GROWING FOOD, GROWING FARMERS!

2019 ANNUAL REPORT
DIRECTORS REPORT:

Aloha Kakou,

It has been an amazing year at the Hawaii Institute of Pacific Agriculture. Our programming continues to thrive with potent in-class presentations and field trips for youth, high school mentorship and summer internships with Kohala High School (KHS) students. In 2019 we served over 1,000 youth in our programs!

Over the last couple years we have revitalized the KHS farm which serves as an outdoor, hands-on learning space for farm to school education. At the KHS farm we supported re-roofing the greenhouse, developing new pumps and filtration for 10,000 gallon aquaculture project, installation and maintenance of the 50 grafted fruit trees, and crop production of a 1 acre market garden.

Back on the farm we continue to grow and develop our year long residential farmer training apprenticeship program. November began the second cohort and we have began utilizing University of California Santa Cruz farmer training curriculum. This curriculum has been developed over 48 years and trained 1500 new farmers in California. It has added more depth and scope to our existing program and we are going to be teaching an adapted version at the HS mentorship so we can eventually feed HS graduates directly into our year long program. Our apprentices directly tend crops that feed the Kohala cafeteria, Hawi market and other outlets having grown over 25,000 pounds of food from our farm! We continue to support Garden to Cafeteria pilot by bringing produce straight from HS farm to cafeteria. All these efforts are realized through the creation of an aggregation site, Kohala Food Hub, which has directly supported the F2S and G2C efforts.

As the world continues to rush towards a climate disaster and global food, water and energy shortages our work becomes more urgent each year. Increasing the amount of food grown in Hawaii, training a new generation of farmers and developing new models of food production and distribution will be essential to the health and resilience of our community and state. A huge mahalo and heartfelt thank you to all our donors, volunteers, foundations, HDOA, DOE, community partners that have made our efforts thrive this last year.

Erika and I invite you to make a year end gift to this mission. Give a one time gift or become a monthly donor and join the Friends of HIP Ag. Together we can transform our food economy and create a brighter, healthier future for Hawaii nei. Let usher in an incredible 2020!

Mahalo,
Dash & Erika Kuhr
Co-Founders
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VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- Practice traditional Pacific agriculture that produces food and medicine.
- Provide experiential, place-based, career connected education.
- Be food movement leaders.
- Promote the Rights of the people to access healthy land and food.
- Practice methods of farming that increases the health of the land and environment.
- Teach agriculture connected nutrition and wellness.

OUR VISION
Heal and inspire Hawaii through resilient agriculture education.

OUR MISSION
To Practice and teach regenerative agricultural education programs.
2019 HIGHLIGHTS

FARM FIELD TRIPS
- Provided 14,300 contact hours on the farm.
- Hosted 325 K-12 students, 32 teachers with nine different schools.

K-8 IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOPS:
- Served 527 K-8 students through 69 agriculture and nutrition workshops.
- Provided over 104,000 contact hours to K-8 students through hands-on learning experiences.

9-12 HIGH SCHOOL MAHI’AI MENTORSHIP & INTERNSHIP:
- 86% of students’ interest in farming has increased.
- Served 67 High School High School Students through our Mahi’ai Mentorship Program with over 1,500 contact hours.

POST-SECONDARY APPRENTICESHIP:
- Provided five Post-Secondary students with a Farm Apprenticeship where we provided them with career training involving over 10,000 contact hours.
- Planted 70 beds with over 70,000 seeds.
- Harvested & delivered 25,000 lbs of produce.
- Served 52 days at the Hawi Farmers Market.

FARM:
- Grew 25,000 lbs of 30+ varieties of fruits, vegetables, and herbs.
- Delivered 1,351 lbs of fruits, vegetables, and herbs to local schools.
- Served 18 community members through our local CSA.

COMMUNITY:
- Hosted six agriculture workshops with 100 participants through 473 contact hours.
- Served 1,400 through community agriculture and nutrition events.
- Launched the Kohala Food Hub, a community aggregation center.
- Kohala Food Hub distributed 550 lbs of fresh produce to 18 clients.
K-12 YOUTH PROGRAM OVERVIEW

HIP Agriculture is working in partnership with Hawaii DOE and Kohala complex to build a K-20 agriculture education pipeline. How will we connect youth back to the land and agricultural careers? How will we get young people excited about building an agricultural economy based off of regenerative agriculture? We believe we have to get youth engaged in ‘Aina based education from a young age and provide scaffolding experiences that increase their interest in agriculture and eating locally. HIP Ag does this through its in-class presentations, field trips, HS mentorship, HS internship and post secondary farm apprenticeship.

Think about being told “eat healthy” and “eat more fruits and vegetables”. Then imagine guiding a child to eat healthy through making a banana smoothie together with exciting historical facts about the banana plant followed by a field trip to see, harvest, weed or mulch the banana clump. How are youth connecting to their food? How do you change food choices and eating habits? Development within youth education at HIP Ag uses these questions to guide its youth towards understanding the food systems, effects of our choices on our body and earth as the focus to addressing health and food security issues.

HIP Ag’s programs started with offering farm field trips and farmer training for High School students as a project under the North Kohala Resource Center with support from The Kohala Center and O’io Fund through Hawaii Community Foundation. HIP Ag’s goal was to get kids off campus and outside on a farm connected to how food is grown, but our reach has broadened through incorporating in-class workshops or presentations at the schools.

We are working to enhance all students’ educational experiences by offering hands-on activities through farm excursions, garden and nutrition based in-school workshops, High School Mentorship and a Summer 6-week Internship. We serve K-12 from Kohala and beyond including populations from Honokaa, Waimea, Waikoloa, and Kona.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, ERIKA KUHR:

We reflect on our beginnings as a young farmer couple new to Hawaii: I had a baby on my back and a passion to share the abundance created by many hands, soil, water, seeds and love. This was how HIP Ag was cultivated - the desire to empower others to grow and eat fresh local food. It’s possible, is it not? We can all talk about Hawaii’s broken food system with staggering importation rates, but what does it really take for the population to eat locally grown food in high quantities? I think the answer is complicated, but one thing I know to do and to do MORE of, is to EDUCATE our youth to eat and grow fresh healthy food through hands-on experiences that use all of the senses. We can make change through growing, cooking, sharing, and eating TOGETHER.
FARM FIELD TRIPS

HIP Ag is grateful to be able to provide three different farm locations to host students with a variety of production models, such as agroforestry and vegetable market gardening with much plant diversity. We offer an array of activities tailored to the age and to create classroom connections through place-based hands-on activities.

In 2019, HIP Ag hosted 15 field trips with 474 students in grades 2-12, serving Kohala Elementary School, Kohala High School, Kanu O Ka Aina, Waimea Middle School, Honoka’a Middle School, Waikoloa Elementary School, and students from O’ahu and beyond.

Highlights from the visiting groups include:

- Scavenger hunts through a food forest by collecting plants and bugs to learn about canoe crops and forestry systems.
- Making Farm to Fork lunches.
- Making pa’i’ai and poi with traditional poi boards and then eating it with poke for lunch.
- Planting kalo, cooking plantains and kalo poke, deepening the understanding of Ahupua’a system of land management mauka to makai, chop and drop in the food forest.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

“My favorite activity was tasting different medicines as well as having tea and papaya for a nice snack.”
- Kanu O Ka Aina 11th Grader

“My favorite activity was being able to walk around the garden and learn about all of the different plants, their names, and what they were used for. I also liked that we got to taste some of the edible plants there as well.”
- Honokaa Middle School 7th Grader
IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

The benefits of going into the classroom to bring agriculture education increases the amount of students we can serve and makes it much easier on teachers. As awesome as it is to get children on the farm, HIP Ag has enjoyed the opportunity to bring hands-on learning into the classroom and serve three times more students than on the farm. We offer three series of workshops including Garden & Nutrition, Pa’i’ai (poi) making, and Farm to Fork. All workshops feature the introduction of local foods, agriculture, and nutrition education.

At Kohala Elementary we served 365 students during the garden resource class with three different workshops throughout the year. We are grateful for the collaboration with the garden resource teacher, Nancy Jones, and FoodCorps Members to make the series happen annually.

GARDEN & NUTRITION

These workshops are offered with 6 different lessons, one for each grade on either pollinators, seed saving, making IMO potions, smoothie bike, native plants + guilds or investigating soil microbes.

PA’I’AI (POI MAKING)

Pa’i’ai (poi making) with all students to practice the traditional method of making poi with a board and stone. HIP brings in daily cooked and cleaned taro, papakü’’ai (wooden boards) and pohaku (stones). Most students want to do more than time allows and is an activity that brings a lot of excitement. Our joy comes from seeing children eating fresh pa’i’ai or poi that they made.

FARM TO FORK

Farm to Fork is a new Fall workshop series focused on connecting students to making and trying new foods with a focus on local crops that can be included into Farm to School meals. This year students made and ate pumpkin ravioli. In addition to these workshops, HIP partnered with FoodCorps member at KES to offer two in class cooking workshops to 246 students to increase familiarity with local bananas and cocoyams. For the first time, HIP Ag visited Waikoloa Elementary and provided an in-school workshop on local bananas to 93 5th graders.

AT KHS

In 2019, we provided eight Farm to Fork classes prepping, cooking, and eating together. The favorite dishes students enjoyed eating with the farm’s vegetables were stir-fry, kimchi, and stews.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

“Tasting two different kinds of bananas and really seeing the difference from store bought and from a local farm”
- Waikoloa 5th grade teacher

“I learned more about the process of food coming to Hawaii and about the banana virus”
- Waikoloa 5th grade teacher

“The students loved the banana ice cream.”
- Waikoloa 5th grade teacher
The HS mentorship entered a new level of success this year. For the first time in the last two years, the HS Ag classes had a permanent agriculture teacher. After studying Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, Dean Snelling came back to his hometown in Kohala and is leading the Natural Resources line and Career Technical Education Department. A beautiful partnership has deepened with HIP Ag Staff as Hualalai Keohuloa is supporting Natural Resources Core (NR), Production and Academy classes. Multiple student groups are working on the school farm leading Project-Based Learning (PBL) in canoe crop gardening, aquaculture, lo‘i kalo, feral pig eradication, chicken tractor, and more. NR students continue to cultivate the school farm by raising rabbits and pigeons, tending the garden and fruit trees, and harvesting for Garden to Cafeteria orders. Additionally, in collaboration with Kohala Teachers, HIP Ag has cooked and shared food with the students from the school’s farm and are teaching mycology in the new STEM building. Students continue to express strong participation and interest and we expect the program to grow in the amount of students enrolled with the agriculture line through senior year. Three KHS students received our Mahi‘ai Mentorship Award, winning first ($1000), second ($500), and third ($250) place prizes for their dedication and hard work within agriculture. This has been an educational and productive year inspiring further ag development.

**KOHALA KU‘I’S AT THE CAPITOL**

HIP Ag brought seven students and three educators from KHS and Kanu o ka Aina to Oahu for opening day at the Capitol and introduced students to local representatives and senators. The Kohala group participated in the Ku‘i event by pounding taro into poi and by helping other students to get set up to pound taro. HIP Ag supported by shipping out its four two-man poi boards (papa ku‘i ‘ai) and eight stones (pohaku ku‘i ‘ai) for supplies needed to host the event.

2019 MAHI’AI MENTORSHIP STATS:

- Served 67 students with 487 instructional hours
- Students grew 1,408 lbs of produce
- Led 8 Garden to Cafeteria harvests & deliveries.
- Delivered 15 mushroom cultivation lab classes, four Pa‘i‘ai workshops, and 8 Farm to Fork lessons.
- Over 1,400 hours dedicated to maintaining and growing food at the KHS Farm.
HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER MAHI’AI INTERNSHIP

HIP Ag would like to congratulate the four dedicated high school student participants, Aotealoa Masalosalo, Sam Van Dam, Joshua Quinn, Damian Padilla, Adam Heu Mathien, and D’Angelo Rodriguez, for their hard work and effort on the HIP Agriculture market garden farm. The interns earned $1,500 each for their participation while they gained invaluable knowledge and skills with agricultural practices including harvesting techniques, identification, food handling and safety, pest management, nursery and general plant care during their 6-week internship with us.

HIP Ag would like to thank the Department of Agriculture, Hawaii Community Foundation, County of Hawaii, Representative David Tarnas, Hawaii Community Foundation, Pacific Quest Foundation, and Hawaii Electric Light Foundation for making these efforts possible.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

“My favorite part of the internship was harvesting and being able to take healthy foods back to my family; they love eggplant! The most valuable thing I learned from the internship was the different types of plants and the skills to take care of them.”
- Aotealoa Masalosa (KHS 11th grade)

“The most rewarding aspect of the program was the development of teamwork and communication over the six weeks.”
- Damian Padilla (KHS 12th grade)

PROGRAM RESULTS:

- Rate of agricultural knowledge increased 86%.
- Interest in a career in agriculture increased by 74%.
- Physical stamina increased by 92%.
- Upon completing their internships, 100% of interns rated health has their highest priority.
- Harvested 4,560 lbs of over 12 varieties of different fruits, veggies, and herbs.
- Each student received 620 hours of education from HIP Ag instructors.
**FARM APPRENTICESHIP 2018-19**

In 2019, HIP Ag completed its first year-long farm apprenticeship with great success. Our apprentices learned firsthand many of the skills required to excel in agriculture including food safety and crop planning, with focuses on both market gardening and agroforestry. Apprentices learned through a diverse curriculum of focused readings and in-field classes that supplemented all of the hands-on farm work completed throughout the year. The apprentices completed their Korean Natural Farming (KNF) training as well as built and implemented the vermicomposting system that was presented by Brooks Thomas earlier in the year.

**PROGRAM RESULTS:**

- 100% of participants still involved in agriculture (ie: went on to participate in other agricultural-related pursuits).

- Increased knowledge of market gardening, agroforestry, medicine making, crop planning, and nursery propagation by 35%.

- Harvested over 24,000 lbs of produce.

**APPRENTICE TESTIMONIALS:**

“I learned that things break often and at inopportune times but there’s always a solution and staying resilient through the obstacles is key. The CSA allowed me to experience the planning and execution of crop rotation from start to finish. I also learned an impressive amount of record-keeping and food safety.”
- 2019-20 Apprentice Graduate

“I was physically engaged every day during the program and eating a significant amount of fresh and local food, much different than what was typical previously. This made my body and mind much fitter and happier.”
- 2019-20 Apprentice Graduate

**2019-20**

HIP Ag is continuing its one year farm apprenticeship program in 2019-2020 with four new apprentices, and one second year apprentice that is staying on for an even more in-depth education focus. The curriculum has been overhauled and will include the UC Santa Cruz farmer training curriculum supplemented with other classes focused on beekeeping, greenhouse building, and business development. Apprentices will continue to learn through weekly readings, in-field demonstrations, and vigorous hands on farm work. Apprentices will leave the program with the skills necessary to succeed in future agricultural employment and a greater understanding of their role in our food system as stewards of the land. They will have worked in all facets of a productive farm and will be able to recreate that model anywhere as well as teach others to become food sovereign.

During their first two months, November & December 2019, Apprentices:

- Planted 10,000 sq ft of diverse vegetables.

- Harvested over 2,300 lbs of produce.
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES
Our goals for this coming year include: working with local food aggregators, including the Kohala Food Hub, to expand our reach of clients; building three new greenhouses to enable new crops; and creating a more self-sufficient farm model for long-term production.

In 2019 we harvested over 24,000 lbs of produce:

**2019 HIP AG FARM CROPS (TOTALS)**

- Bananas, Asst'd: 37.9%
- Turnip: 1.0%
- Choi, Asst'd: 1.6%
- Radishes, Asst'd: 3.0%
- Cocoyam: 1.6%
- Pumpkin: 2.6%
- Carrots: 1.2%
- Kales, Asstd: 4.2%
- Collards: 1.2%
- Lettuce, Other: 0.9%
- Lettuce, Muir: 2.5%
- Ulu: 1.4%
- Papaya: 18.9%
- Collards: 1.2%
- Lettuce, Muir: 2.5%
- Ulu: 1.4%
- Papaya: 18.9%
- Bananas, Asst'd: 37.9%

Our goals for this coming year include: working with local food aggregators, including the Kohala Food Hub, to expand our reach of clients; building three new greenhouses to enable new crops; and creating a more self-sufficient farm model for long-term production.
2019 was an impactful year for the Farm to School Initiative in Kohala. An important component of this year’s success was the development of the Kohala Food Hub at Kohala Wishing Well, a project launched in August. The food hub was a long-standing community dream and has a dual mission: 1) facilitate Farm to School and Farm to State, and 2) support local farmers.

We launched the Kohala Food Hub (KFH) in August 2019 with the help of generous investments by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, the State of Hawaii, and the Dorrance family. Our team worked with Kohala Wishing Well to renovate existing infrastructure, formerly the former Big Island Poultry farm, creating a community wash-pack (a place for farmers to clean and pack their produce), two large walk-in coolers, and bringing inexpensive cold storage online. At present, the facility offers a wash-pack, 2 large walk-in chills, ag water testing, community education space, an online weekly farmers market, and technical and food safety support to local farmers.

The impact has been dramatic. In 2018, there was a small group of interested farmers and only 2-3 producers contributing produce infrequently to the farm to school alongside HIP’s Farm. The number of farmers participating increased to 15 unique producers, 9 of whom we consider “anchor producers.” The ability to aggregate more from the community and utilize cold storage meant an immediate boost in Farm to School sales and community investment. Producers also sell direct to the community through a new software platform that functions both as an online midweek farmers market and allows the Kohala cafeteria to shop from weekly offerings by local farms.

In our commitment to work with the DOE and partner organizations to pilot and test Farm to School for the state, we are contributing monthly feedback, growing and produce availability calendar, plus a full-time position at the KFH, to ensure smooth ordering and delivery process.

We have continued in our commitment to work with the DOE and partner organizations to pilot and test Farm to School for the state.
GARDEN TO CAFETERIA:

Garden to Cafeteria is a program of the Hawai‘i Department of Education (HIDOE) School Food Services Branch (SFSB) in which students grow, harvest, and deliver fresh, unprocessed fruits and vegetables from a school garden or school farm to the cafeteria serving the school. In 2019 HIP Ag led 8 G2C harvest and deliveries at Kohala High School, in total 1,408 lbs of fruits and veggies were harvested and delivered to students, faculty, and the Kohala Complex Cafeteria.

2019 G2C CROPS

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<th>Crop</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cucumber</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luau Leaf</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breadfruit (ULU)</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Beans</td>
<td>30.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggplant</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banana</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bok Choi</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citrus</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweet Potato</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
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COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS:

In 2019, we have reached out to the community for the aggregation of specific crops such as sweet potato, citrus, and bananas and have seen positive feedback from local growers. Our outreach has included the 2019 Community Food Summit, health fairs, and Hawi Farmers Market, as well as farmer training and community workshops. We hosted and co-sponsored seven workshops ranging from food safety to citrus pruning to vermicompost systems. Through this series we were able to offer over 600 educational hours by on-island experts to over 120 community members.

2019 WORKSHOP SERIES

- 7 Workshops
- 120+ Participants
- 600+ Hours
The 10th Annual ‘Āina Fest, our annual fundraiser, was held at the Kohala Village HUB on Saturday, September 7th and attracted approximately 1,600 people. We thank all in our community who contributed to the event’s success, including North Kohala sponsors and supporters Kohala Village HUB, Sunshine Hardware, and Sushi Rock.

We also thank additional event sponsors: The Wave 92FM, Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, Ulupono Initiative, Island Naturals, Hawaii Electric Light, Natural Investments, Guayaki, Show Systems Hawaii, Big Island Coffee Roasters, and Hawaii Johns, and supporters: Tropical Dreams, Merriman’s, Hawaii Forest & Trails, KTA Waimea, The Kohala Center, Kona Brewery, SouthWest Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, Ola Brewery, and Mokulele.

‘Āina Fest has been rooted in regenerative principles from its initiation. In 2019, Center for Getting Things Started and Pedal Power collaborated with us to reduce our carbon imprint through stationary bike riding to generate electricity. We also instituted on-site composting and recycling and facilitated carpooling groups. Fruit Tree Planting Foundation donated 34 fruit trees and led a fruit tree planting activity. We were honored to host agricultural leaders for a powerful panel discussion on farming and food sovereignty focused on climate change, natural resource management, and building resilience.

Event proceeds funded HIP Ag’s K-20 youth education initiatives including in-school gardening and nutrition workshops, farm field trips, Kohala High School Farm Mentorship & Internship Program, and a post-secondary Farm Apprenticeship program.

Mahalo nui loa to the event’s performers, educators, committee leads, volunteers, vendors and attendees!
MAHALO TO OUR 10TH ANNUAL 'AINA FEST SPONSORS

ALI'I LEVEL SPONSORS

KAHUNA LEVEL SPONSORS

'OAHANA LEVEL SPONSORS

SUPPORTERS
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW:

2019 EXPENSES

- Operating: $102,098 / 24%
- Farm: $93,163 / 22%
- Youth Education: $85,464 / 20%
- Fund Development: $78,377 / 18%
- Farm to School: $65,510 / 16%

2019 REVENUE

- Grants & Donors: 75% / $390,577
- Events: 18% / $92,408
- Programs: 8% / $43,427

ANNUAL INCREASE

- 75% Increase from Last Year
- $526,412
- $301,937

2018 2019
Our Team

Dash Kuhr (Executive Director): Dash is the co-founder and director of Hawai’i Institute of Pacific Agriculture (HIP Agriculture), is the lead facilitator for the organization. Dash has educated and mentored hundreds of youth and young adults on the benefits of healthy eating and hands-on gardening skills. Working with non-profit organizations, food cooperatives and farms, Dash has led and developed numerous gardening and sustainability initiatives.

Lauren Ruotolo (Director of Development): Lauren serves as the Director of Development, overseeing HIP Ag’s grant management, communications, events, donor relations, and fundraising efforts. She began with HIP Ag as the Program Manager in 2016 and has worn many active hats within the organization.

Sunshine Roberts (Kohala Food Hub Manager): Sunshine serves the HIP team as the Kohala Food Hub Manager, Farm-to-School Coordinator, and was formerly the Assistant Farm Manager. She helps support the apprenticeship program, facilitates community farmer support services, and is the unofficial “Food Safety Queen.” She comes to HIP from a background in art, social justice, healthcare, and nonprofit development, making her path to agriculture a non-traditional one, originally joining the team as an apprentice in 2017. She is responsible for developing and managing the KFH, including production, sales, community relations, F2S management and development.

Erika Kuhr (Director of Youth Education): Erika is the co-founder and nutrition and food coordinator for Hawai’i Institute of Pacific Agriculture (HIP Agriculture), Erika is dedicated to healing people and the earth through delicious food and healing spices.

Aaron Bradley (Farm Program Director): Aaron joined HIP Ag’s team in 2019. He began his farm education wwoofing on the Hawaiian islands before returning to his roots on the East coast to work on urban farming projects in New York City. After jobs on rooftop farms, hydroponic greenhouses, and educational gardens in the heart of Wall Street, he moved out west and started his own farm just a few miles outside Seattle. There, he created a successful business that grew new farmers along with the freshest vegetables in the area. Aaron has returned to the islands to help localize the food of Hawaii and teach others how to grow their own prospering farm.

Will Elliot (Farm Manager): Will was raised in the Midwest among a sprawling landscape of cotton and soybeans. He has over 20 years of food industry experience and has seen first-hand the disconnect in our food systems. Will saw the effects of poor diet and nutritionally void foods cause a variety of health ailments in friends and family. So, he decided to do something about it. He trained for two months in Costa Rica at Finca Tierra. He left a certified Permaculture designer and an advocate for better food systems. Will, in his second year with HIP Agriculture, is continuing his quest to bring the power of food back to the people.
The Board of Directors (BOD) and advisors of North Kohala’s Hawaii Institute of Pacific Agriculture (HIP Ag) met for two days in March to welcome new leadership, assess its past accomplishments, and future contributions to the community of Kohala.

The BOD held the annual meeting, voted new members to the board, and strategic planning to strengthen vision, mission and values. HIP Ag’s new vision statement is “to heal and inspire Hawaii island through the mission of teaching regenerative agriculture”. HIP Ag is developing and delivering an agricultural education pipeline to inspire and train more young farmers in Kohala and creating an aggregation site to source and distribute produce to the farm to school program.

HIP Ag welcomed Deborah Winter (Treasurer), Bob Bowman (Secretary) and Porter Devries (Lawyer) to the Board of Directors, and newly elected Gayle Yamasaki (President). The BOD also welcomed Nancy Redfeather, ‘Ekela Kahuanui, and Nancy Jones to the Advisory Board. The board thanked Vanessa Stone, long-time supporter and board member whose term is ending as she begins new endeavors in Kohala.

Since its beginning in 2009, HIP Ag has grown steadily and successfully into a well respected non-profit of regenerative agriculture, with multiple programs for educating and feeding local community members as well as off island students.

HIP Ag is envisioning its future role in North Kohala to strengthen and expand its educational programing and contributions to ensure sustainable secure food supply. The BOD discussed how to strengthen the effort to practice and teach regenerative agricultural education programs by providing experiential, place-based, career connected education to youth, promoting the rights of people to access healthy land and food, practicing methods of farming that increase the health of the land and people, and teaching agriculture to maximize nutrition and wellness.

To accomplish this future vision, HIP Ag faces some challenges. Although successful with receiving grant awards last year, HIP Ag must begin its transition to more sustainable funding mechanisms, including programs with a fee for service, and expanding its individual donor base. Both will depend on our local community recognizing HIP Ag’s contributions and being willing to support its future. Let’s congratulate their progress and help them continue implementing our community’s food and economic security.

A special thanks to Holly Algood for providing facilitation, Dorrance Family Foundation for supporting HIP Ag’s capacity building efforts, and foundations like Hawaii Community Foundation - Career Connected Learning, HMSA Foundation, HEI Charitable Foundation, Jack’s Fund, County of Hawaii, DOA, Kohala Complex DOE, Ulupono Initiative, and the Kona Cacao Association who support our education programs.
COMMUNICATIONS & SOCIAL MEDIA

SOCIAL MEDIA

INCREASE OF IMPACT

22% Increase of Followers
12 Newsletters sent out
8 Articles Published

FOLLOW US

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@hipagriculture
@hipaghawaii
@hipagriculture
LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR 2020 GOALS:

EDUCATION

Youth Education: Support KES Discovery Garden to continue offering garden resource classes, since the garden teacher was pulled from budget. HIP Ag will need to collaborate with FoodCorps service member Spring semester to facilitate garden.

In-school Workshops: Deliver three workshop series to all 365 students of Kohala Elementary School including our Garden & Nutrition, Pa‘i’ai, Farm to Fork workshops. Deliver 10 in-class workshops outside of KES in Kohala district on Garden & Nutrition.

High School Mah‘ai Mentorship: Grow 3,000 lbs of produce, Serve 100 students in mentorship, Lead 16 G2C harvests, Provide 600 instructional hours, Participate in Ku‘i at the Capitol with a group of students from Kohala. We are also planning to roll out a dual credit program in collaboration with HCC in the new school year.

Farm Apprenticeship: Our goals for this coming year include working with local food aggregators including the Kohala Food Hub to expand our reach of clients, build 3 new greenhouses to enable new crop focuses, and create a more self-sufficient farm model.

Farm Field Trips: Host a minimum of 10 Field Trips serving three schools or more.

High School Mah‘ai Summer Internship: Our goals for the high school internship will be to show our selected interns how a highly productive farm operates and to invigorate their interests in future agricultural endeavors. Experiencing farm work firsthand will show our young adults an alternative path to traditional office based work that can be fulfilling and lucrative, while enriching their lives and health and those of the community they serve. In addition to increasing the students agricultural knowledge and interest in pursuing a career in agriculture, the internship aims to educate them on their pivotal role in the future of the food system for the Hawaiian Islands and to inspire them to get more people involved in working towards a more food sovereign state.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Kohala Food Hub & Farm to School: Our goals for the coming year span from infrastructure improvements, expanded programming, fundraising, and staff additions to support both Farm to School and the community farm network. We look forward to collaborating with local experts and organizations to host or co-host the next workshop series focused on the needs of farmers and ramping up Farm to School crops. Due to support from the Hawaii Agricultural Research Center, we’ve been able to establish an ag water testing lab at the Kohala Food Hub which will allow us to provide this service to farmers for free, while boosting farm and food safety education in Kohala. We are grateful to be working with our Kohala Food Hub landlords to see a walk-in freezer, commercial kitchen, and large-scale crop processing space come online in the coming year. We are fundraising to install commercial chopper/shredders, dehydrators, and fruit lockers. This equipment will allow us to aggregate more broadly from the community and offer space for producers to value-add their crops.
MAHALO TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

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