

Porites lobata » Pōhaku Puna « Lobe Coral

Malaki (March) 2020 | Hawaiian Lunar Months: Nana - Welo

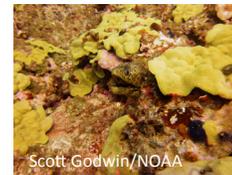
Ka Hō'ike 'Ano - Description

- » 1 of the top 3 most common coral species in the Hawaiian Archipelago.
- » Slow growing, estimated at 1/2 cm per year but some corals can grow to the size of a bus.
- » This species has two separate sexes (individuals from other species can have both gonads) and spawns late at night during the summer full moon.
- » Often difficult to distinguish from *Porites lutea*, also known as pōhaku puna in Hawaiian.
- » Highly resilient and one of few species that can tolerate high stress or polluted locations.¹



Ka Lauā Kaianoho - Distribution

- » Indo-Pacific, Eastern Tropical Pacific, Red Sea, known throughout the Hawaiian Archipelago.²
- » Grows in shallow subtidal habitats to as deep as 100 ft.
- » The oldest known coral "Big Momma" (either *P. lobata* or *P. lutea*) in American Samoa is over 6 meters high with a circumference of 41 meters and thought to be more than 360 – 800 years old.³



Cultural Significance - Ka Waiwai Ho'oilina

- » In the first era of time (wā) within Pō (night), the coral polyp is the first biological creature born in the Hawaiian creation chant, Kumulipo.
Hānau ka 'ukuko'ako'a, hānau kana, he 'ako'ako'a, puka
*Born was the coral polyp, born was the coral came forth*⁴



Hawaiian Proverbs - Nā 'Ōlelo No'eau

- » He po'i na kai uli, kai ko'o, 'a'ohe hina pūko'a
Though the sea be deep and rough, the coral rock remains standing
Said of one who remains calm in the face of difficulty
- » He pūko'a kani 'āina
A large coral rock standing in the sea
A person beginning in a small way gains steadily until he becomes firmly established⁵

