Hālana ka Manaʻo
Reflections from the 2018 Kauai Floods: Recommendations for the Path Ahead*

These recommendations were compiled by twenty students from UH Mānoa Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Management in 2019-20. They are based on over seventy interviews conducted with Kauaʻi residents a year after the floods. Participants included first responders, elders, community and government leaders, volunteers, non-profit and agency staff, along with ʻohana who narrowly survived the flooding. All interviews were transcribed, then analyzed to find the common themes and specific recommendations shared below. Mahalo to all who shared their voices and stories so generously to strengthen future resilience to similar events.

1. **Proactive Care of Land and Waters**
   a. Maintain streams, rivers and waterways. Empower community organizations to lead recurring cleaning & maintenance
   b. Preserve loʻi, wetlands and other green spaces for flood water
   c. Encourage connection to ʻāina and place
      i. Consult kupuna and respect ancestral knowledge and leadership
      ii. Know your place: Having place-specific knowledge and connection is valuable during disaster events and recovery efforts.
   d. Model management after traditional practices

2. **Build Upon Community Capacity and Self-Sufficiency**
   a. Learn to take responsibility and work to build your own resiliency.
   b. Educate those around you to better prepare for future disasters.
   c. Grow and support local foods
   d. Plan for backup water supplies
   e. Prepare emergency centers full of supplies in areas easily isolated by disasters
   f. Train those who want to learn to have post-disaster roles
      (Delegate more responsibility to Community Emergency Response Teams, CERT)
   g. Employ local man-power for post-flood labor needs

3. **Strengthen Collaboration**
   a. Enhance communication
      i. Create back up means of communication (e.g. handheld two-way radios)
      ii. Connect community groups together
      iii. Maintain relationships strengthened after the floods
      iv. Create community-government liaison positions
   b. Streamline government processes to support recovery
      i. Create respectful means to assess, identify and track needs
      ii. Distribute resources and attention more equitably
iii. Gather and integrate public input in recovery decisions related to repairs, reconstruction, and infrastructure

c. Devolve authority to people on the ground in a disaster, whether to community members or within agencies and government.

4. **Implement Pono Tourism**
   a. Share responsibility of visitor education among tourism industry, hotels, vacation rental owners, and community
   b. Adopt an approach to tourism that prioritizes residents’ concerns and is conscious of the social, cultural, economic, and environmental impact of visitors.
   c. Limit the number of visitors in vulnerable areas through managed access and TVR enforcement.
   d. Allow the environment to rest and recover through seasonal closures

5. **Enhance Equitable Effective Allocation of Funding**
   a. Direct funding to flexible mechanisms such as the Hawai‘i Community Foundation flood relief fund.
   b. Provide support for affected community members to navigate FEMA and other aid processes
   c. Plan to fund positions and people, not just infrastructure.

6. **Plan for the New Normal**
   a. Think long-term in recovery actions and repairs
      i. Re-think where we build and develop considering increasing hazards
      ii. Set new standards for sustainable infrastructure
      iii. Take actions to address climate change.
   b. Encourage place-based learning - pay close attention to environmental changes from floods and prepare accordingly.
   c. Help community members shift to more sustainable jobs caring for natural resources and community.

**Link to Hālana ka Manaʻo Student Video:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GASw02SYA4&authuser=1