



CORAL REEF ALLIANCE

## **Final Project Update for Skye Instruments Ltd.**

*May, 2020*

Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) continues to monitor the weather stations and are happy to report that the weather stations donated by Skye Instruments Ltd. are continuing to hold up well. On March 8, 2020, CORAL employees collected data at the Honokōwai site and checked on the weather station installed there. It continues to be in terrific condition with no additional maintenance needed.

On February 1, 2020, 9 students from the University of California, Berkeley, along with their professor and 2 community members did a site inspection of the restoration site. They stopped at the weather station to discuss 1) the benefit to gain credibility to the people that can help implement change like Hawai'i County Planning Officials and 2) how it adds to the diversity needed to help monitor the restoration BMPs (Best Management Practices) and their effectiveness at our site.

This year, with the worldwide pandemic of COVID-19, we are following the guidelines of our state government and discontinuing any site visits with volunteers, county employees or university students beginning in mid-March until further notice. We are able to fall under the “essential” working group due to our agricultural practices and are able to perform irrigation and other regular maintenance needs. As such, the weather station has been consistently monitored and besides the occasional need for the solar panels to be wiped down, has needed no additional repairs or adjustments.

With the hiring of a Research Officer, Chelsea Eareckson, earlier this year, we have been focusing on uploading the data and formatting it to share with our partners. Tom at Skye Instruments has been an amazing resource in deciphering the format and information needed to gather. This will now help other organizations gain more information for their research and project necessities. As we move towards our rainy season, it will also collect information that will help us determine the quantity and duration of rainfall before moving the sediment, which, in turn will determine how effective the BMPs are retaining sediment over time.

It is our pleasure to share recent photos with you of this work. You can find photos of the site visit to Wahikuli by following this link: <https://coralreef.egnyte.com/fl/VBoL8jD2bO>. A photo of Chelsea working on the data is here: <https://coralreef.egnyte.com/dl/kzDs5DCBrY>.

We are so grateful to Skye Instruments Ltd. for becoming a partner in our conservation work with the donation of these instruments. We have been proud to report on the benefits they have provided to our program over the past year and look forward to continuing to share our successes as we continue toward our mission of saving the world's coral reefs.