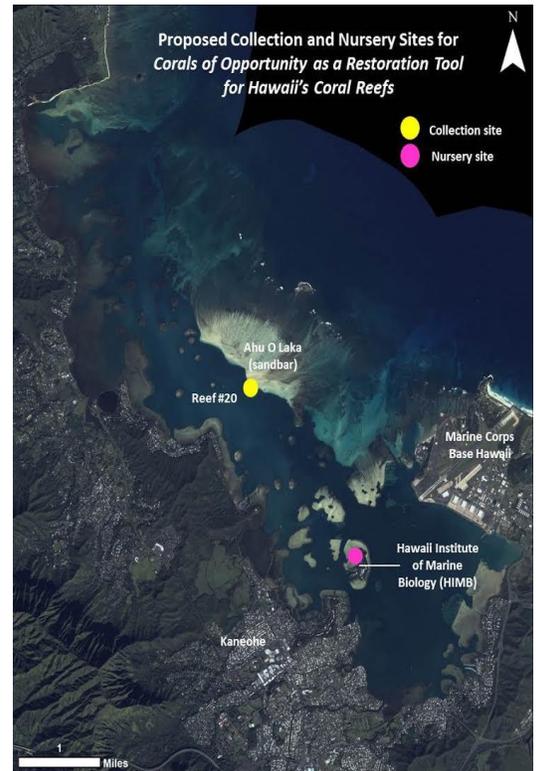


In Situ Coral Nursery Project

Kāneʻohe Bay is located on the windward side of Oʻahu, and is home to breathtaking coral reef habitats. However, there are many factors causing damage to the reefs in this area, including the frequent occurrence of boat groundings which breaks off fragments of coral from the parent colony. Once removed from the parent colony, coral fragments have high mortality rates due to abrasion and smothering by sediment and algae. Utilizing fragments in in situ coral reef nurseries helps to reestablish dislodged pieces of coral in a less damaging environment. It is important to attempt to diminish the harmful effects of these manmade disturbances in order to maintain the health of these vital coral reef habitats.

Reef Restoration

Currently, there are only a very limited number of direct strategies to promote and accelerate coral recovery following disturbances. In order to aid in recovery and to promote prosperity of the reefs, this project will pilot a small-scale, two-year-long *in situ* nursery located at the Hawaiʻi Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB). This project will establish small structures onto which 'corals of opportunity' will be attached. 'Corals of opportunity' are fragments of coral that have been dislodged or unattached from the parent colony by human related disturbances. Fragments will be collected from reef sites within Kāneʻohe Bay that have been affected by boat strikes to be utilized in multiple test sites at HIMB. These test sites will help to provide important information about the best methods of promoting coral recovery and growth in future in situ coral reef restoration projects.



Goals

This project will aid in the expansion of Hawaiʻi's reef management toolkit by increasing the inventory of effective and feasible reef restoration tactics. We hope to:

- Determine effectiveness of using corals of opportunity for coral reef restoration.
- Define parameters for coral success and cost effectiveness within *in situ* coral nurseries.
- Provide a guide for future reef restoration practices involving *in situ* coral nurseries.

