

IMPROVE EDUCATION  
PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT  
ADDRESS INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES  
ADOPT SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC STRATEGIES  
MEET HUMAN NEEDS & PRESERVE LOCAL CULTURE

FOCUS OUR  
MAUI ISLANDS  
NUI OUR FUTURE

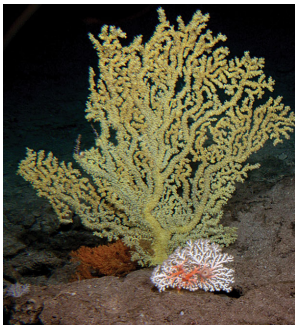
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## ANCIENT CORALS



This orange bamboo coral is a new species and new genus found in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. It is between four and five feet tall, and was found 5,745 feet below the surface. (ANI)

**THE PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT** is the single largest conservation area under U.S. protection, and one of the largest marine conservation areas in the world. It encompasses the entire Northwest Hawaiian Islands within 139,797 square miles of the Pacific Ocean — an area larger than all the country's national parks combined. It has more deep water than any other U.S. protected area, with more than 98 percent below SCUBA-diving depths and only accessible to submersibles.



Among the findings was a five-foot tall yellow bamboo coral tree that had never been described before. (ANI)

Its extensive coral reefs — truly the rainforests of the sea — are home to over 7,000 marine species, one quarter of which are found only in the Hawaiian Archipelago. Scientists have identified seven new species of bamboo coral in the deep waters of Papahānaumokuākea, six of which may represent entirely new genera.

“These discoveries are important, because deep-sea corals support diverse seafloor ecosystems ... and can provide a much-needed view of how deep ocean conditions change through time,” said Richard Spinrad, assistant administrator for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://hawaiiireef.noaa.gov/welcome.html>

“We found live, 4,000-year-old corals ... meaning 4,000 years worth of information about what has been going on in the deep ocean interior.”

~ Rob Dunbar  
Stanford University



FOCUS MAUI NUI is a community-driven vision for the future of our islands, spearheaded by Maui Economic Development Board, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the economic well-being of Maui County. VISIT [www.FocusMauiNui.com](http://www.FocusMauiNui.com) or CALL 808.270.6801