2018 ANNUAL REPORT
A NOTE FROM HIP AG’S EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Aloha Friends & Family,

This has been a powerful year of growth, learning and transition for HIP Agriculture. As founders we can say that 2018 has been our most potent year to date in terms of impact and increased integration into our community. We spent more hours mentoring and engaging local youth than ever before, raised crucial program and operational revenues and began our transition to utilizing Starseed Ranch as an education site.

We continued to build the Kohala High School (KHS) Farm and Mentorship program from the ground up with great support from the administration to roll out innovative curriculum that involves more school-wide involvement with the farm. With KHS joining the Garden to Cafeteria pilot program, produce grown at the farm will be approved to go directly into the cafeteria. We continued to develop our vision for a K-20 agriculture education pipeline, and added a post-secondary 1 year Farm Apprenticeship to our programming.

The 9th Annual ‘Aina Fest was held at a new venue this year in Hawi at the Kohala Village Hub. We are so grateful to have hosted the event there as it provided easier access, more facilities, and beautiful indoor spaces to hold educational classes. We want to thank our volunteers, sponsors, ticket purchasers, musicians, educators, and our extraordinary event producer, Maya Parish, who helped create the event with us.

We could have not accomplished so much this year had it not been for all of our staff, volunteers and supporters who have helped us build the organization from the ground. For this, we thank all of our supporters!

As the year comes to a close, we are enjoying the land, delicious meals, and time with family. We are excited and prepared for a powerful year of serving our community and building a food system that is localized and resilient in 2019.

Sincerely,

Dash & Erika Kuhr
TABLE OF CONTENTS

MISSION...........................................................................................................(PG 4)
HIGHLIGHTS ....................................................................................................(PG 5)
K-12 YOUTH PROGRAM OVERVIEW ......................................................(PG 6)
   Field Excursions........................................................................................(pg 7)
   Garden, Nutrition & Cultural in-school Workshops...(pg 8)
   High School Mahi‘ai Mentorship & Internship...........(pg 9-10)
   Farm Apprenticeship................................................................................(pg 11)
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES OVERVIEW....................................................(PG 12)
   Farm to School...........................................................................................(pg 13)
   Garden to Cafeteria....................................................................................(pg 14)
   Volunteer Days...........................................................................................(pg 15)
   Aina Fest Annual Fundraiser.....................................................................(pg 16)
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW...................................................................................(PG 17)
TEAM.............................................................................................................(PG 18)
   Staff...........................................................................................................(pg 19)
   Advisory Board .........................................................................................(pg 19)
SOCIAL MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS.....................................................(PG 20)
LOOKING AHEAD TO 2019 .............................................................................(PG 21)
Our Mission
To practice and teach ecologically conscious agriculture, empowering individuals and communities to cultivate alternative systems of living that restore human and environmental health.

Growing food, growing farmers!
**2018 HIGHLIGHTS**

1. **721 K-12 Students**
   served in North Kohala through farm field trips, in-class presentations, and mentorship programs.

2. **5 Kohala High School**
   students graduated from HIP Ag's Farm Internship Program.

3. **6 Farmer Apprentices**
   joined the 1-year Farm Apprenticeship Program launched in 2018.

4. **1,796 community members**
   served through our programming including Aina Fest, Volunteer days, and in-school events.

5. **792 contact hours**
   spent with K-12 students through Field trips, in-class workshops, High School Mentorship & Internship programs.

6. **17,500 lbs of food delivered**
   of fresh produce (citrus, bananas, lettuce, herbs, + more) grown and delivered. 4,500 lbs to the Kohala DOE Complex & 13,000 lbs to Kohala community.
K-12 YOUTH PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Hawaii Institute of Pacific Agriculture is a 501(c)3 non-profit that inspires students to connect to the land and their food through offering a pipeline of agricultural education programs. We serve the community of Kohala and other surrounding districts. 2018 has been packed with impactful programming that is designed to inspire students throughout their educational journey by connecting them to their food, their health, and regenerative agriculture. HIP Ag is working hard to enhance all students’ educational experiences by offering hands-on and place-based learning activities through outdoor agriculture education programming. We serve K-12 through farm excursions, garden and nutrition based in-class workshops, and we additionally serve the Kohala High School with our Mahitai Mentorship and Summer Internship program.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- Served 363 Students through 18 Farm Excursions
- Served 840 Students through In-School Workshops
- Spent 312 contact hours with students K-12
- Distributed $4,320 in farmers market vouchers to 346 K-5 Kohala Elementary Students
Our place-based farm field trips guide students through an agroforestry and agricultural environment with hands-on, place-based activities featuring real world experiences and STEM curriculum. This year, classes had the opportunity to visit three of HIP Ag’s farm sites including Halawa, Starseed, and ‘Iole. All students and teachers enjoyed the beauty and learning inherent in our outdoor setting while connecting to the land, and culture.

In 2018, we hosted 18 farm excursions and 363 students to our farm while they connected with inspiring educators, cultural practitioners, and community leaders in the regenerative agriculture movement. Some additional highlights include:

- Planting cacao beans with 107 students from both Waikoloa and Kohala
- Making ti leis with 8 different classes
- Feeding over 240 students locavore cuisine lunches
- 6 classes learning how to make hau rope with kumu Hualalai
- 12 classes learning how to build compost piles while searching for microbes and IMOs with our microscopes

“The staff was great, the students enjoyed their day, and HIP Ag is a beautiful place to visit.”
2018 5th-grade Teacher

“Thank you for providing my students with experiences many had never had like being close to a cow and making lei.”
2018 3rd-grade Teacher
In 2018 we hosted in-school workshops for all of K-5 students at Kohala Elementary School, grades 7-8 science classes at Kohala Middle School, and for the CTE farm-based classes at Kohala High School.

K-5: We served 346 students over two weeks; each class in each grade receiving two workshops. The first series was an in-depth garden and nutrition lessons on canoe crops, plant medicine remedies, beekeeping, soil investigations, bamboo building, and plant propagation. The second was focused on pa'i'ai (poi making) workshops where we bring our boards (papa ku'i'ai) and stones (pohaku ku'i'ai) to schools. As a result of our workshops, 95% of students learned something new, 97% of students had fun while learning, 94% of students enjoyed being outside, 93% tried something new (planting, eating, harvesting, processing).

6-8: HIP Ag hosted its first series of STEM-based soil science modules at KMS. The series included four sessions and integrated math, science and environmental ethics into its place-based learning modules. Together students observed their schools surrounding environment through various soil tests including visual, percolation, pH, temperature, and IMO content with microscopes. We also had a wonderful time visiting KMSs health fair and hosting 45 students in an herbal tea class focused on plant medicine. The classes enjoyed sampling healthy teas such as an "immune booster" with turmeric, ginger, tulsi and honey, a "brain elixir" with gotu kola, rosemary, and kinehe, and a "sleep remedy" with lemongrass, lilikoi flowers, and guava tips.

9-12: We had a great time making kimchi with the students of Natural Resources I & II. The students harvested bok choi from their school farm and learned about proper processing techniques and fermentation. The students enjoyed making their kimchi extra spicy with the chile pepper seasoning we provided and seemed to be excited to try the recipe at home.
The 2017-2018 school year was our first year hosting the Mahiai Mentorship at the Kohala High School. When we started only 8% of students were participating in agriculture education and after we offered the mentorship program to the ag. classes, there was a 200% increase in enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year. During 2018 our instructors have observed a major shift in student behavior, becoming increasingly more engaged with the farm, as well as an increase in student attendance. The 32 students we mentored gained important technical skills in various areas of agriculture including preparing and creating garden beds, seeding, testing and amending the soil, harvest techniques, and pest management.

Additionally, in 2018 we launched the Mahi’ai Scholarship Program to provide HS ag students an award for being the most involved in the school’s farm. First place was awarded $1,000, second place $500, and third place $250.
HIGH SCHOOL MENTORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Planted 50 fruit trees at the Kohala HS Farm through a donation granted to HIP Ag
- HS Students harvested 125 lbs of Lau leaf from the HS farm which went into the Kohala Complex cafeteria and fed an average of 622 Kohala students
- HS Students harvested 75 pounds of Okinawan sweet potatoes from HS farm and sold 50lbs at the Hawi Farmers market.
*These funds went back into the HS ag.

To those in the HS mentorship program, HIP Ag offered its first 6-week farm summer internship in 2018. The HS students interned and trained on our farm five days a week and earned a bi-weekly stipend. Five Kohala students participated in the opportunity to come and work and learn on our farm. This gave them a more in-depth experience in agriculture and meaningful work during the summer. The HS mentorship and internship is an effort to enhance agricultural career training and opportunities within our community. 80% wanted to pursue a career in agriculture and felt healthier and stronger after participating in our summer internship.
This year HIP Ag excitingly launched its first year long post-secondary apprenticeship program. We accepted six year long Apprentices all of whom expressed an interest in pursuing a career within agriculture. The goal of the program is to give a more in-depth farmer training to provide students with an increased knowledge and technical skills in agriculture. Students learn through hands-on engagement, readings, and weekly educational sessions. Each apprentice receives food safety training, in-depth training on market gardening, permaculture, Korean natural farming, agroforestry, beekeeping, crop design, planting, harvesting, herbal medicine making, and value-added food processing. Apprentices leave the program with an agricultural certificate, which can give them access to agricultural loans to start their own operation or in attaining a job within the agricultural sector. Students will also walk away with a FSMA Grower Certificate and a KNF Level 2 Certificate.

For the first two months of the year long program, students received in field training on food safety, seeding, planting, weeding, harvesting, and food processing techniques. Thus far, the readings and weekly classes have primarily focused on soil health and vermicomposting systems. Students and staff are working in groups to develop a large scale vermiculture system at our garden site. They will be presenting their ideas to the team and a local expert in the beginning of the year, then together we will finalize the plans for the system and build it together.

IN JUST TWO MONTHS WE PLANTED:

- 6000 square feet of lettuce
- 1,200 square feet of Kale,
- 1,200 square feet in Collards

& HARVESTED:

1000lbs Eggplant, 200lbs Lettuce, 100lbs Collards,
200lbs Carrots, 550lbs Papaya, 800lbs Bananas,
300lbs Plantains, 150lbs Breadfruit, 200lbs citrus,
200lbs Olena, 100lbs Ginger, & 75lbs Cacao.
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

HIP Ag is honored to contribute to the resiliency of our local food systems. A central portion of our work focuses on increasing the amount of food production and distribution within our community. We deliver to our local Farm to School DOE program, our local farmers market, and the Hawaii Food Basket. We are also supporting the development and implementation of the Garden to Cafeteria program in Kohala, which is the pilot program for the state of Hawaii. G2C is the next step in the Aina Pono initiative that enables kids to be served in their cafeteria the food that they have grown in their school gardens and agricultural farm programs. One of the key objectives of the North Kohala Community Development Plan (CDP) is to produce 50% of the food consumed in the district. HIP Agriculture contributes by hosting volunteer days at local community garden sites, and by hosting our annual community agricultural event, 'Aina Fest, that raises money to directly support us to be able to reach our district’s goals.
We feel honored to work with Aina Pono, the F2S Hui, Ulupono, the Dorrance Family Foundation, Beyond Green Partners this year and all the other groups working to make the F2S program a success in Hawaii. This year we continued to supply the local Kohala Cafeteria Complex with fresh local produce and worked to increase our production for the F2S program in the upcoming 2019 year. The F2S program is one of the most substantial growing economic opportunities for local farmers with the DOE serving over 180,000 meals per day. We are working to pave the way for more young farmers in our area to become producers for this statewide program.

We spent a lot of this year planning and working to develop ways to support an increase in local foods delivered to the F2S program. One of the main ways we are working towards this goal is to build a hui of farmers in Kohala that are interested in supplying to the DOE. There are currently six farmers that have expressed interest, and we have identified a space for community aggregation, cold storage, and distribution, that we aim to be online in early 2019. We are also working with the state to increase the amount of local foods on the menus. Within the Farmer Hui we have identified 16 year-round fruits and vegetables, and five seasonal fruits that are being produced by local farmers. To support these initiatives, we hired a former farm Apprentice, Meg Roberts to be the F2S Coordinator.
The Kohala Complex was selected to pilot the Hawaii Garden to Cafeteria Program. G2C is an essential element within ‘Aina Pono’s Farm to School Program in which students grow, harvest, and deliver fresh fruits and vegetables from a school garden to their school cafeteria – a culmination of all three core elements of farm to school. This year we have been supporting the development and implementation of the pilot for the first Garden to Cafeteria program in the State. Our Managing Director has been a part of the state working group, led by the Farm to School Hui, to develop the parameters and procedures for the program this year. We have been the only farmers at the table and are helping to guide the food safety, harvesting, and delivery procedures. The pilot will launch early January 2019 at the Kohala Elementary and High School. We are excited to continue to support this program and help it run as smoothly as possible. We are delighted to see this dream become a reality, please stay connected to get further updates throughout the year.
In 2018 we hosted two volunteer days where we had an average of 28 community members out. Both days took place at the Kohala High School. The first volunteer day we planted 50 grafted fruit trees that were donated from the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation through a grant written by HIP Ag. The following varieties of trees were planted: navels, tangelos, tangerine, avocado, starfruit, breadfruit, and jaboticaba. In three to five year the fruit from these will be able to provide enough fruit to supply the cafeteria.

The second volunteer day we revitalized the nursery by grading and weeding the surrounding area, weeding the starts and repairing the tables. That day we also fertilized the newly planted fruit trees and weed whacked around the fence perimeter. It’s amazing what a few people can do in just a short amount of time, that in turn makes a significant impact within our community. Please join us for our next community Volunteer Days.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN 2019:
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND (KOHALA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL)
SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH (STARSEED CAMPUS)
SATURDAY, MAY 4TH (HALAWA CAMPUS)
The 9th Annual ‘Āina Fest, held at the Kohala Village HUB Barn and surrounding fields in downtown Hawi on Saturday, Nov. 3rd, attracted approximately 1,000 people and was a fun day filled with food, music, and education for all ages. The Kohala Village HUB’s classroom spaces created an opportunity for the festival to offer even more education than it has been able to in the past.

Land-based education included an Imu Workshop with Daniel Anthony, Traditional Plant Medicine with Kai Kaholokai, Biodynamic Gardening with Bobby Grimes, Lei Making with Lanakila Mangauil, and a Permaculture planting blitz with Paul Izak and Emil Kmetovic.

We were especially honored to host cultural and environmental leaders Pua Case, Kalani Souza, Hank Fergostrum, Lanakila Mangauil, Ruth Aloua, Nahko, and Kai Keali‘ikea‘ehale O Kaholokai for a panel discussion that was packed to the gills with attendees on indigenous wisdom and building resilience.

We want to thank everyone that made this event such a huge success! We couldn’t do it without you!
In 2018 we raised over $300,000 through 13 grants. We are very thankful to the foundations who have provided us with funds to fulfill our mission.
The HIP Ag team had many upgrades this year with Lauren Ruotolo advancing into Director of Development and Communications with a high success rate of grant awards. Erika Kuhr stepped into Director of Youth Programs adding her expertise of nutrition and local foods to improve educational offerings. Sarah Freeman joined the team as Managing Director and is leading the efforts with Farm to School, Garden to Cafeteria, and the new Farm Apprenticeship program. This year we were able to hire a former farm Apprentice Meg "Sunshine" Roberts as our Farm to School Coordinator. Meg is supporting the team to develop systems to streamline the local Farm-to-School program, Farmer Hui, and Community Aggregation site. She has also developed and implemented improved food safety systems on our farm and will be the point person around food safety for other farms in the HUI. We are so excited and honored to have her join our team.
STAFF:
Dash Kuhr (Executive Director & Founder)
Sarah Freeman (Managing Director)
Erika Kuhr (Director of Youth Education)
Lauren Ruotolo (Director of Development & Communications)
Megan Roberts (F2S Coordinator)
Hualalai Keohuloa (HS Mentorship Teacher & HS Farm Manager)

MAHALO TO OUR ADVISORY BOARD:
Dash Kuhr (President)
Vanessa Stone (Vice President)
Gayle Yamasaki (Treasurer)
Erika Kuhr (Secretary)
Kai Kaholokai (Advisor)
Donna Maltz (Advisor)
Dennis Sharmahd (Advisor)
Dr. Deborah Winter (Advisor)
Total Reach of 13,482 Followers!

@HIPAGRICULTURE

www.hipagriculture.org
Looking ahead to 2019……

- After meeting with the Kohala Elementary School Principal, we became aware of the need for more parent involvement with our K-12 programming. In 2019, we plan to roll out a series of Cooking, Nutrition, Gardening Classes for Parents & Teachers in North Kohala.

- We are working to have the HS Mentorship flow into the apprenticeship program as an educational and economic opportunity for graduating seniors. We are working to build a partnership with the Hawaii Community College in order to integrate college credits into this program. We hope this will serve our local youth interested in exploring a career in agriculture and our goal is to have at least two of the farm apprentices be youth from Hawaii by next year.

- Expanding development at our new Starseed campus to support and grow our programs and benefit our local community.

- Farmer Training Workshops will be offered to the Farmer Hui, HS Mentorship, and HIP Apprentices featuring local experts on subjects such as: Soil Health, Greenhouse Production, Air layering, Grafting, Fertigation, FSMA, Agroforestry, and Specialty Crop production focusing on citrus, banana, kalo, and ulu.

- Thanks to a generous grant from Ulupono we are developing a business model and program for an farm equipment share for our local farm community.

- We are developing a hui of at least five local farmers to expand further distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables supplied to the Farm to School program in Kohala.

GROWING FOOD, GROWING FARMERS!