

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Nareit Hawaii Presents \$10,000 Grant to Hawai'i Land Trust to Support 'Āina-based Education Programming**

**WAIHE'E, MAUI – July 13, 2023** – Hawai'i Land Trust (HILT) today received a \$10,000 grant from Nareit Hawaii to support the nonprofit's 'āina-based education program.

HILT is a statewide local nonprofit that protects and stewards the lands that sustain Hawai'i and connects people to the land through education, public access, and cultural practice. For more than a decade, the nationally accredited land trust has preserved over 21,900 acres across the islands through land purchases and conservation easements, protecting Hawai'i's coastlines, cultural landscapes, and lands that grow food.

HILT formalized its 'āina-based education program in 2019 and has expanded the program to four preserves on three islands, with plans to increase to six preserves on four islands in 2024. HILT's programming includes field trips, school visits, educational videos, and internships.

"Through 'āina -based education, Hawai'i Land Trust is creating opportunities for students across Hawai'i to learn about traditional land stewardship activities and Hawaiian value sets," said Denby Freeland, MEd, HILT's Director of 'Āina Education. "This generous grant supports our efforts to further these programs – which are proven to strengthen and reinforce lessons taught in the classroom and increase student wellbeing – at our community preserves statewide."

"We're happy to support HILT's efforts in expanding its 'āina-based education programs," said Nareit Hawaii Executive Director Gladys Quinto Marrone. "We admire what HILT is doing to empower teachers, students, and parents to help people form reciprocal relationships with special places throughout our islands."

Hawaii REITs are long-term property holders that own, renovate, and manage affordable housing projects, commercial buildings, medical facilities, shopping centers, logistical spaces and warehouses for small businesses, cell phone towers, public storage facilities, and hotels. For more information about the support of charitable causes by Nareit Hawaii, please visit [www.nareithawaii.com](http://www.nareithawaii.com).

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**Photo courtesy:** Nareit Hawaii

**Photo caption** (Left to right): Angela Britten, Hawai'i Land Trust Chief Operation and Philanthropy Officer; Kia'i Collier, Maui Educator and Steward; Denby Freeland, Hawai'i Land Trust Director of 'Āina Education; and Gladys Quinto Marrone, Executive Director of Nareit Hawaii

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