

Hui Māla ‘Ai

Connecting Hawai‘i’s Food Gardens

Convening #19, Sept 15th 2025



‘A’ohe ‘ulu e loa’a i ka pōkole o ka lou.
No breadfruit can be reached when the picking stick is too short.

Ōlelo Nō’eau, #213

Agenda

- Introductions and welcome circle (~15 min)
- **NPS-RTCA Assistance** (~40 min)
 - Introducing the project - who they are, what they will be doing, likely products they will develop, how they plan to work with the hui at all levels (~10-15 min)
 - Strategic planning exercise (~15 min)
 - Discussion (~10 min)
- Member updates (~30 min)
- Closing and announcements (~5 min)

Welcome circle

- Change zoom name, org, pronouns

CNHA garden 4/12/24



Ho'ōla 'Āina Pilipili 4/25/25



Ka Papa Lo'i O Kānewai 9/6/24



UGC Vermiculture Class 8/9/25



Punchbowl Housing Garden 12/5/24



TBC

NPS-RTCA Assistance

Project summary:

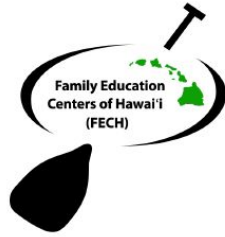
Hui Māla 'Ai is rooted in a "**Community Feeding Community**" philosophy, and aims to enhance and sustain community gardens across the state of Hawai'i. The project that we are proposing, **Hui Māla 'Ai Organizational Development and Strategic Planning**, aims to create a self-sustaining network of gardens supported by a **governance structure, clear organizational roles, a strategic plan, and succession planning**. [If time and resources allow] The project will also conduct a hui-wide assessment to determine the specific needs of various organizations and implement a follow-up evaluation for gardens previously supported.

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>

Member Updates



Help us find a new home for our youth and family programs



What We Do

We are a local, grant-funded nonprofit that carries out youth and family programs utilizing our small farm as a platform for learning.

Our Impact

In the last 10 months, through our two primary programs:

- 20 elementary and middle school students met weekly on Wednesday to plant and harvest produce for a weekly community-supported agriculture (CSA) program
- 10 families cultivated their own garden beds and participated in family education program each Friday

Additional ways we serve our community:

- 600+ community members served through workshops to reduce barriers to gardening and growing your own food
- 40+ elementary and middle school students hosted weekly through classroom visits and partnerships with Hālau Kū Māna and Mo'O School
- 7-14 people with disabilities participate in routine garden maintenance through partnership with the Special Education Center of Hawaii (SECOH)

What Kind of Space Are We Looking For?

Primary needs:

- Fenced in or enclosed outdoor area to install and perform gardening activities - During the spring semester, ~10 families each maintained their own 4x8 ft. raised garden bed. We're flexible with the garden's size and layout based on available space.
- Access to water
- Restroom

Nice to have, but not necessary:

- Certified kitchen sink - We provide dinner for students on Wednesdays and for families on Fridays. Meals are often prepared on-site, but we can adjust the program if a kitchen is unavailable.
- Storage space for gardening tools and supplies
- Nearby parking
- Indoor classroom



Contact

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Member Update from County of Hawai'i

Community Food Security Grant: This grant funding opportunity is a component of the County of Hawai'i's Improving Community Food Security Program, which is being administered by [The Food Basket](#). The goals of this program are to:

1. Better understand community food security in Hawai'i County,
2. Support the identification of community-based solutions, current projects, and programs that contribute to food security and,
3. Support areas for investment that actively increase community food security and economic resilience within the County of Hawai'i.

There is a total of \$500,000 available, please see the [Request for Application \(RFA\) document](#) for full description of grant. **Applications are due by Wednesday, October 15th, 2025 at 11:59 PM HST. An informational Webinar will be held on Monday, September 15th at 1pm, [Registration required](#).**
<https://www.hawaiifoodbasket.org/foodsecurityproject>

Closing & Baseline Survey

For new participants:

<https://forms.gle/KHE1TLUzGwRcusDp7>

Resources:

- Hui Māla 'Ai [website](#)
- [List of funding opportunities](#)
- Hui Māla 'Ai [Resource folder](#) (now on website)

Next convening:

On Zoom, mid to late October

