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 Laulā 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 Hoʻoilina

- 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 forth⁴

Hawaiian Proverbs - Nā ‘Ōlelo Noʻeau

- He poʻi na kai uli, kai koʻo, ‘aʻohe hina pūkoʻa Though the sea be deep and rough, the coral rock remains standing Said of one who remains calm in the face of difficulty
- He pūkoʻa kani ‘āina A large coral rock standing in the sea A person beginning in a small way gains steadily until he becomes firmly established⁵