

# Porites lobata » Pōhaku Puna « Lobe Coral

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

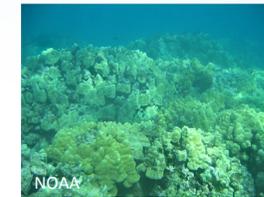
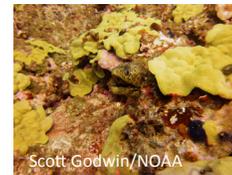
## Ka Hō'ike 'Ano - Description

- » 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.<sup>1</sup>



## Ka Lauā Kaianoho - Distribution

- » Indo-Pacific, Eastern Tropical Pacific, Red Sea, known throughout the Hawaiian Archipelago.<sup>2</sup>
- » 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.<sup>3</sup>



## 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*<sup>4</sup>



## 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 established<sup>5</sup>

