



2016 Annual Report



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letter from our leadership

Aloha Friends,

When The Kohala Center was formed in 2001, its founders and benefactors were energized by the prospect of advancing an organizational mission to respectfully engage Hawai'i Island as a model of and for the world. We looked forward to gathering knowledge from the island and its people that could be used to improve the health of human and natural systems, both locally and globally. We also looked forward to working with respected community leaders to bring indigenous perspectives to the fore and share them with the world. Together we set off on a journey to build a different kind of nonprofit organization: one that believed that science and culture could complement each other and inform innovative solutions. One that listened carefully before it acted. One dedicated to creating opportunities for Hawai'i's rural residents by emphasizing education, equity, and aloha 'āina (love of the land).

Sixteen years later The Kohala Center's staff, board of directors, volunteers, and partners are dedicated to turning research and ancestral knowledge into action to work toward a more resilient and sustainable future by focusing on four key elements—food, water, place, and people.

We are pleased to share our recent activities and accomplishments in this 2015–2016 Annual Report. In the pages that follow we reflect on our efforts to increase local food production, protect and restore critical watersheds and marine ecosystems, ensure Hawaiian wisdom and connection to place continue to inform our educational and stewardship endeavors, and ultimately support the health and well-being of our remarkable island communities.



Our heartfelt thanks go out to Dr. Kamanamaikalani Beamer, who served as our president and chief executive officer this fiscal year. His thoughtful leadership opened new doors and inspired us to strive for positive impact in our communities. We wish him continued success as he returns to an associate professorship at the University of Hawai'i and we look forward to future collaboration.

We hope our organization's achievements and values inspire you to join us in building a more vibrant and thriving future for Planet Hawai'i. On behalf of all of us The Kohala Center, mahalo nui loa for your continued support and your belief in what we can do together to strengthen our island society.

Roberta Chu
Chairperson,
Board of Directors

Elizabeth (Betsy) Cole, Ed.D.
Interim President &
Chief Executive Officer



Since The Kohala Center's founding in the year 2000, our efforts have focused on achieving community resilience on Hawai'i Island through respectful scientific research, conservation and education programs, and long-term sustainability initiatives. Some of our earliest work examined the island's dependence on costly imported fossil fuels, seeking solutions to reduce demand for petroleum-derived energy through the development of local, renewable resources and the implementation of energy-efficient building design. As we listened to the concerns and ideas of island residents, we heard from representatives of a sector that was particularly hindered by the high cost of energy in Hawai'i: agriculture.

Many of Hawai'i Island's farmers and food producers noted the staggering costs associated with powering their operations, importing agricultural inputs, and transporting their products. Concurrently, preliminary research we conducted in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Institute in 2007 suggested a sobering statistic: close to 85% of the food available to Hawai'i Island consumers is imported from at least 2,300 miles away.^{1,2} As the most geographically isolated society on the planet, any disruption in global transportation or energy production makes us vulnerable to community food insecurity.

The most logical way to reduce this risk is to produce and distribute more of our own food locally. In September 2016 Hawai'i Governor David Ige set an objective to double the state's food production by 2020—an ambitious endeavor considering that prime agricultural lands on O'ahu continue to be rezoned for commercial and residential development. The Kohala Center's food initiatives provide resources, training, technical assistance, and capitalization strategies that can aid in developing community-based food systems to meet this challenge.

Over the years we have developed a long-term strategy to improve food security through 'āina-based programs that aim to

- increase demand for and connection with local foods, particularly in Hawai'i's schools;
- carry forward indigenous agricultural knowledge and practices that sustained Hawaiians for centuries before Western contact;
- inspire and train future generations of island farmers and food producers;
- save and distribute seeds best suited for tropical island environments; and
- support rural businesses through consulting and financing services.

Through partnerships with local schools and universities; county, state, and federal agencies; and community organizations, we continued to advance these goals and contribute to positive impacts on Hawai'i's long-term food security.

Farm to School

What The Kohala Center started in 2008 as an initiative to revitalize school gardens has led to a broader island-wide movement to provide schoolchildren and their communities with greater access to fresh, locally grown food. Our collaborative farm to school efforts are helping students establish connections with food, health, and agriculture in garden classrooms; providing teachers with resources to connect outdoor classrooms with state and national education and health standards; assisting schools to procure locally grown food; and expanding market and revenue opportunities for local farmers and food producers.

Our Food Programs:

Hawai'i Island School Garden Network

By supporting more than 50 school learning gardens on Hawai'i Island through technical assistance, professional development programs, and mini-grants, our Hawai'i Island School Garden Network connects Hawai'i's keiki to nutritious food, healthier eating habits and the 'āina itself.



Keiki in the garden

Hawai'i Island School Garden Network

We continue to support school garden programs and educators at more than 50 primary and secondary schools on Hawai'i Island through technical assistance and professional development services. In the summer of 2016 we unveiled our new Hawai'i School Garden Curriculum Map and trained 30 K-8 teachers from Hawai'i Island, O'ahu, Moloka'i, and the Marshall Islands how to utilize it. The Curriculum Map connects school garden activities to state and federal education and health standards such as Common Core, Next Generation Science Standards, and Hawai'i Health Standards. It provides educators with a consistent, centralized guide containing

Hawai'i Public Seed Initiative

In an effort to improve, increase, and promote biodiversity and food supply resilience in the face of climate change, our Hawai'i Public Seed Initiative works with communities, farmers, and gardeners statewide to select, grow, harvest, store, and improve seed varieties that thrive in Hawai'i.



2015–2016 FoodCorps Hawai'i Service Members

Beginning Farmer-Rancher Development Program

Our Beginning Farmer-Rancher Development Program is dedicated to training new farming families on Hawai'i Island and inspiring island youth to consider careers in agriculture. By motivating and training the next generation of farmers, this program seeks to increase local food production, decrease dependency on imports, diversify Hawai'i Island's rural economy, create jobs, and move Hawai'i toward greater food self-reliance.

Rural and Cooperative Business Development Services

Our Rural and Cooperative Business Development Services program works to expand and strengthen Hawai'i's rural economies and food systems by providing technical assistance and access to capital to farmers, value-added producers, and small businesses, as well as leading policy initiatives to support rural and agricultural development throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

teaching topics, garden activities, classroom extensions, and learning outcomes organized into four key themes: a sense of place, soils and plants, physical and mental nourishment, and natural systems.

FoodCorps Hawai'i

For the third year we served as the host site for FoodCorps in Hawai'i, placing nine garden educators at schools and organizations on Hawai'i Island, Moloka'i, and O'ahu serving 14 service sites and reaching 4,400 students in grades K through 12. FoodCorps service members connect students at schools in underserved communities to fresh food and help them grow up healthy by expanding hands-on nutrition education programs, building and tending school gardens, and helping to bring high-quality, locally produced foods into schools.

Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui

The Kohala Center started this working group in 2010 comprised of school garden network leaders from six islands and representatives from the Hawai'i Departments of Education, Agriculture, and Health. This year many members of the Hui participated in a statewide P-20 Agricultural Education Working Group chaired by the dean of the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. This working group will meet for the next three years to explore and make recommendations to the Hawai'i State Legislature on creating a "framework of support" for agricultural education from pre-kindergarten through graduation from university undergraduate programs.

This year the Hui and the Hawai'i Department of Health (HDOH) developed a School Garden Safety Notebook with resources for all public and charter schools. Workshops are being held on all islands in the fall of 2016 to introduce educators and administrators to the new tool.

Hawai'i Farm to School Initiative

Led by Hawai'i Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui, The Kohala Center is facilitating a state Farm to School Initiative in collaboration with the Hawai'i Departments of Education and Agriculture to advance local food procurement for child nutrition programs. The group launched a pilot program in association with the HDOH, agricultural associations, private foundations, and community nonprofits for the 2016–2017 school year to experiment with shifting from a statewide model to one that localizes procurement efforts, taps into regional supply chains, and creates menus aligned with available local foods. A single cafeteria kitchen serving Kohala Elementary, Intermediate, and High Schools is the site of the first pilot, with a subsequent pilot scheduled for a larger complex of schools on Maui in 2018.

Charter School Food Working Group

As of 2013, public charter schools in Hawai'i that do not share cafeteria facilities with a regular public school are responsible for their own school food procurement. We convened a Charter School Food Working Group in 2013 to expand procurement of locally grown food in Hawai'i Island's public charter schools through collaborative administration, purchasing, and menu planning. This year the group explored the concept of creating a charter school food cooperative to consolidate food procurement, map out shared annual menu cycles and ingredient needs, reduce program costs, and expand access to school meals for low-income students.

Seeds

We can increase local food production by identifying and promoting crop varieties that thrive in Hawai'i's tropical conditions and within specific microclimates. Through participatory action research, mini-grants, workshops, and seed exchanges, we empower local growers and communities to breed, save, and share Hawai'i's most successful seed varieties.



Locally adapted seeds at a seed exchange

Our Food Partners:

Bill Healy Foundation
Ceres Trust
County of Hawai'i
Cyanotech
FarmAid
FoodCorps, Inc.
Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation
Hawai'i Department of Agriculture
Hawai'i Department of Education
Hawai'i Department of Health
Hickey Foundation
Kahiau Foundation
Kaimas Foundation
Kaiser Foundation
Kamehameha Schools
Māla'ai: The Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School
Mauna Kea Foundation
U.S. Department of Agriculture
– Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
– National Institute of Food and Agriculture
– Office of Advocacy and Outreach
– Farm to School Program
– Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Ulupono Initiative
University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
Walmart Foundation
WHH Foundation

Seed Workshops and Exchanges

Our seed workshops this year included “Building Resilient Seed Systems” on Hawai‘i Island and “Local Seeds for Local Needs” on Moloka‘i, both of which featured panels of local seed growers and researchers. We also presented and supported six seed exchanges and community potlucks on Hawai‘i Island, Maui, and O‘ahu.

Hawai‘i Seed Growers Network

Since 2014 we’ve convened a network of seed savers and advocates from five islands to share knowledge and ideas, conduct seed trials, and evaluate each other’s seeds. This year group members gathered on Moloka‘i to provide updates on their work, discuss developing a statewide seed cooperative, and define next steps to creating an online seed marketplace.

Farmer and Rancher Training

With the average age of farmers in Hawai‘i being 60 years old,³ encouraging and training future generations of local farmers and ranchers is critical to ensuring a thriving agricultural sector and long-term food security. We work to build a pipeline of emerging local agricultural producers through comprehensive, hands-on

education programs for adults and sustainable agriculture internships for high school students and recent graduates.

Beginning Farmer-Rancher Development and Mentorship Programs

This year 22 aspiring agricultural producers graduated from the fifth cohort of our 16-session farmer training course, and eight apprentices completed our yearlong farmer mentorship program. Since 2012 we have prepared 116 Hawai‘i Island residents through these programs, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the County of Hawai‘i, to launch farming and ranching careers.

High School Sustainable Agriculture Internships

Twenty-eight Hawai‘i Island high school students and recent graduates completed our one- and two-week paid sustainable agriculture internships this year. Sponsored by Kamehameha Schools’‘Āina Ulu program, these internships introduce local teens to careers in agriculture through hands-on field work, visits with island food and agricultural producers, and opportunities to see ahupua‘a (traditional Hawaiian mountain-to-sea land division) natural resource management practices in action.



Kahiau Microloan recipient Pa‘abana Livestock LLC

Rural Business Support

A key facet of increasing local food production is to support agricultural and rural enterprises in Hawai'i with production and business knowledge, capital, and other resources to help them succeed. Thanks to support from USDA and the Ulupono Initiative, our business services team was able to provide technical assistance and consulting services to 150 clients in the areas of business development and planning, food safety, marketing, branding, financial capitalization, loan package preparation, grant execution, accounting, and energy assessment.

Grant and Loan Applications

Since 2012 we've helped 73 clients complete grant and loan applications, resulting in the net acquisition of \$7 million in funding for local farms, value-added businesses, agricultural enterprises, and other nonprofit organizations focused on strengthening Hawai'i's rural communities.

Microloan Programs

We've awarded \$80,000 in direct low-interest loans to six rural businesses on Hawai'i Island and Moloka'i through our Kahiau Microloan Program. Created by the Kahiau Foundation, the loan fund supports businesses typically underserved by traditional banking institutions by instead focusing on their commitment to strengthening Hawaiian culture, building community, and enhancing the health of the natural environment.

Through our Hawai'i Island Food Producers Fund, launched in 2014 with support from Hawai'i County and in collaboration with Kiva, we have leveraged \$20,200 to help generate \$68,000 in interest-free loans to eight food-producing businesses on Hawai'i Island. Based on the success of this program, HDOA is providing funding to enable us to offer this loan program statewide. The new Hawai'i Food Producers Fund, launched in October 2016, will match up to \$70,000 in loans to qualifying Kiva applicants.

Cooperative Development

We continue to guide Hawai'i businesses interested in adopting and developing cooperative structures. Cooperatives, or "co-ops," are businesses



mutually owned by their employees and/or customers that distribute profits among their members. Funding from USDA, HDOA, the County of Hawai'i, and the Ulupono Initiative enabled us to help three new co-ops form, one existing business transition to a cooperative model, and five established co-ops further develop their governance and operational capacities.

Crop Insurance

This year we partnered with AgriLogic Consulting, LLC to increase awareness of, and promote access to, federal crop insurance services. Community workshops focused on financial literacy, accurate accounting, recordkeeping, and cost of production assessments. Outreach materials were developed to promote options available to farmers to protect their operations in the event of catastrophe.

Community Education

By offering lectures, workshops, tours, and gatherings to the community at large, we empower island residents to be an active part of moving Hawai'i toward greater food security. Some of our food-related community events this year include:

School Garden Learning Journeys

We coordinated "open garden" days in East and West Hawai'i for educators and community members to tour garden programs at eight different schools. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the kinds of lessons taught in each garden and conducted hands-on volunteer work at each site.

Farm to School Information Sessions

Gatherings on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu were held for school administrators, food services representatives, distributors, food hubs, local farmers and food producers, and concerned citizens to network and learn about efforts to increase local food in schools through initiatives such as the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program and the National School Lunch Program. Participants also learned more about state contracting requirements and how they could support the development of a local school food supply chain.

Agroecology and Soil Health

We invited the public to attend two sessions of our farmer training program: "Food Production and the Environment: Towards Greater Agroecological Sustainability," a lecture by Dr. Albie Miles from the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu, and a cover crop and soil health field day that included presentations and farm tours.

SNAP-Ed Cooking Demonstrations

Funding from USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) enabled us to continue our efforts to reduce food insecurity by improving access to fresh, locally grown food for low-income populations and encouraging increased consumption of local

produce. Our six-session Cooking for Better Health course trained institutional chefs from churches, soup kitchens, and support groups in East Hawai'i to prepare healthy recipes using fresh ingredients. We also continued to offer cooking demonstrations and distribute healthy, SNAP-approved recipes at farmers markets, elementary schools, and at Hawai'i Food Basket Senior CSA Produce pick-up sites.

Generous support from public and private partners enable us to inspire Hawai'i's children to grow and appreciate food from the 'āina, train new farmers and support local food businesses, develop and distribute locally adapted seeds, and empower island communities with knowledge. But there's much more to be done. With additional support, we plan to

- expand school garden teacher training and offer direct consulting and instructional services at schools;
- increase research and staff support for the continued development of locally adapted seed;
- create additional agricultural leadership opportunities for local youth;
- extend our farmer training and mentorship programs to other parts of Hawai'i Island;
- increase our capacity to provide business planning services to meet local enterprises' demand; and
- develop a low-to-no-cost legal services program for farmers and agricultural producers. ☺



Sustainable Agriculture Internship Program



Nate Yuen

Hawai‘i’s ability to increase and sustain the amount of food grown locally hinges on protecting our planet’s most precious resource: water. While it may seem as if we have an endless supply of fresh water—windward areas of some islands receive 120 to more than 200 inches of rain a year on average—population growth, changing land-use demands, deforestation, and climate change pose significant threats to our water supply, and even to the amount of rainfall itself.

As an island society, caring for our ocean is also critical to our ability to harvest seafood and to our economic health. Coral reefs not only provide nutrients and nurture smaller ocean organisms that are vital to marine food chains, they attract residents and visitors interested in experiencing Hawai‘i’s colorful marine life. A 2002 study estimated that Hawai‘i’s coral reefs generate \$364 million in added value per year in our local economy.⁴ Non-point source pollution, increasing ocean temperatures, and unregulated recreational use threaten the health of our reefs, marine life, food supply, and economy.

Through ecosystem protection and restoration projects, volunteer efforts, partnerships, and community

engagement, our water initiatives strive to ensure Hawai‘i will have an abundance of clean, healthy water from mauka to makai (mountain to sea) in perpetuity.

Mauka: Watershed Restoration and Protection

“Hahai nō ka ua i ka ululā‘au” is a Hawaiian proverb meaning, “The rains always follow the forest.” Knowing this rule, Native Hawaiians took care not to harvest more trees or forest resources than were needed. Since the early 19th century, however, approximately half of Hawai‘i’s native forests has been lost due to development and industrial-scale resource extraction.⁵ As a result, Hawai‘i’s natural water cycles have been disrupted. Coupled with changes in global climate patterns and increased demands from growing business, resort, and residential communities, the need to conserve, preserve, and support Hawai‘i’s sources of water may be more urgent than ever before.

Our Kohala Watershed Partnership (KWP) program joins eight other watershed partnerships across the islands in implementing management plans that address threats while preserving biological, cultural, and economic resources. Private landowners and public land managers on Kohala Mountain entrust us to rehabilitate and protect the watershed through containing and

Our Water Programs:

Kohala Watershed Partnership

Our Kohala Watershed Partnership program 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, the Partnership's 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 land-based pollution.

Kahalu'u Bay Education Center

Our Kahalu'u Bay Education Center is a partnership with the County of Hawai'i to revive and revitalize Kahalu'u Bay and Beach Park. As visitor traffic increases, educating residents and visitors about proper reef etiquette and ecosystem stewardship is critical to the bay's survival and the region's environmental and economic health. Through volunteer-driven educational programs such as ReefTeach and Citizen Science, Kahalu'u Bay Education Center works to ensure the bay remains a healthy and welcoming place for residents and visitors alike.

removing invasive species, reforestation, monitoring, community outreach and education, and mitigation of sediment runoff.

Invasive species control and removal

Our KWP field crew routinely engages in the removal of invasive plants and animals that degrade native species and habitats. Vegetation such as kahili ginger, strawberry guava, and *rauvolfia vomitoria* are easily spread across Kohala Mountain through the droppings of feral ungulates (pigs, goats, and cattle), robbing the forest of nutrients and depriving native shrubs, grasses, and water-retaining mosses and ferns of vital sunlight. This year we removed and controlled invasive plants across 810 acres on the mountain and cleared pigs from a 270-acre unit on Kahuā Ranch. By removing these invaders we give the mountain's native forests a chance to rejuvenate so they can retain moisture and topsoil while providing our native species a healthy habitat in which they can thrive.

Reforestation

This year our KWP crew and community volunteers planted more than 7,000 native trees and plants in a continuing effort to revitalize Kohala Mountain's forest and dryland vegetation. Native plants such as pilo, kōlea, 'ōlapa, and manono are planted in wet and mesic environments while 'īliahi (sandalwood), a'ali'i, and 'ākia are planted on the mountain's leeward slope to reduce erosion.

Fencing

By installing and maintaining fences in the Kohala watershed we keep feral ungulates out of vulnerable areas, giving native vegetation a chance to recover and preventing invasive plants from being reseeded. This year we installed two miles of new fences in the mountain's windward valleys to exclude ungulates from 670 acres of native forest in Kohala's priority watershed, and continued to monitor and maintain 28 miles of existing fenceline.

Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death monitoring

In early 2015 endemic 'ōhi'a trees in select areas of Puna and Hilo began to die at an alarming rate. Caused by a fungus, *Ceratocystis*



Kohala Mountain stream (photo by Andrew Hara)

fimbriata, Rapid ‘Ōhi’a Death (ROD) can kill these dominant and vital native trees within a matter of days or weeks. Fortunately, ROD has not been detected on Kohala Mountain, but our field crew periodically monitors, samples, and tests ‘ōhi’a stands in the watershed to ensure any infection is detected early in hopes of containing its spread. By proactively surveying Kohala Mountain’s forests we hope to protect our ‘ōhi’a trees from ROD and keep the mountain’s watershed and native habitats in balance.

Sediment runoff mitigation

Our KWP field crew continues to maintain ten sediment check dams they installed in the Pelekane Watershed over the last six years. Despite the most massive weather event to occur in the region since the dams were constructed—a 3,884-acre brush fire in August 2015 immediately followed by torrential rains—the dams retained an estimated 361,000 pounds of sediment from washing into the bay between July 2015 and June 2016.



Volunteer Days

Community members, students, and island visitors who generously volunteer their time profoundly extend the impact our small field crew has on caring for Kohala’s forests. Our volunteer days welcomed 132 adults and 60 children who donated 1,328 hours of their time to plant trees, clear fountain grass, and build a sediment check dam. Classes from Kanu o ka ‘Āina New Century Public Charter School and Waimea Middle School also visited the watershed to learn about forest restoration and engage in volunteer service.

Our Water Partners:

Bold Earth Teen Adventures
 County of Hawai‘i
 George P. and Ida Tenney Castle Trust / Bank of Hawai‘i
 Hawai‘i Community Foundation
 Hawai‘i Department of Health
 Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources
 Hawai‘i State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
 Hawai‘i Tourism Authority
 Kahuā Ranch
 Kamehameha Schools
 Kohala Preserve Conservation Trust
 Laupāhoehoe Nui LLC
 The Marine Mammal Center/ Ke Kai Ola Hawaiian Monk Seal Hospital
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 The Nature Conservancy
 Queen Emma Land Company
 Parker Ranch
 Patagonia
 Ponoholo Ranch
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 West Hawai‘i Community Health Center
 Wilderness Ventures
 YouthCorps



Honu at Kahalu'u Bay (Photo by Bo Pardau)

Makai: Marine Ecosystem Protection

The determination of the community surrounding Kahalu'u Bay on Hawai'i Island can serve as a model for the rest of Hawai'i and the world on how to protect the coral reefs that are the nexus of healthy ocean ecosystems. Our marine conservation efforts evolved from a local movement to protect this historical, cultural, and ecologically significant site, which was dramatically deteriorating due to increasing popularity with visitors eager to experience the bay's vibrant marine life. In 2000 community volunteers collaborated with the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College program to create ReefTeach, an effort to educate visitors and residents how to enjoy the bay without damaging coral or threatening the health of its colorful marine life. We adopted ReefTeach in 2006 and, in partnership with the County of Hawai'i, opened our Kahalu'u Bay Education Center (KBEC) in 2011 to provide on-site education and stewardship 365 days a year. Today, KBEC serves as the hub for our marine conservation efforts.

ReefTeach

World renowned for its vibrant corals teeming with stunning fish and graceful honu (green sea turtles), Kahalu'u Bay is the second-most popular tourist attraction on Hawai'i Island, hosting more than 400,000 visitors each year. Swimmers and

snorkelers are often unaware that standing or stepping on corals, touching honu, and feeding marine life can cause considerable harm to the bay's overall health.

For 16 years ReefTeach has welcomed hundreds of volunteers from the local community and around the world to show their aloha for Kahalu'u Bay by educating visitors about "reef etiquette"—how to enjoy the bay without disturbing or threatening its inhabitants. Through quick and friendly interactions, ReefTeachers spend time on shore and in the water guiding more than 53,000 swimmers and snorkelers a year to avoid contact with coral and to keep a safe distance from honu. In just a few quick seconds visitors learn and adopt simple behaviors to protect marine ecosystems here in Hawai'i—and they take this knowledge home with them.

The impact of ReefTeach extends well beyond Kahalu'u Bay: this year we conducted four Train the Trainer sessions with property management companies, state government agencies, and snorkel tour operators so they can share proper reef etiquette practices with their staff and customers. Our Adopt-a-Day program welcomed

and trained teams from area businesses and high schools, as well as visiting students from the United Nations International School in New York City and teens from around the world participating in Wilderness Ventures summer camps. By sharing the knowledge and practices that have been effective in protecting and rehabilitating Kahalu‘u Bay, we can make a difference for the health of our oceans worldwide.

Citizen Science

For volunteers interested in data collection and analysis, we continue to offer Citizen Science, which tracks Kahalu‘u Bay’s health through water quality monitoring. Citizen Scientists of all ages collect samples twice a week at six locations in the bay and analyze the samples for temperature, pH, salinity, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen. The volunteers input data into an online portal maintained by the Center for Conservation Research and Training at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and used by agencies such as Eyes of the Reef, NOAA, and the Hawai‘i Department of Health. The data help us understand how events such as algae blooms and storm surges impact water quality and the bay’s overall health, alert government agencies if significant anomalies are observed, and act to correct any problems before they impact marine and human communities.

Youth Leadership Program

We launched this new program to introduce Kahalu‘u-area middle and high school students to career opportunities in marine-related sciences and environmental stewardship by training them to become ReefTeachers and Citizen Scientists. Funded by NOAA and supported by the West Hawai‘i Community Health Center, and YouthCorps, the Youth Leadership Program primarily focuses on Marshallese children who may be struggling with cultural adjustments in Hawai‘i and may not otherwise feel they have pathways to healthier and more productive futures. By recognizing the ocean as the connection between their pasts and futures, the program aims to connect 60 youth with environmental science, ocean stewardship, and traditional foods and eating habits. Youth leaders



Youth Leadership Program

will present what they've learned in the program at a community festival in June 2017.

West Hawai'i Marine Mammal Response Network

With funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), we helped revive and reorganize the volunteer-driven West Hawai'i Marine Mammal Response Network (WHMMRN). Working in partnership with The Marine Mammal Center (TMMC) and its Kona-based Ke Kai Ola Hawaiian Monk Seal Hospital, we recruited and trained 46 new and returning volunteers how to protect Hawaiian monk seals that come ashore in West Hawai'i from potential harm and harassment and to report dolphins and whales that become stranded or injured. Training included the importance of working collaboratively with community stakeholders such as kūpuna (respected Hawaiian elders) and fishermen. Continued administration of WHRRMN was turned over to The Marine Mammal Center and we continue to provide them with guidance and training support.

Interpretive Signage

We redesigned and produced new educational signage at Kahalu'u Bay that had been damaged by extreme weather events over the years,

including the 2011 tsunami that impacted West Hawai'i. The new signs, made possible by a grant from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, inform visitors about the importance and fragility of coral, the most common marine life seen in the bay, and safety considerations to take while swimming and snorkeling.

Our work to ensure that North Hawai'i communities have a perpetual supply of fresh water, our ocean and coral reefs remain healthy and abundant, and residents and visitors are inspired to protect our terrestrial and marine ecosystems wouldn't be possible without support from our partners and donors. But there's much more to be done. With additional support, we will

- protect more acres of native forest from invasive plants and animals by building more fences and repairing damaged sites;
- establish a permanent education center at Kahalu'u Bay with more staff to educate more visitors about the importance of caring for coral reefs;
- implement more environmental education programs for local youth and expose them to career opportunities in natural resource management; and
- visit more schools, businesses, and community organizations to increase water awareness and promote behavior change. ☺



Windward Kohala coastline (photo by Andrew Hara)



Working toward a sustainable future for our island planet requires more than just looking forward. From The Kohala Center's earliest days we recognized that engaging Hawai'i Island as a source of knowledge—as a teacher—would inspire and inform thoughtful, meaningful action. In order to assure a vibrant and resilient future, we must honor and carry forward the wisdom of Hawai'i's past.

We believe community health and well-being can be enhanced when we protect, respect, and celebrate Hawai'i's remarkable natural and cultural landscape. Engaging Hawai'i as a model of and for the world requires us to understand and promote Hawai'i's unique history, culture, customs, and ultimately our place on Earth. As the world's most isolated society once capable of sustaining itself, Hawai'i can move toward greater self-reliance by seeking knowledge from the 'āina, from our kūpuna, from the mo'ōlelo (oral histories) of specific times and places, and from other island societies.

Developing and understanding a sense of place underlies all of our work. Our programs help farmers and gardeners understand what seeds and crops perform best on their land, protect and revitalize native forests and critical habitats, inspire schoolchildren to deepen their

kinship with the local and regional 'āina that sustains them, and support the intellectual leaders that will guide our islands into the future.

Mellon-Hawai'i Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

In 2008 The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation approached The Kohala Center about creating a fellowship program to support Native Hawaiian doctoral and postdoctoral scholars to complete their dissertations and their first manuscripts. With Native Hawaiians significantly underrepresented among college and university faculties in Hawai'i and beyond, the program seeks to clear pathways to enable Hawaiian scholars to focus on completing their doctoral studies and starting their publishing careers. For the 2015–2016 program year we selected three emerging intellectual leaders to join our growing 'ohana of Mellon-Hawai'i fellows:

Doctoral fellow **Kahikina de Silva** is pursuing her Ph.D. in the political science program at UH-Mānoa. Her dissertation examines the relationship between mele (songs) of Hawai'i and the indigenous values of aloha 'āina (love of the land), drawing attention to their decolonizing and resurgent capacities.

Additional Place Programs:

Mellon-Hawai'i Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

Mellon-Hawai'i Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships support the work of Native 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. Fellowships support the development of intellectual leadership for Hawai'i's schools, universities, and research agencies.

Doctoral fellow **Dr. Natalie Kurashima** completed her Ph.D. in the department of botany at UH-Mānoa. Her research focused on the restoration of traditional Hawaiian food systems and landscapes as a tool for biodiversity conservation, cultural perpetuation, and resilience against climate change.

Postdoctoral fellow **Dr. Mehana Vaughan** earned her Ph.D. in interdisciplinary environmental studies from Stanford University in 2013 and is an assistant professor in the department of natural resources and environmental management and the Sea Grant College Program at UH Mānoa. Her research primarily examines collaborations between local communities and governments to manage natural resources and restore sustaining relationships with 'āina. During her fellowship year she completed and published scholarly articles and prepared a manuscript for her forthcoming book *Kaiāulu: Community, The Growing Sea*.



left to right: Kabikina de Silva, Dr. Natalie Kurashima, Dr. Mehana Vaughan

Hawai'i Island Meaningful Environmental Education for Teachers

By providing technical, logistical, and programmatic support, the Hawai'i Island Meaningful Environmental Education for Teachers program aids teachers and their students to design and conduct environmental field-based research that promotes a deeper knowledge of place and aligns with Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards.

Since its inception, we have awarded 32 fellowships totaling \$1.3 million through this program.

Hawai'i Island Meaningful Environmental Education for Teachers

In a recent survey of Hawai'i Island students and teachers, a substantial majority of students indicated that they had never engaged in any scientific field research during their secondary school careers, and teachers noted that they did not have the experience, resources, or time to plan and execute field studies. Yet research about rural students and underrepresented minorities—particularly those of Hawaiian and Pacific Islander descent—suggests their interest in science increases through place-based, project-based, hands-on activities and science instruction, especially when field investigations address real-world problems in culturally relevant terms.^{6,7}



Hawai'i Island Meaningful Environmental Education for Teachers

Our Hawai'i Island Meaningful Environmental Education for Teachers (HI-MEET) program provides intermediate and high school teachers with structured professional development that includes classroom instruction, fieldwork, and on-going mentor support. In the 2015–2016 program 14 teachers become skilled in leading their students through the design and implementation of field-based environmental research and service learning that aligns with Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. More than 360 students from seven schools conducted research projects about Hawai'i Island's environmental challenges and devised solutions to help protect and restore their island home. The program culminated with an environmental education symposium at W. M. Keck Observatory in Waimea, at which students from each school had the opportunity to present their research projects and findings.

Hawai'i Island Air Quality Network

In the summer of 2016 we began a partnership with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to implement and test new, low-cost air quality sensors on Hawai'i Island that could inform public health and pollution mitigation strategies in communities around the globe. With grant funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and on-the-ground assistance from our team, MIT will develop and test a network of air quality sensors to measure the impact of emissions from Kilauea volcano and detect other compromises to overall air quality. The sensors are capable of discerning natural air pollutants such as vog—the “volcanic smog” of sulfur dioxide and small particulate matter emitted by active volcanoes—from anthropogenic pollutants such as those generated by fossil fuels.

Our Place Partners:

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
 Deviants from the Norm Fund
 Health Impact Project
 (A collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts)
 Kahiau Foundation
 Kamehameha Schools
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Dr. Paul and Elizabeth Nakayama
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 National Park Service
 The Nature Conservancy
 University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program
 W. M. Keck Observatory

We will facilitate installation of the sensors in school learning gardens and community health centers, and work with MIT faculty and staff to develop and deliver professional development training for secondary school teachers to use the sensors as teaching tools. In turn the project will provide island students with real-world opportunities to deepen their understanding of place, physical sciences, technology, climate, and data analysis.

‘Āinaho‘i

Upon hearing the story of how Waimea resident Jim Posner donated his 60-acre property at Keawewai on Kohala Mountain to The Kohala Center in 2014, former North Hawai‘i residents Allene Wong and David Eckles were inspired to donate a 48-acre property they owned in Niuli‘i to us for long-term stewardship and preservation. The historic coastal property features an agricultural and a conservation parcel, the latter of which is home to a storied hala grove. We consider these generous gifts as ‘Āinaho‘i—lands gifted or returned—so that we may protect these culturally significant and agriculturally viable properties and steward them to benefit surrounding communities.



‘Āinaho‘i at Keawewai will eventually serve as the hub of our educational initiatives and offer community organizations a natural and peaceful environment for personal and professional growth. We plan to collaborate with North Kohala residents in the future to transform the agricultural portion of ‘Āinaho‘i at Niuli‘i into productive land that will support a thriving native food forest featuring the production of traditional Pacific Island crops. The conservation land will be protected and restored as a venue for cultural practice and community education.

Health Impact Assessment of the Proposed Mo‘omomi Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area

Hawai‘i State law provides pathways for island communities to co-manage culturally significant and ecologically vulnerable nearshore fisheries in collaboration with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). A task force report commissioned in 1994 recommended that the Mo‘omomi fishery area along the northwest coast of Moloka‘i serve as a demonstration area in which fishing activities would be co-managed with the Ho‘olehua Homestead community primarily for subsistence rather than commercial use.

In 2016 we released a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed Mo‘omomi Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) in partnership with Sust‘ainable Molokai and researchers from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and the University of California, Davis. The HIA was supported by a grant from the Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, and was one of the only HIAs this year approached from an indigenous perspective.

HIA is a tool designed to provide decision-makers with information to help them evaluate the potential effects of policy decisions by considering determinants of human health and well-being—an important complement to a standard environmental impact assessment. Our HIA concludes that approval of CBSFA regulations for Mo‘omomi could enhance family and community well-being if there were a clear co-management strategy and adequate resources for implementation. Findings demonstrate that the positive effects of supporting the use and teaching of Native Hawaiian resource management could help sustain the health of Mo‘omomi’s nearshore environment, improve community food security by assuring the availability of fish over time, and strengthen social connections through traditional ways of sharing subsistence catch. The HIA also suggests that CBSFA designation would not substantially reduce income generated from commercial fishing.

Kuamo‘o Battlefield and Burial Grounds

A grant from the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program will enable a new non-profit organization, Aloha Kuamo‘o ‘Āina, to develop a cultural resources management plan for the



Mo'omomi, Moloka'i (photo by Angela Fa'anunu)

Kuamo'o Battlefield and Burial Grounds. We will work in collaboration to devise a funding strategy for the protection, stabilization, restoration, and management of the 47-acre site, where Hawaiians fought an historic battle in 1819 to determine whether to maintain the traditional kapu (code of conduct) system. The cultural resources management plan will include identification and mapping of significant historical sites and development of a physical resource map.

Aloha 'Āina Radio Series on Hawai'i Public Radio

We partnered with Hawai'i Public Radio to produce and air a 13-week original radio series entitled "Aloha 'Āina" in the fall of 2015. Underwritten by the Deviants from the Norm Fund, the 65-part series aired a new two-minute episode every weekday during the popular NPR news magazine Morning Edition. Through commentary provided by noted Hawaiian scholars and leaders such as Puanani Burgess, Sam 'Olu Gon, Davianna McGregor, Jonathan Osorio, and Walter Ritte, the series explored the roots and historical endurance of the values of aloha 'āina, examined topics such as ahupua'a systems, the significance of kalo, the emergence of art that paid tribute to the land, the Māhele, and the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, and concluded with predictions for its future. The series can be accessed online at koha.la/alohaaina.

'Aimalama: Pacific Peoples' Lunar Conference on Climate Change

Many Pacific societies are currently reviving and reconnecting with traditional lunar calendars to restore wisdom of agricultural productivity, marine and forest gathering, resource management, health and healing, and daily practices that provide sustenance for the health and well-being of communities. Held in September

2015 in Honolulu, 'Aimalama: Pacific Peoples' Lunar Conference on Climate Change drew nearly 300 leaders and innovators from across Oceania operating at the intersection of ancestral knowledge and technological transformation to identify common ground to confront regional and global challenges related to climate change. In addition to serving as a conference sponsor, we provided event marketing, public relations, social media, and online services to aid in the promotion of this sold-out event.

Through our programs and research efforts, keiki in Hawai'i are deepening their connection to, and deriving wisdom from, the 'āina in which they live and learn. Native Hawaiian scholars are completing their doctoral degrees and publishing critical research to guide our island future. Local communities and organizations are receiving assistance to help them protect and manage their natural and cultural resources. And Hawai'i Island continues to inform advances in indigenous and Western sciences that will benefit local and global populations. Our partners, funders, and donors make these achievements possible, but with additional support we plan to

- enable more schools and students to participate in science-focused, field-based environmental research and service projects;
- extend our doctoral and postdoctoral fellowship program beyond 2017;
- conduct additional health impact assessments and undertake applied research projects to provide island residents with quality information on which to base decisions that promote the well-being of Hawai'i's communities and the 'āina. ☺

people

People are the primary focus of all of our programs. Every day our purpose is to educate, empower, and uplift Hawai‘i’s communities, promoting a shared kuleana in which citizens realize their potential and care for one another—and the ‘āina itself—in exchange for a meaningful and happy life. By focusing on the essential elements of food, water, and place, we’re working to secure a resilient and sustainable future for all of Hawai‘i’s people. With your support, we have:



Inspired more than **5,000** children, youth, and educators annually through school garden and other ‘āina-based education programs

Trained more than **2,000** ReefTeachers to educate **53,000** visitors to Kahalu‘u Bay each year how to enjoy coral reefs without harming marine life

Planted **60,000** native trees and shrubs, built **120** check dams, and fenced and protected **9,200** acres on Kohala Mountain to retain water, mitigate erosion, and reduce sediment runoff



Trained **116** prospective farmers and ranchers on Hawai'i Island, with one-third now producing food

Accepted **118** acres of agricultural land in order to return them to abundance to fulfill the cultural, spiritual, and nutritional needs of surrounding communities



Supported **35** Native Hawaiian doctoral and postdoctoral fellows to increase representation among university faculty and intellectual leaders

Facilitated **28** research and policy papers to inform public decision making and advance solutions to improve community health

Secured **\$7,000,000** in funding for local farms and food producers, rural business enterprises, and other non-profit institutions

Established a network of farmers to produce locally adapted seed for Hawai'i's diverse and changing climates



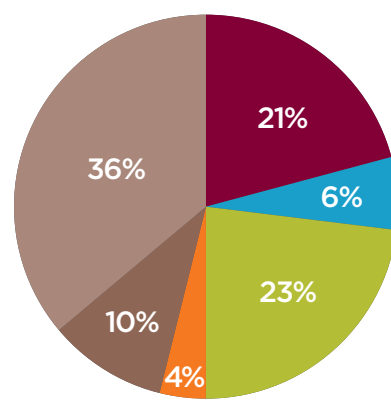
financial report

We are grateful for the support of our donors and public and private partners that enables our efforts to build a vibrant and thriving future for Planet Hawai'i. Our programmatic efforts and achievements would not be possible without their generosity and their confidence in us.

Financial matters for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016

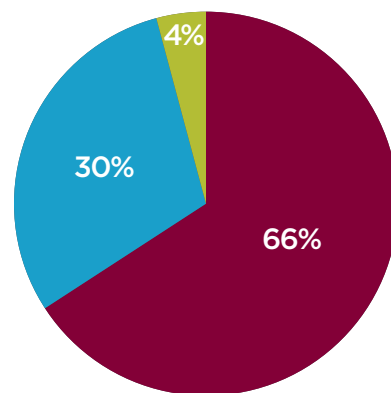
Support and Revenue

Federal	\$1,163,216
State and Local	\$326,057
Trusts and Foundations	\$1,291,509
Earned and Other	\$248,198
Contributions	
Cash	\$528,010
In-Kind*	\$2,038,570
Total Support and Revenue	\$5,595,560



Expenses

Program Services	\$2,578,847
Supporting Services	\$1,157,700
Fundraising	\$165,255
Total Expenses	\$3,901,822



Change in Net Assets	\$1,693,758
Total Net Assets	\$7,384,451
Total Liabilities	\$535,321
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$6,772,989
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$611,462
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$7,919,772

*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 conducted between July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. Mahalo for your support and for believing in us.

Honua Ola: Thriving Planet \$25,000 and above

Our Honua Ola sustainers ensure that every facet of our organization thrives so we can continue to position Hawai'i as a model of and for the world.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Dr. Earl & Doris Bakken
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Hawai'i Tourism Authority
Health Impact Project (A collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts)
Kahiau Foundation
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U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Defense, Office of Naval Research
Ulu'pono Initiative
Walmart Foundation

Pae Moku Ola: Thriving Archipelago \$10,000 to \$24,999

Our Pae Moku Ola sustainers help us share our successes on Hawai'i Island with communities on neighbor islands and beyond.

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Bank of Hawai'i Foundation – Monty Richards Hawai'i Island Community Award
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Farm Aid
Patagonia
Dick & Sharon Shlegeris
WHH Foundation

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.

Arkay Foundation
Bold Earth Teen Adventures
Dietel Partners
The Hickey Family Foundation
Kathryn Lynn
Doris Scharpf

'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.

Erik Backman
Ceres Trust
The John Merck Fund
David Johnston
Gunner & Elli Mench
Capt. Gary & Constance Monell
Ian & Barbara Robertson
RSF Social Science
Alice Shingle

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.

Nicole & David Chang
Roberta & Newton Chu
Betsy Cole
Mattson & Thalia Davis
The Earl and Doris Bakken Foundation
Mark Greiner
HRK Foundation
Jaime Johnson
Kendis Kado
Kukio Resorts, LLC
Richie & Jennifer Mitchell
Nell Newman Foundation
Valerie Ossipoff
Jonathan Starr

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.

Dr. Kamanamaikalani Beamer
Georgine Busch & Robert Moeller
CU Hawaii Federal Credit Union
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pono & Angie Von Holt
Peter & Janice Wizinowich

Kumulā'au 'Ōpio: Young Tree

\$250 to \$499

Our Kumulā'au 'Ōpio supporters inspire new ideas and creative approaches to achieving greater self-reliance for Hawai'i.

Tracy Ackerman
Maggie Brown
Puhi & Mendy Dant
Lois-ellin Datta
Amy Farrell
Craig & Johanna Furtado
Kona Trans
Jonagustine & Kristine Lim
Dr. Paul & Elizabeth Nakayama
Valarie Pagni
Jamie & Bo Pardau
Iain Robertson
Michiko Sato
David Shoup
James Takamine & Jamae Kawauchi
Niki Van Den Hurk
Waikoloa Village Golf Club
Alvin Yoshinaga

Kawowo: The Emerging Progeny

\$100 to \$249

Our Kawowo supporters enable us to transcend barriers and push forward for innovative solutions.

Everett Adamson
Alison Agley
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Christine Zalewski

'Ano'ano: The Seed of Growth

Up to \$100

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

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endnotes

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