



## ANNUAL REPORT 2015





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## LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Fifteen years ago, on October 2, 2000, The Kohala Center was incorporated as a nonprofit organization based on curious and insightful responses from a North Hawai'i community health survey. The survey sought input from island residents about what they believed were the solutions necessary to combat the region's troubling health statistics: higher-than-average rates of drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, diabetes, and heart disease, to name a few. In response to a very simple question—"What would make us a happier and healthier community?"—residents expressed thoughtful and unexpected approaches: greater educational opportunities for island youth, improved education to ensure that island residents are qualified for the jobs of the future, and a diversified, resilient rural economy in Hawai'i's post-plantation era.

These ideas resonated with respected Kānaka Maoli (indigenous Hawaiian leaders) who suggested that the 'āina—the land that feeds and sustains us—is a tremendous source of ancestral knowledge and power. That Hawai'i Island is one of the world's most vibrant learning laboratories which, when approached with the values and spirit of aloha 'āina (love for the land), can inform and provide solutions that enrich the lives of communities that live and depend on it. That by taking care of the 'āina, the 'āina will take care of us.

Fast forward to today, and our fledgling little community health project that started with an initial investment of seed funding and faith from Dr. Earl Bakken has blossomed into an organization with a nearly \$4 million annual operating budget and 40 full- and part-time employees, all of whom are dedicated to delivering an innovative, interconnected suite of 'āina-based programs to improve community well-being.

Our 15th year serves as a significant pivot point in our history: we bid farewell to Dr. Matthews Hamabata, our first employee and our visionary president and CEO who has made The Kohala Center what it is today, as he transitions into his well-deserved retirement. We were fortunate and humbled to welcome his successor, Dr. Kamanamaikalani Beamer, a postdoctoral fellow in the inaugural cohort of our Mellon-Hawai'i Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship Program and a revered Kanaka Maoli professor, geographer, historian, author, and public servant. We hired our first chief advancement officer, Keawe Liu, who will provide strategic vision and spearhead new, innovative opportunities for the citizens of Planet Hawai'i to engage with our work. And our future campus on Kohala Mountain—a remarkable gift for which we continue to be eternally grateful—is already inspiring new ideas for the future while reminding us that everything we do is in servitude to the 'āina.

In this 2015 Annual Report, we will reflect on our roots and the magnificent path that led us to where we are today, and we'll highlight our most recent work and accomplishments in our core areas of energy self-reliance, food self-reliance, ecosystem health, and the advancement of intellectual leadership. Through our efforts, school gardens are thriving, communities are reviving the art of seed saving and sharing, rural and cooperative businesses are receiving technical and financial support to succeed, and new farmers are gaining the knowledge needed to nurture the 'āina and increase our local food supply. Native forests on Kohala Mountain are gaining ground against invasive species, snorkelers and swimmers along Hawai'i Island's western shores are learning how to care for coral reefs and marine life, and island youth and



indigenous scholars are advancing their knowledge and careers so they can lead communities here in Hawai'i and around the globe toward a healthy, peaceful, and abundant future.

Each December, when we reflect upon our accomplishments of the past year and all of the years before it, we remind ourselves that none of our success would have been possible without the support of our partners and benefactors, our educators and food producers, our community leaders and advocates, our researchers and policymakers, and most of all, the island residents and communities we are so humbled to serve. On behalf of the board and staff of The Kohala Center, mahalo nui loa for your continued support of our programs and efforts over the last 15 years to respectfully engage the Island of Hawai'i as a model *of* and *for* the world. We look forward to having you join us as we progress onward to our 20th, 25th, and many anniversaries beyond.

Mahalo,



Roberta Chu

Chairperson, Board of Directors, The Kohala Center



## AN INTRODUCTION OF KAMANAMAIKALANI BEAMER, PH.D.

*By Neil J. Kaho'okele Hannabs,  
Director, Land Assets Division, Kamehameha Schools  
and Dr. Jonathan Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio,  
Professor, Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa*

There is nothing accidental about Dr. Kamanamaikalani Beamer finding his way to The Kohala Center. As with his Hawaiian ancestors, skill and destiny have unified, forming a current to carry him to where he is meant to be: in an organization with an aligned mission and lofty ideals, on a campus nestled in the bosom of the kula'iwi (homeland) of his Ka'ili, Desha and Beamer kūpuna (predecessors), part of a center built upon a foundation of knowledge acquisition and innovative thinking amidst a community committed to having the Island of Hawai'i serve as a model of energy self-reliance, food sovereignty, and ecosystem health.

Kamana hails from a proud and distinguished line of island sons and daughters. Kupa'aina (natives of the land) reared beside the mountain strong, near the ocean's roar, where the streams were flowing. Born of fathers and mothers who worked the land and knew the sea, descending from a lineage that accepted their duty to aloha 'āina (love the land).

*"As every night turns into dawn  
We will be the ones to carry on  
Love for this land formed in our souls  
Like clouds that the sky had spun  
This is our island home, we are her sons."  
["This is Our Island Home" by Keola & Kapono Beamer]*

Kamana is not unlike the scholars and musicians that have sprung from his family for four generations. He has their same innate talent and insight. But born to the generation that was almost mute in our language, Kamana's struggle had to bear the additional burden of re-learning our 'ōlelo makuahine (mother tongue) and seizing the kuleana (responsibility) for renewing a respect for Kanaka Maoli (native people) traditions and for the ancestral knowledge that once produced an astonishing, industrious, and dynamic society. He became what indigenous scholars often become: a master of the grounded, integrating the multidisciplinary focus of the Hawaiian Studies undergraduate curriculum with the highly theoretical and somewhat technical arenas of the Ph.D. in the Western academy.

Kamana wrote a fearless dissertation, one that challenged some long-cherished beliefs and arguments about the nature of change and historical processes in Hawai'i. To the generations of scholars we hope to continue producing among our lāhui (people), Kamana's intellectual bravery is a more telling and significant makana (gift) even greater than his research. He reflects and perpetuates the daring imagination, unfettered intelligence, and stubborn will that for millennia have produced pioneering navigators and the brave kākā (individuals) who followed them out to sea.

Like his wayfinding kūpuna (ancestors) and teachers, Kamana has sailed from one challenge, one imagined point on the horizon to another, confident in his knowledge because it has come from our ancestors and sure of his direction because he knows from whence he came. And his voyage has produced a deep love for this ‘āina because the navigator knows how precious these spots of land truly are, the homelands of a magnificent people.

The beauty and abundance o nēia ‘āina nani kamaha‘o, of this wondrous land, are precious gifts that we must not take for granted. Kamana understands the importance of the reciprocity required to maintain balance. He has concluded, “There is no ‘āina without people. Because when people live on land and are fed by land, then it is ‘āina.”

To this end, while managing ‘āina-based learning programs for the Kamehameha Schools Land Assets Division, Kamana designed a graduated series of place-based learning experiences and curriculum that evolved from an introduction to sense of place and understanding of the ahupua‘a system to reflecting on the knowledge derived from the ‘āina, demonstrating appropriate stewardship and sustainability practices, and engaging in advocacy and leadership on behalf of ‘āina and community.

Kamana recognizes that many of the stresses upon our resources, systems, and society are the consequences of an inherited paradigm. Fortunately Kamana also believes in agency: the problems and conflicts that beset our world may not be of our making, but that should not prevent us from confronting and changing the structures that produce inequitable and intolerable results.

His brilliant research, entitled “No Mākou ka Mana,” served as the basis of his first published book, which this summer received the prestigious Samuel M. Kamakau Book of the Year Award from the Hawai‘i Book Publishers Association. He says the name “suggests that the power is within each of us to carve out our future. It is a strength inherited from the ancestors that grounds, challenges, and inspires, ever-present and never to be forgotten.”

The planet Kamana is determined to leave his keiki (children) will be better than the world in which we now live. The more sustainable and self-reliant Hawai‘i he envisions and strives to create will honor the heritage of our host culture, treasure our uniqueness, and inspire an increasingly diverse population to embrace a commitment to aloha and mālama (care for) the lands and resources that enable our being.

Human presence on this land makes it ‘āina which, in turn, gives what we need to foster existence. The quality of that life is determined by our choices. I waiwai no ka ‘āina i ke kānaka—the land is wealthy because of its people. The Kohala Center’s choice to appoint Dr. Kamana Beamer to its highest leadership role suggests the presence of courage to constructively disrupt failed models and the ingenuity needed for problem resolution and reinvention. This bodes well for the future of our island planet and the inheritance of our children. I mua! Forward!



## A FOND FAREWELL: A TRIBUTE TO MATTHEWS MASAYUKI HAMABATA, PH.D.

*By Ian Robertson*

*Principal, The Robertson Company and Board Member, The Kohala Center*

In 2000, Dr. Earl Bakken decided to found a new health-oriented organization on the Island of Hawai'i. After a thorough executive search, the job of leading the new organization was offered to Dr. Matthews M. Hamabata, a kama'aina (person born in Hawai'i) from Hanapēpē, Kaua'i.

Matt is a man with exceptional academic credentials, including an A.B. from Cornell, Master's and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard, and a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship award. While still at Harvard Matt was recruited to the faculty at Yale, where he served for five years on the Council on East Asian Studies and taught in the department of sociology. After spending 10 years at Ivy League universities, Matt sought to transition to an academic environment with a more holistic, compassionate approach to learning and personal development.

An opportunity arose at Haverford College, a Quaker institution consistently ranked as one of the top colleges in the United States. Haverford's academic rank was unimportant to Matt, however: he was fascinated and profoundly influenced by Haverford's peace mission and its commitment to the idea of "intentional community." Matt stayed at Haverford for five years serving as dean of the college, and he was particularly inspired by the college's "non-traditional adult" learners—students who successfully transferred from Philadelphia's inner-city community colleges and went on to become some of Haverford's most outstanding pupils. It was here that Matt became interested in lifelong learning. Fielding Graduate University is the leader in this field, and Matt wished to work with adult learners, professionals who wanted to pursue graduate education without giving up their careers. He also wanted to develop expertise in human and organization development—one of Fielding's strongest areas of competency—so he moved to California and joined the university's faculty. He would later join the California Endowment, a \$3.3-billion foundation where Matt became responsible for creating its learning infrastructure.

Matt is humble about his extraordinary career in academia. His journey had a dreamlike quality to it. According to Matt, his path had little to do with "goal setting" and "milestones": it had a lot to do with discipline, putting one foot in front of the other, hard work, curiosity, a sense of adventure, and pōmaika'i, or luck.

Inevitably Matt ended up leaving the continental U.S. and returning to Hawai'i to lead Dr. Bakken's new organization, but wondered about the word "health." Prevailing wisdom decreed that Hawai'i needed more health and social services for its residents. Should The Kohala Center be a service provider? If so, how? A survey conducted in 1999 and 2000 contradicted this prevailing wisdom. It revealed that people did not want more services; instead, island residents wanted empowerment in the form of education for youth and young adults, and they wanted education that would prepare them for good employment in a more diverse local economy. In short, people did not want social *services*, they wanted social *change*.



How could this little organization make a difference? Dreams! Dr. Bakken believed in dreams—big dreams. Action! Waimea-area rancher and founding board member Monty Richards believed in action: “Matt just do something!,” he’d say. Matt believed in pōmaika‘i and naturally, fortune smiled. Indigenous Hawaiian leaders contacted Matt with the answer. They spoke of the ‘āina, the land and natural resources that feed and sustain us. Hawaiian leaders advised Matt to regard the land as a living source of knowledge and sustenance. In 2000, this idea of a “health-oriented” institute based on engaging the environment was unheard of, but to Matt the notion that the health of people depended on the health of the land was rooted in Hawai‘i’s culture and made perfect sense.

The Kohala Center would engage in respectfully celebrating and enhancing the ‘āina: launching research into energy self-reliance, food self-reliance, and ecosystem health; creating greater educational opportunities and developing the local economy based on that research; and thus empowering the people of Hawai‘i Island. A noble quest perhaps, but The Kohala Center was a manini (little fish) in a big ocean. To Matt this was an advantage.

In 2003, Matt was invited to present a paper to the American Chamber of Commerce in Luxembourg, a country about one-quarter the size of Hawai‘i Island but exercising considerable influence in the European community. The title of his paper was “The Power of Smallness: Local Communities and the Global Knowledge Economy.” Matt was addressing how small organizations, taking full advantage of modern communications technology and embedded in powerful networks of cultural and scientific expertise, can make big things happen. Small organizations can be more nimble, more effective, more efficient, and more intelligent than larger ones. Small can mean powerful.

The work of The Kohala Center involves basic and applied research, policy research, conservation and restoration initiatives, public outreach and education, and community development—all carried out through local, regional, national, and international partnerships. All of The Kohala Center’s programs are directed at empowering island residents by providing them with the results of objective research and independent analyses, as well as the compilation of best practices. In so doing, The Center is creating kama‘āina leadership with the hope that these leaders will eventually turn the entire island, and perhaps the world, into a gently intentional community.

After 15 years with The Kohala Center, preceded by decades of service in helping young adults and working professionals achieve their goals and aspirations through higher education, Matt elected to retire in early 2015. His success and impact in Hawai‘i have been no less extraordinary than his academic career. He has created a truly kama‘āina institution of lasting value. Matt’s legacy will be lasting and valued by our Kohala Center ‘ohana and all of those he served. His humble and courageous leadership will remain hallmarks of The Kohala Center’s culture for years to come.

## OUR HISTORY: A TIMELINE OF OUR EVOLUTION

The Kohala Center was founded in response to needs and aspirations expressed by island residents and because of the generous support and encouragement of Hawai'i Island's cultural, academic, and scientific leaders. From Day One we have focused on research and education, guided by respectful engagement with the 'āina, to craft innovative solutions and programs to meet the contemporary challenges of our island and our planet.

To review the research studies and reports cited in the timeline below, please visit [kohalacenter.org/research](http://kohalacenter.org/research).

### 1999–2000

- Results from a Five Mountains Hawai'i community health survey reveal that residents envisioned a fundamental shift in the way that we live in rural Hawai'i: stronger education for our youth, greater educational opportunities for residents to qualify for the jobs of the future, and a diversified economy.
- Respected Kānaka Maoli leaders review and agree with the sentiments of island residents, emphasizing that Hawai'i Island itself is a valuable learning laboratory and a magnificent source of indigenous knowledge for the contemporary world.
- Dr. Earl E. Bakken provides the initial financial and human capital to help incorporate The Kohala Center on October 2, 2000. Dr. Matthews Hamabata is hired as The Center's executive director.
- Discussions with senior faculty and administrators at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Cornell University, Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology validate that Hawai'i Island can serve as a model *of* and *for* the planet.



### 2001

- The Kohala Center formally launches at a gathering of scientists and community leaders in Waimea, Hawai'i Island and is registered at the federal level as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
- First cultural orientation session is held for university partners in collaboration with The Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation, Kamehameha Schools, and the voyaging group Nā Kālā'i Wa'a Moku O Hawai'i. The sessions introduce scientists and researchers to indigenous Hawaiian knowledge, Hawai'i's spiritual and cultural landscapes, and approaching the island as a microcosm of the planet.



## 2002

- An Energy Roundtable with Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), the County of Hawai‘i, local business leaders, and energy experts from across the country is held to explore the island’s alternative and renewable energy generation potential.

## 2003

- MERITUM, a research group supported by the European Union, invites us to present our philosophy that natural assets—and the challenges presented to those assets by human use—are intellectual assets with the potential to drive innovation and social change.
- Sustainable development and workshops focused on energy-efficient design and redevelopment are conducted in partnership with RMI.
- We co-sponsor a studio course in conservation development for undergraduate and graduate architectural students taught by the faculty of the Southern California Institute of Architecture.
- A partnership with the Global Environmental Facility-World Bank Coral Reef Research Group launches the Global Reef Health Study Program, leading to a summer Coral Reef Ecology Program for K-12 students at Kahalu‘u Bay.

## 2004

- Collaboration with Cornell University results in the launch of the university’s Earth and Environmental Systems (EES) Program, a full-semester undergraduate course based on Hawai‘i Island, and the creation of scholarships for Hawai‘i Island high school students to attend summer engineering academies at Cornell’s campus in Ithaca, New York.
- Cornell University also collaborates with us and the University of Washington to create the Advanced Oceanography Training Program, a five-year postdoctoral program in the ocean sciences funded by the Office of Naval Research.
- We partner with Brown University to launch the Brown Environmental Leadership Lab–Hawai‘i (BELL-HI). The program for high school students engages Hawai‘i Island’s diverse ecosystems as a classroom to teach young scholars about geology, forest ecology, marine science, and Hawaiian culture and land use practices.
- Hidden Jewels science program, a high-quality natural sciences teaching program incorporating an indigenous Hawaiian perspective, launches at Kohala Elementary School.
- A partnership with the University of Minnesota leads to us hosting “Plants in Human Affairs,” an annual two-week graduate-level ethnobotany/ethnopharmacology course.





## 2005

- The Hawai'i Island-Meaningful Environmental Education for Teachers (HI-MEET) program is launched with support from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to provide professional development opportunities for island science teachers to design and implement field-based environmental research projects with their students.

## 2006

- The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program asks us to adopt the ReefTeach volunteer program it established at Kahalu'u Bay in 2002. ReefTeach was created to educate visitors on how to enjoy Kahalu'u Bay without harming its fragile ecosystem.
- We conduct and release our first energy research study, *Waste Management on the Big Island*, which examines Hawai'i County's urgent need to come up with alternative waste management solutions in the face of landfills nearing full capacity.

## 2007

- Further collaboration with RMI on behalf of the Omidyar family yields the Island of Hawai'i Whole System Project, an analysis of the island's locally produced food and agriculture sectors and opportunities for future growth. This leads to the Hawai'i Island Food Summit that examines the impact of imported energy costs on local food production and affordability. The Food Summit inspires us to add food self-reliance to our systemic approach to improving the health and well-being of island communities.
- Yale University students collaborate with us and the County of Hawai'i to compile and release several research studies: *Material Flows on the Island of Hawai'i*, *Hawai'i County Baseline Energy Analysis*, and *Analysis and Recommendations for the Hawai'i County Energy Sustainability Plan*.
- The Kahalu'u Bay Restoration Project, an ecosystem health initiative, is launched to restore the natural, cultural, and historic resources of this sacred ahupua'a (mountain-to-sea land division). The Kahalu'u Bay Concert debuts as a fundraising event to support the Restoration Project, drawing sellout crowds to the Sheraton Kona Resort & Spa at Keauhou Bay for three consecutive years.

## 2008

- The Kahalu'u Bay Conceptual Master Plan, developed in collaboration with the County of Hawai'i Department of Planning and the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Washington, is released, providing a long-term vision for the improvement and maintenance of Kahalu'u Beach Park.





- We launch the Hawai‘i Island School Garden Network (HISGN), our first program inspired by the Island of Hawai‘i Whole System Project and the Hawai‘i Island Food Summit, to connect Hawai‘i’s keiki to real food, healthier eating habits, and the ‘āina itself by supporting school learning gardens on Hawai‘i Island through technical assistance, professional development programs, and mini-grants.
- The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation engages us to establish and administer the Mellon-Hawai‘i Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship Program to foster a new generation of Hawaiian intellectual leaders.
- At the request of private landowners on Kohala Mountain and public land managers, we add the Kohala Watershed Partnership (KWP) as one of our programs with the aim of restoring and protecting the native forested watersheds of Kohala.
- Hawai‘i Island Food Systems Program is launched to identify, prioritize, and support projects and policy initiatives with the greatest potential to increase local food production and consumption.
- Hawai‘i Preparatory Academy partners with us to co-host the Student Congress on Sustainability to engage Hawai‘i’s aspiring scientists and environmental leaders.

## 2009

- We co-sponsor *Biofuels in Hawai‘i: A Case Study of Hāmākua*, a study conducted by graduate students in the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s Department of Urban and Regional Planning; Cornell University’s Hawai‘i Graduate Field Research Program; Frameworks for Success in Science in Hilo-area elementary schools.
- The Long-Term Industrial Ecosystem Model (LIEM)–Hawai‘i project is launched in partnership with the Center for Industrial Ecology at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. The project tracks the impact of our new whole-systems approach on our island’s economic and societal well-being, and studies how human actions influence resource development and consumption over time.
- The Pelekane Bay Watershed Restoration Project begins as the Kohala Watershed Partnership assumes care of the 65,000-acre forested watershed of Kohala Mountain.
- Citizen Science, a volunteer program at Kāhala‘u Bay, is launched to facilitate the routine collection of water-quality data to monitor the bay’s health over time.

## 2010

- We partner with The Natural Step Canada and the County of Hawai‘i to publish the *Hawai‘i Sustainability Primer*, a document intended to apply an internationally recognized, science-based definition of sustainability to planning and decision-making in Hawai‘i.
- Lawai‘a ‘Ohana Fish Camp is launched for Hawai‘i Island youth ages 10 to 15 and their families to learn about indigenous, sustainable approaches to preserving and managing Hawai‘i’s marine life.

- In partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Organic Seed Alliance, we organize and present Hua ka Hua: Restore Our Seed, a statewide seed symposium to examine seed-saving and sharing strategies to protect and promote varieties suited to Hawai'i's soils and microclimates.



## 2011

- We launch the Hawai'i Public Seed Initiative (HPSI), funded by the Ceres Trust, to promote seed saving, seed exchanges, education, and capacity building on Hawai'i Island, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu, and Kaua'i.
- Kahalu'u Bay Education Center (KBEC) is launched under a contract with the County of Hawai'i to care for the bay and beach park. The program focuses on protecting and improving the bay's fragile ecosystem through visitor education and community outreach.
- The County of Hawai'i Department of Research & Development engages us to prepare the *2010 County of Hawai'i Agricultural Plan*. The plan contains recommendations to increase the production of export products as well as food and materials for local consumption.
- The *Flow of Fish* study is commissioned with support from the Hawai'i Fish Trust to address a lack of data specific to reef fisheries and begin to measure the distribution of catch around Hawai'i Island.
- We launch the Laulima Center (renamed Rural and Cooperative Business Development Services in 2014), a new program to expand and enhance food production in Hawai'i by supporting rural and cooperative businesses.
- We co-sponsor two research studies: *Energy Efficiency Strategies for Low-Income Communities on Hawai'i Island* (Center for Industrial Ecology, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies), and *The Environmental and Socioeconomic Analysis of Biofuel Production* (ECONorthwest, Watershed Professionals Network).



## 2012

- The County of Hawai'i Department of Research & Development engages us to author the *Energy Sustainability Program Five-Year Roadmap for the County of Hawai'i* to provide the County with a set of high-priority policies and programs in the areas of renewable electricity, energy efficiency, and transportation systems.
- We launch Kū 'Āina Pā, a professional development and certification program for school garden and classroom teachers, as well as the Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui, a statewide committee of educators and school food representatives advocating for increased access to fresh, healthy, local food in schools.
- We establish a partnership with the federal Office of Child Nutrition to improve the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program in schools on Hawai'i Island.

- With support from the USDA and the County of Hawai‘i, we launch our Beginning Farmer-Rancher Development Program to train and support the next generation of farmers and food producers on Hawai‘i Island.
- We develop and launch the *Spawning Guide for the Leeward Coast of Hawai‘i Island*, a poster and website ([spawningguide.org](http://spawningguide.org)) that provides a basic understanding of the life cycles of fish along West Hawai‘i’s coastline and how ancestral knowledge can be used to prevent overfishing.

## 2013

- A *Microgrid Feasibility Study* is undertaken in collaboration with the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo and Cornell University.
- Continued collaboration with the Center for Industrial Ecology at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies yields two new studies: *Resource Use and Waste Generation by the Tourism Industry on the Big Island of Hawaii* and *Livestock Production on Molokai Island, Hawaii*.
- Our Hawai‘i Island School Garden Network hosts the Hawai‘i School Learning Garden Symposium, attracting over 100 school garden educators to Waimea for a full day of educational workshops, presentations, speakers, and networking.
- Kahalu‘u Bay Education Center hosts its first Keiki Fishing Derby at Waikua‘a‘ala Fishpond to engage the surrounding community in a fun, family-friendly, and educational event in which children fish invasive tilapia out of the historic pond.
- We collaborate with NOAA, the Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation, University of Redlands, and the Watershed Professionals Network to launch Waipuni Kahalu‘u ([spatial.redlands.edu/waipunikahaluu](http://spatial.redlands.edu/waipunikahaluu)), an online portal that helps users learn how variables such as climate, weather, vegetation, and land use impact watershed and water supplies in the context of a Hawaiian ahupua‘a.
- FoodCorps, a national program dedicated to connecting children to real, nutritious food and to developing school garden programs by placing service members into high-need schools, selects us to launch and serve as the host site for FoodCorps Hawai‘i.
- Our Hawai‘i Public Seed Initiative establishes annual “Train the Trainers” workshops to convene seed leaders from across the islands.
- Kohala Watershed Partnership organizes Pilina: The Hawai‘i Island Conservation Forum, bringing together 200 community members and ecology professionals to share information about challenges, needs, and successes of conservation efforts around the island.



- Graduate students from the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources collaborate with us to produce *Expanding Transportation Opportunities on Hawai‘i Island*, a study that analyzes the island’s public transportation system and recommends ways to reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- Our Hawai‘i Farm to School Conference brings 175 educators, farmers, and policymakers together on O‘ahu to discuss the knowledge and best practices needed to develop and sustain a statewide farm to school program, re-grow Hawai‘i’s agricultural economy, inspire and train future farmers, and cultivate healthy schools and communities.
- A one-year analysis of Hawai‘i’s organic food industry funded by the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture culminates in the release of *Growing Organics: Moving Hawai‘i’s Organic Industry Forward*.
- Investment from the Kahiau Foundation and the County of Hawai‘i enable us to establish and administer the Kahiau Rural Business Development Microloan Program and the Hawai‘i Island Food Producers Fund.
- *Future of Ka‘ū Farm Land: Ecological and Economic Analysis*, a study conducted in partnership with the Center for Industrial Ecology at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, examines the environmental and economic impacts of a proposed biofuels production facility and of diversified agriculture activities on land and communities in Hawai‘i Island’s Ka‘ū District.
- Waimea resident James Posner donates his 60-acre ranch on Kohala Mountain to The Kohala Center.



Over the years we have grown from a small community health project serving North Hawai‘i to a robust nonprofit organization with 40 staff members conducting research and administering innovative programs with local and global impact. Through it all we have stayed true to the philosophy that originally inspired our work and serves as our mission today: To respectfully engage the Island of Hawai‘i as a model *of* and *for* the world. In the following pages we’ll share our accomplishments in fiscal year 2014–2015, setting the stage for even greater achievements and innovative approaches in the years ahead.



## ENERGY: REDUCING COST OF LIVING AND DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS

On June 8, 2015, Hawai'i governor David Ige signed an energy bill into law that would make Hawai'i the first place in the United States to require local utilities to provide 100% of its electricity from renewable energy resources by 2045. Given that island business and agricultural leaders have expressed concerns for decades about the crippling costs of imported energy on Hawai'i's commerce and communities—and have engaged us to conduct a variety of research studies and advance policy recommendations—we view this as a positive development.

Since the arrival of fossil fuels in the islands, Hawai'i has ranked highest in the United States for energy costs: our electricity prices are three times higher than the national average, while the base price of a gallon of gasoline consistently tops the list. Rural communities in Hawai'i feel the pinch the hardest. Energy production and use pervade all aspects of today's society, affecting agricultural and economic development, the cost of imported food and goods, ecosystem health, and community well-being, making energy one of the most significant economic and social justice issues in Hawai'i.

Perhaps most striking is the vast potential the islands hold to generate clean, renewable energy. Hawai'i Island, with its abundance of sunshine, wind, waves, and other natural sources, could be a model for change and innovation in the energy sector, both locally and globally. Despite this abundance of diverse sources, only about 18 percent of Hawai'i's total power is currently derived from renewables<sup>1</sup>; fortunately the percentage of renewably produced electricity continues to increase each year. Hawai'i's transportation sector, however, continues to drive the greatest demand for petroleum-based fuels.

Increasing the availability of clean, renewable energy and moving Hawai'i toward greater energy self-reliance has long been integral to our mission. Starting in 2002, we facilitated a community Energy Roundtable to initiate analysis, research, and planning, which led to us partnering a year later with the Rocky Mountain Institute, the County of Hawai'i, local business and community leaders, and leading energy experts to facilitate community dialogues and examine alternative energy

<sup>1</sup> State of Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism and the Hawaii State Energy Office, "Hawai'i Energy Facts & Figures, November 2014," [http://energy.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/HSEO\\_FF\\_Nov2014.pdf](http://energy.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/HSEO_FF_Nov2014.pdf).

### OUR ENERGY RESEARCH, STUDIES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

**2014:** Expanding Transportation Opportunities on Hawai'i Island  
[koha.la/energy-transit](http://koha.la/energy-transit)

**2013:** Resource Use and Waste Generation by the Tourism Industry on the Big Island of Hawai'i  
[koha.la/energy-resourceuse](http://koha.la/energy-resourceuse)

**2012:** County of Hawai'i Energy Sustainability Program Five-Year Roadmap  
*Executive Summary:*  
[koha.la/energy-5yrroad-exec](http://koha.la/energy-5yrroad-exec)  
*Full Report:*  
[koha.la/energy-5yrroad-full](http://koha.la/energy-5yrroad-full)

**2012:** Some Observations about HELCO's Business Model  
[koha.la/energy-helcomodel](http://koha.la/energy-helcomodel)

**2011:** Environmental and Socioeconomic Analysis of Biofuel Production on Hawai'i Island: A Scope for Future Work  
[koha.la/energy-biofuel](http://koha.la/energy-biofuel)

**2011:** Energy Efficiency Strategies for Low-Income Communities on Hawai'i Island  
[koha.la/energy-lowincome](http://koha.la/energy-lowincome)

**2010:** Hawai'i Sustainability Primer  
[koha.la/energy-sustprimer](http://koha.la/energy-sustprimer)

**2009:** Biofuels in Hawai'i: A Case Study of Hāmākua  
[koha.la/energy-biofuels-hamakua](http://koha.la/energy-biofuels-hamakua)

**2007:** Hawai'i County Baseline Energy Analysis  
[koha.la/energy-hicobaseline](http://koha.la/energy-hicobaseline)

**2007:** Hawai'i Island Energy Sustainability Plan Recommendations  
*Executive Summary:*  
[koha.la/energy-hisep-exec](http://koha.la/energy-hisep-exec)  
*Full Report:*  
[koha.la/energy-hisep-reco](http://koha.la/energy-hisep-reco)

**2007:** Material Flows on the Island of Hawai'i  
[koha.la/energy-mfa](http://koha.la/energy-mfa)

**2006:** Waste Management on the Big Island  
[koha.la/energy-wastemgmt](http://koha.la/energy-wastemgmt)



strategies for Hawai‘i Island. These activities led to professional development workshops for local planners and architects to further energy efficiency strategies and implementation in their future projects. The issues and solutions that these dialogues highlighted also helped to advance statewide discussions on critical energy topics.

In 2007 we collaborated with the County of Hawai‘i and Yale University’s School of Forestry and Environmental Studies to complete the *Hawai‘i County Baseline Energy Analysis and Material Flows on the Island of Hawai‘i*, examining the county’s energy consumption and renewable potential. The studies, the first of their kind in Hawai‘i, revealed some startling facts and statistics, such as the cost and impact of Hawai‘i Island’s dependence on imported petroleum: \$750,000,000 in 2007 alone.

The baseline analysis spurred us to author a set of recommendations to enhance Hawai‘i Island’s energy sustainability through energy efficiency measures and increased use of renewable energy resources. Educational and outreach programs on Hawai‘i Island began to encourage energy efficiency, such as through the replacement of incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs, but much more was needed. In the summer of 2011, our partnerships with Yale yielded a report on rate-payer generated energy efficiency funding with analysis of whether neighbor islands and lower-income families were receiving an equitable share of this financial support. In response, Hawai‘i Energy, the state’s “electric energy efficiency utility,” adjusted its allocations to better reflect the contribution of each island to Hawai‘i’s efficiency fund.

A year later we released the *County of Hawai‘i Energy Sustainability Program Five-Year Roadmap*, which identified a number of ways in which local government can lead Hawai‘i Island to greater energy sustainability and advance the island’s renewable energy goals, all while reducing costs to taxpayers by eliminating millions of dollars in County energy purchases.

We also understand that Hawai‘i must not only support new methods of creating energy, but of delivering it as well. Microgrids are localized power grids that can separate from the traditional grid to operate autonomously, adding incremental layers of energy security and reliability for island communities. Our 2013 collaboration with the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo and Cornell University resulted in a microgrid feasibility study, with the UH Hilo campus serving as an example of the potential impacts and benefits of microgrid development.

Electricity, however, is just a portion of Hawai‘i’s energy landscape: large quantities of jet fuel and petroleum are also in demand. Hawai‘i Island’s transportation sector is its largest energy consumer, accounting for 52% of the island’s total energy for ground transport and aviation. In 2014 we collaborated with the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment on an analysis of the island’s public transportation system, which resulted in the report *Expanding Transportation Opportunities on Hawai‘i Island*. Like the County Roadmap and our other reports, it provides recommendations—in this case how to reduce vehicle miles traveled and make shared and public ground transportation more attractive, efficient, and equitable for island residents.

We remain committed to helping Hawai‘i move toward greater energy innovation and independence. Much more work needs to be done and island communities deserve more opportunities to engage in charting the course of their energy future. Through proactive research, policy recommendations, conservation and restoration initiatives, and public outreach and education, energy self-reliance for people and communities throughout Hawai‘i is attainable. We have the resources and the motivation to effect meaningful change so that Hawai‘i Island can be a model—for Hawai‘i and the world.



# FOOD: ENHANCING PUBLIC HEALTH, ABUNDANCE, AND SELF-RELIANCE

In recent years, a sobering statistic from our 2007 *Hawai'i County Food Self-Sufficiency Baseline Study* has frequently been cited in policy, research, and community activism: that in Hawai'i, the most isolated island group in the world, we import nearly 90% of our food from at least 2,300 miles away. International studies add a sobering dimension to this picture. In 1999, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations reported that the world had lost an estimated 75% of its crop diversity during the 20th century, due largely to Green Revolution shifts in agricultural and economic practices to industrial monocropping and globalized food systems and marketing. As climate change continues to impact ecosystems and societies across the globe, the urgency to find creative solutions to a looming food crisis has become more apparent, as evidenced in the 2013 United Nations Trade and Environment Review's report, *Wake Up Before It Is Too Late*, which calls for profound transformations from industrial agriculture to sustainable local systems founded in diverse small-scale farms.

As an isolated island community, Hawai'i's unique vulnerability and experience with these issues can be a source of strength as we share our stories with other societies and work globally towards solutions that draw from our ancestral wisdom and intimate kinship with the 'āina. Our president and CEO, Dr. Kamanamaikalani Beamer, reflected upon these inspiring connections after attending a February 2015 meeting of global indigenous leaders in Rome at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: "To hear representatives from places as different and far away as Central Africa and Siberia essentially agree that small family farms, biodiversity, agroecology, and indigenous knowledge and practices are vital to achieving global food security and eradicating malnutrition actually gave me 'chicken skin.' It made me realize that as we advance these approaches in Hawai'i, we're not operating in a bubble. The broader value systems that we have in Hawai'i and Hawaiian culture are actually aligned with what communities in other corners of the world are advocating and seeing success with as well." Over the years, with input and support from the communities we serve and our partners, we have created and administered innovative food programs to create resilient lifelines between agriculture, economic and rural development, education, and

## 2015 FOOD PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

### Research

- The Society of Practitioners of Health Impact Assessment recognized our 2012 Health Impact Assessment of the Hawai'i County Agriculture Development Plan, made possible by generous grants from the Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, as a model in the field. The organization is the only professional society working to promote the use of high-quality assessments to evaluate the possible health impacts of public policy decisions.

### Hawai'i Island School Garden Network

- FoodCorps Hawai'i: Served for the third year in a row as the host site in Hawai'i for the national FoodCorps program, supporting nine FoodCorps service members in twelve schools on Hawai'i Island, Moloka'i, and O'ahu. Through FoodCorps we extend our services into high-need schools, strengthening garden-based learning programs and connecting keiki to fresh, healthy, locally grown food.
- Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui: Continued to administer and support this group of representatives from school garden networks, state agencies, and institutions across the Hawaiian Islands to advance farm to school initiatives.
- Hawai'i Senate Bill 376: Worked with community partners and organizations for seven years to lobby and advocate for this bill to create a statewide farm to school program and funds a one-year coordinator position in the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. The bill was passed and signed into law in July 2015.







cultural practices of connection and care for the ‘āina and the ocean. Our work and research are part of a growing body of knowledge from Pacific Islands that is realizing conceptual shifts from untethered ideas of “sustainable development” to actual “sustainable livelihoods” that confront perceptions of poverty and dependence head on by instead focusing on community strength, health, and creativity. We strive to nurture multiple facets of Hawai‘i’s growing food sovereignty system through our holistic program approach, weaving the efforts of our Hawai‘i Island School Garden Network, Hawai‘i Public Seed Initiative, Rural and Cooperative Business Development Services, and Beginning Farmer-Rancher Development Program, combining past innovation and contemporary wisdom together into a more hopeful present.

By supporting 68 school gardens on Hawai‘i Island through technical assistance, professional development programs, mini-grants, participation on wellness and garden committees, and providing curriculum resources, our **Hawai‘i Island School Garden Network (HISGN)** connects Hawai‘i’s keiki (children) to real food, healthier eating habits, and the ‘āina itself. Numerous studies show that school learning gardens improve academic performance in a wide spectrum of subjects, foster positive attitudes toward learning, bolster healthy behaviors and nutrition, promote cooperation and teamwork, and instill children with pride in their work and the food they grow. The heart of the Network’s impact is its power to build connections—from guiding children’s hands through the dirt of school gardens to convening leaders to lobby for and pass revolutionary legislation like the statewide Farm to School Bill; from sharing our knowledge with school garden advocates on other islands and facilitating FoodCorps mentorship in underserved schools to supporting indigenous voyaging around the world to share the message of caring for our shared planet.

HISGN creates and sustains strategic, nurturing hui (networks) to promote understanding of how the rich changes in our children’s lives can feed our larger communities. This methodology of building concentric circles of rippling change was enacted in this year’s successful pilot of Teachers Teaching Teachers, a series of free monthly garden curriculum workshops led and designed by graduates of our Kū‘Āina Pā School Garden Teacher Training Program for the benefit of other K-12 teachers. Empowered teacher-leaders offered workshops covering topics such as soil science, systems

- **Hawai‘i Farm to School Conference:** Organized an island-wide gathering of 175 food systems stakeholders at Kamehameha Schools’ Kapālama campus on O‘ahu. The event promoted knowledge and best practices needed to develop and sustain a statewide farm to school program to re-grow Hawai‘i’s agricultural economy, future farmers, and healthy schools and communities.
- **Charter School Food Working Group:** Organized and facilitated a meeting on Hawai‘i Island with the Office of Hawai‘i Child Nutrition Programs and the Hawai‘i Public Charter Schools Network to advance charter school food programs and the formation of a charter school food cooperative.
- **Teachers Teaching Teachers:** Piloted this ten-session professional development series at outdoor classrooms across Hawai‘i Island.
- **‘Ai Pono Workshops:** Continued this educational series for K-12 teachers to connect them with cultural practitioners to learn how to prepare and package voyaging food and cordage for the Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage of Hōkūle‘a and Hikianalia.
- **Curriculum Mapping:** With support from the William H. Hurt Foundation, Bill Healy Foundation, and USDA, facilitated an eight-day intensive workshop bringing together teacher leaders to create alignment between garden education and core educational standards.

#### Hawai‘i Public Seed Initiative

- **Seed Variety Selection Tool for the Hawaiian Islands:** Launched this user-friendly online database (koha.la/seedselector) with support from the Ceres Trust to assist Hawai‘i’s farmers and gardeners in selecting seed varieties suited to their unique climate zones.
- **Favorite Nonprofit:** Voted by readers of Edible Hawaiian Islands magazine as “favorite nonprofit” in 2015 Local Hero Awards.





thinking, growing heirloom vegetables, and connecting with ancestral wisdom through native plants, inspiring and educating larger circles of teachers to share these lessons with their own students and colleagues. As HISGN director Nancy Redfeather reflects, “connecting our children to real food, to our unique and fragile Hawaiian ecosystem, to stewardship of the land, and to their classroom curriculum using knowledge and skills for real life problem solving, creates a timely opportunity to really shift the way we view our health, the health of the ‘āina, and the health of our communities into the future. What inspires me are the teacher-leaders who are pioneering this work with our keiki all across Hawai‘i.”

Building upon this series, HISGN also coordinated a special series of ‘Ai Pono workshops in which Hawaiian cultural practitioners taught K-12 teachers how to incorporate lessons about food and cordage used on wa‘a (Polynesian voyaging canoes) into their school-garden curricula. Keiki across Hawai‘i are following and contributing to the Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage of Hōkūle‘a and Hikianalia by tracking the voyage’s progress; growing indigenous foods like kalo (taro), lū‘au leaf, and herbal teas in their school gardens; building solar dehydrators; and preparing and packaging foods for the voyagers with great love and care to feed the crew’s body, mind, and spirit while keeping them connected with the ‘āina they call home. In turn, Hōkūle‘a crewmembers will share enthusiastic stories of Hawai‘i’s growing school garden movement with other communities along their global journey. What sets HISGN apart from other school garden programs in the U.S. are these kinds of partnerships that manifest the belief that humble school gardens can truly change the world.

The same practice of empowering and placing faith in many hands in our communities guides the work of our **Hawai‘i Public Seed Initiative (HPSI)**, which perhaps illustrates more than any of our food programs the wondrous mathematics of seeds: how even the tiniest kernel can multiply into an abundance that can feed us all. In an effort to improve, increase, and promote biodiversity, HPSI works with communities, farmers, and gardeners statewide to select, grow, harvest, store, and improve seed varieties that thrive in Hawai‘i. With more than 90% of the fruit and vegetable varieties offered by seed companies in the United States in 1900 no longer available today, open-pollinated seed

- **Mini-grants:** Disbursed \$18,614 in funding support to ten projects across five islands in areas including seed education, variety trials, crop database development, market analysis, and quality control.
- **Statewide Seed Network Gathering:** Convened this group in Waimea for the second consecutive year to report on mini-grant projects, discuss inter-island seed exchanges, and tour and learn from inspiring farms.
- **Hawai‘i Seed Co-op:** Hosted strategic gathering of seed leaders from across the islands to begin envisioning a formal seed cooperative to facilitate local seed production and contribute to Hawai‘i’s long-term food security.
- **First International Seed Library Forum:** Represented Hawai‘i at this event in Tucson, Arizona to learn about seed-lending libraries, share ideas, discuss legal and logistical challenges, and bring home knowledge to guide potential future creation of public seed libraries in Hawai‘i.

#### Rural and Cooperative Business Development Services

- **Hawai‘i Island Food Producers Fund:** Launched in 2014 with funding from Hawai‘i County and in collaboration with Kiva Zip to increase the amount of low-cost capital available to food producers. In fiscal year 2014–2015 the program leveraged \$20,200 of County funds to help generate \$58,000 in interest-free loans to seven local farms and value-added producers.
- **Kahiau Microloan and Financial Education Program:** Launched this initiative with support from the Kahiau Foundation to provide technical assistance and microloans to small and/or new food producers on Hawai‘i Island and Moloka‘i that are typically underserved by traditional banking institutions. In fiscal year 2014–2015 the program awarded two \$15,000 microloans.

is being lost at a rapid rate. HPSI offers workshops, organizes seed exchanges, assists in the design and development of variety trials, and opens public seed libraries to revive the art and science of seed saving in Hawai‘i.

The core practice of HPSI is simple and elegant: cultivating people’s seasonal practices of nourishing and caring for each other by coming together and sharing at community seed exchanges, educational events, and potlucks. This year HPSI extended this culture of community exchange to the virtual world with the launch of the Seed Variety Selection Tool for the Hawaiian Islands, a free online resource driven by peer-contributed data to assist small-scale farmers and backyard gardeners in Hawai‘i. Because Hawai‘i is unique in its myriad microclimates and how quickly they change, consulting North American plant hardiness zone maps offers minimal, often unusable guidance for growers in Hawai‘i. Part map and part survey, this tool combines detailed climate data with personal reports from farmers and gardeners, ultimately facilitating information-sharing across islands and creating a hub of local knowledge increasingly vital in this time of climate change. HPSI also administered \$16,000 in mini-grants to fund local projects in seed education and seed variety trials, building seed wisdom throughout the islands.

HPSI coordinator Lyn Howe works from the belief that seeds are more than an ecological means to an end, they also embody the past and future of a community. She often returns to the 2013 Yvapuruvu Declaration by a collective of seed activists for inspiration: “Seeds are the work of peoples and a part of their history. They have been created through collective work, creativity, experimentation, and stewardship. Seeds in turn have shaped peoples, making possible their specific and diverse ways of growing crops and feeding themselves, and allowing them to share and develop their worldviews. Seeds are therefore intimately linked to community standards, responsibilities, obligations, and rights. Seeds place responsibilities on us that precede our right to use them.” HPSI’s work centers around the wisdom of seeds, a wisdom that has been created by and passed through generations of local farmers in partnership with Hawai‘i’s changing ‘āina.

Our relationships with Hawai‘i’s natural landscape steer our strategic and creative work to expand and strengthen rural economies and food systems, in part by redefining value and



- **Cooperative Development:** Provided technical assistance in cooperative development to seven start-up cooperatives including the Hawai‘i Island Meat Cooperative, Moa‘ula Ag Water Cooperative, Alili Ag Water Cooperative, Mountain House Ag Water Cooperative, Hua Ka Hāmākua, and coffee berry borer equipment co-ops in North Kona, South Kona, and Ka‘ū.
- **Technical Assistance:** Provided additional support to co-ops and co-op-related projects including Maui County venison businesses that are researching funding support for inspection fees, the Moloka‘i Food Hub for the marshaling and distribution of local food, and Kamuela Vacuum Cooling Cooperative for an energy assessment and food safety upgrades.
- **Cottage Food Industry:** Convened a working group with support from the Ulupono Initiative and comprised of cottage food producers and employees from the Hawai‘i Department of Health (HDOH) to explore legislation to support home-made food operators. Published the Hawai‘i Cottage Food Business Working Group Report, which recommends revising regulations to expand home-based food production and economic opportunity for small food businesses. Provided written and oral testimony in support of proposed Hawai‘i Senate Bill 379, which incorporated the many of the report’s recommendations; HDOH amended the Food Safety Code to streamline requirements for the production of non-potentially hazardous foods in home kitchens and remove unnecessary restrictions.
- **Ho‘olaha ka Hua:** Provided grant writing assistance to The Food Basket to secure more than \$220,000 in funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Wallace Center at Winrock International to create and administer this food hub program that makes healthy CSA boxes of farm-fresh local produce available to island residents receiving SNAP benefits.



wealth in ways unique to the islands. Our **Rural and Cooperative Business Development Services (RCBDS)** program provides technical assistance, consulting services, and microloans to Hawai‘i’s agricultural and cooperative businesses to help them thrive and succeed. To work toward its goal of building and strengthening a truly ‘āina-based economy, RCBDS focuses its efforts on increasing local food production, expanding distribution channels for agricultural producers, creating jobs, stabilizing energy costs, and improving health and prosperity in Hawai‘i’s rural communities.

Our team of business specialists continues to build new networks that help food producers and consumers better support each other. This year we supported several collaborations, including The Food Basket’s Ho‘olaha ka Hua (“Propagating fruit”) program that makes CSA (community-supported agriculture) boxes full of fresh, locally grown produce available to island residents with SNAP benefits. By expanding access to CSA boxes, this program also creates self-sustaining food hubs that in turn help stabilize the income of small farmers. We also piloted the Hawai‘i Island Food Producers Fund, a matching loan collaboration with the County of Hawai‘i and the microlending organization Kiva Zip, to make no-interest loans available to small Hawai‘i businesses. The program values potential applicants’ social capital, rather than their credit score, via factors such as a borrower’s character and trust network, collateral, or cash flows to determine their eligibility for loans. In fiscal year 2014–2015 this new fund leveraged \$20,200 of County funds to help generate \$58,000 in loans, stimulating a more diversified local economy.

We remain dedicated to leading bold collaborations that realize how a truly healthy economy is about connection and reciprocity, social justice, and relationships and access for all members of the community. As our associate vice president of programs Nicole Milne reflects, “I am so inspired working with Hawai‘i’s food producers, who in spite of so many challenges like competition with cheaper continental imports and the high prices of agricultural inputs, work so hard to bring food to local markets and earn money for their families. Supporting local agriculture is a team sport and each of us has an important role to play. We experience the nutritional benefits, better taste, and deep connections to place when we have access to locally grown food, and therefore must be willing to support Hawai‘i-grown products that will ultimately help sustain our island’s agricultural industry.”



- **Hawai‘i Island Meat Cooperative:** Worked in strategic partnership with the Hawai‘i Small Business Development Center, the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture, and Big Island Resource Conservation & Development to establish and develop this cooperative venture that will place Hawai‘i’s first USDA-inspected mobile slaughter unit into service in early 2016.

#### **Beginning Farmer-Rancher Development Program**

- **Farmer Training Programs:** Graduated 15 new Hawai‘i Island farmers from our Beginning Farmer Training Program’s fourth cohort, bringing the total number of program graduates since 2012 to 72. Launched a 10-month farm mentorship program that provided 12 new and aspiring farmers with apprenticeships at established farms across Hawai‘i Island.
- **Sustainable Agriculture Internships:** Introduced 43 Hawai‘i Island high school students and recent graduates to careers in agriculture through this paid internship program. Since 2013 the one- and two-week internships have connected 57 island students with local farming and food systems.
- **Demonstration Farm:** Our demonstration farm in Honoka‘a, which serves as a hands-on outdoor classroom for our educational programs, has become a productive farm in less than three years. Produce harvested at the farm is sold at two regional farmers markets.
- **Cover Crop Research and Workshops:** Received a USDA Conservation Innovation Grant to offer cover crop workshops to the public and develop demonstration sites around Hawai‘i Island.

Inspiring Hawai‘i’s children to develop deep reverence for the ‘āina and what it can provide, encouraging the saving and sharing of seeds to ensure our islands’ present and future food supply, and supporting local food producers and rural businesses are all integral facets of strengthening food security in Hawai‘i. But reducing our staggering dependence on imported food will not be possible without an ample pipeline of knowledgeable and motivated farmers and ranchers. Recognizing that the number of farms in Hawai‘i and across the U.S. is declining while the average age of farmers is increasing, we created the **Beginning Farmer-Rancher Development Program** (BFRDP) in 2012 with support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County of Hawai‘i to train new farming families on Hawai‘i Island and inspire island youth to consider careers in agriculture.



This year, 15 students successfully completed our fourth farmer training course, bringing the total number of new Hawai‘i Island farmers trained through this program to 72—well surpassing our initial goal of training 48 new farming families over three years. This year we added a beginning farmer mentoring program that focused on supporting limited-resource and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers such as women, veterans, and Asian/Pacific Islanders, matching them with experienced local food producers to gain hands-on experience and guidance.

We also introduced 36 Hawai‘i Island high school students to careers in responsible farming and local food production through our paid one- and two-week Sustainable Agriculture Internships, created with support from Kamehameha Schools’ ‘Āina Ulu program. As a result of this program, three of our summer 2015 interns were inspired to apply for and attend a Native Youth In Agriculture Leadership Summit sponsored by the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas School of Law this summer, joining 79 other Native Hawaiian, Alaska Native, and American Indian youth for eight days of classroom instruction, field trips, leadership development, and sharing of indigenous knowledge.

Our current farmer training programs connect new and prospective farmers with mentor farmers, thereby grooming not just more farmers, but resilient networks of relationships and support that will continue to extend and strengthen Hawai‘i’s rural economy. BFRDP’s focus on mentorship is inspired by the Hawaiian ‘ōlelo noeau “Kū nō i ka māna a ke kahu hānai” (to proudly be like the one from whom you have learned). By nurturing genealogies of mentorship and habits of caring for each other, we are collectively learning how to feed each other again. We also take this spirit of humility, of being fed, to the relationship between people and the land, the ‘āina which feeds us.

The waning interest in farming is a growing problem across the world, and requires a multi-faceted response that includes public investment in farming, access to land and resources, and efforts to change the public perception of farming as a valuable enterprise. BFRDP’s success comes not only from its solid vision, but in the way it works as a part of the woven whole of our diverse and grounded efforts around food. By empowering people to plant their own gardens, invest in small businesses, host community gatherings, tap in to strategic change-making networks, and teach each other and learn how to care for our shared ‘āina, we follow the path of ancestral wisdom that has shown us that caring for the land—and enabling the land to feed us again—will heal us and move us toward an abundant future.





## ECOSYSTEM HEALTH: CARING FOR OURSELVES BY CARING FOR THE 'ĀINA

In 2011, the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources published the stewardship action plan, *The Rain Follows the Forest: A Plan to Replenish Hawai'i's Source of Water*, to call for the urgent protection and restoration of native forests to preserve Hawai'i's primary sources of fresh water. The plan estimated that half of Hawai'i's forests had already been lost to deforestation, with the remainder threatened by non-native plants and animals. The next 10 to 20 years in particular have been identified as a critical timeframe for all of us to rise to our kuleana (responsibility) as caretakers of Hawai'i's natural resources, especially in light of forecasts of unusually dry weather cycles and other unforeseen effects of climate change. Our ecosystem health programs are rooted in the Hawaiian understanding that waiwai—true wealth—relies on wai, the fresh water that is essential to agriculture and the survival of our communities. Our mauka-to-makai (mountain-to-sea) approach is central to all of our programs' efforts to reconnect island residents, and visitors from all over the world, with the importance of caring for the 'āina in exchange for meaningful and happy lives.

Our **Kohala Watershed Partnership** (KWP) is a voluntary coalition of private landowners and public land managers dedicated to restoring and protecting the native forested watersheds of Kohala Mountain. Through the implementation of an adaptive watershed management plan to create fenced preserves, manage feral ungulates, control invasive plants, and restore native forests, KWP protects essential ecosystem services including the capture of rainwater, sediment mitigation, and groundwater recharge. These actions ensure that both native ecosystems and human communities in North Hawai'i have an abundant supply of fresh water, and protect downslope coastal ecosystems from the detrimental effects of land-based pollution.

KWP's field crew works in the forests, streams, cliffs, and pastures on and surrounding Kohala Mountain controlling feral ungulates and invasive plants, building and maintaining conservation fences, mitigating erosion, surveying vegetation and stream life, and planting native trees in nine conservation areas spanning 9,000 acres.

### 2015 ECOSYSTEM HEALTH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

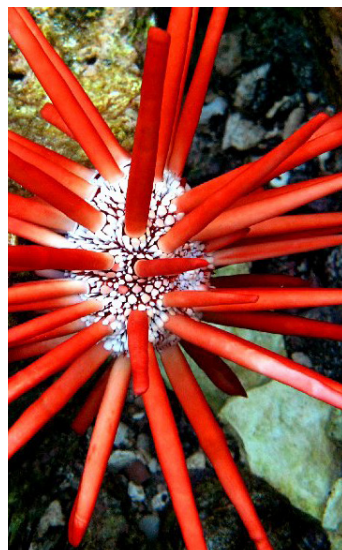
#### Kohala Watershed Partnership

- **Waimea Nature Camp:** Continued this summer program for second through eighth graders that teaches kids key environmental concepts and deepens their kinship with the 'āina through exploration of our island's natural environment.
- **Teen Leadership Summer Program:** Develops motivated teen leaders who wish to pursue careers in science or conservation through a rigorous two-month program that exposes them to natural science and conservation careers.
- **Sediment Check Dams:** Dams built by our field crew to prevent soil and sediment runoff from flowing into Pelekane Bay are seeing clean water flowing to and over them today, indicating that our restoration efforts are working.
- **"Images of Kohala: Source of Water, Source of Life":** Kicked off this three-year photographer-in-residence project to inspire appreciation of native Hawaiian forests by photographing, documenting, and publishing stories about the flora, fauna, water, and atmospheres of Hawai'i Island's oldest and most ecologically diverse mountain. The project will culminate in a book and a traveling photography exhibit in 2017.

#### Kahalu'u Bay Education Center

- **Mobile Education Unit:** Support from hundreds of donors, businesses, volunteers, and community partners exceeded the \$60,000 needed to replace the aging van that had served as our educational program's center since it launched in 2011.





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The crew's technical, labor-intensive stewardship of these diverse and threatened ecosystems teaches us a respect and reverence for 'āina that enables us to envision our work on a much larger scale. For example, this year KWP witnessed visible proof that the watershed is healing: despite several episodes of unusually heavy rain in North Hawai'i in the first half of 2015, sediment check dams built and maintained by the Partnership's field crew are seeing clean water flowing to and over them. This means that ongoing efforts to restore vegetation on a watershed damaged by years of wildfires and uncontrolled feral goat populations are working, sparing the downstream coral reef ecosystems of Pelekane Bay from damaging soil and silt. While there continues to be a need for sediment check dams to protect the ocean below, the need is now not as urgent thanks to the vision of the KWP partners and hard work by the KWP field crew over the years.

Learning from the 'āina requires time and patience, as we can see in another progressively building success story. 2015 marks our eighth consecutive year of coordinating volunteers to plant native trees in the Koai'a Corridor, a deforested area on Kohala Mountain. Conditions can be harsh for young trees in this barren site due to strong winds and direct sunlight, competition with alien grasses, and compacted soil from more than a century of cattle grazing, but after eight years and approximately 36,000 native trees planted, the gradual transformation from pasture to forest is evident. As the trees mature, their roots allow water to infiltrate deeper, the soil is enriched by decomposing leaf litter, and biodiversity is enhanced. KWP coordinator Melora Purell notes that "the plants change the system in ways people cannot. Essentially, we plant as many trees and as many different species as possible, and then let Mother Nature take her course." Herein lies our respectful approach to reforestation and stewardship: He ali'i nō ka 'āina; he kauwā ke kanaka (truly the land is the chief, and the human the humble servant).

- **West Hawai'i Marine Mammal Response Network:** Received a NOAA Monk Seal Recovery grant to oversee the reorganization of this community volunteer program to aid stranded, injured, and vulnerable whales, dolphins, and Hawaiian monk seals. As the organization's interim managing partner we helped strengthen relationships with the local community, designed and launched a new website ([whmmrn.org](http://whmmrn.org)), developed new brochures and educational displays, trained 40 new volunteers in education and interpersonal skills, and reached nearly 1,300 elementary school students through engaging educational programs about the plight of endangered Hawaiian monk seals.
- **Youth Summer Programs:** Trained international students participating in Wilderness Ventures and Bold Earth Adventures summer programs as ReefTeachers at Kahalu'u Bay, instilling greater knowledge of marine ecosystems and inspiring them to become lifelong stewards of our planet's oceans.
- **Hurdles for Turtles:** Launched this year to strengthen our educational and conservation initiatives to protect honu by gaining a better understanding of their movements and encounters with people in and around Kahalu'u Bay. Twenty-nine turtles were humanely tagged with microchips and numbers while two turtles were outfitted with satellite tags, allowing us to monitor their movements.
- **Surf Schools:** Continued to collaborate with surf-school owners and county and state officials to pass legislation to reduce the environmental impact of surf schools at Kahalu'u, as well as designate swimming and surfing zones to enhance public safety in the bay.





KWP's education and outreach programs help to reconnect the public, and keiki in particular, with the Kohala watershed, growing the intimacy and aloha needed for communities enriched by the mountain to realize kuleana and connection to this vital and vulnerable place. We are reminded how the 'āina calls to all who love her in a sentiment expressed by recent Honoka'a High School graduate KaMele Sanchez, an intrepid teen leader who participated as an intern for both KWP and in our Sustainable Agriculture Internship Program. She believes that within the challenges that threaten our ecosystems, there are opportunities "to fight for the island I love. While at times [the challenges] may seem unpromising and forlorn, they can be won and they are worth it." The 'āina of Kohala Mountain continues to teach us strength and how to see beyond our immediate lives—to generations behind and ahead of us.



© Doug Sell

Making our way roughly 60 miles makai of Kohala Mountain, our **Kahalu'u Bay Education Center (KBEC)**, borne of a ten-year agreement between us and the County of Hawai'i to revive and revitalize Kahalu'u Bay and Beach Park, reflects our commitment to protecting marine ecosystems and restoring culturally significant places. Rich in historical, cultural, and environmental treasures, Kahalu'u Bay welcomes more than 400,000 visitors annually, making it West Hawai'i's most popular tourist destination. As visitor traffic increases, educating visitors on proper reef etiquette and ecosystem stewardship is critical to the bay's survival and the region's economic health. Through volunteer-driven educational programs such as ReefTeach and Citizen Science, KBEC promotes and measures the positive impacts of environmental stewardship to ensure the bay remains a healthy and welcoming place for residents and visitors alike. KBEC's staff and ReefTeach volunteers greet, educate, rent snorkel gear, and sell merchandise to 12,000 visitors a year at the center, and educate an additional 40,000 patrons annually on the beach and in the water about ocean stewardship and the conservation of marine resources.



Like KWP, the success and accomplishments of KBEC are largely driven by the development of solid partnerships and relationships. Recognized for our ability to respectfully engage communities and facilitate effective partnerships, we were awarded a grant at the start of fiscal year 2015 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office for KBEC to help reorganize the West Hawai'i Marine Mammal Response Network. The Network, a volunteer group dedicated to protecting and educating the public about endangered Hawaiian monk seals, humpback whales, and dolphins, was in need of short-term logistical and administrative support to get back on its feet as well as help with volunteer coordination, recruitment, and training. "Their focus was on saving Hawaiian monk seals and trying to get communities to agree with their ideas, but we approach community-based solutions differently," KBEC director Cindi Punihaole explains. "We believe that building trust, respect, and solid relationships with the broader community, like what we've done for years at Kahalu'u, provides the nurturing environment and acceptance needed to save endangered resources. Along the way, we listen to the communities we serve, encourage constructive dialogue, and empower them to get involved. It's all about balance." The reorganized Network was successfully transitioned to its new managing partner, The Marine Mammal Center, and will be administered by the staff of the Center's Ke Kai Ola Hawaiian Monk Seal Hospital in Kailua-Kona.

Relationships were also key in helping KBEC upgrade its presence at Kahalu'u Beach Park and its capacity to serve and educate more visitors. An effort initiated in early 2014 to raise \$60,000 from the community for a new mobile education unit well surpassed its goal. The community welcomed the new center—a 25-foot-long mobile education unit—with a blessing and celebration on June 22. The new facility, which replaces the original colorful van that served as the program's headquarters since its official launch in 2011, provides an increase of more than 1,000 cubic feet of space for everything from snorkel gear and merchandise to educational materials. The additional capacity will enable the center to serve and educate even more visitors on how to enjoy Kahalu'u Bay without harming its fragile corals. The new vehicle represents not only the program's growth, but speaks to KBEC's success in gaining trust and support from local businesses, residents, volunteers, and visitors.



© Doug Sell

Through KBEC's volunteer-driven ReefTeach program, Kahalu'u Bay serves as a dynamic classroom to educate residents and visitors alike about the need to protect the Earth's oceans and marine life. This year KBEC once again partnered with Wilderness Ventures and Bold Earth Adventures summer programs, giving teenagers from around the world the opportunity to become intimately acquainted with the wonders of Kahalu'u Bay. Participants are asked to "give back" to Kahalu'u by serving as ReefTeachers themselves, sharing their newly acquired knowledge with visitors to the bay and, subsequently, with members of their own communities when they return home. Although KBEC's educational efforts are primarily intended to have positive and immediate benefits to Kahalu'u Bay's fragile ecosystem, the program's focus and impact reach well beyond just Kahalu'u and Hawai'i Island by recognizing that our planet's oceans connect us all, and we share a collective kuleana to care for them, their inhabitants, and the communities that depend on marine resources for survival.



Our ecosystem health programs continue to turn ancestral connection with 'āina into meaningful and joyful action, adding to a growing wealth of knowledge from Hawai'i that documents the intrinsic connection between ecological and community health. The knowledge of the past and present are being harnessed in meaningful ways to influence policymaking, sustainable agriculture, large-scale planning, and community engagement.





## EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT: SUPPORTING TOMORROW'S INTELLECTUAL LEADERS

Inextricably woven within our pursuit of energy self-reliance, food self-reliance, and the renewal and protection of ecosystems is a commitment to advancing the intellectual development of island youth and adults. We pride ourselves in employing intelligent, passionate, and creative thinkers and doers capable of translating data, ideas, and wisdom into action, and are honored to collaborate with partners and peer organizations that are also implementing innovative solutions. Yet we are also aware of Hawai'i's leadership needs in the face of daunting local, national, and global challenges. Empowering and inspiring tomorrow's intellectual leaders—primarily through engagement with Hawai'i's historical, scientific, artistic, and cultural wisdom—must be a priority.

We believe it is essential that ancestral knowledge continue to be passed on to future generations. By supporting the advancement of indigenous scholars, we can ensure that this knowledge is not only taught, but that it informs contemporary discourses and solutions. Our **Mellon-Hawai'i Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship Program** supports the work of indigenous Hawaiian scholars early in their academic careers and others who advance the knowledge of Hawai'i's natural and cultural landscape and Hawaiian history, politics, and society. Given our successes in creating knowledge-rich jobs and fostering the development of a knowledge-based economy and society in Hawai'i, the Mellon-Hawai'i Fellowship Program supports the development of kama'aina intellectual leadership for Hawai'i's schools, universities, and research agencies.

The 2014–2015 academic year welcomed two doctoral and two postdoctoral fellows to the Mellon-Hawai'i 'ohana, bringing the total number of Hawaiian scholars supported by this program to 29. We established the program in 2008 in partnership with The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and with support from Kamehameha Schools; the Kahiau Foundation provided additional support in 2010–2011 and 2012–2013. Fellows receive a stipend and mentoring to enable doctoral candidates to complete their dissertations before accepting their first academic posts, and postdoctoral scholars the opportunity to publish original research early in their academic careers.

Through their dissertations and manuscripts, the fellows in our seventh cohort focused on some of the most important issues facing Hawai'i and our communities today:

- In her dissertation, doctoral fellow **Dr. Noelani Puniwai** evaluated how and why different ocean user groups socially construct and delineate marine space much in the way that coastal areas are ecologically delineated through definitions of functional space. Dr. Puniwai worked with mentor Dr. Craig Severance, professor emeritus in anthropology at UH Hilo, and received her Ph.D. in natural resources and environmental management in July 2015.
- Doctoral fellow **Dr. Liza Keānuenueokalani Williams**' interdisciplinary research focused on the historical and contemporary trajectories of colonialism in Hawai'i and its shifting relationship with the United States through the commodification of indigenous Hawaiian culture, land, and people. Williams received her Ph.D. in American studies from New York University in May 2015 and was mentored by Dr. Vernadette Vicuna Gonzales in the Department of American Studies at UH Mānoa.



- **Dr. Noa Kekuewa Lincoln**'s postdoctoral research examines combining traditional and modern land management knowledge to evaluate corporate and policy decisions from a basis of social utility rather than an economic one. The postdoctoral fellowship supported the completion of his second book on Hawaiian ethnobotany and will inform future articles on how Hawaiian farming techniques were uniquely adapted. He was mentored by our president and CEO, Dr. Kamanamaikalani Beamer, while still serving as assistant professor in the Hui 'Āina Momona program with a joint appointment between the Hawai'i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge and Richardson School of Law at UH Mānoa. Lincoln earned his Ph.D. in interdisciplinary environmental research from Stanford University in 2013.
- Postdoctoral fellow **Dr. Rebecca 'Ilima Luning**'s research focuses on the cultural goals, values, and purposes of Hawaiian learning in a modern context. Luning is a cultural and educational specialist in the department of educational psychology at UH Mānoa and the project coordinator of the Mōhala Nā Pua program at the University's Center for Research on Education, Diversity, and Excellence. She worked with mentor Dr. Keiki Kawai'ae'a, director of the Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language at UH Hilo, and received her Ph.D. in developmental psychology from UH Mānoa in 2013.

Our 'āina-based programs covered earlier in this report educate more than 8,000 youth and adults from Hawai'i and around the world each year, giving them opportunities to engage the land and get their hands dirty—often quite literally:



- Because of the work of our **Hawai'i Island School Garden Network (HISGN)**, thousands of K through 12 students in 68 schools on Hawai'i Island (and many more across the state) are developing respectful, symbiotic relationships with the land. They're not just growing their own food and developing a taste for healthy, locally grown fruits and vegetables in these gardens, they are also applying standard curriculum concepts in science, technology, engineering, and math in outdoor learning laboratories. HISGN also hosts and supports **FoodCorps** service members who create and improve learning garden programs in high-need schools on Hawai'i Island, Moloka'i, and O'ahu, and facilitates professional development programs for Hawai'i's school garden and classroom educators, including the yearlong Kū 'Āina Pā teacher training program and this year's Teachers Teaching Teachers workshop series conducted at school learning gardens around Hawai'i Island.
- Our **Beginning Farmer-Rancher Development Program** educates adults interested in becoming food producers through a comprehensive course covering multiple facets of starting and maintaining agricultural businesses, and offers island high school students and recent graduates paid one- and two-week internships in which they work on farms and learn about local food systems, indigenous Hawaiian land management, and sustainable agricultural practices.





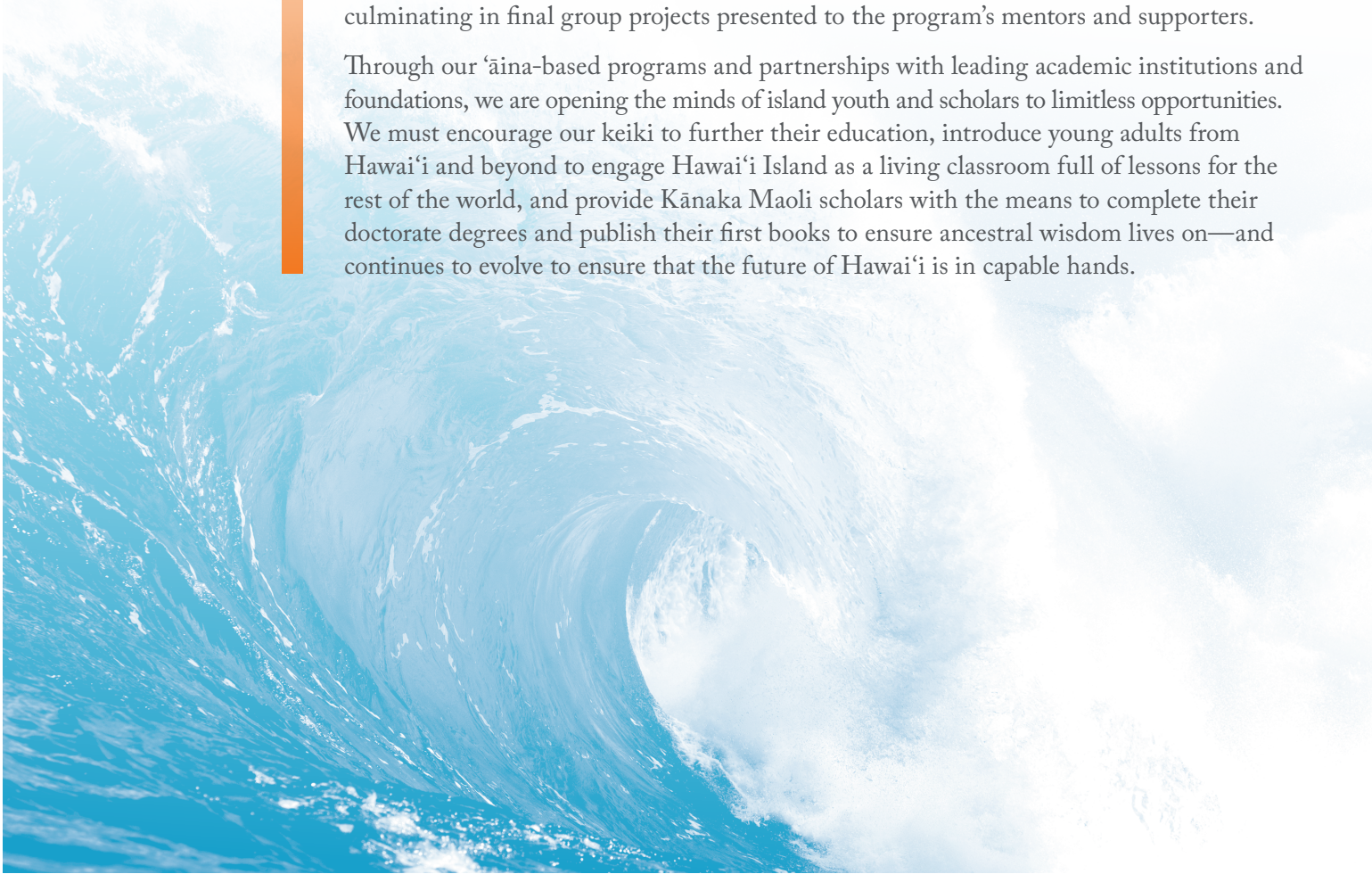
- As concerns about food security and self-reliance grow, more and more community members are becoming interested in backyard gardening and selecting seeds suited to Hawai‘i’s microclimates. Our **Hawai‘i Public Seed Initiative** sponsors and conducts several free seed-saving workshops every year, and also offers professional development retreats to train seed leaders on five islands.
- North Hawai‘i Island second through eighth graders develop a deeper sense of place and affinity for their environment through spring and summer **Waimea Nature Camps** conducted by our **Kohala Watershed Partnership**. The camps accept kids who are interested in nature and provide intimate experiences with the forests, streams, and native flora and fauna of Kohala Mountain while teaching them about watersheds and connections between sky, land, and sea.
- International students visiting Hawai‘i Island each summer to participate in Wilderness Ventures and Bold Earth Adventures summer programs spend time with our **Kahalu‘u Bay Education Center** Reef Teachers, where they gain a lifelong appreciation of ocean conservation and stewardship.



Over the last 15 years we have been fortunate to build strong, meaningful partnerships with local, national, and international research agencies and academic institutions. These partners not only provide new resources and additional perspectives that contribute to solutions to our islands’ challenges, they also provide our youth and young adults with opportunities to advance their own knowledge and help them realize their full potential. In recent years we have been honored to work with **Brown University** and **Cornell University** to offer scholarships to Hawai‘i high school students to participate in prestigious science and environmental programs offered by the schools. Each spring Brown conducts the **Brown Environmental Leadership Lab–Hawai‘i** (BELL-HI), a program that provides high school students with a unique opportunity to spend a week on Hawai‘i Island exploring Hawaiian culture and ecology while developing leadership skills. In 2015 we partnered with Brown to award a full scholarship to Hawai‘i Island high school junior Dashiell Cotton, a junior and honors student at Parker School in Waimea, to attend. Cotton also served as a Teen Leader of KWP’s Waimea Nature Camp this summer.

“The island as teacher. You as student. Mutually beneficial.” may seem like a slogan that encapsulates the way we engage Hawai‘i Island and approach our work, but it is the guiding philosophy behind the **Cornell Earth and Environmental Systems Field Program**, a semester-long program on Hawai‘i Island in which undergraduates further their knowledge and application of contemporary natural science principles through class instruction and hands-on field research. Since the program’s launch in 2004 we have supported students from the continental U.S. in engaging Hawai‘i as a dynamic learning laboratory rich in science, culture, history, and ancestral knowledge. The 16 students in this year’s cohort hailed from Cornell, Williams College, Hamilton College, the College of Wooster, Northwestern University, and Pennsylvania State University, traveling to Waimea to examine the world—and themselves—through the lens of an island community. While based primarily on Hawai‘i Island, the students traveled to Maui, O‘ahu, and Kaua‘i over the course of the semester and worked with many organizations and mentors to engage Hawai‘i’s unique





natural and cultural landscape. Through service learning opportunities the students outplanted thousands of native trees and plants at Pu'u Wa'awa'a, Mauna Kea, and the Ka'ūpūlehu Dryland Forest and helped to restore land in the Nuili'i ahupua'a impacted by a severe storm in January. Visits and conversations with Kānaka Maoli scholars and leaders throughout the semester enabled participants to examine the lines, parallels, and points of intersection of culture, science, environment, and community. Internships at the end of the semester with organizations such as Nā Kālai Wa'a, The Nature Conservancy, our Kahalu'u Bay Education Center, and Blue Wilderness gave students a chance to put knowledge and values into action, culminating in final group projects presented to the program's mentors and supporters.

Through our 'āina-based programs and partnerships with leading academic institutions and foundations, we are opening the minds of island youth and scholars to limitless opportunities. We must encourage our keiki to further their education, introduce young adults from Hawai'i and beyond to engage Hawai'i Island as a living classroom full of lessons for the rest of the world, and provide Kānaka Maoli scholars with the means to complete their doctorate degrees and publish their first books to ensure ancestral wisdom lives on—and continues to evolve to ensure that the future of Hawai'i is in capable hands.



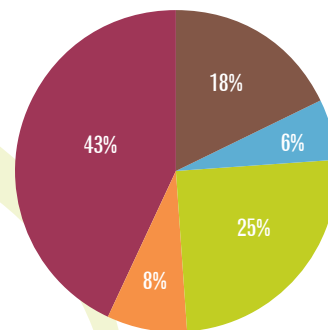
# FINANCIAL REPORT

Working creatively, efficiently, and passionately enables us to channel your investment into delivering programs of the highest quality and achieving positive outcomes for the communities we serve. Mahalo nui loa to our supporters and our public and private partners for believing in us and enabling us to move Hawai'i toward greater health and self-reliance.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

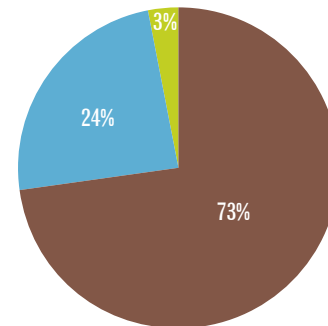
### SUPPORT & REVENUE

Federal	\$1,006,729
State & Local	\$358,349
Trusts & Foundation	\$1,392,571
Earned & Other	\$440,478
Contributions	
Cash	\$418,248
In-Kind*	\$2,007,862
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>	<b>\$5,624,237</b>



### EXPENSES

Program Services	\$2,719,710
Supporting Services	\$880,178
Fundraising	\$107,712
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,707,600</b>



Change in net assets	\$1,916,637
Total net assets	\$6,357,914
Total liabilities	\$667,221
Unrestricted net assets	\$5,239,417
Temporarily restricted net assets	\$451,276
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$6,357,914</b>

\*In-Kind contributions include equipment, stocks, and property.

## DONORS AND FUNDERS

In the following pages we acknowledge the people and organizations that support our work and stand behind our mission. All donors listed here contributed to our efforts between July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. Mahalo for your support and for believing in us.

### Honua Ola: Thriving Planet \$10,000 and above

*Our Honua Ola sustainers ensure that every facet of our organization thrives so we can continue to innovate on behalf of island communities.*

Dr. Earl and Doris Bakken  
Medtronic  
Dr. Vernon and Jane Oi  
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Luella Spadaro

### Noho Papa: Generational Supporter \$5,000 to \$9,999

*Our Noho Papa supporters keep us deeply rooted in North Hawai'i Island, enabling us to share the wisdom of our home with the rest of Hawai'i—and the world.*

Nicole and David Chang  
The Hickey Family Foundation  
Kathryn A. Lynn

### 'Ohi Ua: Rain Gatherer \$2,500 to \$4,999

*Our 'Ohi Ua supporters provide essential life force to grow and strengthen our 'āina-based programs for community well-being.*

Roberta and Newton Chu  
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### Ulu Lā'au: Forest \$1,000 to \$2,499

*Our Ulu Lā'au supporters give us collective strength to nurture the communities and ecosystems we serve.*

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### Kumulā'au: Established Tree \$500 to \$999

*Our Kumulā'au supporters nourish and solidify our long-term efforts to ensure a healthy future for island communities.*

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### Kumulā'au 'Ōpiopio: Young Tree \$250 to \$499

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*It all starts with a seed, and the collective power of our 'Ano'ano supporters inspires growth and action.*

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