

Hawai'i Food Gardens Network

Convening #5, June 14th 2024



Ma ka hana ka 'ike
In working one learns

Ōlelo Nō'eau

Agenda

Introductions and Welcome Circle (10 min)

Update from the *Defining Key Terms* working group (15 min)

Update from the *Mapping Gardens* working group (15 min)

Update on *Public Housing Gardens* working group (15 min)

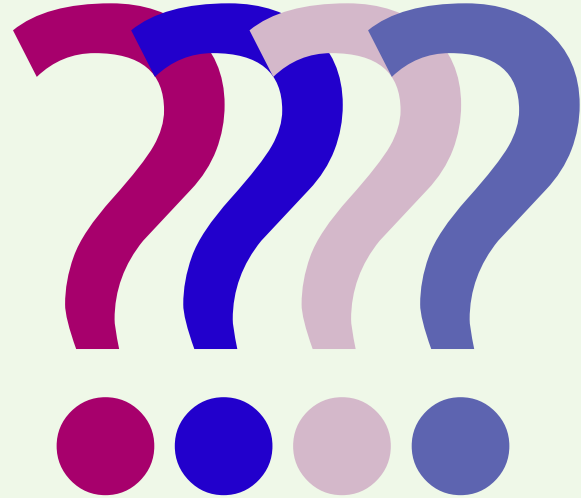
Break out into interest areas (working groups) (20 min)

Presentation: City and County's Recreational Community Gardening Program – history, challenges and opportunities (10 min)

Closing (5 min)

Welcome circle

- Change zoom name, pronouns
- In the chat - what is one question or curiosity that you have about this network, or about increasing access to food gardens in general?



Food Garden Network

Purpose & Proposed Structure

Goal: To improve public health by increasing access to gardening opportunities for people in Hawai'i, and to support food gardens that play a critical role in promoting health equity and addressing food insecurity.

Values of impact networks

- ❖ “They coordinate work among different actors and across organizations and silos without being controlling or directive;
- ❖ They are resilient to disruption, given their decentralized structures;
- ❖ They respond to urgent opportunities at a moment’s notice;
- ❖ And they integrate diverse perspectives to create new possibilities.”*

*from the book titled *Impact Networks* (2021 by David Ehrlichman)

Hawai'i Food Garden Network

Monthly Convenings

Purpose & Proposed Structure [Working Doc]

The Goal

To improve public health by increasing access to gardening opportunities for people in Hawai'i, and to support food gardens that play a critical role in promoting health equity and addressing food insecurity.

The challenge

A myriad of organizations, government agencies, businesses, schools, community groups, etc. are in some way creating, managing, sponsoring or promoting food gardens in the Hawaiian Islands. A lot of the conversations are happening separately and disjointed, which can mean that effort, traction, learning, and resources can get lost when there is institutional turnover. Redundant efforts may arise instead of strategic and cumulative ones, as there is a lack of communication and coordination. And most importantly, we know that establishing food gardens doesn't inherently increase healthy equity without intentional design and management. Everyone should be able to access gardening regardless of their socio-economic status. |

Establishing new food gardens that fulfill the goal of promoting public health is not a simple task. Multiple conditions need to align, such as land availability, funding, and effective management in order to bring about a food garden and ensure its longevity. Collective effort not only helps align conditions but also increases the longevity and impact that food gardens have on public health.

How a monthly food garden call can help

By fostering collaboration and collective action, we can overcome these challenges and maximize the impact. Hui Mālia 'Āi is a coalition composed of non-profit organizations, government and private partners, community members, and other stakeholders that is already harnessing the power of collective impact to address these above challenges. Collective impact is “a network of community members, organizations, and institutions who advance equity by learning together, aligning, and integrating their actions to achieve population and systems level change”^{1,2}.

Providing a regular networking space to share projects, ideas, challenges, and learnings can help matchmake funders with implementers, landowners with farmers and gardeners, researchers with policymakers, community members with decision-makers, etc. Furthermore, it can be a space for Hui Mālia 'Āi to share progress updates on their business plan, receive input, and garner support.

Why food gardens?

From the Hui Mālia 'Āi [website](#): “Food access is a huge public health issue. So we have to think creatively about how we are going to address that problem, and while backyard gardening is not the solution to everything, it's a solution that can be done immediately!”

Food gardens are an accessible solution that is not only in high demand, but meets a variety of human needs, including physical and mental health, access to fresh foods, community cohesion, and sustainable urbanism. They

What is Collective Impact?

<https://collectiveimpactforum.org/what-is-collective-impact/#:~:text=Collective%20impact%20is%20a%20network,plan%20and%20systems%20level%20change>

¹Collective Impact https://air.org/articles/entry/collective_impact

Core Components of Collective Impact

1. **Common Agenda** - All participants have a shared vision for change, including a common understanding of the problem and a joint approach to solving it through agreed upon actions.
2. **Backbone Infrastructure** - Dedicated staff and strong leaders who possess specific skills to serve as the backbone for the entire initiative and coordinate participating organizations and agencies
3. **Mutually Reinforcing Activities** - The extent to which, and in what ways, are partners' activities differentiated, while still coordinated through a mutually reinforcing plan of action?
4. **Shared Measurement System (SMS)** - Collecting data and measuring results consistently across all participants to ensure that efforts remain aligned and participants hold each other accountable.
5. **Continuous Communication** - Consistent and open communication is needed across the many players and among external stakeholders to build trust, assure mutual objectives, and create common motivation.

Updates: Working Groups

Defining Key Terms:

Meeting Notes:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1amr8dTuEQLRfZsfgNu4KneIYhdTXQUM9PfAfh6uILsk/edit>

Mapping Gardens:

- ECE friendly gardening projects, DOH
- Food gardens across the islands, HFGN
- Home gardens with native plantings, Go Native

Meeting Notes:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1b-Qyzt9oHjBKsNKEKwX9-p74qNdGWjzI8GY9KxDaMm4/edit>

Public Housing Gardens:

- Zoom meeting with DUG and NYC GreenThumb 6/25 8-9am



Break
out
groups
Share
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Honolulu Recreational Community Gardening Program MAP





[HRCGP Home](#)

[Garden List](#)

[How to sign up](#)

[Toolkit for Gardeners](#)

[Toolkit for Officers](#)

[Historic Photos](#)

[Rules & Regulations](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Honolulu Recreational Community Gardening Program

Garden List and Locations

There are 10 community garden sites in the City's program. While they are all similarly within the allotment style, many differ in their microclimate, size, shape and character. Please see the list below for locations, meeting times, and costs (fees include membership dues and City user fees).

If you are seeking a plot that complies with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), contact us or visit the Foster Community Garden (information below).

If you have any questions, please call (808) 768-7138 or email communitygardens@honolulu.gov

^ [Ala Wai Community Garden](#)

📍 End of University Avenue next to Ala Wai Elementary School

The Ala Wai Community Garden waitlist is currently closed until further notice. Check garden bulletin board for updated information or contact awcga.hnl@gmail.com.

- # Plots: 153
- Plot Size: 12x15 ft
- Dues: \$21/year
- User Fee: \$18/year



▸ [Diamond Head Community Garden](#)

History:

First garden (Makiki) in 1975 under Fasi Administration

Structure:

DPR > DUF > HBG > HRCGP

1 community garden coordinator

Grassroots-led

Characteristics:

10 community gardens

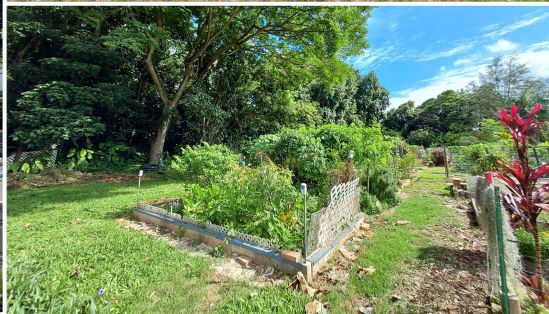
~1230 plots total

Mostly concentrated in urban core

Allotment style

~100 sq ft for most*

*Variation (next two slides)





Strengths

Longevity (of program and of committed garden members)

Place attachment

Strong community interest/demand

Growing climate

Participants' lived experience and expertise

Diversity of gardens, gardening styles, cultures

Challenges

Capacity within our program

Burden of volunteering

Outdated Rules & Regulations

Expectations regarding food security and shared spaces

Growing climate, no off season

Government bureaucracy

Fairness and oversight

Opportunities

2 year ARPA grant to fund CG Project Manager position

Prioritizing Equity

Partnerships

Community resiliency through social cohesion and education

Expanding and updating HRCGP

Providing support to CGs outside of our scope/jurisdiction

Current projects

- Updating the **Rules & Regulations, restructuring administrative responsibilities** to reduce burden of volunteering
- Overhauling website - **providing updated materials** (toolkit) to members and prospective members in multiple languages
- Better supporting volunteers through an **annual leadership retreat**
- **HRCGP Survey** in partnership with UH
- **History** of HRCGP (and 50th anniversary 2025)
- **Checklist** for Creating Community Gardens with DPR
- A **Guide** to Creating Community Gardens in Hawai'i, including examples of gardens from the islands, showcasing different models (allotment vs. communal, different land owners, etc.).
- **Geospatial equity analysis** to narrow down site suitability and where we should prioritize next.
- **Memorandum of Agreement** template for CBOs to partner with DPR for food planting projects on park lands

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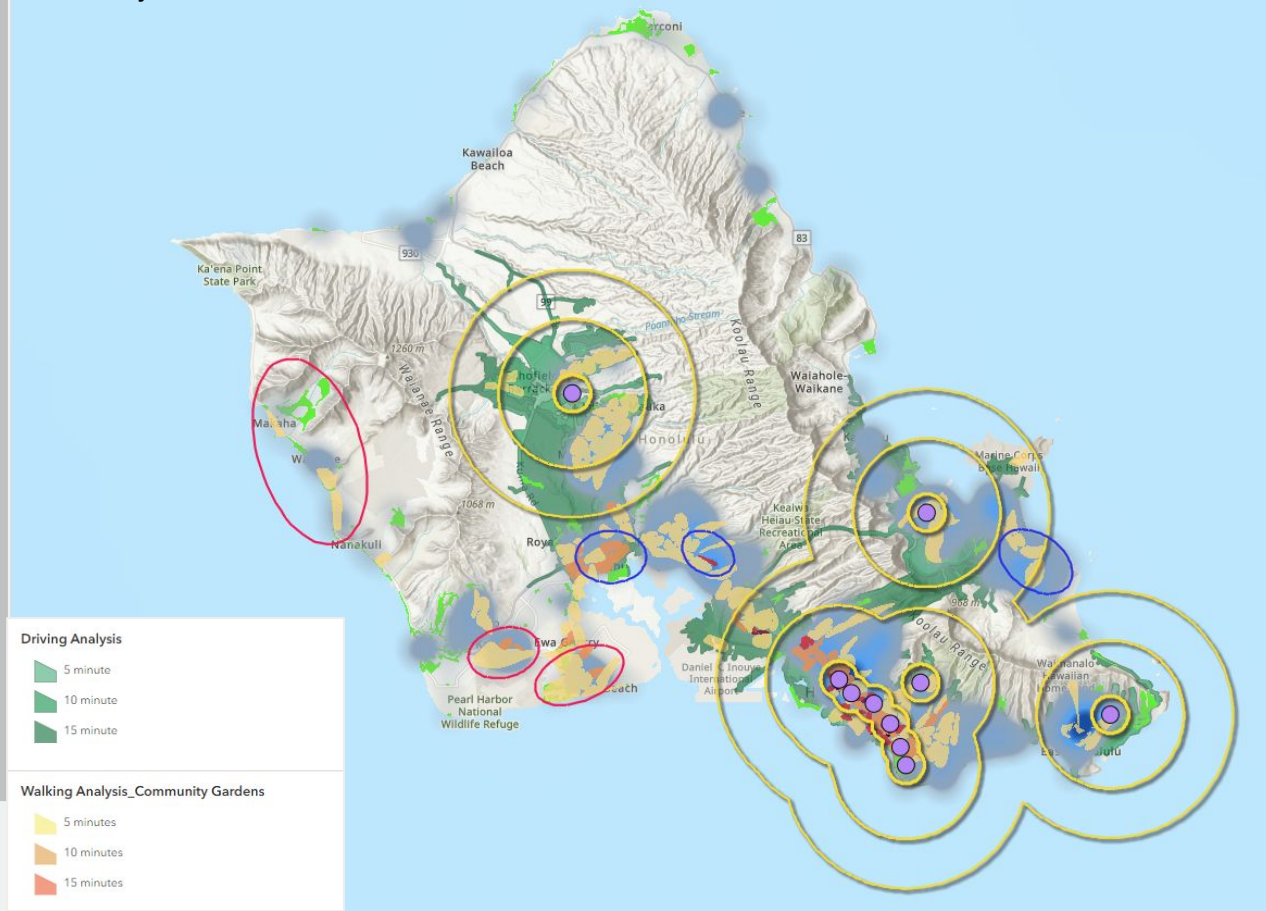
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Map



Closing & Baseline Survey

<https://forms.gle/KHE1TLUzGwRcusDp7>

Resources:

- Nationwide gardens network "[Urban Garden Project](#)"
- HFGN [Google folder](#)
- Google Group?

Upcoming events?

- Drop in chat

Next convening:

Friday July 12th, 1:30pm to 3pm....August in person?
Zoom



Food Garden Hui

