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## **Hawai'i x Alaska Regenerative Impact Studio opens applications**

**CORDOVA AK, March 22, 2024** – The Cordova Chamber of Commerce is partnering with Hawai'i based Naupaka Pacific on an innovative regenerative tourism program focused on preserving the beauty and integrity of destinations in Alaska and Hawaii while empowering local businesses and organizations to build economic, ecological, and cultural resilience in their communities. This partnership was formed to help both Alaska-based and Hawai'i non-profit organizations, small businesses, community groups, and cultural practitioners build capacity to lead experiences in a manner that advances the community's vision and aspirations to build a more regenerative future

The partnership is currently recruiting interested local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and community groups from Cordova, Alaska and Maui, Hawaii to participate in a pilot pan-Pacific cohort to commence in May 2024. The community of Cordova and the island of Maui have both endured natural and environmental disasters and share a vision of building opportunities that advance ecological restoration, cultural revitalization, and grow regenerative industries.

"We're thrilled to be partnering with the Cordova Chamber of Commerce to launch a pan-Pacific impact business generator that supports a regenerative future for both Hawai'i and Alaska!" said Mondy Jamshidi-Kent, regenerative tourism expert and principal of Naupaka Pacific.

The Regenerative Impact Studio Exchange (RISE) will include an 8-week hybrid flex learning course, mentorship, and quarterly updates, culminating in a final cohort gathering in January 2025. As part of the accelerator, cohort participants in each destination will receive direct support to build their organizational capacity, experience Indigenous-to-Indigenous cultural training, mentorship to develop their activity experience offering, and an opportunity list their activity on high-traffic, market-ready online platforms promoted at the state and national level. . This program is made possible by the generous support of Alaska Airlines, Hurtigruten Foundation, and other industry sponsors.

The community-led Impact Studio program originated in Hawaii in 2021 and received award-winning recognition in 2022. With both remote learning and hands-on opportunities during immersion experiences and targeted travel dates to both Alaska and Hawai'i, ongoing

mentorship and development will span the 9-month cohort experience, building camaraderie and support for community resilience. Selected 2024 cohort members will have opportunities to meet with organizational development experts, expert trainers and practitioners from both Hawai'i and Alaska, previous cohort graduates with existing activities, and other professionals tailored for the cohort's success.

**Important Dates:**

March 20: Applications Open

April 3: Applications Close for Review

April 8: Cohort Notifications begin (via email)

Early May: Kickoff with Cordova Shorebird Festival

Applicants who express financial need have the option to be considered for scholarships and support provided by generous industry sponsors.

For more information, visit: <https://www.cordovachamber.com/regenerative-impact-studio/>. To apply, visit: <https://naupakapacific.com/impactstudio>

The Cordova Chamber of Commerce is governed by a 16-member board of directors and is comprised of approximately 150 members. Its mission is to empower the business community and foster connections that elevate the quality of life in Cordova. In addition to operating the Cordova Visitor Center, the Chamber's work is divided into four primary program areas: economic development, quality of life, destination management, and business support.

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