use of game cameras in our field work
- Designed forum on outsourcing conservation management for Hawai'i Conservation Conference

DIRECTOR OF ADULT EDUCATION & CONSERVATION
Pacific Whale Foundation, Wailuku, HI

OCTOBER 2005-MARCH 2007; SEPTEMBER 2003-APRIL 2005

Served as primary manager for all adult education programs, including professional development, community outreach, employee training, ecotourism, and marine education and conservation programs.

- Implemented employee mentoring program for new naturalists
- Increased knowledge levels of staff through development and implementation of naturalist staff training programs and professional development lecture series
- Created effective evaluation program for vessel staff
- Enhanced professional behavior and educational information by vessel staff through consistent evaluations and feedback
- Researched and developed up-to-date conservation materials including fact sheets, position statements & brochures
- Educated staff and the public by lecturing on marine mammal biology, behavior, conservation issues

EXPEDITION LEADER
Un-Cruise Adventures, Seattle, AK

APRIL 2005-SEPTEMBER 2005

Led groups of up to 22 people onboard one-week yacht adventures throughout the Inside Passage, SE Alaska, lecturing and interpreting on topics including forest ecology, Native American culture, marine mammal biology and marine conservation.

SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE
Pacific Whale Foundation, Wailuku, HI

OCTOBER 2001 - JUNE 2003

Principal Investigator for a study on abundance and distribution of offshore odontocete species. Trained and directed staff and interns on all aspects of research project; wrote, edited and submitted reports and manuscripts for publication; photo-identification catalog manager; taught training courses and presented scientific findings to public and staff; established and managed project budget.

EDUCATION, SKILLS, & VOLUNTEERISM

MASTER OF APPLIED SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
University of Denver, Denver, CO

- Concentration in Natural Resource Management; Thesis project: An Adaptation Scheme for Climate Change Effects on the Biodiversity within a Montane Wet Ecosystem in East Maui, Hawai'i; 3.8 GPA

B.A. CUM LAUDE, ANIMAL BEHAVIOR
Southwestern University, Georgetown, TX

- Regional Research Award, Dean's List, Psi Chi Honor Society. Laboratory Tech in Aquatic Animal Research Lab and Lab Assistant in Animal Behavior course.

ONGOING EDUCATION/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ka Ipu Kukui Maui County Leaders Fellowship

MAY 2013 – MAY 2014

- Selective fellowship designed to help develop and train current leaders of Maui County and Hawai'i. Focus on different themes each month including governance, sustainability, leadership, land use planning, and fresh water.

The Nature Conservancy Emerging Leaders Program

AUGUST 2010 – MAY 2012

- Selected to participate in internal 18 mo. Leadership program that included modules on critical thinking, decision making, motivating and delegating, leading and managing change, coaching and influencing for performance and much more.

TNC E-Learning site, University of Hawai'i Maui College, and others

NOVEMBER 2006 – PRESENT

CERTIFICATIONS: Wilderness First Aid; NAUI SCUBA open-water certification; OAS Helicopter; CPR; Oxygen Administration; AED; Hawai'i hunting license

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Government Liaison and Disaster Assessment Team Captain for American Red Cross; Sea turtle nesting and hatching watch volunteer for Hawai'i Wildlife Fund; Hawaiian Monk Seal Count volunteer; Ka Ipu Kukui volunteer; Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project volunteer