

Hawai'i Food Gardens Network

Convening #6, July 12th 2024



Ma ka hana ka 'ike

In working one learns

Ōlelo Nō'eau

Agenda

Introductions and Welcome Circle (~10 min)

Presentation: Ho'ōla 'Āina Pilipili and accessible gardening, Melody Halzel and Alex Narrajos (~30 min)

Share back on Public Housing Garden meetings with NYC and DUG (~10 min)

A return to the mission of HFGN, why prioritize equity, break out into discussion, and share back (~30 min)

Closing (~10 min)

Welcome circle

- Change zoom name, pronouns
- Mentimeter (or chat):
 - What are some values that you think this network holds?
 - What values should this network aspire to have?



Presentation: Ho'ōla 'Āina Pilipili and accessible gardening



Melody Halzel



Alex Narrajos

Updates: Working Groups

Public Housing Gardens:

- Zoom meeting with Denver Urban Gardens and NYC GreenThumb
- Notes:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eTXoP36NWGoSgdLyHWeQb6N3nVt3NPoW0hLG9LignI/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://dug.org/>

<https://www.nycgovparks.org/greenthumb>

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/topics/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.



Equality

Evenly distributed
tools and assistance

Illustration by Anna Miles, inspired by @bunchofmonks



Equity

Custom tools that
identify and address
inequality

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Justice

Fixing the system to
offer equal access to
both resources and
opportunities

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Liberation

Freedom characterized by
systems that support the
full participation of each
human and the promotion
of their full humanness

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Break out

What does
prioritizing equity
look like in
increasing access
to food gardens in
Hawai'i?

Closing & Baseline Survey

<https://forms.gle/KHE1TLUzGwRcusDp7>

Resources:

- Ho'ōla 'Āina Pilipili [website](#)
- HFGN [Google folder](#)
- Working group [spreadsheet](#)

Upcoming events? Job postings? Etc.

- Drop in chat

Next convening:

Second week of August

In person, location TBD



Food Garden Hui

